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Quote!
Those who tell the stories rule society
— Plato

NEWS DIGEST

Absconder Held After 39 Years

JAMMU: An absconder, wanted in impersonation and cheating cases, was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir Doda district on Wednesday after being on the run for 39 years, officials said. Bihari Lal was arrested following specific information about his presence in the district, they said. He was evading arrest. **More On P10**

2 IEDs Recovered in Pulwama

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday averted a major tragedy by arresting two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and recovering two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The associates have been identified as Amir Bashir and **More On P10**

3 Arrested With 43 Lakh Cash

JAMMU: Three suspected Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) associates have been arrested from Jammu-Srinagar national highway in the outskirts of Jammu city, a police official said on Wednesday. The police also seized Rs 43 lakh found in their possession during the search, they said. **More On P10**

Ladakh Reports 24 COVID-19 Cases

LEH: Ladakh has recorded 24 fresh COVID-19 cases, raising its tally to 21,229, officials said on Wednesday. The active cases in the union territory as of now stand at 197 -- 192 in Leh district and five in Kargil district, they said. **More On P10**

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Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

HYDERPORA AFTERMATH

Chorus For 'Return The Bodies' Grows Louder



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Families of two civilians killed in the Hyderpora shootout held a protest here on Wednesday, demanding justice for the victims and the return of their bodies.

Monday's shootout in Srinagar's Hyderpora area is

mired in a controversy following conflicting claims about the two deceased men as their family members contested the police charge that they were "militant associates".

The families of the property owner Muhammad Altaf Bhat and his tenant Dr Mudasir Gul held a protest at **More On P10**

Mehbooba Demands Bodies, Farooq Seeks LG's Intervention

PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday led a protest here against the civilian killings by government forces, and demanded handing over of bodies of the deceased to their families. The former chief minister said since **More On P10**

Sajad Lone Seeks PM Modi's Intervention

Peoples Conference President Sajad Gani Lone Wednesday said the administration's silence on the killing of civilians in the Hyderpora alleged encounter was "dreadful" and appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his intervention. Stating that the total "opaqueness and dreadful silence displayed **More On P10**

Midnight Police Raid On Protest Site

Dozens of armed and masked police personnel raided Press Enclave in Srinagar on Wednesday night to evict the families staging a sit-in to demand the return bodies of their men killed by police on Sunday night in an alleged encounter.

The two families have been camping at the Press Enclave and continued their protest into the night amid subzero temperatures. Close to midnight, armed police personnel arrived in armoured vehicles and snuffed out the candle light vigil being held for the **More On P10**

SHE CRIES BABA, BABA, AND I HAVE NO ANSWERS to her. I urge LG Manoj Sinha to allow my daughter to see her father for the last time." — Humaira Gul, wife of slain businessman

ED Summons Mehbooba's Brother

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's brother Tassaduq Mufti for questioning in a money laundering case, officials said on Wednesday.

They said Tassaduq has been asked to appear before the investigating officer of the case here on Thursday and get his statement recorded under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The investigation, they said, pertains to some funds allegedly received by him in his accounts from some Kashmir-based businesses. **More On P10**



WHAT'S MY CRIME? Daughter of Mudasir Gul at a protest seeking mortal remains of his father.



Congregational prayers were held in Khanyar, Srinagar on Wednesday to observe the Urs of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani, popularly known as Dastgeer Sahib. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Police Kills 5 In Twin Encounters

Top TRF Commander Afaq Sikandar Among Killed: IGP
Observer News Service

KULGAM: Five militants, including a top commander of The Resistance Front, were killed in two separate gunfights in the southern district of Kulgam on Wednesday, police said.

The two encounters took place, almost simultaneously, in Pombay and Gopalpora areas of the Kulgam district.

A senior police officer said a joint team of Police, Army's 09 RR and CRPF launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) on specific information about the presence of militants in the **More On P10**

4 Injured In Baramulla Grenade Blast

Two Paramilitary personnel of CRPF and two civilians were injured after suspected militants lobbed a grenade in Palhalan chowk in north Kashmir's Baramulla **More On P10**

HS Reviews J&K's Security Situation

New Delhi: Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla on Wednesday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of several encounters and civilian killings, officials said.

Top officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Central Reserve Police Force and Border Security Force attended the meeting that lasted over an hour.

The home secretary was briefed about the prevailing law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

The recent civilian killings by militants and incidents of encounters between **More On P10**

Roshni Act: Crackdown Against Beneficiaries Begins In Shopian, Ramban

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The district administration on Wednesday launched a demolition drive in south Kashmir's Shopian district to retrieve the land given to many beneficiaries under the Roshni Act.

The demolition of private buildings, shops and retrieval of land given under Roshni Act has started in district Shopian, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

land has also been intensified by the revenue authorities in the district," he said.

He further said that a village-wise list of encroached land has been made and the eviction process will be carried out in phases in the coming days.

According to the official spokesperson, the District Magistrate, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya said that the High Court directions would be implemented in letter and spirit.



The first drive against beneficiaries, he said, was carried out in Awneera Halqa of Zainapora and 15 kanals of land were retrieved.

"Besides retrieving land granted under this Act, an anti-encroachment drive against occupants of state

it to retrieve the encroached land along with the state land allotted under Roshni Act, 2007.

"The Roshni Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary **More On P10**

THE ROSHNI ACT WAS ENACTED in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of state land."

Admin Creating Favourable Ecosystem For Investors: LG Sinha

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today presented EEPC India Northern Region's Export Awards here at Convention centre.

The 50th edition of the award ceremony was organized by Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India to acknowledge the remarkable work done in the field of engineering exports.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor invited investors and manufacturers to join J&K UT's developmental journey.

Industrial landscape in J&K is going through a massive transformation. We are creating a favourable ecosystem for the potential investors to realize the vision of 'Make in Jammu and Kashmir, Make for the country and the



World', observed the Lt Governor. Structural and process reforms taking place in the J&K business sector will boost employment, growth, competition and industries interests in the UT, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor highlighted the massive impact of the New Industrial Development scheme in J&K's economic growth, with investment proposals worth Rs 29,000 crore having been received in the first 10 months only.

Business friendly ecosystem has the potential and promise to make J&K the manufacturing & service industry hub of the country. The surge in investment proposals is a reflection of the growing confidence of Industries in J&K, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for bringing a new dawn of industrial revolution in J&K and putting this land of knowledge & culture on the Map of International Business.

In the last 27 months, tremendous changes have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir and progress in the socio-economic system has gained new momentum. Now, J&K is marching ahead with reformative policies and technology driven approach in the **More On P10**

Corona Claims 2 More; 168 Positive



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday witnessed two deaths and 168 fresh positive cases taking the number of total active cases in the Union Territory to 1,513.

With two more deaths, the death toll in the UT stands at 4,457 and 168 fresh positive cases reported on Wednesday have pushed the tally of positive cases to 334,600.

Of the exact number of 334,600 cases, 209,925 are from Kashmir division and 124,675 from Jammu division.



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2

از نیات پھانل
عنوان: بشمون درخواست
SRO294 تحت RBA
اشتراک برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بدلیں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت
پنوار حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا
ہے کہ سائل سالکہ موضع ہرنو کاو پیک تحصیل ٹنگرگ کاسکوت دار ہے کمیڈ کی مہوارہ
آمدنی مبلغ 32270 روپے تک ہے۔ کمیڈ بدلیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
محمد شریف جاگل ولد محمد دین جاگل ریٹائر ملازم 61 سال آمدنی 32270
رضیہ بیگم زوجہ محمد شریف گھریلو کام 50
محمد عمران پسر زریعہ تعلیم 24
آصفہ کوثر دختر زریعہ تعلیم 22
محمد آصف پسر زریعہ تعلیم 20

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمیڈ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے
میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہیوم کے اندر
پیش کریں۔ مبعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

F.TG نائب تحصیلدار

از نیات پھانل
عنوان: بشمون درخواست
SRO294 تحت RBA
اشتراک برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر بدلیں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت
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ہے کہ سائل سالکہ موضع ہرنو کاو پیک تحصیل ٹنگرگ کاسکوت دار ہے کمیڈ کی مہوارہ
آمدنی مبلغ 58121 روپے تک ہے۔ کمیڈ بدلیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
نذیر احمد بٹ دامادہ خالق گنائی سرکاری ملازم 52 سال آمدنی 54121
رابعہ زوجہ گھریلو کام 50
اشفاق احمد پسر سرکاری ملازم 27
شوکت احمد پسر زریعہ تعلیم 26
جانب بیگم عمر سیدہ 70

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمیڈ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے
میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہیوم کے اندر
پیش کریں۔ مبعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

F.TG نائب تحصیلدار

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

An application has been received by this office from one Farooq Ahamd Anznoo S/O Mohd Abdullah Anznoo R/o Batapora Shopian for issuance of Bid Number JK22C-009. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office the ARTO Shopian within a period of 5 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no Objection shall be entertained.

No: 932/ARTO/SPN/2021
Dated 17/11/2021

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopian

ast

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Mohammad Yaseen-	9419502845
Mohammad Ishfaq -	6064850094
Wasta Aashiq-	606480982
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Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Inayat Malik S/o: Nazir Ahmad Malik R/o: Kuthipora Chatergam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 9477 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Ser B/U Budgam .

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3828
Dated 16-11-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

MCB

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education Sub-Office Anantnag

PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- AADIL HUSSAIN DAR
PARANTAGE:- AB SALAM DAR
MOTHERS NAME:- ZAINIA BEAGUM
R/O:- SALIA PANCHAL PORA
REGISTRATION No : 08NKM103370
ROLL NO:- 113205
SESSION A/R2009 YEAR 2009

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Assistant Secretary Sub-Office Anantnag

RNA

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original Qualification Certificate issued by board of school education with the following particulars.

NAME:- Abid Hussain Hajam
PARANTAGE:- Gh Hassna Hajam
MOTHERS NAME:- Hajra Banoo
R/O:- Waltingoo Kund Qzd
REGISTRATION No : 08NKM116590
ROLL NO:- 166257
SESSION A/R2009 YEAR 2009

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original Qualification Certificate of the candidates bearing S. No: KMARO09-1004180 is treated as cancelled.

Sd/= Assistant Secretary Sub-Office Anantnag

RNA

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.

Shri : Nissar Ahmad Dar
S/o: Ali Mohammad Dar
R/o: Nowgam Suthu Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Zahoor Ahmad Sofi S/o Ghulam Qadir

Sofi R/o Pazilpora Bidgam .as Transferee) for transfer of Sumo Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.123/MC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04 -9268.

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 3847
Dated 17-11-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

MCB

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Mohd Yaqoob Wani S/O Gh Qadir Wani R/O Wani Mohalla Bongam Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle - Regd. No. JK22B 5342 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: ----- And Nazir Ahamed Bhat S/O Mohd Abdullah Bhat Khellan Gund Awantipora 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 with . 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 enteretained after stipulated period.

No : ARTO/Spn/931-2021
Dated 15-11-2021

S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

AST

NOTICE

It is here informed general public that I Rafiq Ahmad Hamdani father of Syed Aabroo Hamdani resident of Umer Colony-A, Lalbazar, Srinagar wants to correct the mother's name on her passport bearing registration No. M0466003 from Sufoorat-Un Nisa to Sufoorat Nisa and daughter of Rafiq Ahmed Hamdani to Rafiq Ahmad Hamdani. In this regard if anyone has any objection he or she may approach to Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

walnutads.in

NOTICE

It is here informed general public that I Rafiq Ahmad Hamdani father of Farmaan Rafiq Hamdani resident of Umer Colony-A, Lalbazar, Srinagar wants to correct the mother's on his passport bearing registration No. M0392814 from Sufoorat Nisa to Sufoorat Nisa and son of Rafiq Ahmed Hamdani to Rafiq Ahmad Hamdani. In this regard if anyone has any objection he or she may approach to Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

walnutads.in

NOTICE

It is here informed general public that I Rafiq Ahmad Hamdani father of Syed Suhaib Hamdani resident of Umer Colony-A, Lalbazar, Srinagar wants to correct the mother's name on his passport bearing registration No. R8998515 from Sufoorat Nisa to Sufoorat Nisa. In this regard if anyone has any objection he or she may approach to Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

walnutads.in

NOTICE

It is here informed general public that I Sufoorat Nisa wife of Rafiq Ahmad Hamdani resident of Umer Colony-A, Lalbazar, Srinagar wants to correct the my name in the Passport from Safoorat Nisa to Sufoorat Nisa and wife of Rafique Ahmed Hamdani to Rafiq Ahmad Hamdani on my passport bearing registration No. M2542875. In this regard if anyone has any objection he or she may approach to Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

walnutads.in

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, J&K POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, DIVISION KASHMIR.

e-mail: JKPOLICEHOUSING@GMAIL.COM : 0194-2493349.
JKPHCBEMINA18@GMAIL.COM

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: 67 of PHC KASHMIR DIV. /2021-22 Date: - 12-11-2021.

1. For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tender(s) through the online mode are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible contractors as per eligibility criteria indicated in this bid document for the following work(s):-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (In lacs)	Cost of tender document (in)	Time allowed for completion of work	Date and Time of opening of tender	Class of contractor
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Fighting System to IPD Block Bijbhara, Anantnag incl. SITC for 2 Years (mandatory testing annually).	34.72	2,000/=	60 working days.	22-11-2021	Original Manufacturers /Authorized distributor, dealer / vendor.

Position of AA = Accorded.
Position of Funds =As per Budgetary Provisions.

2. Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications of the work, Bill of Quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in, department DGP J&K.

3. Schedule of tender:

a Date of Issue of Tender Notice 12-11-2021.

b Period of downloading of bidding documents 13-11-2021 from 1000 Hrs. to 20-11-2021 upto 1800 Hrs.

c Bid submission Start Date and time 13-11-2021 from 1000 Hrs.

d Bid submission End Date and time 20-11-2021 upto 1800 Hrs.

e Date and Time of opening of Technical Bids (online) 22-11-2021 1400 Hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer J&K Police Housing Corporation, Division, Kashmir

4. Tender Fee (Cost of tender documents) : Cost of tender fee indicated at Para No. 1 above has to be deposited by the bidder in the following bank account:
Name of the account holder: Executive Engineer, Police Housing Corporation, Division Kashmir
Account Number: 0148040100013588.
Name of the Bank: J&K Bank.
Branch: Gole Market Karannagar.
IFSC : JAKAOKARRAN.
Scanned copy of the receipt towards deposit of amount of tender fee has to be necessarily uploaded along with the bid documents.

(a) Survey Level Instrument b) Sieve Set c) Cube Testing Machine (For works of value more than Rs. 250.00 Lacs)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Police Housing Corporation, Division, Kashmir.

No: PHC/NIT-67/2021-22/EE/K- 527-531.
Dated- 12-11-2021. DIPK-NB-5083/21

Directorate Of Samagra Shiksha J&K

(Winter) 1St Floor Opp Gurdwara , Channi Rama Jammu 180015
(Summer) Rawatpora Behind Bone & Joint Hospital Baghat-E Barzulla Srinagar 190005
Phone/Fax No: 0194-2438731/2435895 (Srlangar) 0191-2467170 (Jammu) Email Jksamagrashiksha@gmail.com

Contractual Employment Notification

A dvt Notice NO: Edu/SPD/SmS

Dated ----

Applications on plain paper along with the self-attested copies of documents of PPO are invited from the retired eligible Draftsmen for engagement purely on contractual basis in the Construction Divisions of School Education Department.

Name of Post	No of Posts with Breakup	Eligibility criteria	Pay per Month	Period
Draftsman	04 Posts (Two for Jammu Division AND Two for Kashmir Division	Retired Draftsman	Consolidated @ Rs 30000/ Month	Two Years

The eligible candidates must submit Their application by or before 30th of November 2021 through Speed Post or personally in the of- fice of Project Director Samagra Shiksha 1st , Floor, Opposite Gurudwara Channi Rama Jammu 180015.

Terms and Conditions for engagement:

- The engagement shall be purely on term Contract basis for two years only. However Contract shall be liable for immediate termina- tion without any notice in case of performance below acceptable standard. The age of the candidate should not be more than 62 years as on 01-11-2021.
- The candidate with lesser age shall be given preference over others.
- The candidate shall fulfill all the eligibility criteria mentioned for the post.
- The candidate should be Domicile of (Jammu & Kashmir).
- The applications should be accompanied by copy of pension payment order issued by A.G Office.
- The candidates must be a good health and willing to travels at any place of J&K.
- The application form should be attached with a draft of Rs. 500/- in favour of Project Director, Samagra Shiksha)&K payable at J&K Bank Moving Secretariat.
- The candidate shall have to appear in Interview before the committee constituted for this purpose on the date to be communi- cated separately.
- Extension of one year or maximum upto 65 years may be accorded only after consideration and recommendation of the Perfor- mance Evaluation Committee of the Directorate to be setup by the Project Director.
- The candidate shall have to submit an affidavit duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate that He/She is not involved in any Criminal/ Misappropriation case.

No: Edu/SPD/SMS/ADVT/5775-76/2021

(J.K Padha) Administrative Officer Samagra Shiksha, J&K.

Dated: 15-11-2021

DIPK-12759/21



DC conducts whirlwind tour of City areas

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday undertook whirlwind tour of various City areas to inspect pace of ongoing developmental works being carried out for construction of Noor Jehan Bridge at Qamarwari, 60 MLD In-fall Pumping Station/Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Eidgah and Service road on NH-44 at Panthachowk.

Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Nazool, Tehsildar Panthachowk and other concerned Officers, the DDC inspected Panthachowk, Qamarwari, Eidgah, Ali Jan Road and other areas and inspected physical progress of developmental works.

While inspecting the pace of work on prestigious project of 127-meter-long Noor Jehan Bridge at Qamarwari over River Jhelum being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore, the DDC instructed the concerned executing agency to work in double shifts to ensure timely completion of the bridge so that people of the area are benefitted.

The DDC also instructed the concerned officers to take measures to remove all bottlenecks and other encroachments if any in the project.

He also visited Ali Jan Road and inspected the works under taken for 60 MLD In-fall Pumping Station being carried out by NBCC under Comprehensive Sewerage in Zone 3rd of Greater Srinagar.

DC pays surprise visit to JLNH hospital

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday paid a surprise visit to JLNH Hospital, Rainawari and took stock of the healthcare facilities being provided to the patients.

The DC made a thorough round of various units of the Hospital including Emergency Block, Surgical Ward, Cardiology Ward, Operation Theatre, Dialysis Unit, Orthopaedic Unit, Ayushman Bharat Help Desk, besides Ticket cum Registration counter.

On the occasion, the DC interacted with the Patients, Doctors and the Para Medical staff on duty. He took direct feedback from the patients regarding the available patient care facilities, besides providing medicines, meals and other medical facilities to the patients and their attendants.

While interacting with the Doctors and Para-Medical staff on duty, the DC advised them to perform their duties with added zeal and passion to serve the public. He asked them to ensure availability of Medical and Para-Medical staff strictly as per the devised roster so that patients do not face any difficulty.

He advised the Medical Superintendent to ensure better and up to mark medical facilities to the patients and remain caring and compassionate towards them.

City To Host 5Th National Smart Cities Conclave

Agencies

Srinagar: Virtual 5th National Smart Cities Conclave program along with GovConnect, will be hosted in Srinagar on November 26, supported by Srinagar Municipal Corporation and Srinagar Smart City Limited.

A news agency has learnt that, in the event Chief Executive Officers, Commissioner's, Nodal Officers and Project Management Consultants (PMC) of selected 100 smart cities will be participating.

"In a big development and achievement, Srinagar smart city will be hosting the 5th National Smart Cities Conclave this month. The program will witness participation from 100 selected smart cities, wherein officials of those cities will be participating in the program," an SMC official said.

He said that the conclave is all about sharing ideas about building smart, resilient, safe and sustainable cities through technology and innovations.

"We will discuss certain topics, including smart, sustainable and resilient cities-towards quality of living,



building smart, resilient, safe and sustainable cities of the future through technology and innovations," he said.

"Srinagar Smart City will be hosting the 5th National Smart Cities Virtual Conclave on November 26 in partnership with GovConnect! Discussions and idea-sharing on building smart, resilient and sustainable cities will be done with participants from across the country", SMC Commissioner and

CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited Athar Amir Khan tweeted.

The official added that the conclave would all see participation from Smart Cities CEO's, Commissioner, Nodal officers, Department of Road Transport and Highways of various states, the Department of Energy and Power of various states, Departments of Urban, Development of various states and PMC's—(KNO)

Urs of Dastgeer Sahab (RA) Observed With Religious Fervor



KO NEWS DESK

Srinagar: Thousands of devotees on Wednesday participated in the special congregational prayers at Dastgeer Sahab shrine in Khanyar and Sarai Bala areas of Srinagar where annual Urs of the 11th century Sufi saint, Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), known

as Dastageer Sahib was observed with religious fervor.

The Urs was observed with religious zeal across the Valley. The devotees as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) thronged the shrine on Tuesday evening and participated in the night-long prayers.

The Urs of Dastgeer Sahab (RA) is

being observed on the 11th day of Rabi Al Thani--the fourth month of the Islamic Hijri Calendar.

Witnesses said that a huge gathering of devotees was witnessed at both the shrines today situated in Srinagar areas including Khanyar and Sarai Bala. The holy relic of the saint was displayed at Khanyar shrine after every prayer throughout the day.

Emotional scenes were also witnessed at the Dastgeer Sahab shrines when the people had the glimpse of the holy relic of the revered saint today. The biggest congregational prayers were held at Khanyar shrine here where thousands of devotees participated in the congregational prayers.

During the special prayers, the religious clerics threw light on the teachings of the revered saint. Besides, the shrines at both the places were decorated by the caretakers (Khadims).

Outside the shrines, the local and non-local business establishments had installed their carts and were seen selling the Kashmir traditional food stuff.

Pertinently, the actual shrine of the revered saint is located at Baghdad in Iraq. Even though the saint has never visited Kashmir, he is highly revered by the locals.

Admin Selas Four Medical Shops For Violations

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR:- In order to ensure the quality of Medicines/Drugs being sold to the patients and to regulate the prices of the drugs in City markets, the Deputy Commissioner /District Magistrate Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Wednesday undertook a surprise inspection of various markets in Srinagar orders for closing down various medical shops for contravention of rules like absence of qualified persons, not maintaining sale purchase records, unhygienic conditions, cold storage drugs not maintained properly, records of psychotropic drugs not maintained in violation of norms.

Accompanied by a team of the Drug Controller Department, the Deputy Commissioner carried out surprise inspection of dozens of medical shops at Soura, near SKIMS, Kak Sarai near SMHS Hospital, Karan Nagar, Nawakadal, Gratabal and other areas of the District.

During the inspection, 20 Medical shops were inspected during which 4 Medical stores were found violating laid down norms and were sealed/ stopped operation on the spot, while instructions to stop the sale of drugs at various medical shops were also passed. Besides show cause notices were also served to some medical shops for violating provisions of Drug & Cos-



20 Medical shops were inspected during which 4 Medical stores were found violating laid down norms and were sealed/ stopped operation on the spot

metics Act.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner has asked all Chemists operating in Srinagar to adhere to the laid down norms strictly. Any attempt at overcharging shall lead to initiation of criminal proceedings. He also urged the general public to lodge complaints in case they face any grievances in purchase of Medicines and selling medicine at exorbitant prices.

Deputy Drugs Controller, Kashmir, Drug Controller Headquarter, Drug Controller Srinagar and other concerned accompanied the DC during the inspection.

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The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
District Office Lal Mandi Srinagar

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her Class 12th Marks Card as per below mentioned details:-
Name :Insha Amin
Parentage:muhammad Amin Magloo
R/O: Meerakshah Colony Habak Hazratbal
Roll. No: 8128264
Register no. :N14300060021
Session: Annual 2017
According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" be treated as "CANCELLED")
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• PDD: 0194-2450213
• FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
• CAPD: 18001807011
• SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
• Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
• BUIHERA: 01932-228243
• PAMPORE: 01933-294132
• PATTAN: 01954-293507
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
12 Rabi-ul Sani
1443

PRAYERS
FAJR 5: 39
ZUHR 12:14
ASR 4:50
Magrib 5:31
ISHA 6: 55

This Day In History

- 1421 - Southern sea floods 72 villages, killing estimated 10,000 in Netherlands.
- 1497 - Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama reaches the Cape of Good Hope.
- 1667 - Treaty of Bongaja: King Hassan-Udin of Makasar & VOC.
- 1738 - France & Austria sign peace treaty.
- 1742 - Prussia & Britain sign anti-French military covenant.
- 1803 - Battle of Vertieres, in which Haitians defeat French.
- 1833 - Netherlands & Belgium sign Treaty of Zonhoven.
- 1901 - The USA and Great Britain sign the Second Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, or Inter-oceanic Ship Canal Treaty.
- 1918 - Latvia declares independence from Russia.
- 1918 - Belgian troops re-enter Brussels, lost to the German invaders on 20 August 1914.
- 1936 - Germany & Italy recognize Spanish government of Francisco Franco.
- 1941 - Mussolini's forces leave Abyssinia/Ethiopia.
- 1950 - South Korea President Syngman Rhee forced to end mass executions.
- 1955 - Bell X-2 rocket plane taken up for 1st powered flight.
- 1956 - Morocco gains independence.
- 1957 - Tunisia refuses Russian weapons.
- 1961 - JFK sends 18,000 military advisors to South Vietnam.
- 1963 - King Hassan II opens 1st parliament in Morocco.
- 1964 - J. Edgar Hoover describes Martin Luther King as "most notorious liar".
- 1968 - Soviets recover the Zond 6 spacecraft after a flight around the moon.
- 1970 - Linus Pauling declares large doses of Vitamin C could ward off colds.
- 1970 - Netherlands & Albania form diplomatic relations.
- 1970 - Russia lands self propelled rover on Moon.
- 1971 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC.
- 1973 - Arab oil ministers cancel the scheduled 5 percent cut in production for OPEC.
- Spain's parliament establishes democracy after 37 yrs of dictatorship.
- 1976 - Yanks sign free agent Don Gullett.
- 1978 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- 1979 - Ayatollah Khomeini charges US ambassador/embassy espionage.
- 1980 - Honduras & El Salvador signs peace (after "soccer war" 1969)
- 1983 - Argentina announces its ability to produce enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.
- 1991 - The Croatian city of Vukovar surrenders to Yugoslav People's Army and allied Serb paramilitary forces after an 87-day siege.
- 1993 - Black & white leaders in South Africa approve new democratic constitution.
- 1993 - North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) passes US House of Representatives.
- 2002 - Iraq disarmament crisis: United Nations weapons inspectors led by Hans Blix arrive in Iraq.
- 2003 - The congress of the Communist Party of Indian Union (Marxist-Leninist) decides to merge the party into Kanu Sanyal's CPI(MPL).

From KO Archives

Lone allowed to attend son's wedding in Pak

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SSRINAGAR: Senior Hurriyat Conference leader Abdul Ghani Lone has been finally granted permission to travel to Pakistan for his son's wedding, official sources said.

Lone has been allowed to go to Rawalpindi to attend the marriage of his son Sajjad Lone to Asma Khan on November 19. Khan is the daughter of the chairman of the Jammu and I Kashmir Liberation Front, Amanullah Khan, who lives in Pakistani-controlled-Kashmir.

The permission has been granted and it now depends upon Abdul Ghani Lone if he wishes to attend the marriage, official sources said on condition of anonymity.

Nearly all the pro-independence, pro-Pakistan and pro-India leaders in Indian Kashmir, including the chief minister, Farooq Abdullah, have been invited to the wedding.

"There is a shift in New Delhi's policy," Prof Abdul Ghani, chairman of the All Party Hurriyat Conference said, welcoming the move to allow Lone to attend his son's wedding. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 18 NOVEMBER, 2000)

Desperate Man Searches For Daughter Trapped At Belarus Border For 25 Days



Reuters

SIEMIATYCZE, POLAND: Anguished relatives of migrants trapped in the forest along the Poland-Belarus border are arriving in Polish border towns in the hope of helping their loved ones escape as violence from border guards escalates and temperatures plummet.

Among them is a Syrian living in Sweden who is desperate to find his daughter, Hilda Naaman, a 25-year-old doctor who was on her way to Europe from Syria. The man, who called himself Abou Elias, said she has spent the last 25 days on the border hungry, thirsty and recovering from beatings by the Belarusian border guard. "She can't walk anymore. My daughter's nails were pulled off. Belarusians came at night, beating them with an electric stick... telling them to go to Poland. Polish welcomed them only to bring them back," Abou Elias said.

The European Union accuses Minsk of creating a migrant crisis at its eastern border as part of a "hybrid attack" on the bloc - distributing Belarusian visas in the Middle East, flying in the migrants and then pushing them to cross the border illegally.

Belarus denies fomenting the crisis, but has also said it cannot help resolve it unless Europe lifts existing sanctions.

Abou Elias himself went through his own migration journey to Europe in 2014, where he said he fell into a "smuggler's trap." He fears the same has happened to his daughter.

She's barely been in touch with him, having lost her phone. He said that, from what she had told him the few times they spoke before, Belarusian authorities were asking migrants to pay around \$100 to charge 20% of their phone batteries.

The Belarusian authorities did not respond to Reuters request for comment, but have denied violence against migrants in the past.

No Polish Help

Abou Elias said the Polish police have pushed his daughter and other migrants back into Belarus repeatedly, sometimes with dogs, despite repressions from the Belarusian side.

"She is here, 40 kilometres away, they are playing us... Poland doesn't let them in, and the other (Belarus) doesn't allow them to go back. They are not people. They are monsters, monsters, monsters," he said in tears.

Taliban To Be Invited To 3Rd Ministerial Meeting On Afghanistan In China



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban government in Kabul will be invited to the third ministerial meeting likely to be held in China early next year, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said, urging the world community to recognise the reality that the war in Afghanistan has ended and the headline group is in power.

Speaking at a meeting of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday, Qureshi said Pakistan has worked out a new mechanism for consultations among Afghanistan's neighbours on the developments in the war-ravaged country after the Taliban takeover in mid-August.

"Afghanistan's interim government will also be invited to the next meeting of Afghanistan's neighbours," the Dawn newspaper quoted him as saying on Wednesday.

The format for the meeting includes China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, besides Russia. The inaugural meeting was held

in Islamabad on September 8, while the second meeting was hosted by Iran on October 27.

The Taliban were not invited to either of the meetings because the new regime in Kabul lacked international recognition.

The participants of the second meeting had in their joint communique called on the "international community to remain positively engaged with Afghanistan and develop a long-term roadmap to advance the agenda of political engagement, economic integration and regional connectivity".

The next meeting will take place in China. Although dates have not been finalised, it is likely to be held early next year, the report said.

Some foreign ministers visited Kabul over the past several weeks and representatives of the extended Troika plus meeting on Afghanistan - China, Pakistan, the United States and Russia - met Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on the sidelines of their meeting in Islamabad last week.



ARMENIA ON TUESDAY REPORTED DEATHS and the loss of military positions in border clashes with Azerbaijani troops, a year after the arch-foes fought a war over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. (AFP)

75% Of Children Suffer From Acute Malnutrition In War Hit Yemen: WHO

Agencies

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that 75 percent of Yemeni children suffer from acute malnutrition, as Saudi Arabia keeps bombing the southern impoverished neighbor in defiance of international calls to end its bloody war.

It also estimated that 16.2 million Yemenis - more than half of the country's population of 30 million - are food insecure.

Acute malnutrition is responsible for almost one-third of all deaths in children under five years of age. It damages a child's physical development and causes intellectual or cognitive impairment among those who survive. Malnutrition is largely irreversible, perpetuating illness, poverty, and inequality.

Back in February, four UN agencies, including the WHO, warned that acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition have increased by 16 and 22 percent, respectively, among Yemeni children under five years of age from 2020.

The figures are among the highest levels of malnutrition recorded in the country since the Saudi war began in 2015, they added.

MORE CHILDREN will die with every day that passes without action. Humanitarian organizations need urgent predictable resources and unhindered access to communities on the ground to be able to save lives."

"The increasing number of children going hungry in Yemen should shock us all into action," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore at the time. "More children will die with every day that passes without action. Humanitarian organizations need urgent predictable resources and unhindered access to communities on the ground to be able to save lives."

Today, Yemen is one of the most dangerous places in the world for children to grow up, with high rates of communicable diseases, limited access to health services, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene systems.

Last month, the UN Security Council voiced "grave concern for the dire humanitarian situation (in Yemen), including prolonged starvation and the growing risk of large-

scale famine, which is compounded by the dire economic situation."

Saudi Arabia, supported by its regional and Western allies, launched the devastating military aggression against its southern neighbor in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allied states and with arms and logistics support from the US and several Western states.

The aim was to return to power the former Riyadh-backed regime and crush the popular Ansarullah movement which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government in Yemen.

The war has stopped well shy of all of its goals, despite killing tens of thousands of Yemenis and turning entire Yemen into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Meanwhile, Yemeni forces have in recent months gone from strength to strength against the Saudi-led invaders and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in Yemen.

Throughout the course of the war, the United States has supported and armed Saudi Arabia. The Ansarullah movement, which runs the Sana'a government, frequently refers to the war as the "US-Saudi aggression" to underscore Washington's leading role in the war.

China Has Never Taken One Inch Of Land From Other Countries: Xi Tells Biden



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

At his virtual summit with US counterpart Joe Biden on Tuesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping projected China as a peace-loving nation and said it never started a war nor claimed an inch of land of others as he played down the criticism that Beijing is increasingly getting aggressive over its territorial claims.

"Chinese people have always loved and valued peace. Aggression or hegemony is not in the blood of the Chinese nation," Xi told Biden.

"Since the founding of the People's Republic, China has never started a single war or conflict, and has never taken one inch of land from other countries, he claimed, in an apparent attempt to play down criticism

CHINESE PEOPLE have always loved and valued peace. Aggression or hegemony is not in the blood of the Chinese nation,"

that Beijing is aggressively asserting territorial claims in the disputed areas, be that along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India, the South China Sea or the maritime dispute with Japan.

In the disputed South China Sea, which is claimed by Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan, China has built artificial islands to assert its claims.

China too was involved in a maritime dispute with Japan over the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea which the Chinese refer to as Diaoyu islands.

Google Cloud, Snap, Spotify Back Up After Brief Outage



Reuters

Multiple social media apps such as Snapchat, Spotify and Alphabet's Google Cloud appeared to be coming back online after a brief global outage on Tuesday.

Google said issues with its Cloud Networking, which counts Etsy, Spotify and Snap Inc as clients, were partially resolved shortly after thousands of users flagged it on outage tracking website downdetector.com.

Google Cloud's dashboard earlier showed that services including cloud developer tools, cloud console and cloud engine were facing disruptions.

Spotify had said it was aware of "some issues right now and are checking them" after more than 50,000 users reported issues on downdetector, but those disruptions have since been resolved, according to the website.

"Many Snapchatters are having trouble using the app. Hang tight, we're working on a fix. In the meantime, we recommend staying logged in,"

Fastly, the cloud company behind a major global internet outage in June, said it was seeing increased errors with origins in a "common cloud provider, unrelated to Fastly's edge cloud platform."

Tuesday's brief disruption follows a six-hour widespread outage last month that crippled Meta Platforms Inc, formerly known as Facebook, after faulty configuration changes on the company's routers.

Downdetector only tracks outages by collating status reports from a series of sources, including user-submitted errors on its platform. The outage might have affected a larger number of users.

MANY SNAPCHATTERS ARE HAVING trouble using the app. Hang tight, we're working on a fix. In the meantime, we recommend staying logged in,"

NEWS MAKERS

Salvator Mundi: Saudi-Owned \$450M Painting Is Not A Da Vinci, Museum Says



Agencies

The world's most expensive painting, owned by Saudi Arabia, is not the work of Leonardo Da Vinci, according to a research project at Madrid's renowned Prado museum.

The Salvator Mundi was purchased in New York in November 2017 for \$450m by a little-known Saudi prince, who was

reportedly acting as a proxy to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

At the time, it was sold by Christie's auction house as a fully authenticated work by the Italian renaissance polymath.

However, Spain's Prado museum has recently downgraded the work, in a decision that has been described as the most important critical intervention since the sale four years ago.

The decision, first reported by The Art Newspaper last week, was made as part of the Prado's Leonardo and the Copy of the Mona Lisa exhibition, which is running until January 2022.

The exhibition seeks to analyse da Vinci's closest circle and the teaching methods employed in Italian studios in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. It is being run in collaboration with the Louvre, the Molecular Archaeology Laboratory at the Sorbonne and London's National Gallery, among other institutions.

Space Junk Sends Station Astronauts Into Docked Capsules

Space junk threatened the seven astronauts aboard the International Space Station on Monday and forced them to seek shelter in their docked capsules.

The US Space Command said it was tracking a field of orbiting debris, the apparent result of some type of satellite break-up.

The astronauts retreated into their docked capsules early Monday, after being told of the last-minute threat. Mission Control had them close the hatches between the space station compartments again later in the day, as a safety precaution.

"We are actively working to characterize the debris field and will continue to ensure all space-faring nations have the information necessary to maneuver satellites if impacted," the Space Command said in a statement. NASA officials did not provide any immediate comment.

The Russian Space Agency said via Twitter that the astronauts were ordered



into their docked capsules earlier in the day, in case they had to make a quick getaway. Later, the crew was routinely performing operations, the agency noted.

Friends, everything is regular with us!" tweeted the space station's commander, Russian Anton Shkaplerov.

But the cloud of debris seemed to be posing a threat on each passing orbit. Mission Control informed the crew that the latest pass was expected to last seven minutes, and had them interrupt their science research to once again take safety precautions. (AP)

Frida Kahlo Self-Portrait Sells For \$35 Million

Agencies

The oil painting Diego y yo, which measures only 30 by 22.4 centimeters (11 by 8 inches), has been sold on Tuesday at Sotheby's auction house for \$34.9 million (£30.9 million).

It was part of the prestigious Macklowe Collection, alongside works by artists including Mark Rothko, Alberto Giacometti and Jackson Pollock. The 35 lots generated over \$676 million at auction.

In 1990, Sotheby's sold Diego y yo for a modest \$1.4 million to New York art dealer Mary-Anne Martin. At the time, it was the first work by a Latin American artist to fetch more than a million dollars at auction.

Since then, prices for Frida Kahlo's works have risen steadily.

The early work El tiempo vuela ("Time Flies") from 1929 fetched \$4.6 million in 2000, and Dos desnudos en el bosque ("Two Naked People in the Forest") went for \$8 million in 2016.



The Frida cult

Her self-portraits are legendary, with Frida Kahlo looking deep into the viewer's eyes. Her hair is usually pinned up in braids and adorned with flowers. She wears hand-embroidered Mexican clothing in bright colors along with eye-catching accessories. Her iconic unibrow and faint traces of a mustache are clearly visible - two attributes that contradict conventional beauty ideals for women.

But the painter, who was born in 1907 and died in 1954, cared little about conventions.

Bhatnagar Reviews Progress On AIIMS, Other Major Projects

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The work on AIIMS Awantipora has been started as per the approved revised master plan and an additional land of 34 acre has been made available by the district administration for the project and the process of acquisition of land will be completed by December end, officials said Wednesday.

These details were shared during a high-level meeting chaired by the Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday to review progress on major projects of Health and Medical Education (H&ME) being executed in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, H&ME, Vivek Bhardwaj; Managing Director, Jammu Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC), Vikas Kundal; Director Coordination New Medical Colleges, Chief Engineer R&B Jammu, Principals of GMCs Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua, Doda and Rajouri, representatives of Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board (JKHB), Jammu and Kashmir Police Housing Corporation (JKPHC), CPWD and other concerned officials both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the official spokesperson said, detailed discussion was held on present status of ongoing works on all major projects like AIIMS Samba and AIIMS Awantipora being raised under Prime Ministers' Development Programme (PMDP), GMCs of Anantnag, Baramulla, Doda, Kathua and Rajouri, newly sanctioned GMCs at Handwara and Udhampur besides other ongoing PMDP projects being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Regarding AIIMS, Samba, Advisor was informed that the work is going on in full pace with exterior works like boundary wall completed fully," he said.

"Similarly, Advisor was informed that the work on AIIMS Awantipora has been started as per the approved revised master plan. He was also apprised that an additional

land of 34 acre has been made available by the district administration for the project and the process of acquisition of land will be completed by December end," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the Advisor directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the pace of work so that these prestigious projects can be completed within the fixed timelines and dedicated to the public at the earliest.

"These prestigious projects will revolutionize the health sector in J&K and thus no lackadaisical approach should be entertained while executing works on such important projects," he said.

Regarding projects executed by JKPC like, GMC Anantnag and Baramulla, Rehmat Alam Hospital Anantnag, upgradation of District Hospitals of Anantnag and Baramulla, District Hospital Reasi, 100 bedded IPD block at Kot Bhalwal Jammu, 100 Bedded Additional Block at DH Kishtwar and few others, he said, the Advisor took detailed assessment of present status of these projects asking for expeditious completion.

"Advisor directed the MD JKPC to accelerate the pace of progress on all works and remove bottlenecks, if any, ensuring timely completion of these allotted projects," the official spokesperson said.

Similarly, he said, Bhatnagar evaluated other health projects like State Cancer Institute at GMC Jammu/SKIMS Srinagar, construction of Bone and Joint Hospital, Bakshi Nagar Jammu, construction of 100 bedded new emergency block at GMC Jammu, Government Unani Medical College and Hospital, Ganderbal, Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, Jammu and others being executed by different agencies like Public Works Department (R&B), JKHB and JKPHC.

Highlighting the importance of upgradation of health sector, Advisor directed the health authorities to gear up their men and machinery so that desired work speed can be maintained for achieving the results on ground.

Forest Fire Triggers Landmine Blasts In Poonch

AGENCIES

JAMMU: A devastating fire that broke out in the woods along the Line of Control have triggered landmines explosion in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources on Wednesday said the fire started from dry bushes from across the border and by Tuesday evening, it spread on to this side of the LoC.

"Many landmines have exploded due to the fire on this side," they said, adding that the Army troops besides being engaged in dousing the flames, are also keeping a close vigil on the border to foil any design from the Pakistani side under the shade of the jungle inferno.

"Some of the security gadgets installed along the LoC have also

been reportedly damaged due to the wild fire," they said.

As per reports, 250-300 militants are also waiting at the launching pads for infiltration.

Additional Director General of Police Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh, on Tuesday also chaired a security review meeting in Poonch and asked his subordinates to tackle the Pakistani elements trying to disrupt peace with fortitude.

On October 11, a fierce encounter was also triggered between group of heavily armed militants and security forces.

Nine Indian Army personnel including two Junior Commissioned Officers were killed in the counter insurgency operation in Bhatidharayan forested belt on Rajouri-Poonch boundaries.



THE FAMILY MEMBERS of Altaf Bhat and Mudassir Gul on Wednesday held a candlelight vigil seeking return of bodies for proper burial.

REBELLION IN CONGRESS

Many Azad Loyalists Quit Party Posts, Attack State Unit Chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: In trouble for the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, four former ministers and three ex legislators have resigned from party posts, saying they have not been provided an opportunity to be heard on party affairs in the union territory, sources said on Wednesday.

The leaders, who have quit, are close to senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Those who have resigned include former ministers G M Saroori, Jugal Kishore, Vikar Rasool and Dr Manohar Lal.

The former legislators who have resigned from the party posts are Gulam Nabi Monga, Naresh Gupta and Amin Bhat, the sources said, adding that they have sent their resignation letters to party chief Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and in-charge Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajni Patil.

The leaders charged in the letter that the "hostile attitude" of the party leadership compelled them to resign from all party posts and also trained their guns at state unit chief G A Mir.

However, some other leaders in the party close to Azad, including former Deputy chief minister Tara Chand, have distanced themselves from these leaders, the sources added.

In the letter, the leaders have said that they tried to draw the attention of the party high command towards their issues but no time was given.

The leaders said they have been seeking appointment from the party leadership for the last about one year through the medium of memorandum and by way of personal requests too during the visit of Rahul Gandhi to Srinagar and Jammu in August 2021 but they were not given time.

Attacking Mir, they charged that the party is heading towards a "disastrous" situation under him and that a large number of Congress leaders have resigned from the Congress and joined other parties while some of them have chosen to remain silent.

They also charged that some leaders have captured and hijacked the functioning of Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir.

Noting that assembly polls may be announced soon, they said the party high command is not ready to hear their genuine grievances.

The sources said the Congress high command has already made it clear that any grievance should be redressed through the party mechanism and not through the media.

"They are likely to face disciplinary action," a senior party leader said.

Mehta Directs JKSSB To Fill 10,000 Vacancies By Mar 2022

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary Arun Kumar on Wednesday directed Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) to complete the recruitment process for 10,000 posts referred by different departments by end of the current financial year, besides, filling up 1200 posts of Sub-Inspectors by March as well.

Chairing a meeting to review the recruitment process being followed by the JKSSB and Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) along with the examination schedule and timelines, Mehta emphasized that transparency in recruitment process is one of the primary objective of

the government and directed for taking all necessary steps to ensure that selections are conducted in consonance with the stated objective, an official spokesperson said.

Principal Secretary, Home Department, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Chairman, J&K SSB and Secretary, J&K PSC attended the meeting.

In the meeting, he said, it was informed that the JKSSB has recently recruited candidates against more than 2000 posts.

"The Chief Secretary gave the JKSSB a target of completing the recruitment process for 10,000 posts referred by different departments by end of the current financial year, besides,

completing the recruitment for 1200 posts of Sub-Inspectors by March as well. The General Administration Department was asked to provide additional manpower to SSB to ensure time-bound recruitments," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that a decision was also taken that the Combined Competitive Examination for recruitment of officers in the administrative, police and accounts cadres will be conducted annually.

"For the purpose, the General Administration Department was directed to issue a detailed calendar for referral of vacancies by the concerned departments and subsequent calendar of examination to be followed by the PSC," he added.

Rajnath To Unveil Revamped War Memorial In Ladakh Today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate on Thursday a revamped war memorial in eastern Ladakh's Rezang La, the site of an epic battle where Indian troops valiantly fought the Chinese military in 1962.

The memorial is dedicated to the brave Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in the Battle of Rezang La.

Official sources said after inaugurating the memorial, the defence minister will also carry

The eastern Ladakh border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

The tension escalated following a deadly clash in Galwan Valley on June 15 last year.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February and in the Gogra area in August.

The last round of military talks on October 10 ended in a stalemate following which both sides blamed each other for the impasse.

In a strong statement after the 13th round of talks, the Indian Army said the "constructive suggestions" made by it at the negotiations were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor could Beijing provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

KDA Asks Admin To Withdraw Summons Against Students

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), a conglomerate of social, political and religious parties, on Wednesday asked the Union Territory administration to withdraw summons issued to student leaders in Kargil over last month's protest against land grab.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, a KDA spokesperson alleged that the Union Territory administration was saddened over the unity of Kargil and Leh parties and were venting out frustration on students and civil society activists through different means.

The amalgam also accused the administration of making efforts to weaken the unity forged between the people and leaders of Leh and Kargil.

"We want to tell the Union Territory administration that they will lose the faith of the people with such measures. We advise the administration to resolve the issues of people and not to resort to anti-people policies and harassment," the spokesperson said.

The KDA, he said, condemns the summons issued to the students and expresses solidarity with them.

"We also urge Union Territory

administration not to spoil the peaceful atmosphere to please a particular political party," the KDA spokesperson said.

Pertinently, six student leaders have been summoned by the Executive Magistrate, 1st class, Kargil for allegedly trying to breach peace and create chaos by provoking the students of girls' higher secondary against the administration.

Among those who have been summoned included Ali Murtaza, President of Student Education Movement of Kargil (SEMOK), Ahmad Qadri SEMOK Vice President, Farzana Batool SEMOK Member, Shazia Nazir president of All Ladakh Student Welfare Association Jammu, Hassan Hundarmani Spokesman of SEMOK, and Jammu Boys Hostel president Mohammad Hasnain.

On October 28, scores of girls' students hit the streets in Kargil town and staged a protest over the alleged occupation of the land by some locals belonging to the girls' higher secondary school. The protesting students had marched to the office of Deputy Commissioner, Kargil to press their demand. The protesting students were given assurance by the ADC, Kargil that their genuine demand will be met.

Night Curfew Extended In Jammu To Stop Covid Spread

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The authorities in this winter capital have extended night curfew in wake of the steady rise in the daily coronavirus cases reported in the district over the last few days.

The decision to impose night curfew from 10 pm to 6 am from Wednesday night was taken by the district magistrate Jammu, Anshul Garg.

According to an order issued by Garg, the District Disaster Management Authority (DMA), Jammu held a detailed review of the COVID scenario prevailing in the district wherein it was noted that there has been steady rise in the COVID cases in the district over the last few days and positivity rate has gone beyond 0.2% which requires immediate attention and remedial measures on the part of district ad-

ministration.

"Now, therefore, in view of the above-mentioned facts, I Anshul Garg, IAS, District Magistrate, in exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 144 of Cr. PC do hereby order that there shall be Night Curfew from 10:00 PM to 06:00 AM (instead of 11:00 PM to 05:00 AM) in the Territorial jurisdiction of District Jammu from 17-11-2021 (Wednesday) till further orders," the order reads.

Garg has also directed tehsildars and SHOs to ensure that loud-speaker announcements for awareness of general public for enforcement of night curfew are made in their respective jurisdictions.

The order also directs the Chief Medical Officer, Jammu to ensure robust COVID testing in congested areas and potential hotspots.

"Any violation of this order shall invite action under IPC," it adds

Kashmir Lawyers Association Calls On LG

JAMMU: A delegation of Kashmir Lawyers Association called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday and apprised him about their concerning issues

During the interaction at the Raj Bhavan here, the delegation led by Waseem Gul highlighted a host of issues related to the welfare of the fraternity. The deputation called for an institutionalised social security scheme including life and health insurance for young lawyers, besides drawing attention towards the reconstitution of consumer courts in the UT, among other demands for lawyers' welfare, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, gave a patient hearing to the members of the delegation and assured that all of their genuine demands and issues will be redressed in a time bound manner.

ACB Charges Patwari In Trap Case

SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against a revenue official who was caught red handed last year in central Kashmir's Budgam district while accepting a bribe.

According to an ACB spokesperson, chargesheet was submitted before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, against Irshad Ahmad Dar, the then Patwari Halqa Kulbugh, Khansahib Budgam, in a Case FIR No. 19/2020 filed at the police station ACB Srinagar.

The court, he said, fixed the next date of hearing on January 27, next year.

Giving details of the case, the spokesperson said that based on a written complaint by a person alleging that the Patwari was demanding Rs. 5000 as bribe for issuance of revenue extract of his proprietary land at Kulbugh Khansahib Budgam, the anti-graft body registered a case and started investigations and constituted a trap team.

"The trap team laid a successful trap in which accused Patwari was caught red while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs. 5000 from the complainant," he said. He further said that the investigation of the case was concluded as proved against the accused.

"After obtaining the Govt. sanction for launching prosecution, the chargesheet of the case was produced before the court of Special Anti-Corruption Judge Srinagar for judicial determination," he added.

J&K Is Really A Paradise On Earth: Shakti Kapoor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Actor Shakti Kapoor on Wednesday said Jammu and Kashmir is a "paradise on earth" and its people are highly talented and very hospitable.

The 69-year-old actor was talking with reporters as he reached here for the shooting of his upcoming Punjabi movie "Gangwar 84".

"It is always a pleasure coming to this part of India. This is a very beautiful place and the people here are amazing..." the actor said.

"I am happy that I am shooting in Jammu for upcoming Punjabi movie 'Gangwar 84' which is based on a true story," he added.

Asked about the local talent, Kapoor said, "Jammu or Srinagar is part our India. The local youth are highly talented, the people in general are very hospitable and the food is also amazing."

Kapoor said he has a busy schedule of shooting in Jammu and might not be able to visit any place of tourist interest during his stay.

Kashmir Hospitals Witnessing Rise In Covid Cases: DAK

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday said hospitals in Kashmir are once again witnessing a rise in the number of severe Covid-19 cases.

"Hospitals are again seeing a surge in severe cases of Covid-19 infection," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement here on Wednesday.

"The number of Covid admissions has increased five times over the last few days," he said. Dr Hassan said at SMHS hospital, a week ago we had 2-3 patients admitted in Covid wards. It has shot up to 15 now. "Few weeks ago, there were days when we would not have a single patient taking admission. But now we have 7-8 patients getting admitted every day. Most of them come with bilateral pneumonia requiring oxygen, some needing intensive care and the support of ventilators to help them survive the respiratory distress," he said.

The DAK President said not only the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions, but young people are coming with severe disease and some of them are dying," he said.

"Most of these admitted patients are either unvaccinated or have received a single dose of Covid-19 vaccine," he added. General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said the rising number of cases over the past one week has now starting to reflect in rising number of hospitalizations.

DIPR Celebrates 'National Journalism Day'

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: On the eve of 'National Journalism Day' celebrated every year on 17th November across India, the Cultural Unit Srinagar of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Wednesday organised a debate in Conference Hall of DIPR Srinagar on "Social Media Journalism".

Before the debate began, a two-minute silence was observed in memory of the well-known journalist Shahid Bukhari who passed away recently and prayers were offered for his forgiveness and eternal peace, an official spokesperson said.

Prominent journalists and media personalities including, Shabir Ahmad Mir (News18 Urdu), Mohammad Aslam (KNS), Rasheed Rahi (CNS), Senior Journalists Syed Tajamul, Nazir Ganaie, Farzana Mumtaz, M. Afzal Bhat, Shahana Fatima, participated in the debate.

"The participating journalists who spoke on the occasion highlighted the role of media which plays a very important role in spreading harmony, peace and brotherhood amongst the citizens," he said.

The media acts as a bridge between the government and the citizens, they added.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Biden-Trump
Virtual Summit

United States President Joe Biden and China's President Xi Jinping in their virtual meeting on Tuesday have agreed on the need to "responsibly" manage their relationship but fell short of reaching a breakthrough on any of the issues dividing, among them recently the issue of Taiwan that has led to increasingly confrontational ties.

The two leaders spoke for over three hours with both trying to build on their old familiarity since the days the two were vice presidents of their respective countries. Biden called for "common sense guardrails to ensure that competition does not veer into conflict." He also underlined the "importance of managing competition responsibly." And Xi, for his part, said "mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation" should be the "three principles" guiding ties.

The summit is a welcome development at a time when the relations between the two countries have nosedived. But the two countries will need to make a herculean effort to recover from the bitterness of Biden's predecessor Donald Trump. Trump's approach to China had threatened to start a new cold war. Trump had launched a full-fledged economic war with China by raising tariffs on Chinese goods which left world economy bruised in its wake. Geo-politically, Trump's America First policy and protectionist measures had made the world an unstable place. He had withdrawn US from many of its global power engagements in the world, straining even the military alliance like NATO and alienating the European Union, the bulwarks of the world order led by US. Trump had even trashed the multilateral agreements which previous administration had played an instrumental role to rally the world around. One such critical agreement was the Paris Climate accord.

Biden, on the other hand, has largely reversed the course taken by Trump. He has taken a different path on issues ranging from coronavirus and health care to the environment, education and more. Under him, the US has rejoined Paris Climate Agreement.

But on China, Biden like his predecessor has adopted a tough posture. He has accused China of violating international trade rules, subsidizing its companies and stealing U.S. intellectual property. But he doesn't think Trump's tariffs have worked and wants to join with U.S. allies to form a bulwark against Beijing. He has pledged tough negotiations with China on trade and intellectual property matters. But his virtual summit with Xi is a good beginning and hopefully it go some way in the management of their tough relationship.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Amber On Economy: On
The Latest Data On Inflation

The latest data on inflation, both in retail and wholesale prices as well as industrial output estimates, suggest it would be prudent to adopt caution on the outlook for the economy. October's retail inflation based on the CPI showed a slight quickening in overall year-on-year price gains to 4.48%, from the 4.35% pace in September, spurred by a persistent acceleration in the prices of certain key food items and transport fuels. Oils and fats logged 33.5% inflation, while meat and fish and pulses and products both saw a marginal easing in the pace of annual gains from September — posting 7.1% and 5.4% increases, respectively. However, the food and beverages sub-index that accounts for over half the CPI, accelerated 2.3% month-on-month, led by vegetable prices that reared up sharply by 14.2% from September's levels. The sequential trend in the food category is particularly disconcerting as except egg and fruits, all the 10 other items of the 12-component sub-index saw prices accelerate last month. Transport and communication, which encompasses the pump prices of petrol and diesel, logged inflation of 10.9% from the October 2020 level, lending justification to the Centre's Deepavali-eve decision to cut the excise duty on the key fuels. With the WPI also showing price pressures intensifying at the wholesale-level last month, especially for fuel and power and manufactured products — October's headline WPI inflation accelerated to 12.5%, from 10.7% in September — the overall outlook on inflation is still far from reassuring.

The Index of Industrial Production data from September also points to a sharp slowdown in output. While IIP growth slumped to an annual 3.1% pace, from August's 12%, overall industrial output, of mining, manufacturing and electricity, actually shrank 2.6% on a sequential basis. While the Finance Ministry has cited monsoon rains for the slump in mining and power generation, which contracted 8.4% and 11% month-on-month, respectively, index heavyweight manufacturing too suffered a 0.5% contraction. Four of the six use-based industrial categories saw output shrink including consumer non-durables, which contracted 0.9%. The only silver lining was that consumer durables posted a healthy 6.7% jump in production from the preceding month, as white goods dealers likely stocked up ahead of the festival season. Automobile manufacturing slumped 9% from a year earlier and shrank 3.3% from August's output levels as a global shortage of semiconductors cramped production. Automakers have reported more than 20% declines in production for October as well, as the chip scarcity coupled with high input costs abides. And given that manufacturers, who have so far sought to avoid risking the tenuous demand recovery by raising product prices, may not be able to defer increases for much longer, policymakers will have to ensure they do not drop their guard on inflation.

The Hindu

Well-Behaved Politics

As Important As It Is To Acknowledge That Politics Has Very Little Room In The Current Situation, There Is Also A Lack Of Will On The Part Of Political Parties To Engage In Politics



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI chairs an during a meeting with various political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi on June 24, 2021. Photo: Twitter/@PMOIndia via PTI

Riyaz Wani

IN THEORY, THE INFLUX OF THE leaders from the PDP and also from the National Conference has set up the People's Conference as a formidable Kashmir-based party. And should Lone succeed in rallying North Kashmir around his party, it would transform the electoral landscape of the Valley. This would split up Kashmir among the three parties: the National Conference (NC), the PDP and the PC

It is rare now that one comes across a sustained political activity or at least a statement from a politician or a political party in Kashmir. And even if any statement is made, it generally skirts the contentious issues besetting J&K. Such is the restraint exercised by the political actors - except, of course, by Mehbooba Mufti and very occasionally by Dr Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah who keep making some anti-government noise.

Overall, there is a loud silence as far as the political and civil society activity. It is true there is little space for politics in the existing situation but at the same time, there's also little will on the part of the political parties to do politics. The reason for this is the transformation in the terms of the political discourse following the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019: In the new political climate, it has become difficult to practice old-style mainstream politics that seamlessly blended pro-India credentials with liberal nods to soft separatism and took pride in an adversarial stance towards New Delhi.

The parties are now content to issue bland statements about the prevailing situation, only occasionally foraying into the political domain but not so much as to ruffle feathers of the powers that be.

What is more, even the parties like the Apni Party which have apparently reconciled to the post-Article 370 reality are largely silent. Apart from poaching upon the leaders of the established parties like the PDP - whose ranks have now largely been depleted - and the NC, these parties are choosing to lie low. The dilemma for them is also the same: they can't publicly support the withdrawal of Article 370 fearing a popular backlash. And their demand for the restoration of statehood has not resonated with people. More so, after the centre has made it clear that the statehood would be restored only

after delimitation and the elections. So, the only thing they are left to talk about is the routine governance issues, but they aren't doing even that. One reason for this is that no party is ready to stick its neck out and talk in an adversarial tone against the government, which is otherwise the lifeblood of politics. This is, in part, understandable. These parties are part of an alternative political and civil society structure which is being primed to take place of the established structure. For example, Apni Party led by the industrialist turned politician Altaf Bukhari was founded early last year to fill in the vacuum created by the then absence of the established political parties like the NC and the PDP, most of whose leaders were in detention at the time.

The consequent political vacuum has thus needed filling. But with a political representation that gave voice to the aspirations and the grievances of the people and certainly not with the one that is seen to represent New Delhi in Kashmir. Apni Party was set up to fill this vacuum. But going by its politics, the Party has not only struggled to find spontaneous support among people but it has also given up trying. Its relevance briefly hinged on an absence from the scene of parties like NC and the PDP which New Delhi ensured over the one year after the withdrawal of Article 370.

But the Apni Party has since been almost completely overtaken by the People's Conference which has cornered most of the defecting leaders from the PDP and also some from the NC. With these entries, the People's Conference has received a shot in the arm. The footprint of the People's Conference since its founding has otherwise been limited to a part of North Kashmir. The maximum number of Assembly seats that the Peoples Conference has won in an election is two. Safina Beigh who has some support in Baramulla, a district in

north Kashmir, could help now expand the party's base in North Kashmir already strengthened by the party's general secretary Imran Reza Ansari, who commands substantial support at Pattan, a constituency in district Baramulla.

In theory, the influx of the leaders from the PDP and also from the National Conference has set up the People's Conference as a formidable Kashmir-based party. And should Lone succeed in rallying North Kashmir around his party, it would transform the electoral landscape of the Valley. This would split up Kashmir among the three parties: the National Conference (NC), the PDP and the PC. That is, if we discount the chances of Apni Party led by Altaf Bukhari, which boasts of some leaders, most of them drawn from the PDP, who command some support in their respective constituencies.

Going forward, the situation looks very uncertain. It is unlikely that space for normal political activity will open up anytime soon. Though there's talk of the centre seeking to engage the establishment parties in J&K as part of its efforts to restore statehood to J&K and pave the way for Assembly elections, this may not change much. The harsh truth is that the centre will engage on its terms and offer little accommodation to the demands of the major regional parties like the NC and the PDP. There is also little hope that these parties will be allowed to publicly raise their issues. They will have no option but to wait. As long as the BJP government is in power in New Delhi, they won't be able to engage in normal political activity. That's a given.

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

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer

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Suicides And Society

ON June 26, two suicidal deaths were reported in the valley. A day earlier, on June 25, a 17-year-old boy, hailing from Kupwara, ended his life by committing suicide in Srinagar. In recent months, Kashmir has witnessed a worrying trend of an increase in suicide cases, and there seems to be no end to this menace. In essence, several interplaying factors have led to an increase in suicidal attempts, such as the political situation of Kashmir, the lack of mental health infrastructure, and the norms of Kashmir's society.

The ongoing conflict has put tremendous mental pressure on the population of Kashmir, and a large proportion of the population now suffers from stress-related diseases. As per the survey conducted by Doctors Without

Borders in 2015, 1.8 million people in the valley suffer from depression-related diseases. These diseases could easily lead up to suicides if proper counselling is not offered to the victims, and therefore concrete efforts are required to help the mental health patients of Kashmir. Nonetheless, a lack of mental health infrastructure persists in the valley, and only one hospital, Govt. Psychiatric Diseases Hospital, Srinagar, caters to the demands of 1.8 million people. The location of this hospital in Srinagar further means that patients from poor backgrounds and far-flung areas do not have access to it. Thus, setting up effective mental health facilities in every district of Kashmir and raising awareness about mental health issues may reduce suicidal attempts and deaths.

Additionally, other than upgrading mental health infrastructure, it is im-

portant to identify those sections of the society in which suicides are prevalent. Off late, in Kashmir, suicides are on a rise among women and the youth. In women, the most common cause of suicide is domestic violence. Partly, domestic violence can be attributed to the patriarchal nature of Kashmir's society, where women are often subordinated and lack agency in marital affairs. Consequently, when women become subjects of domestic violence, they attempt suicide as a last recourse. Therefore, making collective efforts towards ending domestic violence may result in a decrease in the number of suicides among women.

When it comes to the youth of Kashmir, several factors, such as betrayal in relations, lack of choice in choosing their career paths, forced marriages, drug abuse, etc., can be potential

causes of suicide. Two steps could help to reduce suicides among the youth: (1) the administration needs to set up more de-addiction centres and provide psychological help to drug addicts and (2) Communitarian efforts to enlighten the youth about the after-effects of suicide are required. Moreover, parents have to give much more agency to their children in matters concerning their career or marriage. More agency means that the youth will not be forced to make decisions that can potentially lead to suicides in future.

While the causes and suggestions cited above are not exhaustive, they can provide a framework to understand and address rising suicides in Kashmir.

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How To Function In An Increasingly Polarized Society



AGREEING TO DISAGREE? Showing empathy or compassion about why someone holds opinions very different from yours can help defuse polarization. (Liza Summer/Pexels)

Fiona MacDonald

Political polarization has been an increasing topic of concern for people in many areas of their lives, rearing its head in everything from family get-togethers to workplace relationships and election campaigns. The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated that polarization – extremes in opinions and/or an erosion of a more moderate political centre – can have real life-and-death consequences. How to manage the stress of polarization and how to function when it surrounds us is now a necessary but underdeveloped skill for many of us. To function in an increasingly polarized society, we first need to know the source of the division. In politics, we often assume that disagreement stems from conflicts over policy directions. Political science literature, however, disputes this notion. In fact, it's not disagreement over policy that drives polarization, but rather our emotional feelings and perceptions about the nature of the world around us.

This is the compelling argument behind the book *Prius or Pickup?* How the Answers to Four Simple Questions Explain America's Great Divide, by American political scientists Marc Hetherington and Jonathan Weiler. Their work demonstrates how our emotional responses to ideas and events is deeply connected to our world views.

Four questions

We can gain significant insight into our own ideas on the nature of the world and how it relates to the views of others by answering some questions on childrearing: The more focused an individual is on respect, obedience, good manners and good behaviour, the more likely they are to hold what Hetherington and Weiler identify as a "fixed" world view. The more emphasis an individual places on independence, self-reliance, curiosity and being considerate, the more likely they are to hold a "fluid" world view. The basis for these differences is emotional or "affective." Those of us who gravitate to the fixed end of the

spectrum tend to regard the world as a dangerous place full of threats, while people who gravitate to the fluid end tend to see the world as a safe place to explore.

Of course, many people in society are somewhere in the middle and our position on the spectrum may change with life experiences that influence our perceptions. What's critical, however, is understanding that the differences stem from our emotional sense of the world rather than issues or political positions.

Gut-level disagreement

This kind of gut-level disagreement poses much bigger challenges because not only is there disagreement on how to handle a problem like the COVID-19 response, but the nature of the problem itself is disputed. The COVID-19 polarization we're seeing illustrates this dynamic. Those against COVID-19 vaccination view government mandates, public health restrictions and the citizens who support them as the problem at hand. As a result, it's these measures

and individuals that become the target for their emotional response.

Those in favour of vaccine mandates and other public health measures, in turn, are likely to view anti-vaxxers and those who violate public health orders as the source of the problem.

How then do we function when we encounter these emotionally driven divides? There are no easy fixes, but there are a few strategies that can help manage the stress and can de-escalate the impact of this kind of conflict in our day-to-day lives.

Strategies for de-escalation

First, recognizing the emotional basis is key even when we consider our own views to be science-informed. Realizing that those with whom we disagree are often coming from a place of fear and anxiety can help lower frustration and is one step towards developing empathy and/or compassion for their position. This does not mean agreeing with them, but simply creating space to validate their emotional experience.

HOW THEN DO WE FUNCTION

when we encounter these emotionally driven divides? There are no easy fixes, but there are a few strategies that can help manage the stress and can de-escalate the impact of this kind of conflict in our day-to-day lives

Early in my previous training to be a social worker, I discounted the value of validation. Once practising in the "real world," however, I quickly realized the value that comes from listening to someone's emotional perception, recognizing it and reflecting it back.

Phrases like "that must be frustrating" or "that must be very difficult" might seem trite in the abstract, but they are invaluable tools when shared genuinely in various kinds of interactions, and they can immediately lower tension.

While this practice alone will not transform viewpoints, it's an important skill we can employ to maintain relations with others who hold different world views – and can help prevent further alienation.

That's a small but necessary step if we want to avoid functioning in echo chambers in which we only interact with those who already agree with us.

The author is Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Northern British Columbia. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

When I was about three or four, my father used to read me this story about a doctor who flew over mountains to save unwell animals. The doctor would keep saying Limpopo, Limpopo and my father would dramatise the whole story making it funny and teasing me too. It had a profound impact on me.

Illustrated books increase curiosity among children. They would like to see how the ogre, monster or the witch looks like. I remember vividly how my daughters used to remember all the sentences of the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears,' verbatim, having made me read it out umpteen times. They used to love the witch cackles and 'Mirror, mirror on the wall.' Enamoured and enchanted by the cackle, my daughter even enacted it in class, sporting a witch costume.

As a nine-year-old, I was introduced to the world of Enid Blyton: Amelia Jane, Famous five, Malory towers; Magic Far-away tree was my favourite. Apart from these books we had a beautiful collection of Amar Chitra Katha comics, with pictures depicting the folklores, epics, and history. Archies, Asterix, Chandamama, Tinkle digest, were books that used to keep us occupied during our summer breaks.

Reading classics like Oliver Twist (Charles Dickens) or Kidnapped (R.L. Stevenson) or Far from the madding crowd (Thomas Hardy), as a teenager equipped me with a refined vocabulary, understanding the finer nuances of the English language and taught me about societies, relationships, hardships or in general 'life.'

My liking for books like Mills and Boons was not much as compared to books by Robin Cook or Alfred Hitchcock. I enjoyed the mystery, the scientific explorations, the scheming sci-fi plots and thrillers. I had a friend who used to love reading and we would exchange books and discuss too. Then there was a reading era where I read

So Many Books, So Little Time!

Anuradha Sharma



books by Sydney Sheldon, Author Hailey, Harold Robbins interspersed with classics like Rebecca (Daphne du Maurier), Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte) and Agatha Christie.

I cannot just stick to one genre. I have been very eclectic in my choices, swaying between classics, historical fiction, mystery, magical-realism, fantasy and

even non-fiction. As one matures, ones reading tastes differs or gets refined. My favourite authors are Margaret Atwood, Elif Shafak, Haruki Murakami and Dan Brown.

Reading is a very individual activity. It takes you to a world where you alone imagine the character, the scenes in the book, the voices, the

beauty, the evil, the love, and the hatred. Sometimes when the book is humorous, we might be laughing ourselves or might be crying due to the grief involved. I read this book 'A man called Ove' (Fredrik Back-

(Charles Dickens), Awakening (Kate Chopin), to name a few, are books one can read and reread. Discussing classics in a book club is a delight.

Sometimes we begin the discussions, and we do not realise the duration for which we have been arguing or agreeing upon a viewpoint. Often, we end up contradicting each other but we gracefully accept each other's perspectives. Everybody's opinion of an event or character or the ending in a book differs. One interprets the events in the way one perceives it. Book clubs, makes reading a more enjoyable act.

Apart from hard copies of a book, there

SOMETIMES WE BEGIN THE discussions, and we do not realise the duration for which we have been arguing or agreeing upon a viewpoint. Often, we end up contradicting each other but we gracefully accept each other's perspectives. Everybody's opinion of an event or character or the ending in a book differs

man) and I fell in love with this cute grumpy old man 'Ove.' A fantastic, fast-paced, mystery was The Shadow of the Wind (Carlos Ruiz Zafon) which incidentally was a book about a book and the mystery involved finding the author. An epic fantasy novel would be The Lord of the Rings (J.R.R. Tolkien), including The Hobbit, where I find the character Gollum, though mean and selfish by nature, yet pitiable and adorable.

Classics like Jane Eyre (Charlotte Bronte), Pride and prejudice (Jane Austen) Gone with the wind (Margaret Mitchell), Anna Karenina (Leo Tolstoy), Madame Bovary (Gustave Flaubert), Lolita (Vladimir Nabokov), Great expectations

are many formats of e-books like epub, PDF, mobi files etc, which can be read on various devices. I strongly feel that listening to audio books cannot be classified as 'Reading.' It would be like watching a movie, without the visual.

The joy of reading is something one cannot elucidate fully but one must experience it themselves. I read with enthusiasm, devouring the book and then wait to dissect it at the book clubs.

"Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing." – To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee) Anuradha Sharma is a freelancer based in Abu Dhabi

Study Finds Kids And Adults Make Inferences Differently

Agencies

A new study of brain activity patterns in people doing a memory task has found that the way we make inferences changes dramatically as we age.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Nature Human Behaviour'.

The study's findings might one day lead to personalised learning strategies based on a person's cognitive and brain development.

The researchers found that whereas adults build integrated memories with inferences already baked in, children and adolescents create separate memories that they later compare to make inferences on the fly.

"How adults structure knowledge is not necessarily optimal for children because adult strategies might require brain machinery that is not fully mature in children," said Alison Preston, professor of neuroscience and psychology and senior author of the study published today in the journal Nature Human Behaviour.

She co-led the study with first author Margaret Schlichting, formerly a doctoral student in Preston's lab and currently an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Toronto.

To understand the distinction between how adults and children make inferences



imagine visiting a daycare centre. In the morning, you see a child arriving with one adult, but in the afternoon that child leaves with a different adult.

You might infer that the two grown-ups are the child's parents and are a couple, and your second memory would include both

the second person you saw and information from your earlier experience in order to make an inference about how the two adults -- whom you didn't actually see together -- might relate to each other.

This new study finds that a child who has the same experiences isn't likely to

make the same kind of inference that an adult would during the second experience.

The two memories are less connected. If you ask your child to infer who that child's parents are, your child can still do it; he or she just has to retrieve the two distinct memories and then reason about how each adult might be related.

The neural machinery of children and adults differs, and the strategy that children use may be optimal for the way their brains are wired before key memory systems in the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex fully mature, the researchers believe. That difference could keep children from recalling past memories during new learning and limit their ability to connect events.

"In the absence of a mature memory system, the best thing a child can do is lay down accurate, non-overlapping memory traces," Preston said.

"From those accurate memory traces, children can later bring them to mind to promote inferences about their connections," Preston added.

The researchers asked 87 subjects, ages 7 to 30, to look at pairs of images while lying in an fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) scanner, which measures brain activity by detecting small changes in blood flow with images that, as in the daycare example above, provide opportunities to infer

relationships between objects that had not appeared together.

The researchers found that the strategy adolescents used for making inferences were different from both that of young children and adults. Going back to the example of the parents at the daycare, when an adolescent stores a memory of the second grown-up with the child, the adolescent suppresses the earlier memory involving the first one. Each memory becomes even more distinct than with younger children, and there are even fewer automatic inferences about how the two adults relate.

"Teenagers may have learning strategies that are tuned to explore the world more so than exploiting what they already know," Preston said.

This and other lessons from the study could inform strategies for improving teaching and learning at various ages.

"From a brain maturation perspective, different people are going to be at different places and we can devise learning strategies that take advantage of the neural machinery that an individual has at hand, no matter if they are 7 years old or 70 years old," Preston said.

The study's other authors are Katharine Guarino at Loyola University Chicago and Hannah Roome of UT Austin.

Consuming Coffee Has Both Beneficial, Harmful Short-Term Health Effects

Agencies

According to the findings of a new research, consuming caffeinated coffee appears to have both beneficial and harmful short-term health effects like increased abnormal heartbeats, increased physical activity and reduced sleep duration.

The findings were presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2021. The meeting was fully virtual Saturday from November 13-Monday to November 15, 2021, and was a premier global exchange of the latest scientific advancements, research and evidence-based clinical practice updates in cardiovascular science for health care worldwide.

"Coffee is the most commonly consumed beverage in the world, yet its health effects remain uncertain," said study author Gregory Marcus, M.D., M.A.S., associate chief of cardiology for research and endowed professor of atrial fibrillation research at the University of California, San Francisco. "While the majority of long-term observational studies have suggested multiple potential benefits of drinking coffee, this is the first randomized trial to investigate the real-time, physiologic consequences of coffee consumption."

Marcus and colleagues enrolled 100 adult volunteers, and they were assigned to wear continuously recording ECG devices (to track heart rhythm), wrist-worn devices to track physical activity and sleep; and continuous glucose monitors to track blood sugar levels for two weeks. The participants were an average age of 38 years, 51 per cent were women and 48 per cent were white. Researchers also obtained DNA saliva samples from the participants to assess genetic variants that may affect caffeine metabolism.

Participants were then randomly assigned to either avoid or consume coffee for no more than two consecutive days each



for 14 consecutive days. Coffee and espresso consumption were recorded in real-time via a "timestamp button" on the ECG monitor, and researchers tracked trips to coffee shops with geotracking. In addition, participants completed daily questionnaires to detail how much coffee they had consumed every morning.

The analysis found that coffee consumption was associated with a 54 per cent increase in premature ventricular contractions, a type of abnormal heartbeat originating in the lower heart chambers reported to feel like a skipped heartbeat. In contrast, drinking more coffee was associated with fewer episodes of supraventricular tachycardia, an abnormally rapid heart rhythm arising from the upper heart chambers.

Consuming coffee was consistently associated with more physical activity as well as less sleep. Specifically:

- Participants who consumed coffee logged more than 1,000 additional steps per day compared to days when they did not drink coffee.
- On the day participants drank coffee, they had 36 fewer minutes of sleep per night according to their Fitbit devices.
- Drinking more than one coffee drink more than doubled the

number of irregular heartbeats arising from the heart's lower chambers.

- Each additional cup of coffee consumed was associated with nearly 600 more steps per day and 18 fewer minutes of sleep per night.
- There were no differences in continuously recorded glucose measured when the study participants consumed versus avoided coffee.

These findings were corroborated by analyses of adherence to their randomization assignment and amplified when more versus less coffee was consumed.

"More physical activity, which appears to be prompted by coffee consumption, has numerous health benefits, such as reduced risks of Type 2 diabetes and several cancers, and is associated with greater longevity," Marcus said. "On the other hand, reduced sleep is associated with a variety of adverse psychiatric, neurologic and cardiovascular outcomes. More frequent abnormal heartbeats from the upper heart chambers influence risk of atrial fibrillation, and more frequent abnormal beats from the lower chambers, or ventricles, increase the risk of heart failure. These results highlight the complex relationship between coffee and health."

Air Pollution Is Major Determinant For Negative Health Outcomes In India

Press Trust Of India

The combustion of coal, mainly in power plants followed by industrial and household settings, has resulted in an increase in the premature mortality rate in India and it needs to phase down from coal as its main source of energy and invest more on renewable and cleaner sources, according to the policy recommendations in "The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change" report.

Also, air pollution has been recognised as a major determinant for negative health outcomes in India.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to establish regulatory frameworks pertaining to the control of air pollution at the source of its generation such as industrial



emissions, construction sites, vehicle exhaust etc., according to the recommendations mentioned in "The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change - Policy brief for India 2021".

It is also necessary to ensure the effective implementation of these regulatory measures. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has partnered with the Lancet Countdown on

Health and Climate Change to put forward the policy brief for India in 2021. The report highlights how climate change affects health and the need for a timely and robust response for addressing the same, the apex health research body said.

Since 46 per cent of all agricultural emissions in India are contributed by ruminants such as goats, sheep and cattle, the policy

brief recommended that the country needs to move away from the traditional animal husbandry practices and invest in newer technologies that will improve animal breeding and rearing practices, use of good livestock feeds and implement proper manure management, all of which will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

"The combustion of coal, mainly in power plants followed by industrial and household settings, has resulted in an increase in premature mortality. Therefore, India needs to urgently wean away from coal as its main source of energy and needs to invest more on renewable, cleaner and sustainable sources such as solar, wind or hydro energy," the recommendations stated.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office Of The Chief Education Officer Budgam

LandlineNo. 01951-256722 Fax. 01951-256722

Email Address:- ceobudgam@gmail.com

Subject:-Conduct of types test on computer Keyboard of class IV employees of Education Department (Kashmir Division)

Ref:- DSEK's No. DSEK/NT/Type.test/19/2021/1699 Dt.- 25/10/2021

& DSEK/NT/Type-test/1915-20 Dated:- 16/11/2021

NOTIFICATION

All the aspirants are hereby informed that the type test on computer keyboard of class IV employees of Education Department District Budgam is being conducted on 18th of November 2021 at ITI Budgam. In this backdrop the candidates who have submitted the application forms on the prescribed format through proper channel are informed to attend the type test at 11 a.m on scheduled date and venue alongwith their original qualification certificates/ appointment order/ Identity proof

Besides they are informed to deposit an amount of Rs 300/- (three hundred only) in the office of principal ITI Budgam against proper GR.

No: CEGB/NT/21/2396B/2412B

Dated: 16-11-2021

DIPK-12814/21

Chief Education Officer Budgam

Government of Jammu & Kashmir,

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax: 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg@jktourism.or

Sub:- Grant of registration to Guest House under the name and style "Shepherds Cottage" situation at Preng, Kangan District Ganderbal.

Public Notice

Whereas, Mrs. Susan Khalid W/o Khalid Jehangir R/o Gupkar, Srinagar has approached this office for grant of registration for the Guest House under name and style "Shepherds Cottage" situated at Preng, Kangan District Ganderbal with a room strength of 05 rooms;

Whereas, the applicant has submitted documents viz. Character Certificate, Revenue Documents, Affidavit, NOC from PDD/PHE, Domicile certificate, PAN Card, Adhar Card, NOC from Fire and Emergency Services Department, NOC from BDO concerned, Site Plan and other related documents;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 10 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011, before issuance of registration certificate to the Guest House under name and style "Shepherds Cottage" situated at Preng, Kangan District Ganderbal with 05 rooms in favour of Mrs. Susan Khalid W/o Khalid Jehangir R/o Gupkar, Srinagar, the matter is hereby notified for the information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection/s, the same should be lodged with the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice through the print media. No objections, whatsoever, will be entertained beyond the period of 07 days and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

Sd/- Deputy Director Tourism, Registration

DIPK-12812/21

No: Reg/UP-105/DTK/428

Dated: 16.11.2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Registrar of Societies and Firms (Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir)

Subject: Extension in date of submission of documents for re-registration of Societies registered under J&K Societies Registration Act 1998(Samvat)-1941 AD.

Reference No.: Administrative Department Letter No DIC/71/2021-07 dated 11.11.2021

Administrative Department Letter No IND/DIC-169/2007 dated 19.4.2021

CIRCULAR No. 2

DATED 13.11.2021

In reference to the Administrative Department's letter No IND/DIC-169/2007 dated 19.4.2021, the societies registered before 31.10.2019 under J&K Societies Registration Act, 1998 (Samvat) 1941 AD were required to re-register under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 applicable as per the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act-2019 [Notification No 34 of 2019 dated 9th August, 2019-GOI] and were given time of 45 days starting from 21st April 2021.

Now the Administrative Department vide letter No DIC/71/2021-07 dated 11.11.2021 has conveyed that the various groups of the societies have demanded for extension in submission of documents for re-registration of their societies, and in order to entertain their representations, the Administrative Department has further extended the date for submission of documents for re-registration of Societies up to November 30, 2021

Accordingly, all the Societies registered under Jammu and Kashmir Societies Registration Act-1998 (Samvat) 1941 AD with this office, that have not applied for the same shall apply for re-registration along-with the following documents) up to 30 November 2021.

1. Audit report of final account for the year 2019-20.

2. Two sets of Memorandum of Association.

3. Bye-laws along-with List of Managing/Executive Body as per the provisions enshrined in the Societies Registration Act, 1860, which is applicable now.

Sd/- (Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz) KAS Joint Director (Development)

DIPK-12815/21

No. DI&C/Society/1367-70

dt.13.11.2021

Choudhary Reviews Implementation Of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department (AP & FWD), Navin Kumar Choudhary, Wednesday chaired a review meeting regarding implementation of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana in Jammu and Kashmir.

Navin had threadbare discussion on various issues related to successful implementation of various components of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana.

He highlighted the importance of the scheme asking the officers to ensure the benefit of these schemes reach to every farmer at the gross root level. He exhorted upon the concerned officers to work under a well knit strategy making sure that all the set targets under these ambitious programmes are achieved in full within the prescribed time limit.

He enjoined upon the concerned officers to see that all the eligible farmers are identified in each district and uploaded on the portal as coverage of all such beneficiaries under PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana has to be achieved by 30th of November 2021.

He emphasized 100 percent Aadhar linking of the pending

cases, under the schemes, by 22nd November 2021 in each district besides redressing all grievances on this account with in next three days. He instructed the officers to ensure that all grievances registered on district portal are disposed of in shortest possible time.

Principal Secretary directed the District Nodal Officers and Chief Agriculture Officers for conducting awareness camps for the farming community regarding benefits of these schemes.

Earlier, State Nodal Officer, PM Kisan Nidhi, Syed Jahangir Hashmi, presented power point presentation highlighting the activities and achievements of PM KISAN and PM Maandhan Yojana in the UT.

Director, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu, K. K. Sharma, Director Horticulture, Jammu, Ram Sevak, Director Fisheries, Jammu, B. A. Bhat, Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu, Sagar D. Doidode, Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu, Krishan Lal and other senior officers of the concerned department attended the meeting while Director General, Horticulture, Kashmir, Director Agriculture Kashmir and all District Nodal Officers and District Agriculture Officers participated online.

Jamkash Vehicleades Launches All New Celerio



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Leading Maruti Suzuki Dealership of the State Jamkash Vehicleades (Kashmir) Pvt Ltd Srinagar Wednesday unveiled the Petrol variant of its popular model Celerio.

The chief guest for the occasion was Parvaze Ahmad Mir (Cluster Head CKC-1).

Zaffar Akeel Shah Branch Head JK Bank Residency Road Srinagar, other dignitaries' of J&K Bank, officials from Mahindra & Mahindra FSL & Cholamandalam and Aawan Ahmad Narwaroo CEO of Jamkash Vehicleades (Kmr) Pvt Ltd. besides large gathering of auto lovers were present during the occasion.

"The All-New Celerio is coun-

try's most fuel-efficient petrol car with a mileage of 26.68 km/l," said company in a statement.

Key Features

- Powered by Next-Gen K-Series Dual Jet, Dual VVT Engine with Idle Start-Stop technology
- Stylish & urban exteriors with 3D organic sculpted design and vivid characters for enhanced road presence
- Centre-focused energetic and sweeping interior design, bigger cabin space, improved leg room and luggage space for increased comfort and convenience.
- Focus on safety with 12+ features like first-in-segment Hill Hold Assist, Dual Airbags and ABS with EBD

92% Registered Informal Workers' Income At ₹10,000 Or Below

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Over 92 per cent of the eight crore informal sector workers registered on the e-Shram portal have a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or below and 72 per cent of the enrolled workforce belong to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Class (OBC), according to the latest data.

The e-Shram portal is to help build a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) in the country.

The aim of the portal is to boost the last-mile delivery of the welfare schemes for over 38 crore unorganised workers in the country. It was launched on August 26, 2021.

According to the latest data, as many as 8.01 crore informal sector workers are registered on the portal and show that this unorganised workforce is living under extreme poverty and a majority of those belong to socially backward communities.

The data showed that 92.37 per cent of the registered informal workers have a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or below, while 5.58 per cent have a monthly income between Rs



10,001 and Rs 15,000.

The social category analysis of the data shows that 72.58 per cent of registered workers are below the socially backward classes, including 40.44 per cent OBC, 23.76 per cent SC and 8.38 per cent ST.

The proportion of the General Category workers is 27.41 per cent.

The data also showed that 86.58 per cent of registered workers on the portal provided bank account details.

Age-wise analysis of the data shows that 61.4 per cent of the registered workers on the

portal are of the age from 18 years to 40 years, while 22.24 per cent are of the age from 40 years to 50 years.

The proportion of the registered workers of the age of above 50 years is 12.59 per cent, while 3.77 per cent of workers are of the age range between 16 and 18 years.

Gender analysis shows that 51.66 per cent of registered workers are female and 48.34 per cent are male.

Top-5 states in terms of registrations are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Pakistan Startup Draws Record Money, Helped By China's Tech Crackdown

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The startup scene in the world's fifth-largest nation is having a breakout year.

More money has flowed into Pakistan's nascent technology sector during 2021 than in the previous six years combined, with investors from the U.S., Singapore and the United Arab Emirates joining the rush. And one former Microsoft Corp. and LinkedIn Corp. employee has been involved in about half the fundraising deals.

Until 2018, Pakistan-born Aatif Awan was living the dream in Silicon Valley. After more than a decade working for tech heavyweights, he'd become an angel investor for American startups and bought a house in San Francisco. Then he went to visit his parents in Lodhran, a small town known for growing mangoes and cotton and new opportunities became clear.

Multiple local entrepreneurs got in touch, seeking advice on funding and how to accelerate their startups. That's when Awan, 41, saw the possibilities in Pakistan's startup space. He moved back in February last year and started his early-stage venture capital fund, Indus Valley Capital.

"The law and order situation is so good, mobile penetration is there, everything seems right for this to happen," he said.

While neighboring India has long had a vibrant startup scene, foreign investors have traditionally viewed Pakistan with trepidation: Security concerns, power shortages and poor digital infrastructure have



all counted against it in the past. But by other measures, the potential in fintech and retail is huge. Two thirds of the 200 million population are under 30, most shopping is still done in cash and relatively few people have a bank account. Internet users have more than tripled in the past five years, to about 110 million.

By global standards, the sum poured into the country's startups this year about \$300 million, according to Crunchbase and Invest2Innovate data is tiny. But it's a record for Pakistan and the funding surge is expected to continue.

Silicon Valley-based Kleiner Perkins, an early investor in Alphabet Inc. and Amazon.com Inc., made its first investment there this year. Defy Partners Management LLC, Singapore's Wavemaker Partners LLC and UAE's Zayn Capital Ltd. are also on the list of investors.

Pakistan "has all the necessary ingredients to be a large market that is growing rapidly," said Mamoon Hamid, a partner at Kleiner Perkins. "Just given the youth of the population, we believe that they will adopt the new way of doing things much faster than most countries on the globe."

The venture industry is en-

joying something of a boom everywhere.

Global deals this year surged to \$524.1 billion by the end of October, according to research firm Preqin 66% higher than last year's total and more than double the amount invested in 2019. The Covid-19 pandemic has made some things easier for international investors, as Zoom meetings and exchanging documents by email have replaced in-person meetings. Meanwhile, China's tech crackdown has also prompted investors to hunt for new opportunities, with startups from Southeast Asia to India seeing increased interest from venture capital and private equity firms. To some, the capital flowing into Pakistan is yet another sign of frothiness in the market; to others, it's the logical next step in a global race to invest.

"The Internet economy has exploded over the last five to seven years, and I think that is the main catalyst," said Ali Mukhtar, general partner at Fatima Gobi Ventures, whose portfolio companies have been involved in about 40% of Pakistan's fundraising this year. The large diaspora in places like Silicon Valley, London and New York has also helped to provide a talent base and funding, he added.

Many young nationals have left high-paying overseas jobs at places like Morgan Stanley, McKinsey & Co. and BNP Paribas SA to become entrepreneurs back home. The opportunity has also seen a few foreigners moving to Pakistan. (Bloomberg)

J&K Bank 2nd Among Top Leading Pvt Sector Banks With High CASA Ratio

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In terms of current account and savings account (CASA) Ratio, J&K Bank is one of the top three leading private sector banks in the country. According to a report titled 'Top 10 Private Sector Banks With High CASA Ratio As On 30th September, 2021' published online by StockEdge – a web-based platform that claims to be 100% focused on research and analytics – J&K Bank with a CASA Ratio of 55.3% is only second to Kotak Mahindra Bank, which has 60.6% CASA and is followed by IDBI Bank with 54.6% CASA figure.

"It feels good to see any kind of such analytical acknowledgement from the market and I



think it encourages us to move ahead in other parameters of growth and success in the industry with renewed enthusiasm", commented CMD R K Chhibber.

CASA ratio is an indicator of bank's efficient process for obtaining funds at the lowest available price. Notably, the Bank's CMD had recently asserted that the Bank has very strong deposit profile with one of the best industry-wide mix of CASA and Term Deposits that are mostly retail and thus stable.

Secy Tourism Reviews Arrangements For Upcoming Winter Festivals

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Sarmad Hafeez, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review arrangements being put in place for upcoming festivals and events planned by the department for the coming months at various tourist destinations across Kashmir valley.

The meeting deliberated upon all requisite arrangements and preparedness of the department for the 'Grand Winter Festival' to be held in the last week of December at tourist resorts of Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary asked the officers to prepare a proper event calendar for these mega festivals so that all activities are conducted totally in a professional manner. He said that celebrities of national repute are expected to participate in these events and it should be our prime concern that all requisite facilities are put in place in time.

He said that with conduct of tourism activities during winters here these spots would be promoted as round the year tourist destinations across the country and abroad as well.

Secretary asked the concerned to make Pahalgam Club operational 24x7 so that tourists, visitors and players related to winter sports are provided facilities. He also instructed them to ensure that all beautification works being done in the Pahalgam market are completed in time.

He also asked the officers for exploring possibility of creating natural ice skating rinks at Pahalgam and Sonamarg tourist destinations. He said that possibilities would also be explored to set up an open air theatre at Gulmarg and ice parks at Gulmarg and Sonamarg.

Secretary directed the officers to see options for a Family Tour of acclaimed travel bloggers during the festivals jointly by the Tourism Department and other stakeholders.

Tourism Deptt Conducts Capacity Building Programme For Stakeholders



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Tourism Department Wednesday organised a Capacity Building Programme at Srinagar International Airport for various stakeholders associated with the Tourism sector on the implementation of COVID-19 appropriate protocols.

On the occasion, 'I Am Vaccinated' Batches were distributed among more than 200 cab drivers, in order to make Tourists feel comfortable while interacting with these Service Providers.

The programme was presided over by Director Tourism Kashmir, GN Itoo while as Director

Airport Authority, SP Singh, other senior officers and officials of the department besides various tourism stakeholders were present during the programme.

While addressing the participants, GN Itoo highlighted the importance of awareness with respect to COVID-19 and following of protocols while carrying out their profession regarding tourism.

He said that the programme would guide the cab drivers and other stakeholders in order to carry out their activities in safe environment post COVID-19 scenario, besides the tourists will also feel safe and comfortable during their visit to the place.

SHORT TAKES

Dollar At 16-Month High After Robust US Retail Sales Data

NEW DELHI: The dollar rose to a 16-month high on Tuesday after data showed US consumers looked past rising prices and drove retail sales higher than expected last month, while the euro slumped amid growth concerns and a surge in COVID-19 cases in Europe.

US retail sales rose 1.7% in October, topping consensus expectations of a 1.4% rise, likely as Americans started their holiday shopping early to avoid empty shelves amid shortages of some goods as the ongoing pandemic squeezes supply chains.

At 3:15 p.m. EST, the dollar index was up 0.385% at 95.898, having earlier touched 95.928, its highest since July 2020.

The dollar has rallied since U.S. inflation data last week showed consumer prices surged to their highest rate since 1990, fueling speculation that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates sooner than expected.

"If you look at U.S. markets, there's a lot more speculation, at least within implied market pricing, that they will be hiking on more than one occasion next year," said Mazen Issa, senior FX strategist at TD Securities. "After last week's U.S. CPI report, the dam just broke and the dollar and the FX complex is certainly tagging along for the ride."

"Today's retail sales report only adds fuel to the fire," he said.

Gold Declines Rs 402; Silver Tumbles Rs 528

NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital on Wednesday declined by Rs 402 to Rs 48,116 per 10 gram, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at Rs 48,518 per 10 gram.

Silver also dipped Rs 528 to Rs 65,218 per kilogram from Rs 65,746 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold trading higher at USD 1,857 per ounce and silver marginally up at USD 25.03 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX were trading 0.37 per cent up at USD 1,857 per ounce on Wednesday," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. (PTI)

Sebi Comes Out With Investor Charter

NEW DELHI: Market regulator Sebi on Wednesday came out with investor charter for investors in securities market which aims at protecting investors' interest.

The charter includes rights and responsibilities of investors and dos and don'ts of investing in securities market, as per a public notice.

The vision of the investor charter is "to protect the interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner."

The rights include getting fair and equitable treatment, expecting redressal of investor grievances filed in SCORES in a time bound manner.

It also includes getting quality services from Sebi recognised market infrastructure institutions and Sebi registered intermediaries, regulated entities and asset management companies, as per the charter. Sebi also laid out responsibilities, do's and don'ts of investors.

"Redressal of investor grievances is an important measure towards investor protection," Sebi said.

It added that Sebi now publishes a status report about the disposal of investor grievances received on SCORES portal on the website, on a monthly basis.

"A mechanism has been established whereby all Sebi regulated intermediaries/entities will have to disclose average time taken for redressal of investor grievances received by them, on their respective websites in a format specified by Sebi starting from January 2022," it said. (PTI)

FM Asks Industry To Start Taking Risks, Invest In Capacity Creation

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said there are clear signs of an uptick in the economy and the industry should now start taking risks and invest in capacity creation that will help cut reliance on imports.

I appeal to industry not to further delay increasing capacity, not to further delay looking at areas to partner in technology, she said while addressing CII Global Economic Policy Summit 2021.

She also asked the industry to offer jobs to reduce income disparity and cut down on importing finished goods reduce and instead ramp up investment in manufacturing.

At a time when India is looking at impetus to growth, I want Indian industry to be a lot more risk-taking and understand what India wants, she said. (PTI)

'Jio Tops 4G Chart In Download Speed In Oct'

NEW DELHI: Reliance Jio retained its top position with the highest average data download speed of 21.9 megabit per second among 4G service providers in October, according to the latest data published by telecom regulator Trai.

However, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea network have been continuously recording an increase in data download speed thereby reducing the gap with the Jio network.

After a marginal dip in 4G data download speed, the Jio network in October resumed the speed level of 21.9 mbps it had recorded in June, while Airtel and Vodafone Idea (VIL) have registered close to two and half times jump in data download speed on their network.

Airtel 4G data download speed increased to 13.2 mbps in October from 5 mbps in June and VIL 4G speed increased to 15.6 mbps from 6.5 mbps during the five months.

VIL maintained its leadership in terms of 4G data upload speed in October. The company's network recorded an upload speed of 7.6 mbps, the highest in the last five months.

The download speed helps consumers to access content from the internet, while upload speed helps them send or share pictures or videos to their contacts.

Similarly, Airtel and the Jio network also recorded their five-month high of 5.2 mbps and 6.4 mbps 4G data upload speed in October.

Have Taken Measures To Curb Air Pollution: Centre to SC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that the commission on air pollution has come out with strict measures to curb pollution in the Delhi-NCR including the complete closure of all public and private educational institutions, ban on entry of trucks barring few exceptions, and closure of six thermal power plants in the 300 km radius of the national capital.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in the NCR and Adjoining Areas, which held the meeting at the direction of the apex court on Tuesday with the Centre, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan, came out with a slew of emergency steps to deal with industrial pollution, thermal plants, vehicular emissions, dust control, diesel generators as well as encouraging work from home.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to the affidavit of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change before a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana which was hearing a PIL on air pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region.

The Commission had detailed consultations with Secretaries

of Ministries of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Power, Department of Personnel and Training, and Chief Secretary of Delhi and other states.

The affidavit referred to the measures on the issue of dealing with industrial pollution and said, "NCR states and the GNCTD shall ensure that all industries having gas connectivity shall be run only on gas as fuel failing which industries concerned shall be closed.

The Commission has already directed not to permit any industry to use unapproved fuels and all industries in NCR, which are still using unapproved fuels, shall be closed by respective governments with immediate effect, it said.

All industries in NCR where gas connectivity is available shall immediately be shifted to gas and state government to furnish the industry-wise data of shifting, the affidavit said.

NCR state governments and GNCTD shall further set up effective enforcement mechanisms including intensive and continuous drives by deputing an adequate number of teams consisting of senior officers to monitor compliance of air pollution emission control norms by the industrial units and for

suitable penal action and/or closure, it said.

Out of the 11 thermal plants located within a 300 km radius of Delhi, five of them have been allowed to schedule their operations and the rest six shall remain inoperative at least till November 30, it said.

Secretary, Ministry of Power informed that the load requirements, if any, arising out of such closures shall be duly facilitated through power supply from other power plants located beyond 300 km radius of Delhi, it said.

The affidavit said the entry of trucks in Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities, shall be banned till November 21 subject to review for extension of time.

Plying of diesel and petrol vehicles which are more than 10 and 15 years respectively in NCR is a serious matter and the authority shall ensure that they are not found plying on road, it said.

The NCR states have been asked to ensure that visibly polluting vehicles are not allowed to ply and vehicles without PUC (Pollution under control certificate) are not permitted on roads, it said, adding that the drive to check PUC may be primarily carried out at the petrol pumps to avoid congestion of free roads.

The commission suggested Delhi government expeditiously procure CNG buses, it said adding that the panel has also asked states to stop construction and demolition activities till November 21 except for some exceptions which would cover similar activities of Railways, DMRC, Airports, and defense-related activities.

Deploy anti-smog guns, water sprinklers, and application of dust suppressants to be carried out at least three times in a day, it said.

NCR states and GNCTD shall enforce a strict ban on the use of DG sets except for emergency services which are stipulated in the orders of the sub-committee in invocation of GRAP from time to time, it said.

NCR state governments and the GNCTD shall allow work from home for at least 50 per cent of their staff in offices in NCR till November 21 subject to further review, it said.

All public and private schools, colleges, and educational institutions in NCR shall remain closed until further orders allowing only online mode of education, it said, adding that these directions will be closely monitored by the chief secretaries.

Congress On Slippery Slope Since It Deviated From Nehruvian Secularism: Manish Tewari

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Manish Tewari on Wednesday said that Congress started down on a slippery slope when it deviated from the Nehruvian ideal of secularism and that he was confused about "Hinduism qua Hindutva debate" in the party.

Taking to Twitter, Tewari said he was in the Congress because he believed in the "Nehruvian ideal" that religion is a private space activity and should not be used in politics.

"In Hinduism Versus Hindutva debate some people in Congress miss a fundamental point. If I were to believe that my religious identity should be basis of my politics then I should be in A Majoritarian or Minoritarian Political Party.

"I am in the Congress because I believe in Nehruvian ideal that religion is a private space activity. Everyone has the right to practice, profess and propagate their religion in their private lives. In public domain there should be a strict separation of the Church and the State. I am a Hindu, I worship my God but that is not my politics," Tewari said in a series of tweets.

He was reacting to a news report after the Supreme Court declined to reconsider its 1995 order on the meaning of 'Hindutva' and the court said it would not go to a larger bench on what is 'Hindutva' or what its meaning was.

In response to a tweet, the former union minister said, "When the Congress deviated from the Nehruvian ideal of Secularism as interpreted as Separation of Church and State and moved towards 'Sarv Dharam Sambhav' it started down a slippery slope and has not stopped skidding since. Larger debate required".

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi had recently said that Hinduism and Hindutva are "different things" and stated that Hindutva was about beating a person. He had also slammed the ideology of the BJP-RSS alleging it has spread hatred in India, drawing a sharp retort from the BJP which claimed that the Congress leadership nurses a "pathological hatred" for Hinduism.

Tewari said, "In the global struggle between right-wing populism and liberalism, progressive parties cannot ever win hearts and minds of people if they offer ersatz ideologies predicated on religion and caste bereft of core convictions and pluralistic beliefs."

The Congress leader also said that Jawahar Lal Nehru was a pan-dit and Abdul Kalam Azad was a Maulana and both of them had a deep understanding of their respective faiths "but they built modern Indian state by designing the Constitution on an avowedly secular basis and not on religious identity despite Partition".

In another tweet, Tewari said, "I am frankly confused by this Hinduism qua Hindutva debate in INCIndia (Congress). If I want to base my Politics on Hinduism or Hindutva then I should be in Hindu Mahasabha. If I want to base it on Islamism then I should be in Jamat-I-Islami. Why should I be in INCIndia?"

While addressing a Congress training camp in Wardha on November 12, Rahul Gandhi had made the remarks on Hindutva that have escalated the war of words between BJP and the Congress ahead of the assembly polls in five states including Uttar Pradesh.

"Is Hinduism about beating a Sikh, or a Muslim. Hindutva, of course, is. In which book is it written? I have not seen it. I have read the Upanishads. I have not read it, Gandhi said, as he sought to draw a distinction between Hinduism and Hindutva, a term widely used by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"What is the difference between Hinduism as we know it and Hindutva. Are they the same thing? Can they be the same thing. If they are the same thing, why don't they have the same name? Why do they have a different name. Why do you use the word Hinduism, why not just use Hindutva if they are the same thing. They are obviously different things" Gandhi had said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Chorus For

the Mushtaq Press Enclave in the city, demanding that their bodies be returned to them for final rites.

Police after declaring the two as militant associates had hurriedly buried them in the North Kashmir town of Handwara, some 80 kilometers from Srinagar.

However, for the second day running on Wednesday families of the two slain men picked at Press Enclave here insisting that their men were innocent with no links to militancy and that they were killed "in cold blood" by the government forces.

Speaking to reporters, Altaf's brother Abdul Majeed said "as a 'numberdar' (revenue official), he remains in constant touch with the police and they would have informed him if his brother was involved in militancy."

"He (Altaf) was doing business on Hyderpora Bypass for the last 30 years. He rented the building and we had furnished their (tenants) verification in the police station Saddar. The police should have contacted us if there was anything (adverse)," he said.

Majeed said his brother was a builder, a taxpayer and an innocent man.

"You can verify in the whole locality. The police knew him, they used to visit his place every day, have tea with him, they could verify his credentials," he added.

Majeed said on Monday, the counter-insurgency unit of J&K police's Special Operations Group came and took his brother thrice for searches in the building.

"They took him upstairs and brought him down three times. They used drones. (It was) as if they were shooting a movie there. Unfortunately, an innocent Altaf was martyred," he said.

The family demanded justice and also the return of his body.

"We appeal to the LG, request him to verify and if there is anything (adverse) against my brother, then they can hang me in public in the city centre."

"He (Altaf) was innocent, a civilian and not a militant. We want answers, we want justice. We want his body. Why is the government, the terrorists, killing innocent people?" Majeed said.

At the protest Humaira Mudassir widow of Dr Mudassir Gul, broke down while reiterating that her husband was innocent.

The family also demanded justice and sought the return of their kin's body. "We want justice. Give justice to his wife, his mother and father. Give justice to his one-year-old daughter Inaya Mudasir," Humaira said.

Inaya, she said, "has been crying since yesterday looking for her father. She cries baba, baba, and I have no answers to her. I urge LG Manoj Sinha to allow my daughter to see her father for the last time."

According to the police, four persons were killed in the shootout, among whom Altaf and Mudasir were admitted by the police to be civilians. They also claimed Mudasir was running an illegal call centre that doubled as a "militant hideout."

A third person was identified as Mudasir's employee and Banihal resident Amir Ahmad, who the police claimed was an "associate" of foreign militant Haider, also killed in the shootout. Amir's father, himself a protected person for fear of militants, too has raised questions about the police claim.

All four were buried by the police in north Kashmir's Handwara in the Kupwara district.

Sajad Lone Seeks

by the administration has created a perception of denial of justice," Sajad said that this incident deserves the personal intervention of the PM Modi to ensure justice is delivered.

"The assumption that a uniformed person cannot err is the root cause of all the problems," Sajad said. "We are deluding ourselves into believing that a few meters of cloth of a particular color can make a person infallible."

Sajad further said the current situation in Kashmir is such that grieving is a luxury.

"Let grieving not become a luxury. Countries don't become great by denials," said Sajad. "Their greatness is measured by their moral courage in accepting wrongs. We believe that the state administration should have absolutely no objection in allowing a neutral institution to investigate what actually happened at the encounter site."

He further said that the government mustn't cover up any foul play by the forces. "Civilized nations do not, cannot and should not operate in a state of impunity. If a mistake has been made, it has to be accepted. We can't have a situation where the cruel gets crueler to cover up supposed follies."

Mehbooba Demands

the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been in force, there has been no accountability for the killings of the innocents. Holding a placard that read Stop killing us, probe Hyderpora killings, end impunity and handover bodies to families, Mehbooba, along with party activists and leaders, staged a protest against these killings outside the party's Gandhi Nagar headquarters.

A strong posse of policemen stopped the protesters from moving towards the main road. Mehbooba told reporters that the families of the slain civilians are holding protests in Srinagar and demanding handover of their bodies.

"This cruel government is not even handing over the bodies after killing people. They (BJP) want to convert this nation of Gandhi, Nehru, and Ambedkar into a country of Godse. What else can I say?," the former chief minister said.

Asked about the IGP's claim of there being digital evidence against those killed, she said: "If they had prior evidence, why did the police not arrest them, as they have been doing on a daily basis."

"Whenever anybody gets killed in their firing, they dub him an Over Ground worker, and that is wrong," she said, adding, "Since the AFSPA has been in force, there has been no accountability and no one's been answerable."

"They are innocent civilians and their families are denied even performing their last rites," said Mehbooba.

Referring to a previous incident of fake encounter in which three youths were killed, she said "the security agencies made the claim of having digital evidence even then, but the reality is that they have no evidence."

Three orchard labourers were killed in a staged encounter in Amshipora village of Shopian on July 18, 2020.

In another incident this January, Athar Mushtaq, a class 11 student, was killed along with two other youths in Lawaypora, Srinagar. Mushtaq's father disputed the claim that his son was a militant and demanded an SIT probe into the matter.

Mehbooba is scheduled to return to Srinagar later in the day after completing her five-day tour of Jammu.

Meanwhile, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said the civilians were killed because they were put in harm's way.

"The police admit they took the building owner (Altaf) & the tenant (Gul) in to the building & used them to knock on doors. How then can these people be termed as militants? They are civilians who died because they were put in harm's way," Abdullah tweeted.

He said "to vilify them as militants or OGWs is bad enough but to take the bodies away & forcibly bury them in North Kashmir is a crime against humanity" and that "the bodies must be returned to the families so they can be buried. It's the only just thing & it's the only humanitarian thing to do."

Meanwhile, the NC MP Farooq Abdullah sought the intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in handing over the bodies of two civilians.

In a tweet on its party handle, the NC said its party president and MP Farooq Abdullah has

spoken to Sinha and reiterated his demand for an impartial probe into the civilian killings.

"He also sought the LG's intervention in handing over the bodies to their kin," the party said.

The NC said the Lt Governor has assured Abdullah to look into the demands of the victim families.

Meanwhile Hurriyat Conference termed the killings as a "brazen act of violence" and called for "mass funeral prayers in absentia."

APHC also said it "strongly condemns the extra-judicial killing of four civilians" and expressed solidarity with the bereaved families. They also urged the Kashmiri diaspora to register protests worldwide.

Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) leader Sheeban Ashai, who joined the protest by victim families in Srinagar, alleged the civilians were used as human shields by the police.

"I want to ask LG (Manoj Sinha) and India's Home Minister Amit Shah that two innocent civilians were killed under their watch," he said. "How were they killed in the crossfire?"

Sheeban questioned the use of civilians during military operations. "Why were they not provided with protective gear when the forces took them for searches? That means they were used as human shields. That is the biggest loophole in the police story," he said.

Sheeban alleged that police have started a new trend since August 5, 2019 when the Centre revoked J&K's special status of "picking anyone from his house, jailing him or killing him in an encounter."

Midnight Police

slain civilians.

The police personnel led by Superintendent of Police Tanushree then began dragging and detaining the protesters, which was resisted by some family members leading to a scuffle. Some received minor injuries.

The protesters have been shouting slogans in favour of justice since Wednesday morning. "Who has a right over the dead bodies? The heirs," they shouted. They also demanded: "Stop this dictatorship."

Police Kills 5

Pombay and Gopalpora villages.

"Two villages are located at a distance of just one kilometre," he said.

As per officials, contact with the suspected militants was first established in Pombay and later in Gopalpora.

"In the ensuing encounters, three militants were killed in Pombay and two militants were killed in Gopalpora," the official said, adding that all five militants are believed to be locals while their identity is being ascertained.

Meanwhile, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that TRF commander Afaq Sikandar is among two militants killed in Gopalpora.

"Gopalpora encounter update: Militant Commander of proscribed militant outfit TRF Afaq Sikandar killed in #encounter: IGP Kashmir," tweeted Kashmir zone police.

4 Injured In

district on Wednesday.

A senior police officer said that militants hurled a grenade on CRPF party. In this incident two CRPF men and two civilians received minor splinter injuries. All of them have been shifted to nearby hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile the whole area has been cordoned off to nab the attackers.

HS Reviews J&K's

the security forces and militants also figured in the meeting which was held three days before the DGPs conference is scheduled to take place in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and about 250 top officials in the rank of DGPs and IGP's will attend the meeting to be held on November 20-21.

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir killed two militants in operations in Gopalpora on Wednesday. Further, two active militants

associates of proscribed outfit LeT were apprehended in Pulwama on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a controversy has erupted over the encounter that took place in Srinagar on Monday following conflicting claims about the two deceased civilians as their family members contested the police's charge that they were "terror associates".

A female principal and teacher were shot dead at point blank range inside a government school in Srinagar last month.

Makhan Lal Bindroo, a prominent Kashmiri Pandit and owner of Srinagar's most famous pharmacy, was also shot dead at his shop last month.

A 'chaat' vendor, Virendra Paswan from Bihar, and another civilian, Mohammad Shafi Lone, were also killed in October in Srinagar and in Bandipora respectively.

According to official statistics, a total 28 civilians were killed by militants till last month this year. Out of 28 killed, five people belonged to local Hindu or Sikh communities and two were non-local Hindu labourers.

Most of these acts are committed by newly recruited militants or those who are about to join the militants rank, they said, adding that in all such cases, militants have been using pistols which they can carry easily.

According to official data, till the end of October this year, 97 militants attacks have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir of which 71 were on security forces and 26 on civilians.

In 2020, a total of 105 attacks were reported -- 80 on security forces and 25 on civilians.

ED Summons

Mehbooba Mufti has herself been questioned by the ED in the past in connection with another money laundering case.

Roshni Act: Crackdown

rights to the occupants of state land," he said

He further added that the High Court had recently declared the Act "unconstitutional" and asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to take up the case.

The District Magistrate appreciated the efforts of the team and maintained that such drives would continue in the district, the official spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Ramban district administration also said it had retrieved 4,498 Kanai encroached land and those owned by Roshni scheme beneficiaries.

They did not disclose the recovery from Roshni beneficiaries.

According to the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Harbans Lal, the land was retrieved by conducting a series of anti-encroachment drives by revenue department in past two days, including 80 Kanai in tehsil Ramsoo, 1164 Kanai in Gool, 375 Kanai in Rajgarh, 922 Kanai in Banihal, 180 Kanai - Batote, 134 Kanai in Ukhral and 1643 Kanai in Tehsil Ramban.

Admin Creating

industrial sector providing stability and a secure environment for the industries to grow, the Lt Governor said.

We are working in a planned manner for development of all sectors; tapping the potential of alternative energy-renewable energy; unlocking the investment flow through a host of attractive industrial incentives, providing high-return on investment, trained manpower, land bank and a supportive Ease of Doing Business framework, taking the industries to the block level, the Lt Governor observed.

The MoU signed between the Government of Dubai and the Government of Jammu Kashmir aimed at developing the Industrial sector and various business enterprises in the UT will play an important role in increasing J&K's current annual export target of Rs 1500 crore to Rs 5000 crore, he added.

The Lt Governor, while highlighting the vital role of Engineers and Exporters in achieving the goal of new and self-reliant India, observed that the UT Government is giving dedicated focus on the specific sectors to set up smart factories &

developing better resources for the future.

J&K also has the cheapest power availability and commercial power tariff as compared to other states. The way we are emphasizing on developing power infrastructure, J&K will prove to be the most suitable place for smart factories in the times to come, said the Lt Governor.

Referring to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Lt Governor said that India's total exports increased to 56.51 billion USD, which is a testament to the broad scale of our export sector and also reflects the fair share of engineering goods in foreign trade.

I strongly believe that J&K will immensely contribute to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's goal of taking Indian exports to \$ 400 billion and the engineering sector to \$ 107 billion, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor congratulated all the award winners for their outstanding achievements in engineering exports in North India.

The ambitious export target we are achieving despite the Covid pandemic and other challenges reflects the quality, productivity and effectiveness of our engineering expertise, manufacturing sector and extraordinary efforts being put in by all stakeholders, the Lt Governor added.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce, J&K, congratulated the winners and welcomed EEPIC India's presence in the region.

Sh. Mahesh Desai, Chairman, EEPIC India said that the objective of EEPIC India is to service the entire spectrum of the Indian engineering sector, spread across various parts of the country.

Smt Kamna Raj Aggarwalla, Regional Chairperson (NR), EEPIC India, delivered the welcome address, while Sh. Pradeep K Aggarwal, Dy. Regional Chairman (NR), EEPIC India, presented the Vote of Thanks.

The list of Winners for the award includes Private industries, and PSUs including SAIL, BHEL, RITES etc.

Senior officers, Industrialists, members of various business organizations attended the award ceremony.

Absconder Held

since 1982 in cases of impersonation and cheating registered at City police station here, the officials said. (PTI)

2 IEDs Recovered

Mukhtar Bhat.

Major tragedy averted by Pulwama Police & SFs (security forces). 2 LeT terrorist associates namely Amir Bashir & Mukhtar Bhat arrested by Pulwama Police & SFs during joint naka checking. 2 ready to use IEDs were recovered from their possession, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said in a tweet.

He said an investigation into the matter is in progress. (PTI)

3 Arrested With

The arrests were made on Tuesday night, when acting on a tip off, security personnel intercepted a Kashmir-bound vehicle at Bun Toll plaza, they said.

The three persons were identified as Fayaz, Umar, and Muzim of South Kashmir and turned out to be associates of JeM, they said.

Police are also probing the angle of an organised transfer of laundered funds to the state from Punjab. (PTI)

Ladakh Reports 24

Ladakh has registered 211 Covid-related deaths -- 153 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year.

Twenty-seven more patients were cured and discharged from hospital in Leh in the past 24 hours. The total number of cured patients has reached 20,821, they said.

The 24 fresh cases were reported from Leh, the officials said.

No death due to Covid took place in the past 24 hours, they added. (PTI)

Kulgam Wins 2nd Rasul Mir Inter-College Volleyball Tournament



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Volleyball team of Govt. Degree College Kulgam on Wednesday defeated GDC Tral in the finals of 2nd Rasul Mir Inter-College Volleyball Tournament (Men) 2021 organized by the Department of Physical Education Govt. Degree

College Dooru.

GDC Kulgam emerged winners after defeating GDC Tral in a one sided match by 3-0.

Earlier, the College Volleyball team defeated GDC Bijbehara and Islamia College Srinagar to reach the semifinal where they beat GDC Khanabal, Anantnag to reach the finals.

Dravid Will Handle Coaching Like His Batting: Gavaskar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Batting great Sunil Gavaskar feels Rahul Dravid will handle his new responsibility as head coach of the Indian team in the same "safe and strong" manner as he went about his batting while playing for the country.

Dravid, one of the greatest cricketers to have played for India, was appointed as the chief coach of the Indian team following the end of Ravi Shastri's tenure, earlier this month.

"When he used to play, we used to think that till Rahul Dravid is at the crease, the Indian batting is safe and strong," Gavaskar said on the Star Sports show "Follow the Blue."

"This is the reason why I believe that the new responsibility

of head coach that falls upon him, he will be able to handle it in a similar way.

Highlighting the similarities between, Rohit Sharma, who took over as T20 skipper from Virat Kohli, and Dravid, Gavaskar said the two men will work well together easily.

"If you look at both of their temperaments, they are quite similar. Rohit is of a quiet nature just like Rahul Dravid.

"So I think their bond will be quite good because both of them will understand each other well," Gavaskar said.

The three-match T20 series against New Zealand, starting Wednesday in Jaipur, is the first assignment for Dravid and Sharma.

Virat Kohli has been rested for the series.

Ganguly Replaces Kumble As ICC Cricket's Committee Chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the game's governing body said on Wednesday.

Ganguly will replace fellow Indian Anil Kumble, who stepped down after serving a maximum of three, three-year terms.

"I am delighted to welcome Sourav to the position of Chair of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee," ICC Chair Greg Barclay said in a release.

"His experience as one of the world's best players and latterly as an administrator will help us shape our cricketing decisions moving forward."

"I would also like to thank Anil for his outstanding leadership over the last nine years which has included improving the international game through more regular and consistent application of DRS and a robust process for addressing suspect



bowling actions."

The Board also approved that first-class status and list A classification will be applied to women's cricket to align with the men's game and applied retrospectively.

Going forward the ICC Women's Committee will be known as the ICC Women's Cricket Committee and will assume all decision making responsibility for women's cricket reporting directly to the CEO.

Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies has been appointed to the ICC Women's Cricket Committee.



Santosh Trophy: JKFA Announce 22-Man Squad

Flagging off ceremony held as team leaves for Chandigarh

R. ELAHI

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association on Wednesday announced J&K's senior squad for the 75th National Championship for Santosh Trophy set to begin from November 19 at Chandigarh.

The contingent of 22 players and five officials was flagged off by Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary to Youth Services & Sports Department in a brief ceremony held at GGM. Science College Ground, Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar said that government is concerned about providing better facilities to the players enabling them to bring laurels for J&K. "The government has created better infrastructure

facilities for the youth to participate in different games," he said.

The Principal Secretary was introduced to the senior squad and the Women's football team, who are currently undergoing a coaching camp at Jammu for participation in the Senior National Women's Championship to be held at Kerala.

The flag off ceremony was also attended by Z.A. Thakur, President JKFA, Ashok Singh, DSO Jammu, and other officials of JKFA and Sports Council.

J&K Team: Furqan Ahmad, Faisal Thakur, Guatam, Shahid Nazir, Arun Nagyal, Hyder, Nirdosh Sagotra, Tahfeem, Shakir, Imad, Kartik, Raja Musharraf, Aakif Reshi, Mehran, Sarmad, Arjun, Mehran Rasool, Asrar,

Mohit, Adeel, Mehjoor and Furqan Nabi.

The team will be accompanied by five officials, including Mohammad Shafi Nari, head of the delegation, Zahoor Ahmed Teli (manager), Satpal Singh, head coach, Shahnaz Iqbal Khan, coach, and Yawar Manzoor, physio.

The J&K team will compete in the North Zone leg of the competition which include teams: Chandigarh, Services, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Fixtures:**November 21: J&K vs Chandigarh****November 23: J&K vs Services****November 25: Uttar Pradesh vs J&K****November 27: Himachal Pradesh vs J&K**

The matches will be played at Sports Complex, Sector 7, Chandigarh.

Rakhshinda Mehak: Bronze Medallist Deaf Judoka Felicitated

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Advisor Farooq Khan on felicitated Jammu and Kashmir judoka Rakhshinda Mehak for her bronze medal winning feat at the World Deaf Judo Championship held recently in Versailles, France.

Director School Education, Jammu, Ravi Shankar Sharma, was the guest of honour on the occasion.

Advisor said that it was a pride moment for players to represent Jammu and Kashmir as well as India in the International level sports event and win medal for the nation. He said that the most joyous moment was the victory of Rakhshinda Mehak who clinched bronze medal in team category along with other judokas.

Advisor Khan was optimistic that the performance of these victorious players will inspire many to work hard in a total disciplined manner in the sports streams of their choice.



He said that these specially abled players have exemplified that they do possess equal strength and stamina as compared to other players and can perform to the best for their country. "The government has launched a slew of measures towards development and welfare of such players and it must be our prime concern to encourage these heroes at all levels to bring out their best,"

he asserted.

On the occasion, Rakhshinda Mehak and Vishal Khajuria were rewarded with a cash award and mementos while Senior Coach of J&K Sports Council, Surjan Bhan, was also honoured with a shawl and memento. Others students who were also felicitated included Vaishali Rania, Dheeraj Pandita, Sunil Kumar, Deepak Kumar and Deepti Pandit.

NIFF Youth League Enters Day 4

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: NIFF Youth Football League 2021 on Wednesday entered day 4 of its Round 1 (qualifiers) stage, with two matches played at Synthetic Turf, TRC here. The tournament is a first of its kind youth league with multiple Football Academies (FA) across Kashmir Valley participating.

The first match was played between Budgam FA and DPS FA Srinagar which ended in a 0-0 goalless draw, the teams shared a point each. Junaid Hamid was awarded player of the match by chief guest of the match, Javed Sofi.

Second Match of the day was played between Etihad FA Pulwama and Kashmir Avengers



FA that ended in a 2-2 draw. Player of the match award was given to Eithad's Musharraf, who scored two goals for his team.

Both the MOTM awards carry ₹1500/- of cash prize and a memento which is being sponsored by New JK Roadways.

The League is a NIFF initiative to provide ample platform for junior age group players.

The Youth Football League is being organised by NIFF J&K in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. The League also has a collaboration with Department of Health J&K, who have provided an ambulance and a team of doctors to oversee on-field injuries during the tournament. The matches can be seen live on NIFF's official Facebook page.

ICC Forms Working Group To Review Cricket In Afghanistan

PCB Chief Ramiz Raja part of the group



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Pakistan Cricket Board chief Ramiz Raja will be a part of the ICC Working Group appointed by the game's governing body to review the status of cricket in Afghanistan in light of the recent political developments in the country.

The group, comprising Imran Khwaja (Chair), Ross McCollum, Lawson Naidoo and Raja, will report back to the ICC Board over the coming months.

Afghanistan cricket was plunged into uncertainty due to the drastic changes in the political landscape following the takeover of the country by the Taliban.

Taliban's opposition to women's cricket also led to the postponement of the one-off Test of the men's team against Australia.

ICC Chair Greg Barclay said: "The ICC Board is committed to continuing to support Afghanistan Cricket to develop both men's and women's cricket moving forward."

"We believe the most effective way for this to happen will be to support our members in their efforts to achieve this through its relationship with the new government." Afghanistan, however, fought against all odds and grabbed a spot in the Super

12s for the 2022 T20 World Cup after winning two games out of five in the recently-concluded editions of the ICC event.

"Cricket is fortunate to be in the position to influence positive change in Afghanistan with the national men's team a source of great pride and unity in a country with a young population that has experienced more upheaval and change than most," Barclay said.

"We should protect that status and continue to try to influence change through the ACB but will continue to closely monitor the situation and take any decisions accordingly."

World Test Championship

In other updates, the ICC Board decided to continue "the ICC World Test Championship in its current form of a nine-team league over a two-year period with a final between the top two teams at the conclusion." The Board has also accepted Chief Executives' Committee's recommendation that the primary avenue for qualification for the event is based on rankings at a pre-determined cutoff date with the 10 highest-ranked teams on the ODI Rankings qualifying automatically, and the remainder being determined via a global qualifier."

Bresnan Denies Racism Claim But Apologises To Rafiq For Bullying

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: Former England pacer Tim Bresnan has apologised to Azeem Rafiq over his bullying claims but 'categorically denies' making any racist comments towards his ex-Yorkshire teammate.

Rafiq on Tuesday narrated his experiences of racism and discrimination at the club in detail as he addressed UK Members of Parliament in the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee (DCMS).

In his witness statement, the 30-year-old said Bresnan "frequently made racist comments" and also claimed that he was one of "six or seven" other players who had made bullying complaint against the pacer due to his alleged behaviour.

"For any part I played in contributing to Azeem Rafiq's experience of feeling bullied at Yorkshire, I apologise unreservedly," Bresnan said in a statement posted on his twitter handle.

"Following the publication of Azeem's witness statement from the employment tribunal, which I saw for the first time this afternoon, I must though categorically deny his accusation that I 'frequently made racist comments'." Commentator David 'Bumble' Lloyd also took to twitter to apologise to Rafiq after he was accused of making disparaging comments on Asian

cricketers to a third party.

"In October 2020, I had a private message exchange with a third party involved in cricket, about a number of topics," Lloyd



wrote on his handle on Tuesday. "In these messages, I referred to allegations about Azeem Rafiq which I had heard from within the game. I also made some comments about the Asian cricket community."

"I deeply regret my actions, and I apologise most sincerely to Azeem and to the Asian cricket community for doing this, and for any offence caused." Lloyd said he is "strongly committed to making cricket a more inclusive sport."

"It is very obvious now that more work needs to be done and I will do everything I can to remove discrimination from the sport I love, and the sport that has been my life for over 50 years." Rafiq called Lloyd a "closet racist", saying it was "disturbing" as his employers Sky were doing "amazing work on bringing racism to the front."

Sky, on their part, have decided to probe the comments made by Lloyd.

Argentina Draws With Brazil, Qualifies For 2022 World Cup

AGENCIES

SAO PAULO: Argentina secured a place in next year's World Cup after a 0-0 draw against Brazil, giving Lionel Messi his fifth and possibly final shot at winning the only major trophy missing in his career.

Second-place Argentina qualified after Chile lost 2-0 at home to third-place Ecuador. With 29 points and four qualifiers remaining, Lionel Scaloni's Argentina squad cannot be overtaken by more than two rivals.

Competition-leading Brazil had already secured the first of South America's four direct entries to Qatar 2022. The fifth-place team goes into an intercontinental playoff for a spot in Qatar.

Brazil has 35 points, six ahead of Ar-



gentina. Both teams have completed 13 games, one fewer than scheduled because their encounter in September was suspended after seven minutes when Brazilian officials belatedly enforced COVID-19 restrictions. FIFA is yet to decide what to do with that match.

Algeria, Nigeria, Cameroon in WC Playoffs, Ivory Coast Out

AGENCIES

CAPE TOWN: Algeria, Cameroon, Nigeria and Tunisia took their last chances and qualified for the World Cup playoffs in Africa on Tuesday, but Ivory Coast didn't seize the day and is the continent's biggest team so far to miss out on next year's tournament in Qatar.

African champion Algeria and Nigeria scraped through to the 10-team playoffs in March after both were held to home draws but clinched the point they needed to progress on the final day of the group stage.

Tunisia was more convincing, beating Zambia 3-1 to take the top spot and the playoff place in Group B, snuffing out Zambia's hopes.

Cameroon ended Ivory Coast's campaign with a 1-0 win in their much-



hyped West African showdown in Cameroon. Karl Toko Ekambi's first-half goal settled the tense Group D decider as Ivory Coast lost the game and the lead of the group right at the end.

Ivory Coast, a two-time African champion, will miss its second straight World Cup after also failing to make it to Russia in 2018.

Dutch Head To World Cup, Playoffs For Turkey, Ukraine

AGENCIES

LONDON: The Netherlands will be back at the World Cup after an eight-year gap, forcing Norway star Erling Haaland to wait until at least 2026 to make his debut on the biggest stage.

The Dutch did just enough Tuesday with late goals in a 2-0 win in Rotterdam that eliminated the Norwegians who were missing Haaland, their injured 21-year-old forward.

Turkey overtook Norway into second place in Group G, winning 2-1 in Montenegro to enter the European playoffs in March.

Ukraine also won away, 2-0 at Bosnia-Herzegovina, to join Turkey as unseeded teams who will be on the road again in the playoffs semifinals.

The unbeaten Ukrainians, who drew



six of their eight Group D games, rose into second place above Finland, which was eliminated by losing 2-0 at home to table-topping France.

Kylian Mbappe set up Karim Benzema to score in the 66th before getting the second himself 10 minutes later after a speedy solo run down the left flank.

TV Debates Causing More Pollution Than Anybody, Says Supreme Court

Agenceis

New Delhi: Debates on TV news channels are causing more pollution than anybody with statements made in the court being taken out of context, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said everyone has their own agenda and statements are taken out of context in these debates.

"You want to use some issue, make us observe and then make it controversial, and then only blame games will remain...," observed the Bench also comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and Surya Kant.

"Debates on TV are creating more pollution than anybody. They don't understand what is happening and what is the issue. Statements are taken out of context. Everyone has their own agenda. We can't help and we can't control. We are focusing on working out the solution," it said.

The apex court's observations came while hearing a plea relating to air pollution in Delhi and adjoining areas.

The oral remarks came in response to the submission of senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the Delhi Government, that stubble burning was one of the contributors of the air pollution which needs to be addressed and referred to the Centre's figures on the issue.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to the television debates and said they claimed



that he had misled the top court on the contribution of stubble burning to air pollution.

"I watched some irresponsible and nasty utterances on TV media against me that I misled the court on the question of stubble burning by showing that its contribution is only 4 to 7 per cent. Let me clarify," SG said.

The top court, however, said: "We were not misled at all. You said 10 per cent but it was pointed out in the affidavit that it was 30 to 40 per cent."

"This type of criticism is bound to happen when we are holding public offices. We are clear, our conscience is clear, forget about all this. These kinds of criticisms keep happening. Our conscience is clear and we work for the betterment of society," the bench said.

The plea has been filed by environmental activist Aditya Dubey and law student Aman Banka, who sought directions to provide stubble-removing machines to small and marginal farmers for free. PTI

Ex-Mumbai Police Chief Declared 'Proclaimed Offender'

Agenceis

MUMBAI: A magistrate's court here on Wednesday declared former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh a "proclaimed offender" in an extortion case registered against him and other police officers in the city.

The Crime Branch of Mumbai Police, which is probing the case, had sought the proclamation, saying that the IPS officer could not be traced even after the issuance of a non-bailable warrant against him.

Under Section 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a court can publish a proclamation requiring an accused to appear if a warrant issued against him or her cannot be executed.

As per Section 83, after issuing such a proclamation the court can also order attachment of the proclaimed offender's properties.

Former Assistant Police Inspector Sachin Vaze is also an accused in the case, registered at Goregaon police station in the City. Besides Param Bir Singh, co-accused Vinay Singh and Riyaz Bhatti were also declared as proclaimed offender by Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate S. B. Bhajipale.



Bimal Agrawal, a real estate developer and hotelier, had alleged that the accused extorted Rs 9 lakh from him for not conducting raid on two bars and restaurants which he ran in partnership, and also forced him to buy two smartphones worth around Rs 2.92 lakh for them.

The incidents occurred between January 2020 and March 2021, he had claimed.

Following his complaint, a case was filed under Indian Penal Code sections 384 and 385 (both pertaining to extortion) and 34

(common intention) against six accused. Singh is facing an extortion case in Thane too.

He was shunted out from the post of Mumbai police commissioner in March 2021 after Vaze was arrested in the case of the SUV with explosives found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's south Mumbai residence and the death of Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran.

Singh, subsequently, accused then-Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of corruption, a charge the latter denied. PTI

China Engaged In 'Border War' With India: Senator John Cornyn

Agenceis

China is engaged in a "border war" with India and is posing a grave threat to its neighbours, top Republican lawmaker John Cornyn has told the US Senate, giving details of his visit to New Delhi and Southeast Asia to understand the challenges faced by countries in the region.

Senator John Cornyn, who is also the India Caucus Co-Chair, and his Congressional colleagues have just returned from a visit to India and Southeast Asia wherein they had a first-hand experience of the challenges being posed by China.

"The most urgent and grave threats are against countries closer to China's borders," Cornyn told members of the Senate on Tuesday. "Last week, I had the chance to lead a congressional delegation visiting Southeast Asia to gain a better understanding of the threats and challenges in the region," he said.

"It (China) threatens freedom of navigation in international waters, and it's guilty of gross human rights abuses against its own people, namely the Muslim minority Uyghurs. It's engaged in a border war with India and it threatens to invade the Republic of China, otherwise known as Taiwan," Cornyn said.

Cornyn said that they travelled to India where "we met with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi and Cabinet officials to discuss threats posed by China as well as other shared priorities." The border standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries erupted on May 5 last year



following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas and both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in the Gogra area in August and in the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in February. However, India and China failed to make any headway at their 13th round of military talks on October 10 in resolving the standoff in the remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh.

In the Philippines, he said, they caught a ride on a navy aircraft in disputed waters. Within minutes of leaving Philippine airspace, they spotted a Chinese spy ship engaged in intelligence-gathering operations off the Philippine coast.

Cornyn said that during the visit, "one of the main topics was the timetable for a Chinese invasion of Taiwan." "In every way possible, Taiwan is a stark contrast to the People's Republic of China. It's a true democracy, with elections whose results are not predetermined. It's a free-market economy that adheres to the

rule of law, and it shares the same basic values we embrace in the United States — freedom of speech, freedom of press, religion, and assembly," he said.

During the trip, Cornyn said he and his colleagues had the opportunity to hear from the military leadership and key foreign partners in the region and gain a better understanding of ongoing and anticipated security threats mainly from China. China has already co-opted a formerly democratic Hong Kong; that's building missile batteries and aircraft runways for its bombers on artificial islands in the South China Sea, he said.

Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square mile South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars of international trade pass each year. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

China has impeded commercial activity like fishing or mineral exploration by countries like Vietnam and the Philippines, claiming that the ownership of territory belonged to China for hundreds of years.

India Stands At 82 In Global Bribery Risk Rankings

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: India has slipped to 82nd position in 2021, five places down from 77th rank last year, in a global list that measures business bribery risks.

The list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.

According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.

In 2020, India ranked 77 with a score of 45 while this year, the country stood at 82nd position with a score of 44, the data showed.

This score is based on four factors — business interactions with the government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight which includes the role of the media.

India fared better than its neighbours — Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. Bhutan, meanwhile, secured 62nd rank, the data showed.

The TRACE's 2021 Bribery Risk Matrix, in a statement, said over the past 10 years, the business bribery risk environment worsened significantly in countries that also experienced democratic backsliding: Egypt, Venezuela,

Turkey, Poland and Hungary.

"Over the past five years, the business bribery risk environment in the United States worsened significantly when compared with global trends. From 2020 to 2021, all of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries saw an increase in commercial bribery risk. Over the past five years, the countries that have shown the greatest trend towards improvement in the factors underlying commercial bribery risk are Uzbekistan, the Gambia, Armenia, Malaysia and Angola," it said.

Vanuatu, Peru, North Macedonia and Montenegro also scored 44, the same as that of India, in the matrix.

The TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix measures the likelihood of bribe demands in 194 jurisdictions. It was originally published in 2014 to meet a need in the business community for more reliable and nuanced information about the risks of commercial bribery worldwide.

The TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix aggregates relevant data obtained from leading public interest and international organisations, including the United Nations, World Bank, V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum.

This data helps companies to assess the likely risk of bribe demands in each country and to design compliance and due diligence programs tailored to that risk, it said. PTI

Kartarpur Corridor Reopens: History Of The Key Pilgrim Passage

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: More than 20 months after the Kartarpur corridor was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a jatha of Sikh pilgrims from India crossed over to Pakistan on Wednesday ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

Pakistan had issued around 3000 visas to Indian Sikh pilgrims on the eve of the 552nd Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev from November 17-26.

"They [the jatha] will visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Sri Panja Sahib, Dera Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib and Gurdwara Sacha Sauda," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

"Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued around 3000 visas to Indian Sikh Yatries to participate in the 552nd Birth Anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak in Pakistan from 17-26 November 2021. During their stay in Pakistan, the Sikh Yatries would pay obeisance at different Gurdwaras including Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur," read a Pakistan High Commission release.

The move came keeping in view the significance of the upcoming occasion of Guru Nanak Gurpurab, and the sentiments associated with the religious festival.

Guru Nanak Jayanti, also

keeping in view the sentiments and devotion of the various communities in the two countries.

The protocol states that such visits from one country to the other shall be allowed without discrimination as to religion or sect; up to 20 parties may be allowed to visit from one country to the other every year, while the number could be revised from time to time; Every effort should continue to be made to ensure that places of religious worship mentioned in the agreed list are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

Thousands of Sikh Pilgrims residing in countries other than India would also be visiting Pakistan to attend the event.

Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib, also known as the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across river Ravi. It is one of the most significant historical and spiritual places for Sikhs.

According to historians, the first Sikh Guru (Guru Nanak Dev) had arrived in Kartarpur between 1520 and 1522 and spent the last 18 years of his life there. In Kartarpur, he laid the foundation of the Sikh religion.

The Kartarpur corridor connects the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in the Narowal district of Pakistan with the Dera Baba



known as Guru Nanak Gurpurab, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh Guru and is considered one of the most sacred festivals among Sikhs. The day is celebrated on the full moon day of the Kartik month as per the Hindu calendar. It is also marked as Kartik Purnima. This year the day falls on November 19.

Earlier in this year, Pakistan has denied permission to Sikh pilgrims from India on two occasions in June this year — one on the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev Ji and the second on the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Ji, the MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Visas of the Sikh pilgrims have been issued under the Pakistan-India Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines of 1974, which provides for the visit of Sikh pilgrims from India to Pakistan for the birthday celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak.

The 1974 Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines between India and Pakistan is a set of principles that was implemented while

Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district Punjab, India.

At the time of the India-Pakistan partition, the Line of Control (LoC) had divided the province of Punjab into two parts. One of which remained in India and the other was within the Pakistan borders.

Thus, a lot of Sikh pilgrims could not visit the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara without a visa, even though it was merely 4 kilometres away from Indian borders.

In 1999, then Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif proposed this corridor under the Delhi-Lahore bus diplomacy.

In 2018, the Government of Pakistan approved the construction of the corridor

On November 26, 2018, Indian Vice President, Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the corridor from the Indian side, and two days after, on November 28, 2018, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan laid the fountain from the other side of the border.

Owaisi Files Case Against Wasim Rizvi for Anti-Islam Acts



Agenceis

HYDERABAD (TELANGANA): All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimene (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi filed a complaint in Hyderabad against Wasim Rizvi former chairman of Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board for using objectionable statements on Prophet Mohammed in his book titled 'Muhammad'.

Addressing media, the AIMIM chief said, "We met Hyderabad Police Commissioner, former chairman of Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board Wasim Rizvi wrote a book that has objectionable statements on Prophet Mohammed. We requested that he be booked. Commissioner assured us of a criminal case. We hope he will be arrested."

AIMIM chief had submitted the letter to the Police Commissioner of Hyderabad Anjani Kumar.

"This is to bring to your attention a recent book authored by one Wasim Rizvi is the former

chairman of Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board. The book, written in Hindi, vilifies Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and uses objectionable language against the Prophet, the religion of Islam and its followers," Mr Owaisi said in a statement.

The letter further stated that the contents of the book and the objectionable statements have been made with a view to outrage the religious sentiments of those who follow Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and abide by Islamic tenets. His statements are also targeted at creating a feeling of enmity against Muslims of India which is likely to result in a threat to the breach of peace.

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"In light of the above, I request that action is taken against Rizvi and his associates, including (but not limited to) action in pursuance of Sections 153A, 153B, 295A, 504 and 505(1)(c) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)," the statement added.

India On Track To Get First High Court Gay Judge

Agenceis

In a major milestone for the LGBTQ+ movement in India, the South Asian country may finally get its first openly homosexual judge presiding over a constitutional court, reports The Independent.

The development comes after a Supreme Court panel recommended the elevation of senior advocate Saurabh Kirpal as the judge in Delhi High Court, thereby rejecting the federal government's objections against his proposed elevation.

A three-member Supreme Court collegium led by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana took the decision in a meeting held on 11 November, reported the Indian Express.

The decision on his elevation was deferred at least four times since it was first proposed in October 2017. The Intelligence Bureau (IB), tasked with a background check, in its report in 2018 and 2019 suggested Kirpal's partner, who is a foreign national, might pose a security risk.

In September 2018, the



collegium decided to take it up for consideration "after some time", reported NDTV. Incidentally, the decision for deferral came days after a five-judge constitution bench decriminalised same-sex relationships in the country, a fight in which Kirpal represented two key petitioners — Navtej Johar and Ritu Dalmia.

The decision on his elevation

was again deferred in January and April 2019 and in August last year. Kirpal in an interview with the Hindustan Times in September 2020 said he believes his sexual orientation as the reason behind the delay in his elevation.

"My professional competence was known to the high court and the Supreme Court collegium and my case for elevation was

presumably not deferred for that reason. Media reports seemed to indicate the issue might have been the nationality of my partner who is Swiss. Had I been a straight man with a foreign spouse, this would not have been an issue; former Supreme Court judges have had foreign spouses. But it became an issue only because I am not," Kirpal had told The Hindustan Times.

However, in February this year, when the then chief justice SA Bobde sought clarification from the law ministry around the conjectures that the delay was indeed due to his sexual orientation, the ministry reiterated its previous stance of objections around the nationality of Kirpal's partner.

It further said that Kirpal's partner was employed with the Swiss embassy and that he was working with a Switzerland-based non-profit organisation prior to this job.

According to the memorandum of procedures, if the Supreme Court collegium recommends a name for appointment as a judge,

the Centre can send the name for review only once. However, if the collegium reiterates the name, the government cannot turn down the recommendation.

Kirpal, a graduate in physics from St Stephens in Delhi, read law at Oxford and Cambridge Universities and has been practicing in India for over two decades.

Specialising in civil, commercial and constitutional law, he has also edited a book called "Sex and the Supreme Court", an anthology about issues relating to law, gender and sexuality. He is also the son of Justice BN Kirpal, who was the Chief Justice of India from May 2002 to November 2002.

Applauding the court's decision, former attorney general Mukul Rohatgi said that Kirpal's elevation was long overdue.

"Kirpal is one of the brightest lawyers and I have had personal experience of his intellect and hard work. In Hindi, I will say 'der aaye durust aaye' (better late than never)," he was quoted as saying by The Hindustan Times.