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Quote!

Peace is the only battle worth waging
—Albert Camus

NEWS DIGEST

Soldier Shoots Self Dead
SRINAGAR: An army man allegedly committed suicide in Kupwara district of north Kashmir on Monday, officials said. Havildar S S Arjun allegedly shot himself with his service rifle in the early hours at Drangyari in Chowkibal. **More on P10**

School Named After Fallen Soldier
SAMBHA: The district administration here on Monday named a government school after an army Subedar, who was killed during the 1971 war with Pakistan. The government middle school Chak Salarian, Ramgarh was **More on P10**

BJP Workers PSO Missing With 2 Rifles



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Personal Security Officer (PSO) of a BJP worker went missing on Monday along with two rifles from Kupwara district of north Kashmir, officials here said. Saqib Tantray, a resident of Bohipora in Kupwara, was posted as a PSO to BJP worker Abdul Rashid Zargar, who is staying at Old MLA hostel in Kupwara, they said. During investigation, it came to light that two rifles were also **More on P10**

Militants Ambush Police Bus In Zewan

2 Cops Killed, 12 Injured In High Security Zone Attack



Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Two personnel of Armed Reserve Police (ARP) were killed and twelve others were injured on Monday

Police Kills 2 Militants In Rangreth Shootout

Observer News Service

Police said two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, one among them a foreigner, were killed in a brief encounter with government forces in Rangreth area of the city outskirts on Monday. A naka was established by police in Rangreth area of the city outskirts on the basis of specific input regarding the movement of militants, a police spokesperson. He said a small team of **More on P10**

PM Modi Seeks Details Of Militant Attack

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought details on a militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday and expressed condolences to the families of the security personnel killed. Two policemen were killed and 12 others suffered injuries as militants carried out a deadly attack on a bus carrying Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday — **More on P10**

BSF Kills Woman 'Intruder' Along IB

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: A Pakistani woman intruder was shot dead by the BSF along the international border here, an official said on Monday. Deputy Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) S P S Sandhu said alert troops killed the intruder in R S Pura sector on Sunday night. "The BSF troops noticed suspicious movement and warned the intruder many times not to cross the IB but the intruder kept running towards border fencing aggressively," Sandhu, who is the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of BSF, Jammu, said. He said alert BSF troops fired and neutralized the intruder near BSF firing inside the IB and thwarted the infiltration attempt. **More on P10**

42 Employees Found Absent In Kulgam
KULGAM: The district administration in this south Kashmir district on Monday sought explanation from 42 employees of different departments who were found absent during surprise inspections. On the **More on P10**

Train Crushes Woman To Death
JAMMU: A woman about 65 years of age was killed after being hit by a train in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official of the Railway Police said on Monday. The body of the unidentified woman, hit by Sealdah Express, was found near Baloke bridge **More on P10**

LG Hails Abrogation Of J&K's Special Status 'Constitutional Rights Extended To 1.25 Crore People In Its Truest Sense'



Observer News Service

LUCKNOW: Claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ushered a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that all the constitutional rights have been extended to 1.25 crore people of the Union Territory in its "truest sense" with the abrogation of erstwhile state's special status. Addressing a commemoration event for the upcoming birth anniversary of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji here, the LG said that with decisions taken in the **More on P10**

What's On Agenda? NC Asks Delimitation Panel

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) parliamentarians have written a letter to Delimitation Commission asking it to provide an agenda for the meeting scheduled to be held next week in New Delhi. NC's Member of Parliament from Anantnag constituency, Hasnain Masoodi told Kashmir Observer on Monday that he has been invited by the panel for a meeting in New Delhi on December 20 but without being informed about the agenda of

the meeting. "As the invitation forwarded by the commission to our party had no mention of the agenda, the party decided to send a written communication to the Commission, asking it to provide the relevant agenda of the meeting and other material so that the party MPs could decide whether to participate in the meeting or not," he said. Masoodi and two other NC MPs -- Farooq Abdullah and Mohammad Akbar Lone -- had boycotted the first meeting of the commission **More on P10**

Ladakh Shuts Down For Statehood, Jobs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A complete shutdown was observed in Ladakh Union Territory (UT) on a joint call given by Leh Apex body (LAB) and Kargil democratic Alliance (KDA) in favour of their demands including a statehood from the central government. All shops and business establishments were closed and transport, private as well as government was off the road in all districts and sub divisions and blocks of the Union Territory. The shutdown hit

normal life across Ladakh UT. The special status of J&K state was scrapped on August 5, 2019 and erstwhile state was divided into union territories of J&K and Ladakh. The call was issued by LAB and KDA who are demanding a full statehood be given to the UT besides constitutional safeguard, recruitment of youth on fast track and separate seats for Leh and Kargil in Lok Sabha and Raj Sabha. The shutdown was peaceful and there was no untoward incident reported from any part of the UT. **More on P10**

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J&K Logs 119 New Cases, 3 Corona Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed the lives of three more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday while 119 fresh cases of infection were registered in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Kashmir Valley and one person in Jammu division, taking the death toll due to pandemic to 4498. About the new cases, officials said, **More on P10**

Cold Wave Intensifies In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The cold wave in Kashmir has intensified with the mercury settling several notches below the freezing point, officials said on Monday. Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday night down by 0.5 degrees from the previous night. It was the second coldest night of the season so far, the officials said. Gulmarg tourist destination in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 5 degrees Celsius up from minus 4.2 degrees Celsius the previous night. The officials said Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in the Valley at a low of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius. The mercury in **More on P10**

J&K Records Lowest Percentage Of HIV Cases At 0.6 %

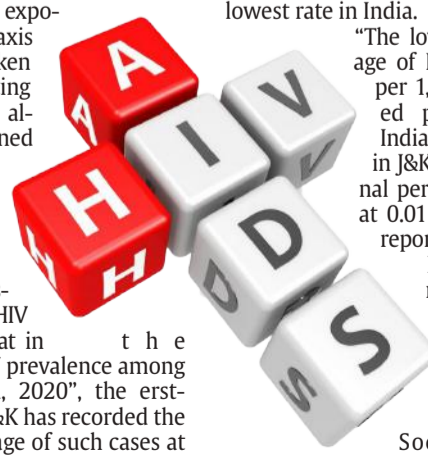
Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Defying the reports that paint an alarming spike in the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases in the country, a newly published survey has unfurled a sense of relief among the natives, as the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has recorded the lowest percentage of HIV cases. On December 8, the government of India's National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) released the 16th round of HIV burden estimations and fact-sheets for the country, including J&K. Among the mentioned indicators, several included indicators are of great importance to J&K in terms of health, diagnosis and treatment of diseases especially HIV/AIDS. This also includes those indicators that are relevant to the Indian Government's 2030 goal of ending the AIDS epidemic. Among the indicators released for the erstwhile state of J&K including Ladakh, several are based

on education about HIV prevalence, estimated annual AIDS-related deaths, Prevention and annual new HIV infections, new initiatives being implemented by NACO, and PrEP—Pre exposure prophylaxis is medicine taken to prevent getting HIV—that have always maintained an influence over the rise/fall of HIV cases in J&K. The NACO factsheet on estimation of HIV has revealed that in the category of "HIV prevalence among adults in India, 2020", the erstwhile state of J&K has recorded the lowest percentage of such cases at 0.6 percent. The highest HIV prevalence in India among adults was recorded in the Northeast states of India including Mizoram (2.37 percent), Nagaland (1.44 percent) and

Manipur (1.15 percent). As per the NACO estimation, PLHIV cases per million population for J&K has been recorded at 415 per million which too, is the lowest rate in India. "The lowest percentage of HIV incidence per 1,000 uninfected population in India was recorded in J&K where the final percentage stood at 0.01 percent," the report reads. Besides the national report, J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS) has also released the data for 2021 and as per the given figures, total number of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) ever registered with JKACS (found positive

after testing at ICTCs) as of October 2021 was recorded at 6671 while as the total number of people alive on ART treatment as of October 2021 was recorded at 2989. The NACO report for 2020 HIV Estimation indicates that while India's AIDS response continues to be successful, there is no place for complacency. Nationally, new HIV infections declined by 48% between 2010 and 2020 in comparison to the global average of 23% (between 2010 and 2019). As per the data, the decline in new HIV infections was less than 50% in 17 States and UTs, while it actually increased in three States and UTs. In terms of PLHIV cases (in Lakh), J&K has recorded 0.06 percent of such cases which is clearly the ninth lowest in India. The highest rate was recorded in Maharashtra (3.90 percent) while the lowest was recorded in Sikkim (0.004 percent). "The lowest HIV incidence (per 1,000 uninfected population) in India was recorded in **More on P10**





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Study Finds Ways To Help Children Learn Forgiveness

Agencies

Researchers have found that teaching children to understand other people's perspectives could make it easier for them to learn how to forgive others.

The study also found that teaching children to make sincere apologies can help them receive forgiveness from others.

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

"Forgiveness is important in children and adults for restoring relationships and limiting future conflicts," said Kelly Lynn Mulvey, lead author of the study and an associate professor of psychology at North Carolina State University.

"But we didn't know much about what makes children more likely to forgive others, particularly from early childhood to adolescence. That's what we wanted to explore with our study," added Mulvey.

To that end, Mulvey and her collaborators enlisted 185 children, between the ages of 5 and 14, in the study. Researchers conducted an in-depth interview with each child that collected background information and assessed the child's "theory of mind" skills. Theory of mind is your ability to understand that someone else's beliefs, intentions and desires are different from your own.

Researchers then led each child through a series of scenarios involving other children who are "in-group" and "out-group." Specifically, each study participant was told they were part of a group, such as the green team. During interviews, researchers described some children in the scenarios as also being in the green team (making them in-group), while other children in the scenarios were on the yellow team (making them

out-group). In each scenario, interviewers asked study participants whether they were willing to forgive a group that left them out of a game or activity.

There were three main findings. First, children are more likely to forgive someone if they have apologised. Second, children are more likely to forgive people who are "in-group." Third, the more advanced a child's Theory of Mind skills is, the more likely they are to forgive others.

"We found that kids have sophisticated abilities to forgive others. Children are capable of restoring relationships with others, and are usually interested in doing so," Mulvey said.

The researchers identified two things that parents and teachers may want to focus on related to forgiveness. One is helping kids understand how important it is to apologise in a meaningful way.

"Children are capable of discerning an insincere apology, and insincere apologies were not conducive to encouraging forgiveness," Mulvey said. "The apology needs to make clear that someone understands why what they did was wrong. This, in turn, makes other kids more likely to give them a second chance," Mulvey added.

The second focus area is helping kids understand the perspectives of other people, even if they are different from you. "One of the biggest implications of our study is that teachers and parents need to actively help children cultivate theory of mind skills," Mulvey said.

"A good starting point is getting kids to explain the rationale behind their actions and how this might make other people feel. Helping young people develop these skills in childhood will aid them in navigating a diverse and complex world," Mulvey concluded.

'Parents Can Influence Children's Study Options'

Agencies

If one of your parents has studied STEM (science, technology, engineering or math) there is a high chance that you will too choose one of these options for graduation, according to a study.

The research has been published in the 'Social Science Research Journal'. Sociology researchers -- second-year doctoral student Ned Tilbrook and associate professor Dara Shiffer -- found that students whose parents had a bachelor's degree in STEM are not only more likely to choose and persist in a STEM major than students whose parents had no bachelor's degree, but they are also significantly more likely to choose and persist in a STEM major than students whose parents had graduated with a degree in some other field.

Tilbrook and Shiffer call this STEM-specific cultural capital. They suggested that parents passed it on to their children through a variety of ways: engaging in activities or conversations on scientific topics; fostering a home environment that values STEM and thereby ingraining the values, attitudes and academic work habits needed to succeed in

STEM fields; and encouraging their kids to participate in math- and science-focused extracurricular activities. What happened at home then had an impact on their experience at school with teachers rewarding them with more challenging work, leading to good grades, higher test scores and ultimately degrees.

Tilbrook added that parents with STEM degrees may be better suited to communicate the value of STEM majors and prepare their children for common barriers along the way such as the so-called "weeding-out" introductory science courses in college.

"Talking to faculty in STEM fields, they have this idea that it all happens meritocratically where people who have the most natural ability end up in a STEM major and do well in it," Shiffer said. "But social inequality does play a factor in who majors in STEM and who does well in STEM," Shiffer added.

Shiffer said that schools -- both K-12 and higher education -- need to fill in the gaps and provide the kind of knowledge and confidence needed to succeed in STEM. "STEM majors shouldn't only be accessible to kids whose parents also majored in it," she concluded.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Haroon Rashid Malik S/O Nazir Ahamad Malik R/O Shergund Tehsil Shangus got married with Urfee Jan D/O Mohd Rajab Rather R/O Hardpora Tehsil Kokernag District Anantnag on 08-09-2021. Now I have applied for issuance of Marriage Certificate. If any body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tehsil Office Shergund within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

RNA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Abdul Rashid Gojwari S/O Ghulam Rasool Gojwari R/O Daribal Naidkadal, Bearing Passport No. H9029225, want to include my cast Gojwari in my new passport which is missing in my current passport. as all my legal documents like Adhar card, voter ID etc. already have Gojwari included in them with my name. In This regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file the same in the office of passport office Srinagar within the period of 07 days from the publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب: محمد یوسف گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ بلار ہاہمہ بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|-------|
| 1 | محمد یوسف گوجرکھانا ولد احمد اجمل | 70 سال | عمر رسیدہ | |
| 2 | بی بی خیرازہ زوجہ محمد یوسف | 65 سال | عمر رسیدہ | |
| 3 | عاشق حسین ولد محمد یوسف | 30 سال | مزدوری | |
| 4 | بی بی طاہرہ زوجہ عاشق حسین | 28 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 5 | فائل حسین ولد عاشق حسین | 08 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 6 | کالیات حسین ولد عاشق حسین | 05 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 7 | حادیہ بی بی زوجہ عاشق حسین | 01 سال | شیر خور | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار ساگام معنون درخواست منجانب:۔ باسط غزوار ولد غزوار احمد مگر ساکنہ باڑ پورہ بفرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ایک وارڈاریا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں غلط فہمی سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ ہذا میں ترقی پزیر ہونے سے باہر باقی ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام افراد کنبہ | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--------|------------|-------|
| 01 | گلزار احمد ولد حسن مگر مگر | 47 سال | ملازم | LPC |
| 02 | دمیدہ بانو زوجہ گلزار احمد مگر مگر | 44 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 03 | مسئہ گلزار احمد مگر مگر | 21 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 04 | باسط غزوار ولد گلزار احمد مگر مگر | 19 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 05 | فیضان گلزار احمد مگر مگر | 16 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 06 | عدنان گلزار احمد مگر مگر | 14 سال | زیر تعلیم | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا درخواست بفرض حصول اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد انور گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | محمد ریاض ولد محمد کھانا | 50 سال | مزدوری | 6000/= |
| 2 | زیرینہ زوجہ محمد ریاض | 48 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | علیہ بی بی زوجہ محمد ریاض احمد | 22 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | عاقب علی ولد محمد ریاض احمد | 15 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 5 | عابد احمد زوجہ محمد ریاض احمد | 09 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 6 | سائیدہ بی بی زوجہ محمد ریاض احمد | 07 سال | زیر تعلیم | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ نائل فیاض پیر فیاض احمد ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | فیاض احمد ولد محمد کھانا | 45 سال | مزدوری | 6000/= |
| 2 | پروینہ زوجہ فیاض احمد کھانا | 30 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | نائل فیاض پیر فیاض احمد کھانا | 04 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | آمینہ بی بی زوجہ فیاض احمد کھانا | 03 سال | زیر تعلیم | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

Public Notice
I have lost the RC of my Vehicle Bearing Regd No- JK03K-8212. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Khurshed Ahmad Mir
S/O:- Mohammad Abdulhah Mir
R/O:- Tulkhan Bijbehara Anantnag
RNA

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ مہرل احمد کاس ولد قاسم ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | مہرل احمد کاس ولد قاسم کاس | 31 سال | مزدوری | 5000/= |
| 2 | دلشادہ زوجہ مہرل کاس | 29 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | مصطفیٰ مہرل کاس | 06 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | مہرل مہرل کاس | 04 سال | زیر تعلیم | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 45 سال | مزدوری | 6000/= |
| 2 | پروینہ زوجہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 40 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | ادیس اقبال ولد محمد اقبال | 08 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | افروزہ زوجہ محمد اقبال | 03 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 5 | مومنہ زوجہ محمد اقبال | 01 سال | شیر خور | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 35 سال | مزدوری | 6000/= |
| 2 | سغیہ زوجہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 30 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | اعتر علی ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 08 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | نادیہ زوجہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 06 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 5 | جعفر ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 02 سال | شیر خور | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 35 سال | مزدوری | 6000/= |
| 2 | رشیدہ زوجہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 30 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | پروینہ زوجہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 08 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | سغیہ زوجہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 06 سال | زیر تعلیم | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

Public Notice
I have lost the RC of my Vehicle Bearing Regd No- JK03K-8212. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Khurshed Ahmad Mir
S/O:- Mohammad Abdulhah Mir
R/O:- Tulkhan Bijbehara Anantnag
RNA

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ آدیس اقبال ولد محمد اقبال ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | محمد اقبال ولد محمد اقبال کھانا | 45 سال | مزدوری | 6000/= |
| 2 | پروینہ زوجہ محمد اقبال کھانا | 40 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | ادیس اقبال ولد محمد اقبال | 08 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | افروزہ زوجہ محمد اقبال | 03 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 5 | مومنہ زوجہ محمد اقبال | 01 سال | شیر خور | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت ساگام با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجاول ساگام درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا ساکنہ چوگام شارانار بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بفرض حصول ST سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ ریکارڈوائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

| نمبر شمار | نام ولدیت | عمر | پیشہ | آمدنی |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1 | محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 40 سال | مزدوری | 6000/= |
| 2 | شیرازہ زوجہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 35 سال | گھریلو کام | |
| 3 | امینہ اقبال ولد محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 04 سال | زیر تعلیم | |
| 4 | عاقبہ محمد اجمل گوجرکھانا | 02 سال | زیر تعلیم | |

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر درودان دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈزرنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA
نائب تحصیلدار۔

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کٹرہ

عنوان: محسوس درخواست طالب حسین دیوہ ولد غلام الدین دیوہ ساکنہ بانڈی بالا برادر عطا گئی لیکن پھر

اشتبہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں ریکارڈوائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نکتہ 11 ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکن اسلئے کا والد غلام الدین دیوہ ولد غلام الدین دیوہ ساکنہ بانڈی بالا موروث 1996 میں فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ ہے کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|
| پنجابی ٹیکسٹ بک پبلسٹری | گھریلو کام | 60 سال |
| طالب حسین پھرتوئی | مزدوری | 35 |
| عمید سعید پیر | مزدوری | 26 |
| پروینہ بیگم | گھریلو کام | 35 |
| سردوان | گھریلو کام | 40 |
| رفیق بیگم | گھریلو کام | 45 |

اسلئے عطا کو کوئی بھی افراد کنبہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا ایجنٹ کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض یا اعتراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معیار ڈزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار
ajj

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE
Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Abdul Basit Bhat S/O Abdul Rahim Bht R/O Handoo Handew Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle Bearing Regd. No. JK22 8068

(Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: -----
And Mr./Manzoor Ahamd Bhat S/o Abdullah Bhat R/O Vehil Shopian (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 mahindra & Mahndra Bank.
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 date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned.
No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.
No: ARTO/Spn/ -2021
Dated -12-2021
S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

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Make Comprehensive Plan To Overcome Traffic Jams In City: DC To Officials

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR:- In order to frame out an action plan to overcome traffic jams and ensure smooth traffic movement on city roads, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday chaired an officers meeting here in his office Chamber.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on various issues with regard to management of traffic system in Srinagar District including nuisance of wrong parking, roadside encroachments and issue of vehicles plying in contravention to actual route permits.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to formulate a comprehensive action plan and take immediate measures to overcome traffic jams to ensure better regulation of traffic movement within Srinagar Municipal limits particularly on heavy traffic routes.

The DC said it is multi agency efforts and directed SMC authorities, ARTO, Traffic and Police department to work in close coordination and act tough against traffic rules violators, who cause a lot of inconvenience to common people. He directed the officers to conduct a massive enforcement drive against wrong parking and roadside encroachments in Srinagar City.

He also asked to relocate street vendors from heavy traffic junction points which hinder smooth traffic ply. He stressed on the concerned officers to take all required measures to decongest the City roads to ensure smooth flow of traffic. He also directed to keep the provision of adequate parking spaces in crowded places and relocation of the roadside vendors to facilitate hassle-free movement of pedestrians.

Regarding illegal practice of vehicles plying in contravention to allotted route permits, The DC asked the concerned to look into the matter and ensure strict adherence to the existing norms to stop



Formulate a comprehensive action plan and take immediate measures to overcome traffic jams to ensure better regulation of traffic movement within Srinagar Municipal limits particularly on heavy traffic routes.

such violations.

The Deputy Commissioner also asked the ARTO to submit the list of approved Bus stops so that action is taken against the illegal traffic operations in the City.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Joint Commissioner SMC, G M, SSCR, Dy S P Traffic, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, ARTO, Tehsildar headquarter, besides Officers from Education, Police and other concerned departments. While representatives of various Transport Associations also participated in the meeting.

Remove encroachments around Hokersar: DC to official

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR :- Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Monday visited Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve, the largest bird habitat in the Kashmir Valley at Zainakote in Srinagar District and took stock of conservation measures being taken up there.

The Deputy Commissioner asked the department of Wildlife Protection to ensure completion of the demarcation process of the wetland. He also directed the revenue officials to launch a special anti-encroachment drive around the Hokersar Wetland to remove all illegal constructions along the Ramsar site of Kashmir Valley, which is also an abode to a myriad number

of migratory birds.

The DC also discussed seeking community support for conservation activities in the wetland for effective results and restoring past glory of the Hokersar.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that Hokersar is Wetland Conservation Reserve notified under Wildlife Protection Act with an area of 1354 hectares. He was also apprised about the salient features of Hokersar site, challenges to the wetland and mitigation measures being taken up. Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Wildlife Warden (Wetlands), Tehsildar Shalteng, Officers of Irrigation & Flood Control and other Officers, besides staff of Department of Wildlife Protection accompanied the Deputy commissioner during his visit.

Forest Fire At Shankaracharya Hills

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Fire erupted in a forest area in the upper side of Shankaracharya hills on Zabarwan mountain range in Srinagar.

Reports said that fire started in the forest area and flames were seen from areas lying adjacent to it. The Fire and emergency department rushed fire tenders to the forest area to douse off the flames.

When contacted, concerned officials said that an operation to douse off the flames has been started by the forest department and fire and emergency service department.

He said the cause of the fire will be ascertained after the flames are brought under control.

Div Com Mulls To Notify New Rates For Hotels, Houseboats, Taxis, Shikara

Agencies

Srinagar: Ahead of new year-2022, the Divisional Commissioner, P.K Pole Monday directed to explore ways to notify rates for upcoming 3-5 years with five percent annual enhancement.

The directives were that the rates proposed and implemented for Hotels, Restaurants, Houseboats, Taxis, Shikaras, and ponies shall be notified for the calendar year 2022.

Pole informed that possibility shall be explored to notify the rates for 3-5 years with five percent annual enhancement so that the rates are regulated in letter and spirit.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, further directed the concerned officers for the immediate finalisation of the rates and its implementations.

According to the minutes of the meeting of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pole further informed that complaints of non-regulations of rates in respect of Hotels, Restaurants,



Houseboats, Taxis, Shikaras, ponies are being regularly received which is giving bad name to the trade in the Valley.

The Divisional Commissioner directed Director Tourism and all Deputy Commissioners that rates proposed for Hotels, Restaurants, Houseboats, Taxis, Shikaras, ponies shall be put to

public domain through the website of the Tourism Department.

Besides, rates shall be available through print, electronic and social media. The valuable comments and suggestions proposed by the public shall be given due consideration.

Pole in a meeting also stressed that rates with regard to Hotels shall be proposed and fixed as category and season wise.

"Rates notified shall also be strictly implementable for those hotels having a chain of hotels through the country," Pole directed.

He also directed that for overcharging to be brought down, a rate list shall be erected near the taxi stands, bus stations, police stations, Tourist Reception Centres (TRSS), tourist destination entry and exit points.

The Director Tourism said that the proposal for the rates other than hotels have been framed, finalized and submitted to the Government for its approval—(KNO)

Five-day ATAL-FDP on '5G and IoT' Concludes at NIT

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: The five-day-long Faculty Development (FDP) course on 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) concluded on Monday at the Department of Information and Technology, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The FDP is a part of a massive country-wide rollout of training and learning opportunities sponsored by All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) through its Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy.

HOD Information Technology, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Sofi was the coordinator for the course. The resource persons for the courses were exceptionally experienced faculty members from reputed institutes of India.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Rakesh Sehgal said the theme of FDP is interesting as a topic is more relevant in the present scenario. It is evident that 5G will spur innovation across many industries and provide a platform enabling emergent technologies such as the IoT to become an integral part of our economy, he said.

"Adoption of 5G and the IoT is being driven by a number of factors, including increased demand from consumers, enterprises, and availability of more affordable devices," he said.

Prof Sehgal said now the technology

is so advanced, we can think of anything and then we can even produce that or use it for any purpose. Such workshops boost theoretical and practical knowledge about current technologies, he said.

In his message, Registrar NIT, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari also appreciated the IT Department for conducting FDP on a relevant topic. He said these sessions are the

Adoption of 5G and the IoT is being driven by a number of factors, including increased demand from consumers, enterprises, and availability of more affordable devices

need of the hour and will explore more in-depth knowledge to the participants.

Dr. Sofi said the resource persons for the course were exceptionally experienced faculty members from reputed institutes. FDP covered a wide range of topics on 5G and IoT. All sessions were highly useful for the faculty members and research scholars who participated in the course," he said.

Dr. Sofi informed that more than 100 participants had registered for the workshop from all over India. He said the objective of the course was to enhance the theoretical as well as practical knowledge of 5G and IoT technologies.

On inaugural day, Dr. Sofi presented his topic on 'Sensors and IoT' while Dr. Mohammad Ahsan Chishti Dean and Associate Professor at Faculty of Engineer-

ing at Central University of Kashmir presented his topic on 'IoT meets Big Data'.

On the second day, Er. Kalimullah Lone, research scholar delivered his lecture on IoT Big Data. It was followed by a lecture by Dr Muheet Ah. Butt Scientist D University of Kashmir on Databases in IoT and Dr. Hushmat Amin Kar from IT Deptt. Delivered his lecture on Fog- IoT

Environment.

On the 3rd day, Dr. Sofi delivered his lecture on 5G and IoT. It was followed by a presentation by Dr. Janibul Bashir Assistant Professor, IT Deptt, Er. Jehangir Ali delivered his lecture on 'Real-time Applications of IoT and 5G' and Dr. Iqra Altaf delivered her lecture on 'Industrial IoT (IIoT) and 5G'.

On the 4th day, Dr. Saniya Zahoor from KU presented her topic on 'Resource Optimization in IoT' while Dr. Majid Zaman Scientist D from KU delivered his topic on 'Data Analytics in IoT'.

On a concluding day, Sarvesh Kumar Singh AP, from Babu Banarasi Das University Lucknow delivered his lecture on Real-time Applications with Cloud (AWS) and it was followed by Dr. Prateek Aggarwal from LPU on Smart

City Applications.

Dr. Janibul Bashir, Dr. Iqra Altaf, Dr. Amritpal Singh, Dr. Prabal Verma, Dr. Shrabanti M., Dr. Hushmat Kar, and Jehangir Ali from the information technology department were the main organisers of the five daylong FDP event. (KNS)

KTA condole demise of Mrs. Tariq Masudi

Srinagar, Dec 13 (KNS): The supreme council of the Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) held a meeting on Monday to condole the demise of the wife of Tariq Masudi, who is the senior member of the Traders Federation Karan Nagar and proprietor Carp Parlour. In the meeting chaired by KTA president Ajaz Shahdhar that was attended by all members of the supreme council, the traders' community expressed shock over the sudden demise of Mrs. Tariq Masudi.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Maninder Singh, Fayaz Nadaf, Abdul Majeed, Tanveer Khan, Sajad Hyder, Shabir Shawl, Mehraj u din, Hilal Ahmad, Fayaz Darzi, Rafiq Ahmad, Nasir Ahmad, etc All the members prayed for the departed soul and expressed solidarity with Tariq Masudi in the moment of grief.

The members of the Traders Federation Karan Nagar including Wasim Aslam too offered condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul. (KNS)

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
 09 Jumada al-awwal
 1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 58
 ZUHR 12:25
 ASR 3:46
 Magrib 5:27
 ISHA 6: 52

This Day In History

- 557 - Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, is significantly damaged by a 6.4 magnitude earthquake
- 644 - Uthman ibn Affan (RA), companion of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), appointed 3rd Caliph of Islam
- 835 - Chinese Emperor Wenzong conspires with chancellor Li Xun and general Zheng Zhu to kill all the eunuchs, but the plot is foiled. Also known as the Sweet Dew Incident
- 867 - Adrian II begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 872 - John VIII elected as Catholic Pope
- 1774 - First incident of American Revolution - 400 attack Fort William and Mary, New Hampshire
- 1812 - The French invasion of Russia, led by Napoleon, officially ends with the French having lost as many as 530,000 people
- 1814 - The Battle of Lake Borgne in Louisiana: British victory over the United States
- 1862 - Battle of Kinston, fought in Lenoir County, North Carolina begins (Goldsboro)
- 1864 - War of the Triple Alliance: Paraguay invades the Brazilian province of Mato Grosso
- 1900 - Birth of Quantum Physics: German Physicist Max Planck presents a theoretical derivation of his black-body radiation law
- 1900 - France and Italy sign a secret agreement by which Italy recognizes France's right to exploit Morocco in return for France's conceding her the same right in Tripoli.
- 1927 - Iraq gains independence from Britain, but British troops remain
- 1962 - Mariner 2 makes 1st US fly-by of another planet (Venus).
- 1967 - DNA created in a test tube.
- 1971 - The Pakistan Army executes over 200 of East Pakistan's intellectuals during the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- 1977 - Egyptian & Israeli representatives gather in Cairo for first formal peace conference.
- 1981 - Israel annexes Golan Heights (seized from Syria in war of 1967).

From KO Archives

Hizb steps in as Huriyat leaders bicker

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hizbul Mujahideen on Tuesday asked separatist alliance Hurriyat Conference (APHC) to muffle the internal discord which has emerged since India declared a unilateral ceasefire in Kashmir.

Hizb urged leaders of the APHC, an alliance of social, political and religious groups, not to "sling mud" at each other.

Hizb statement came after several members of alliance criticised one of their leaders, Abdul Ghani Lone, for issuing a statement against non-Kashmiri militants.

Lone, viewed by New Delhi as a key player in initiating possible peace talks over Kashmir, said that foreign militants fighting alongside Kashmiri militants against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir could not take part in any political dialogue.

In present circumstances, the Hizbul Mujahideen does not doubt the sincerity of Hurriyat leaders and requests them that they should not sling mud at each other and doubt each other's intentions," Hizbul Mujahideen said.

"Hizbul Mujahideen urges leaders of Hurriyat to be cautious while issuing statements," it added.

Cracks within Hurriyat surfaced during a seminar on human rights in Srinagar at the weekend. The meeting erupted in acrimony with supporters of foreign militants and Lone supporters exchanging body blows.

Many lower rung Hurriyat activists including former chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, openly criticised Lone for issuing statements against "foreign militants" fighting Indian security forces in Kashmir.

Sowing division: Indian troops stopped offensive operations against separatist militants for the Islamic holy month of Ramadan from November 28. Most militant groups, which India says are supported by Pakistan, have rejected the temporary ceasefire.

However, Hizb which is dominated by local Kashmiri fighters rather than Muslim warriors from different countries gave a less strident response to the Indian initiative.

Analysts had said at the time of the ceasefire announcement that New Delhi could be trying to sow division within the ranks of Hurriyat to gain the upper hand. Latest developments show that if that was the strategy it may have worked.

While Geelani dubbed India's suspension of hostilities a sinister move to sabotage Kashmir's freedom struggle, other Hurriyat leaders have spoken more optimistically of a possible breakthrough in the decade-old insurgency.

Israeli PM Naftali Bennett Meets Crown Prince On First UAE Visit



Agencies

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan hosted Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in the first-ever public meeting between the United Arab Emirates' de facto ruler and an Israeli leader.

Bennett met Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan on Monday at his private palace, Israeli officials said, following the PM's arrival in the Emirati capital late on Sunday.

Bennett, who was expected to focus on trade links, according to his spokesperson, said his visit reflected a "new reality" for the region.

"In my opinion, this is ... the new reality this region is witnessing, and we are working together to ensure a better future for our children," he told the UAE's official WAM news agency.

Bennett's visit comes just over a year after the wealthy Gulf state forged diplomatic ties with Israel under a series of US-brokered deals known as the Abraham Accords.

The Israeli prime minister praised the peace agreement for establishing a "new, deep and solid structure for diplomatic, economic and cultural relations" in the re-

gion, WAM reported.

"The relations between the two countries have strengthened in all fields, and I am very satisfied with that, as many cooperation agreements were concluded in the fields of trade, research and development, and cyber security, health, education, aviation and more, I look forward to the continued development and consolidation of relations."

A statement on WAM said Sheikh Mohammed voiced hope for "stability in the Middle East".

Releasing photographs of Bennett and Sheikh Mohammed smiling and shaking hands, the Israeli leader's office described the meeting as "historic". Bennett was also scheduled to meet the UAE's technology and transport ministers during his visit, Israeli officials said.

Israel is also making a diplomatic push against renewed international talks with Iran over the Islamic republic's nuclear programme. Israel's ambassador to Abu Dhabi said the issue of Iran was on the agenda for Monday's talks.

While Bennett is the first Israeli prime minister to visit the UAE, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid made a landmark trip in June, opening an embassy in Abu Dhabi and a consulate in Dubai.



AN ILLUSTRATION PICTURE TAKEN in London on December 2, 2021 shows four syringes and a screen displaying the word 'Omicron', the name of the new coronavirus variant AFP

WHO: Omicron Poses 'Very High' Global Risk, Data On Severity Limited

Reuters

The Omicron coronavirus variant, reported in more than 60 countries, poses a "very high" global risk, with some evidence that it evades vaccine protection but clinical data on its severity remain limited, the World Health Organization says.

Considerable uncertainties surround Omicron, first detected last month in South Africa and Hong Kong, whose mutations may lead to higher transmissibility and more cases of Covid-19 disease, the WHO said in a technical brief issued on Sunday.

"The overall risk related to the new variant of concern Omicron remains very high for a number of reasons," it said, reiterating its first assessment of November 29.

"And second, preliminary

AND SECOND, PRELIMINARY evidence suggests potential humoral immune escape against infection and high transmission rates, which could lead to further surges with severe consequences,"

evidence suggests potential humoral immune escape against infection and high transmission rates, which could lead to further surges with severe consequences," the WHO said, referring to the virus' potential ability to evade immunity provided by antibodies.

The WHO cited some preliminary evidence that the number of people getting re-infected with the virus has increased in South Africa.

While preliminary findings from South Africa suggest that Omicron may be less severe than the Delta variant - currently dominant worldwide - and all cases reported in the Europe region have been mild or asymptomatic, it remains unclear to what extent Omicron may be inherently less virulent, it said.

"More data are needed to understand the severity profile," it said. "Even if the severity is potentially lower than for the Delta variant, it is expected that hospitalisations will increase as a result of increasing transmission. More hospitalizations can put a burden on health systems and lead to more deaths."

Further information was expected in coming weeks, it added, noting the time lag between infections and outcomes.

Risky Move Or Joyful Moment? Europe Divided As Vaccines Begin For Kids

Reuters

As Europe starts vaccinating younger children, countries are pursuing very different strategies in what will be a major test of parents' willingness to get their kids inoculated.

One region in Italy is sending in clowns and jugglers to clinics, France and Germany are targeting only the most vulnerable kids, while Denmark has been administering shots even before the specially-designed vials and syringes have arrived.

"Vaccination must be a game, a joyful moment when children can feel at ease," said Alessio D'Amato, health chief of the central Lazio region, in a video as he declared Dec. 15 "Vax Day" for children in the region.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the use of Pfizer-BioNTech's lower-dose vaccine on the 5-11 age group last month, following the go-ahead



for older children in May.

The first deliveries of the smaller paediatric vials will not arrive until Monday though. Timings for the rollout vary, but most countries are preparing to start getting shots into young arms a day or two after the first shipments arrive.

Belgium may not start roll-out until early January while the national authorities prepare to issue guidance.

Spain, which ranks among the world's most-highly immunized countries with 90% of people aged 12 or over fully vaccinated, will start inoculating younger children on Dec. 15.

Inoculating children and young people, who can unwittingly transmit COVID-19 to others at higher risk of serious illness, is considered a critical step towards taming the pandemic. In Germany and the Netherlands, kids now account for the majority of cases.

The roll-out comes as the European Union battles a major wave of infections, accounting for well over half of global infections and 50% of deaths globally.

Some 27 million 5-11 year olds are eligible for the vaccine in the bloc of about 450 million.

Parents Worry But a major hurdle will be winning over parents.

In the Netherlands, 42% of almost 1,800 parents with kids in the 5-12 age range said they would not get their children inoculated and 12% said they would probably decline, according to a poll by Dutch current affairs television programme Een Vandaag. Only 30% said they would get their kids vaccinated.

Saudi, Iranian Experts Discuss Security At Dialogue In Amman



Reuters

Saudi and Iranian experts took part in a security dialogue in the Jordanian capital Amman which discussed confidence-building measures between the regional rivals, Jordan's state news agency Petra reported on Monday.

A senior Iranian diplomat told Reuters that no Iranian official attended the session, which Petra said was hosted by the Arab Institute for Security Studies.

"What was held in Amman was not an official meeting. But of course such meetings between academics are useful to give better understanding about realities between the two neighbours," the diplomat said.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia on the security dialogue in Amman. Riyadh and Tehran started direct talks this year with four rounds held in Iraq. Diplomacy among academics from the two countries has taken place in the past.

Russian Teen Attempts To "Blow Himself Up" At School, Wounds 10 Children

Agence France-Press

MOSCOW: A Russian teenager tried to blow himself up at an Orthodox school in a 14th century convent outside Moscow on Monday, wounding ten children.

The attacker, an 18-year-old former student of the school, survived. He was taken into intensive care and had his leg amputated after suffering injuries, authorities said.

"The person who tried to commit suicide is in intensive care," a representative of the Investigative Committee, Olga Vradiy, told journalists.

Police and ambulances lined the red-coloured medieval walls of the convent, founded in 1360.

Russia has seen a rise in attacks on schools in recent years but incidents at religious premises are rare.

The interior ministry said the teenager entered "the Orthodox gymnasium next to the Vvedenskiy Vladychniy convent and blew himself up."

The convent is in the city of Serpukhov, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Moscow.

Ten children were wounded, said Ksenia Mishonova, the children's rights ombudswoman for the Moscow region.

"One teenager was hospitalised. The rest of the children are in hospitals in the Moscow region," she said on Telegram.

"There is no threat to their lives".

The Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said it opened a criminal case into attempted murder and the illegal handling of explosives.

Denis Ryabov, a pupil at the school, said he was praying with his classmates when the incident

took place. "I smelt burning, the teacher said there had been an explosion," he said as he left the convent accompanied by his mother.

"A door was blown off. Some children were crying."

The school has pupils from the ages of 7 to 16.

Bullying reports

State news agency TASS, citing a police source, said that the teenager wanted the device to go off during morning prayers, but it detonated at the entrance to the school.

Authorities said they were working to establish the motives behind the attack.

The Interfax news agency said the teenager could have wanted to take revenge for being bullied by nuns in the convent.

Vladimir Legoida, a Russian Orthodox Church spokesman, said the church will provide assistance to "all those affected."

"Wherever such attacks take place, they cause the same grief and desire to prevent this from happening in the future," he said in a statement on messaging app Telegram.

Since President Vladimir Putin first came to power in 2000, the Russian church has extended its clout on traditionally secular institutions such as schools, with lessons on religion and clerics lobbying for conservative textbooks.

In September, a student killed six people and wounded dozens on a university campus in the Urals city of Perm.

In May, a 19-year-old opened fire in his old school in the central city of Kazan, killing nine people.

In October 2018, another teenage gunman killed 20 people at a Kerch technical college in Crimea, the peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

WHEREVER SUCH ATTACKS TAKE place, they cause the same grief and desire to prevent this from happening in the future," he said in a statement on messaging app Telegram.

NEWS MAKERS

Putin Says He Drove Cab After Soviet Fall

Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the collapse of the Soviet Union spelled the end of "historical Russia," revealing he drove a taxi to make ends meet following the USSR's fall.

Putin, a former agent of the Soviet Union's KGB security services, who has previously lamented the USSR's fall, said the disintegration three decades ago remains a "tragedy" for "most citizens".

The comments, reported by state-run news agency RIA Novosti Sunday, were excerpts from an upcoming film by broadcaster Channel One, dubbed "Russia. Recent History".

"After all, what is the collapse of the Soviet Union? This is the collapse of historical Russia under the name of the Soviet Union," the Russian leader was cited as saying.

A loyal servant of the Soviet Union, Putin was dismayed when it fell apart, once calling the collapse "the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century".

Putin is sensitive to the perceived expansion of Western military ambitions



into ex-Soviet countries and Russia this week demanded that Nato formally scrap a 2008 decision to open its door to Georgia and Ukraine.

The end of the Union brought with it a period of intense economic instability that plunged many into poverty, as newly independent Russia transitioned from communism to capitalism.

RIA-Novosti, reporting from excerpts of the documentary, said Putin had revealed that he worked occasionally as a taxi driver to boost his income.

"Sometimes I had to earn extra money," Putin said. "I mean, earn extra money by car, as a private driver. It's unpleasant to talk about to be honest but unfortunately, that was the case."

Dubai 1st In World To Go 100% Paperless, Prince Cites \$350 Million Savings

DUBAI: Dubai has become the world's first government to turn 100 per cent paperless, the Emirate's Crown Prince, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has announced, pointing at savings of 1.3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours.

All internal, external transactions and procedures in the Government of Dubai are now 100 per cent digital and managed from a comprehensive digital government services platform.

"The achievement of this target marks the beginning of a new stage in Dubai's journey to digitise life in all its aspects - a journey rooted in innovation, creativity, and a focus on the future," said Sheikh Hamdan in a statement on Saturday.

"This accomplishment also reinforces Dubai's status as a world-leading digital capital and its status as a role model in designing government operations and services that enhance customer happiness," he said.

The US, UK, Europe and Canada have expressed plans to digitise government



operation on a larger scale, which encompass government procedures and citizen identifications. However, sceptics have argued its vulnerability to cyber attacks.

The Dubai Crown Prince said the government plans to implement advanced strategies to create and enhance digital life in Dubai over the next five decades.

"The new phase of Dubai's digital journey will enable and empower future governments to meet the expectations of the residents of a thriving smart city and provide them with renewed opportunities for prosperity, sustainable development, and happiness," he said. - PTI

Tesla's Elon Musk Named TIME Magazine Person Of The Year

Agence France-Press

WASHINGTON: Time magazine on Monday named Tesla founder and space entrepreneur Elon Musk as its person of the year, capping a roller-coaster 2021 for the technology magnate.

The brash South African-born 50-year-old with grand ambition overtook space race rival and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to become the world's richest person this year.

In October his electric car company's valuation soared above a trillion dollars, and throughout the year his company SpaceX has teamed up with US space agency NASA to launch various missions including smashing a rocket into an asteroid in a test run for redirecting any future Earth-bound space rock.

"Person of the Year is a marker of influence, and few individuals have had more influence than @elonmusk on life on Earth, and potentially life off Earth too," tweeted Time editor-in-



chief Edward Felsenthal in announcing the winner.

Musk has appeared ever-present in American culture in recent years. He has amassed 66 million Twitter followers and guest-hosted the famed late-night comedy show Saturday Night Live in May.

He speaks ambitiously about his interest in colonizing Mars, and plans orbital flights next year as part of SpaceX's planned American return to the Moon.

And he is known to move markets and the value of cryptocurrencies with a single tweet.

Where Is Much Touted Change In J&K After Art-370 Abrogation, Asks Omar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Monday said the change in Jammu and Kashmir as touted by the government after the revocation of the erstwhile state's special status in August 2019 was not visible and the entire region remained on the edge.

Addressing a workers convention at TRC ground in the north Kashmir's Kupwara district, the former chief minister also said people in J&K were in trouble and desperate for good governance.

"The touted change is not visible on ground in J&K. The entire region continues to remain on edge. Ever increasing gap between administration and people is the only discernible change on ground," he said.

Bureaucracy, on the other hand, is busy changing stripes amongst themselves leaving people to fend for themselves, he further said.

The development was only visible on social media hashtags and sponsored news, Abdullah said.

"Our state was split, our constitution discarded, our legislative council was abolished. The J&K cadre of all-India services' officers

was disbanded and merged with the AGMUT cadre. All this was done citing that Article 370 is the root cause of all evils plaguing the state.

The constitutional guarantees were eroded and its abrogation was made a perfect pretext for rescinding our constitutional status. All we are asking is that where is the much touted change?" he said.

The NC leader asked where is the era of development, investment, job extravaganza and inclusion that the people were promised beckons us.

"A new dawn is arising, we were told. Where is it?... It was said that whenever accountability was sought local politicians took shelter behind Article 370," he said.

Abdullah said people in J&K were in "trouble" and desperate for good governance.

Bureaucracy is out of touch with people. Civil administration has taken a direct hit as a consequence of a new undemocratic project that is in place in Jammu and Kashmir.

A change in the composition of the civil services after disbanding J&K cadre has only deepened the administrative inertia in the region.



SECURITY PERSONNEL leaving Rangreth area of city outskirts after killing two militants in a 'chance' encounter.

LG, Politicians Condemn Attack on Police

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and several mainstream leaders have condemned the Zewan attack on J&K Armed Reserve Police.

"Strongly condemn the cowardly (militant) attack on J&K Police bus in Srinagar. My homage to our brave martyred police personnel. We are committed to ensure that perpetrators are punished. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," Sinha posted on his official Twitter handle.

"Directed the concerned authorities to provide best possible treatment to the injured. I pray for their speedy recovery. Our police and security forces are determined to neutralize the evil forces of terrorism," he said in another Tweet.

National Conference

(NC) Vice President and former J&K chief minister, Omar Abdullah in a tweet condemned the attack and conveyed condolences to the bereaved families.

"Terrible news of a terror attack on a police bus on the outskirts of Srinagar. I unequivocally condemn this attack while at the same time send my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased & prayers for the injured," Omar tweeted.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti in a tweet said that the false narrative by Government of India about normalcy in Kashmir stands exposed.

"Terribly sad to hear about the Srinagar attack in which two policemen were killed. GOLs false narrative of normalcy in Kashmir stands

exposed yet there has been no course correction. My condolences to the bereaved families," Mehbooba tweeted.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) condemned the attack on a police vehicle and expressed grief over the loss of police personnel and injuries to several others.

The security situation has deteriorated to a large extent, Spokesperson said, adding that the government must take measures to prevent loss of lives.

CPI (M) senior leader and former Kulgam legislator, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami also condemned the attack and prayed for the speedy recovery to the injured policemen.

He also expressed solidarity with the families of slain policemen and said "we equally share their grief."

Tarigami Reaches Out To People Of Jammu, Ladakh For Restoring J&K's Special Status

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Reaching out to the people of Jammu and Ladakh to join hands with them, senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami on Monday said Kashmir-based People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is not a monopoly of a selected few but a struggle to restore the rights of the citizens of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Tarigami, who is also convener and spokesperson of the PAGD a coalition of six parties including National Conference, PDP and CPI(M) seeking restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status called for a dialogue among the people to pull out the region from

the crisis situation in the aftermath of August 5, 2019 development with the abrogation of Article 370.

"Leave the past behind and let us have a dialogue to move forward together. Why cannot the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh come together and listen to each other? We request all sections of society to come together and play their role to pull out the erstwhile state from the crisis situation," the CPI(M) leader and former legislator told reporters here.

Claiming that there is no road-map for Jammu and Kashmir with the present dispensation, he said the people need to prepare a road-map which is only possible through credible dialogue among them.

Misfire Injures Soldier In Kupwara

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An army man was injured in an accidental fire in Pharkiyani Gali in Kupwara, officials said on Monday afternoon.

They told GNS that Sepoy Gurpre

Singh, 24, of 6 Rashtriya Rifles was injured after getting hit in his right foot during post duty at 268 Infantry Brigade. The soldier, they said, was taken to 168 Military Hospital Drugmulla for treatment and is however said to be stable. (GNS)

Admin Retrieves 158-Kanal Encroached State Land

JAMMU: The district authorities on Monday retrieved 158-Kanal encroached State land during an anti-encroachment drive, here at village Shiba, Tehsil Nagrota.

A team of Revenue officers/officials headed by Tehsildar Nagrota/Dansal, Dhruv Gupta and Police team comprising SDPO Nagrota and SHO Nagrota retrieved the encroached state land measuring 158 kanal worth Rs. 7.5 crore as per the current stamp duty rates with khasra no. 241.

The retrieved state land also includes seven kanal land proposed for development of a playground of Government Middle School Shiba, which was handed over to school authorities.

Similarly, during the drive 6 illegal structures raised on the state land by the encroachers was also demolished during the drive.

Chief Secretary Reviews Functioning Of H&ME Department

Asks to launch a campaign aiming left out unimmunized children to achieve 100% coverage

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Health & Medical Education Department and took stock of the physical and financial targets achieved this financial year.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Director, SKIMS, concerned HoDs, Principals of all Medical Colleges and other senior officers of the Department attended the meeting.

At the outset, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department gave a presentation drawing a picture of the functioning of the Department in general, and achievements under various sectors in particular viz. Health Institutions including Medical Colleges, NHM, Emergency Covid-19 Response Package (ECRP), National Ayush Mission, National Aids Control Programme, healthcare infrastructure development and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

While discussing ECRP, Chief Secretary directed Principals of all Medical Colleges and Director, Health Services to ensure that the status report with respect to medical equipment like ventilators, beds etc. human resource, oxygen plants, Liquid Medical Oxygen is made available to the concerned authorities within a day, so that any issue identified, is addressed, or an alternate arrangement is made in time, to cater to any emergent situation.

The Chief Secretary observed that Jammu & Kashmir has made significant progress towards achieving 100% coverage in immunization of children as per the National Immunization Schedule, and asked the department to launch a campaign reaching out to the people with an aim to cover all left out children within a period of 3-4 months. The Chief Secretary further observed that considering 94% of births in the Union territory are institutional births, the department should explore to make the immunization record of each child digitally available, which can be extracted to an application like Digilocker.

With respect to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Chief Secretary asked the concerned Directors of Health Services to ensure that the payments under all schemes are made directly into the Aadhar linked bank accounts of the end beneficiaries timely, without any delay and backlog if any, needs to be immediately addressed. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned to ensure 100% saturation of Golden Cards under Universal Health Insurance.

While reviewing the status of the new Medical Colleges, the Chief Secretary directed that all Medical Colleges must be made fully functional by end March, 2022. He asked the Department to ensure that any issue related to infrastructure, equipment or manpower is addressed by that time.

J&K Ranks Second In India for NCD Screening

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir was adjudged as second best in Non-Communicable Diseases Screening in the country for which an award was presented by Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare to Mission Director, NHM, J&K Yasin M. Choudhary and his team at a National level event held to celebrate Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day at New Delhi.

On the occasion Sub Centre Health and Wellness Centre Sheikhpora, Block Shangus, Anantnag was also ranked the best Health & Wellness Centre and awarded.

Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Yasin Choudhary said that un-

der Comprehensive Primary Health Care the main focus is on universalization of health Care Services by providing affordable acceptable and quality Health Care Service at doorstep of every citizen.

Non Communicable Diseases being the common cause of Death among 30 years Plus Population, its early detection and timely treatment is the major focus under Ayushman Bharat- Comprehensive Primary Health Care. In this regard a special drive was launched for NCD Screening and Well-

ness activities under Azadi-KaAmritMahatsav from 16th November to 11th December 2021, where all the Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres actively screened 30-Plus

Population for Hypertension, Diabetes, and three leading Cancers (Oral, Breast & Cervical), he added.

A total of 3,09,541 persons were screened for Hypertension 2,94,592 for Diabetes, 2,51,758 for Oral Cancer, 1,26,564 for Breast Cancer and 42,866 for Cervical Cancer during the campaign.

The theme for UHC day this year is "Invest No One's Health Behind: Invest in health systems for all" The theme resonates with resolve to ensure that everyone in the country should have access to quality and affordable healthcare, closer to their homes. The event was organised by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with USAID.

India Needs Bold Prime Minister Who Can Hold Everybody Together: Dr Farooq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: India needs a bold" prime minister who can hold everybody together -- be it Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, or anybody -- not the one who divides people just for sake of politics, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Monday in a veiled attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at an event organised to unveil a book, titled "Furrows in a Field: The Un-

explored Life of H D Deve Gowda", the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said India will become strong only when people of the country are strong.

"India needs a bold prime minister, a prime minister who can hold everybody together, not divide (people) for politics, but hold India, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, anything (together). India doesn't need



Gowda was present at the event.

"Tragedy is every election has divided India and Indian people," Abdullah said, wondering "when will the day

divisions, he said while praising former prime minister H D Deve Gowda's term as the 12th prime minister of the country for his approach towards Jammu and its people.

"What is wrong with it?" he asked, adding "but look at the governance today, how we are segregated into small corners. And, then we want to make a strong India."

India will "never" be strong unless the people of India are strong, Abdullah said.

come when no longer will we be divided because of religion.

The NC leader said that he is a Muslim and has respect for all other religions as much as he has for his own religion.

"What is wrong with it?" he asked, adding "but look at the governance today, how we are segregated into small corners. And, then we want to make a strong India."

India will "never" be strong unless the people of India are strong, Abdullah said.

People feel Disempowered in Absence of Elected Govt: Bukhari

Agencies

RAJOURI: President, Apni Party, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari demanded restoration of statehood before assembly polls in J&K saying people are feeling disempowered in absence of an elected Government.

Bukhari was addressing a public meeting in Kotranka. He said "We want to assure the people of J&K that the Apni Party will not allow any kind of injustice with the people. The fear about the change of their status, apprehensions about demographic change will not be allowed to happen".

He said Apni party came into existence to protect the constitutional rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We met the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister and got a promise from them that no demographic change will happen in J&K. We got the protection of jobs and agricultural land in J&K," he said.

He said we believe that the people's rights should be protected constitutionally in J&K.

"Until the decision from the Supreme Court on special status comes, we consider the promises

made with us by the Government of India as temporary relief for the people of J&K."

"Apni Party will always continue to raise genuine demands of the people and work for the upliftment of their standard of life irrespective of regional discrimination," he said.

He said that the people have become disempowered after the snatching of statehood of J&K and it should be restored as early as possible before elections.

"We will try that the statehood is restored soon and elections are held for the empowerment of the people so that people elect their Government" he added.

He questioned the Government claims about providing employment. "The unemployment rate in J&K is more in comparison to other Union Territories or States. It is imperative for the Government to focus on providing employment to the educated youth in J&K".

The rally was also addressed by Vice President, Apni Party Ghulam Hassan Mir, Vice President, ChoudharyZulfikar Ali, State General Secretary, Syed Asgar Ali, State General Secretary, Vikram-Malhotra, Provincial President, Jammu, Manjit Singh and others.

CAT's Jammu, Srinagar Benches To Provide Speedy Relief To Govt Employees: MoS Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Hailing the high disposal rate of the newly created Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) benches of Jammu and Srinagar, Union minister Jitenendra Singh on Monday said they would provide speedy relief to central government employees on service matters.

While reviewing the functioning of these two benches along with CAT Chairman Manjula Das, the minister was glad to note that in a span of just 15 days, more than 100 cases were disposed of by the Srinagar bench, while the Jammu bench disposed of over 6,000 cases in over one year.

The Srinagar CAT Bench was inaugurated by Singh last month, while the Jammu bench was inaugurated by him in June last year, a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

The two CAT benches in Jammu and Kashmir deal exclusively with service matters of central government employees, it said.

Singh said it is the only Union Territory in the country to have two CAT benches and this signifies the impetus that the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives to Jammu and Kashmir and the well-being of its government officers and staff so as to keep them a motivated force which would ulti-

mately accelerate the development of the UT.

The minister said two benches for J&K will go a long way in not only reducing the burden of various courts, but would also provide to the persons covered by the administrative tribunals, speedy relief in respect of their grievances and service matters, the statement said.

It is worth highlighting that both the buildings of CAT at Jammu and Srinagar respectively have been allotted by the UT government, it said.

Singh said the jurisdiction of Jammu bench of CAT extends up to 10 districts of UT of J&K and one district Leh from UT of Ladakh, while the jurisdiction of Srinagar bench extends up to 10 districts of UT of J&K and one district Kargil from UT of Ladakh, the statement said.

The people-friendly reforms undertaken in the last seven years have benefitted the entire country, including the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, he said.

Singh said that more than 800 central laws, which were not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir earlier, have been made applicable after August 5, 2019 for the benefit of people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, so that they can enjoy the same rights as people in the rest of India.

One Day Workshop On Photography Held At IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: To continue with its efforts for inculcating practical knowledge within the students and push for skill-based teaching-learning mechanism, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) on Monday held a one-day Photography Workshop with award-winning photographer and educator, Showkat Nanda, who presently works

for The New York Times as a freelance photographer.

During the day-long workshop, noted photojournalist Showkat Nanda besides training the journalism students about the technical and aesthetic nuances of photography, exposed them to the cotemporary trends in the field. During his introductory speech, Showkat Nanda advised the students to aim for becoming brilliant storytellers through the medium of photography and look for meaningful and human-interest stories. Throughout the work-

shop, he persistently advised the students to put their souls into work while narrating visual stories through their photographs. "Visuals have a deep significance in our daily lives and a photojournalist must adopt a humanistic approach towards narrating a story through visuals to their audience" He said.

"How you contextualize your visual stories is very important", he added

While demonstrating the need to be closer to the subject in news photography, Nanda said, "We must always

strive to develop a personal connection with the visual story we are telling and if you don't know the subject in your frame well enough, you don't have any right to cover the subject at first place"

In the workshop which continued for the whole day, Nanda trained the students about fundamental technical aspects of photography which included composition, framing and lighting. Besides, the basic elements in photography, the nuances visual language were among the major themes of the workshop.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Test For Delimitation Is Now

A meeting of the Delimitation Commission is scheduled for December 20 in New Delhi, the first since Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an all-party meeting earlier in June. According to media reports, the Commission had completed its report and is likely to share it with all the five associate members, including three MPs from the NC and two MPs from the BJP.

Completion of the process of delimitation will be a significant development considering that it is supposed to pave the way for the restoration of statehood. During his recent visit to J&K, the home minister Amit Shah said the delimitation will be followed by Assembly elections, formation of the government and the subsequent statehood. The delimitation commission has already been in place for the last over a year.

It is not clear whether this statehood that would hopefully come after delimitation and the election would be full or a truncated one where the real power would vest with the governor. Such an arrangement, according to mainstream J&K politicians, would hardly be enough to make a redeeming difference to the existing state of affairs, as fundamentally there won't be much that would change on the ground.

The dilemma for Kashmir-based politicians is that they can't ever support the withdrawal of Article 370. Their politics and their relevance depend on this. But 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 the lifeblood of politics. Some newly floated parties are more unlikely to do so as they are part of an alternative political and civil society structure that has been set up to take place of the established structure.

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. There is but little hope that these parties will be allowed to publicly raise their issues with the intensity that they were used to doing before the revocation of Article 370. 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 their old-style political activity. That's a given. But much will also depend on the delimitation of the seats and who will benefit from it.

O T H E R O P I N O N

WHO's Message

Two weeks after the South African medical authorities alerted the world about the Omicron variant of SARS-COV2, there's no clarity about the magnitude of the threat posed by the latest mutation to the pathogen. While early reports indicate that the variant causes mild infections, there are understandable fears about its transmissibility and potential to evade vaccines. Travel restrictions have not stopped Omicron from dispersing in more than 50 countries. The WHO has criticised such restrictions but at the same time, its officials have talked about the highly infectious potential of the virus. Instead of exercising a calming influence, the premier health body's messaging on Omicron seems to have added to the sense of uncertainty.

At different points in the past two weeks, WHO officials have given statements that make joining the dots difficult. For instance, they have said that Omicron could "change the course of the pandemic", and it could lead to vaccine hoarding. And, then revised their initial surmise about the transmissibility of the variant by saying that the "exact impact of Omicron is still difficult" to ascertain. Much of these discrepancies are, of course, because the science on Omicron is an evolving one and the global health body is right in underlining a safety-first approach, especially when it's about adopting the well-known Covid protocols, including masking and observing physical distance. However, the experience of the past two years shows that unequivocal messaging is amongst the key essentials of managing the social and economic fallout of the pandemic. The new variant has emerged at a time when the virus seems to be taking divergent trajectories in different parts of the world. Hospitals in large parts of the Western world are overburdened by the ravages of the Delta variant, while the pathogen seems to be at a low ebb in India, where schools and educational institutions are gradually beginning to resume physical classes. At such a juncture, it is critical that global health authorities carefully measure every statement against the prevailing science. The message of caution should be delivered while taking care to do nothing that might sound alarmist. It may not always be possible to avoid discrepancies in statements. But a careful explanation of the changed circumstances — the evolution of the state of knowledge, for instance — would do much to reassure people in a pandemic-weary world.

Since the SARS outbreak in the early years of this century, it has been evident that the world requires an efficient alert system when confronted with microbes that do not respect national boundaries. The WHO is the only agency equipped to take up this challenge. It must improve its ways of messaging.

Indian Express

Easier To Conquer Than To Rule

Parvez Karim Abbasi

Since the Taliban takeover of Kabul, the Afghan economy has been in free-fall.

There has been spiraling inflation, acute cash shortage, capital flight, and mass exodus of skilled personnel and policymakers. The annual \$2 billion worth of exports has all but dried up.

To further exacerbate matters, the US administration has frozen \$9.5 billion worth of Afghan forex reserves and the IMF has suspended nearly \$500 million worth of assistance.

A humanitarian crisis is in the making as per grim UNDP estimates, which projects 97% of the Afghan population to sink below the poverty line.

China, Pakistan, India, Iran, and Russia have all promised or committed to provide emergency humanitarian assistance, but this is only a stopgap measure.

Unfulfilled potential

Some experts believe that Afghanistan, due to its unique geo-spatial location and \$3 trillion worth of mineral reserves, can serve as a trans-boundary energy conduit and trade and connectivity hub.

There is also talk of China extending its \$62 billion CPEC initiative up north to link up with the Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

It is true that Afghanistan sits on top of 2.2 billion tons of iron ore, 1.3 billion tons of marble, 183 million tons of aluminium, 500 million tons of limestone, 2,700kg of gold deposits, 58 million tons of copper, sizable amount of hydro-carbon deposits, and a reliable source of lapis lazuli, emerald, and ruby.

There is also 1.4 million tons of rare earth minerals such as lithium, uranium, cerium, praseodymium and neodymium, which have diverse usage in the green energy transition.

Most of these mineral deposits are found in places such as Badakshan, Kandahar, Herat, Bamian, Nuristan, and Helmand province.

It is not surprising that the Taliban, prior to taking Kabul, earned about \$464 million from resource exploitation, as it controlled 280 out of the 710 mining zones.

Not so fast

However, what is on paper often does not translate into reality. The experience of the Chinese mining conglomerate, MCC is a case in point.

It had agreed to invest \$2.8 billion in 2009 to mine copper in Mes Aynak, in Logar province. The project has stalled ever since, due to a variety of reasons such as limited power, inadequate transportation infrastructure, poor connectivity, and endemic political instability.

Three of the mountain ranges converge in Afghanistan — the Hindu Kush, Pamir and Karakoram — which makes extraction of minerals prohibitively expensive.

Until there is adequate security in Afghanistan and substantial increase in price of construction and rare earth metals and adequate infrastructure and connectivity facilitation, these resources will remain largely untapped.

At least a decade or so is required for extraction of resources to be feasible.

Connectivity corridors



Taliban forces patrolling in front of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan on September 2, 2021 Reuters

Afghanistan is enviably located between South, West, and Central Asia. It can serve as an energy and trade and transit corridor and connect the energy rich Central Asian states to the rapidly emerging economies of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

It can serve as an energy and trade and transit corridor and connect the energy rich Central Asian states to the rapidly emerging economies of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

It does not want to be drawn in the Afghan quagmire like the Soviets and the Americans.

Then, there is India, which has already invested \$3 billion in Afghanistan and is trying to cautiously mend fences with the Taliban after backing the wrong horse in Kabul and being blindsided by the precipitous American withdrawal.

The hard part

Two facts are glaringly obvious. First, Afghanistan's neighbours and near neighbours have no choice but to engage with the Taliban (as possession is nine-tenths of the law) if they want to prevent a refugee crisis, rampant arms and drug trafficking, and spillover of religious extremism and ethnic separatism onto their own lands.

The second fact is that it is easier to conquer Kabul than to rule Afghanistan, replete with fractious ethnic groups and violent sectarian struggles and intervention from without. The reemergence of ISIS-K and splits within the Taliban leadership and reactivation of the various Tajik, Uzbek, Hazara and Ismaili militant groups is a sober reminder of that historical pattern.

It all points to an inescapable conclusion — Afghanistan, will not be able to reap its significant geo-economic potential in the foreseeable future.

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

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THEN, THERE IS INDIA, WHICH HAS already invested \$3 billion in Afghanistan and is trying to cautiously mend fences with the Taliban after backing the wrong horse in Kabul and being blindsided by the precipitous American withdrawal.

A raft of initiatives had been taken to leverage the geographical centrality of Afghanistan. All of these projects are in varying degrees of completion.

Foremost among them is the \$10 billion TAPI project, which comprises of constructing 1,800km of gas pipeline, starting from Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan to Herat and Kandahar in Afghanistan to Quetta and Multan in Pakistan and ending in Fazilka in the Indian Punjab.

The project was launched in 2016 and is expected to supply 33 billion cubic meters of gas to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. 816km of this line will pass through Afghanistan. Afghanistan was supposed to earn \$500 million in transit fees and net 5% of the total gas supply.

The Taliban authorities have expressed their willingness to honor the commitments of the outgoing government and to restart remaining construction work.

The Turkmen Foreign Minister, Rashid Meredov had recently visited Kabul to drum up support from the upper echelons of Taliban leadership and Pakistan, is also understandably keen for the TAPI Project to continue, in order to address its perennial energy crisis.

Along with this is the TAP 500 proj-

ect -- a 500 kilo volt, 700km line, that will transfer electricity from Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan. Under the old agreement, Afghanistan was supposed to earn \$110 million as transit fees and Kabul and Ashgabat will build 13km of railway link to fa-

Furthermore, there is the CASA 1000 electricity corridor, which includes Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Then there is the lapis lazuli trade and transport corridor, worth \$2 billion and funded by the ADB, which starts from western Herat and provides Afghanistan connectivity to Europe through Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey.

Whether ADB will choose to continue funding of this project, with the change in regime in Kabul remains to be seen.

Talks about China extending its \$62 billion in Afghanistan is also premature as it does not want to commit substantial resources in an environment of heightened risk and lack of security. China also is building a road through the Wakan Corridor to try to connect the restive province of Xinjiang with Gwadar port, thereby reducing its maritime dependence on the Malacca Straits.

This is why China is working in tandem with Russia, Pakistan, and Iran and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to engage with the Taliban and to prevent Afghanistan from



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Cabined Career Options

THE career choices given to a child by parents are cabined into two options-medical and non-medical. In Kashmir, as stereotype dictates parents either want their kids to become a doctor or an engineer, other than these two streams all the others are considered inferior. There is growing subject chauvinism in homes and schools whereby, the above-mentioned subjects are considered superior and other subjects are chosen only if the kids are not considered very smart. Growing up, I witnessed this stereotype very closely, my friends who were passionate about "humanities" were ridiculed by parents by saying "why did we send you to DPS, if you had to study arts", in this amalgam of superiority and ego, dreams are killed and students have to suffer by studying subjects they have no interest in. No subject is superior or inferior,

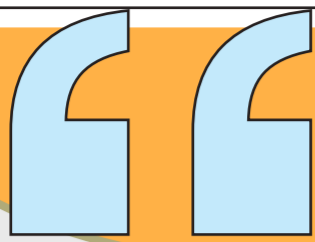
be it commerce or non-medical, be it medical or humanities, all the subjects are placed at the same pedestal of importance. The point worth discussing is not about the superiority and inferiority of subjects, but about the mindset and attitude of parents towards choices made by their kids. Parents and sometimes the family members put their decisions over the choices of their kids, these decisions often being demands coerce the students into giving up their passion and interest, resulting in eternal suffering in a hell loop made by bad decisions.

Parents have paramount importance in the professional growth and career decisions of students. Undoubtedly, parents wish to see their children prosperous and happy, and career choice is one of the elements that impact their happiness and success. Studies state that when children feel supported and

loved by parents, they have greater confidence in their abilities to explore occupations and select one that appears interesting and exciting to them. Choosing a career is a very significant step of one's life, it needs to be taken by keeping in mind the passion, interest, and aspiration of an individual. Parents can become stressed nevertheless, the decision taken by the child should be given utmost importance. Undue interference and coercion by parents might make the future terrifying and dark for the child. Future professional ambitions of children should not be dismissed by parents as it will halt the process of exploration. Encouragement should be given to children to enquire and study about their professional interests. It must be realized by the parents that their role is to facilitate the career journey of their child by allowing them to make

informed and smart choices about it. We have had enough doctors and engineers; our society is longing for students from different career fields. It is a famous myth that certain career options have no scope in Kashmir, but have we asked the question, why? Why do numerous degrees have no scope in Kashmir? This is because a very little part of the population pursues degrees in nonconventional and out-of-the-line career paths, if this percentage increases innumerable job opportunities would be created. A career choice is to be made after a self-assessment of an individual, by analyzing skills or values or interests, a career choice is not and should not be dependent on the scope of job in a particular area, parental or societal influence.

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THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT CURRENT Covid-19 treatment protocols and therapeutics would no longer be effective, with the possible exception of monoclonal antibodies, for which data on the omicron variant's susceptibility are not yet available



A NEW THREAT

OMICRON AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COVID VACCINE

Fayaz Ahmad Paul

Omicron, the SARS-CoV-2 variant responsible for a cluster of cases in South Africa and that is now spreading around the world and in India too, is the most heavily mutated variant to emerge so far and carries mutations similar to changes seen in previous variants of concern associated with enhanced transmissibility and partial resistance to vaccine induced immunity. On Nov 25, 2021, about 23 months since the first reported case of Pandemics Covid-19 and after a global estimated 270 million cases and 5.3 million deaths, a new SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern, Omicron, was reported. Omicron emerged in a Covid-19 weary world in which anger and frustration with the pandemic are rife amid widespread negative impacts on social, mental, and economic wellbeing. Although previous variant of concern emerged in a world in which natural immunity from Covid-19 infections was common, this fifth variant of concern has emerged at a time when vaccine immunity is increasing in the world.

The emergence of the alpha, beta, and delta SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern were associated with new waves of infections, sometimes across the entire world. For example, the increased transmissibility of the delta variant of concern was associated with, among others, a higher viral load, longer duration of infectiousness, and high rates of reinfection, because of its ability to escape from natural immunity, which resulted in the delta variant of concern rapidly becoming the globally dominant variant. The delta variant of concern continues to drive new waves of infection and remains the dominant variant of concern during the fourth wave in many countries. Concerns about lower vaccine efficacy because of new variants have changed our understanding of the Pandemics-19 endgame, disabusing the world of the notion that



EXISTING PUBLIC HEALTH prevention measures like mask wearing, physical distancing, and avoidance of enclosed spaces, outdoor preference, and hand hygiene that have remained effective against past variants should be just as effective against the omicron variant.

global vaccination is by itself adequate for controlling SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The first sequenced omicron case was reported from Botswana on Nov 11, 2021, and a few days later another sequenced case was reported from Hong Kong in a traveller from South Africa. The earliest known case of omicron in South Africa was a patient diagnosed with Covid-19 on Nov 9, 2021, although it is probable that there were unidentified cases in several countries across the world before. Covid-19 cases are increasing rapidly in the Gauteng province of South Africa; the early doubling time in the fourth wave is higher than that of the previous three waves. The principal concerns about omicron include whether it is more infectious or severe than other variant of concern and whether it can circumvent vaccine protection. Although immunological and clinical data are not yet available to provide definitive evidence, and can ex-

trapolate from what is known about the mutations of omicron to provide preliminary indications on transmissibility, severity, and immune escape. Omicron has some deletions and more than 30 mutations. For example 69-70del, T95I, N679K, and P681H overlap with those in the alpha, beta, gamma, or delta variant of concern.

The effects of most of the remaining omicron mutations are not known, resulting in a high level of uncertainty about how the full combination of deletions and mutations will affect viral behaviour and susceptibility to natural and vaccine-mediated immunity. The impact of omicron on transmissibility is a concern. If the overlapping omicron mutations maintain their known effects, then higher transmissibility is expected, particularly because of the mutations near the furin cleavage site. Various epidemiological evidence suggests that cases are rising in South Af-

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS on whether Covid-19 vaccines have consistently retained high efficacy for each of the four variants of concern preceding omicron, clinical trials have reported lower efficacy for some vaccines in transmission settings in which the beta variant is dominant

rica and that PCR tests with S-gene target failure are also rising. Although omicron is likely to be highly transmissible, it is not yet clear whether it has greater transmissibility than delta, although preliminary indications suggest that it is spreading rapidly against a backdrop of ongoing delta-variant transmission and high levels of natural immunity to the delta variant. If this trend continues, omicron is anticipated to displace delta as the dominant variant in South Africa.

In the absence of data on observational vaccine effectiveness and antibody-neutralisation studies on vaccine sera, preliminary data from the national PCR testing programme could provide some clues. Data on positive PCR tests in people with previous positive tests suggest an increase in cases of reinfection in South Africa. However, the increased use of rapid antigen tests and incomplete capturing of negative results have complicated the interpretation of test positivity rates, which have risen to about four times the previous rate in the past week. Notwithstanding this limitation, the increase in cases of reinfection is in keeping with the immune-escape mutations present in omicron.

Although there are conflicting reports on whether Covid-19 vaccines have consistently retained high efficacy for each of the four variants of concern preceding omicron, clinical trials have reported lower efficacy for some vaccines in transmission settings in which the beta variant is dominant. Previous variants have lowered vaccine efficacy; for example, the ChAdOx1 vaccine was 70% effective in preventing clinical infections for the D614G variant in the UK, but this efficacy

decreased to 10% for the beta variant in South Africa. However, the efficacy of the BNT162b2 vaccine in preventing clinical infections was retained across both the D614G and beta variants. Given that omicron has a larger number of mutations than previous variants of concern, the potential impact of omicron on the clinical efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines for mild infections is not clear.

Thus far, most Covid-19 vaccines have remained effective in preventing severe Covid-19, hospitalization, and death, for all previous variants, because this efficacy might be more dependent on T-cell immune responses than antibodies. In terms of diagnostics, the omicron variant is detectable on widely used PCR platforms in South Africa. There is no reason to believe that current Covid-19 treatment protocols and therapeutics would no longer be effective, with the possible exception of monoclonal antibodies, for which data on the omicron variant's susceptibility are not yet available.

Importantly, existing public health prevention measures like mask wearing, physical distancing, and avoidance of enclosed spaces, outdoor preference, and hand hygiene that have remained effective against past variants should be just as effective against the omicron variant. Based on data from previous variants of concern, people who are vaccinated are likely to have a much lower risk of severe disease from omicron infection. A combination prevention approach of vaccination and public health measures is expected to remain an effective strategy.

The author is Assistant Professor Centre of Excellence for Mental Health, Mumbai

Dial It Down

Why Wearable Fitness Trackers Aren't As Useless As Some Make Them Out To Be

Ben Singh

Wearable fitness trackers will be on many shopping lists this year, with a vast range of devices (and an ever-increasing number of features) hitting the market just in time for the festive season. But what does the latest research say about how effective they are?

Fitness trackers are trendy

Currently, many own one of these wearables, and about a quarter use a mobile app or website to monitor their activity levels and health. And sales are predicted to grow over the next five years.

The landscape of the market is fast changing. For years, Fitbit and Garmin were the market leaders. But many now favour Apple watches (used by 43% of people owning a wearable tracker) over Fitbit (35%) and Samsung watches (16%) over Garmin (13%).

So far fitness trackers have mostly been taken up by younger people.

However, manufacturers are on a mission to change this, by adding features that allow users to monitor not just their fitness activity, but several other aspect of their health.

For instance, recent wearable models from all the leading manufacturers claim to measure a host of medical metrics, such as blood pressure, body fat levels, the amount of oxygen in your blood, your heart activity, and even identify when you've taken a fall (with a feature that lets you call for help).

Wearables get the basics right

FIRSTLY, A MULTITUDE OF studies have looked at the accuracy of wearable fitness trackers for measurements related to physical activity, including step counts, heart rate and number of calories burned. They show step counts are generally highly accurate, while heart rate and calories burned are reasonably accurate

Firstly, a multitude of studies have looked at the accuracy of wearable fitness trackers for measurements related to physical activity, including step counts, heart rate and number of calories burned. They show step counts are generally highly accurate, while heart rate and calories burned are reasonably accurate.

When study participants wear two different activity trackers at the same time, the numbers of steps, minutes of activity and calories burned aren't exactly the same, but they are correlated. That is, when one goes up so does the other, and vice versa. This suggests they are generally capturing the same information, albeit with slightly different sensitivity.

Evidence for sleep tracking is a little patchier. Wearables are pretty good at detecting bed time, wake time and overall sleep duration. But estimates for more technical metrics such as the "phases" of sleep – such as REM sleep – don't marry with medical-grade measurements taken by polysomnography. Sometimes wearables go beyond the basics



In a 2019 Apple-sponsored study reported in the New England Medical Journal, 419,297 participants without known atrial fibrillation wore an Apple Watch. During the study, 2,161 of them received an irregular pulse notification, of which 84% were subsequently confirmed to have atrial fibrillation (an irregular and rapid heart beat).

This is a serious medical condition that requires treatment to prevent stroke. The ability to alert users of a potential undiagnosed cardiac condition seems highly beneficial. Although, others have cautioned the Apple Watch can also miss cases of undiagnosed atrial fibrillation – which emphasises the importance of never relying on wearable metrics for medical purposes.

Another study published in September reaffirmed the Apple watch's electrocardiogram feature can detect serious cardiac irregularities. A similar study is currently underway to evaluate Fitbit's electrocardiogram feature, but results aren't out yet.

Building a more advanced tracker

criticism was made of electrocardiogram measurements from wearables – and these have subsequently shown to have merit.

Evidence says your effort will pay off

So that's the run down on accuracy, but do fitness trackers make a difference in people's lives?

Hundreds of studies have used wearable activity trackers to try to increase physical activity in various general and patient populations. Meta-analyses (which involve combining results of multiple studies) suggest the devices are effective in helping people become more physically active and lose weight.

A meta-analysis of 35 studies in various chronic disease populations suggested users added around 2,100 additional steps per day after they started using a wearable activity tracker. Other meta-analyses have suggested weight loss in the order of 1 to 1.5 kilograms, on average, over the duration of the studies (with the duration varying between studies).

And studies that look specifically at step-tracking over long periods suggest the benefits gained are still present (although smaller) up to four years after the device was first worn.

Accuracy and effectiveness aside, wearable users typically report being satisfied with their devices. So if you happen to get one in your Christmas stocking this year, keep in mind it could help with those New Year's fitness resolutions.

The authors are Research fellow, University of South Australia and Professor, Medical Research Future Fund Emerging Leader, University of South Australia. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

Can Personality Traits Improve Without Personal Motivation? Study Investigates

Agencies

A new study has found that attempting to improve someone's emotional stability without their commitment is not likely to happen.

The research has been published in the 'Journal of Research in Personality'.

A growing body of studies suggested that personality traits can be changed through intervention. As a recent study conducted by SMU psychology professor Nathan Hudson noted, personality traits are linked to a wide range of life outcomes, such as relationship quality and occupation success.

The goal of his recent research was to test two theories; that successful personality intervention may require that the participants choose which traits they change and that they be actively invested in changing the target traits.

He found that conscientiousness - the ability to be responsible, hard-working and organized - could be improved even if participants were not motivated to change. Completing a series of tasks over a regulated period was found to change habits and therefore improve conscientiousness.

But emotional stability was a different matter: study participants only got better at handling difficult situations if they chose to work on their emotional stability. Otherwise, tasks they were given over four weeks proved to be ineffective.

"This provides promising evidence that schools, companies, or other organizations could ask people to make relatively minor changes that could help improve their lives by making them more organized and responsible over time," Hudson said.

"In contrast, it appears that emotional stability might require a bit more investment from the people who partake in an intervention," Hudson added.

Hudson stressed that this research isn't about trying to control people.

"The idea of personality trait change - especially other



The idea of personality trait change - especially other people trying to change an individual's personality - can sound scary. But whether we recognize it or not, society is filled with interventions designed to try to change our personality traits

people trying to change an individual's personality - can sound scary. But whether we recognize it or not, society is filled with interventions designed to try to change our personality traits," he said.

"For instance, elementary school is a giant intervention designed to help children become more intelligent, yes, but also kinder and more sociable, responsible and hardworking," he said.

Previous research by Hudson and other psychologists had shown that people who actively worked to change aspects of their personality were, in many cases, successful in achieving the results they desired.

But before now, it wasn't clear if a person could have successful results if they didn't choose which personality trait they were looking to change and weren't invested in making that change.

Hudson conducted two separate studies to answer that question. Each lasted four months.

In the first, 175 college students were randomly assigned to change either conscientious-

ness or emotional stability. They were then given their choice of tasks to improve that personality trait. For instance, those who were selected to work on being more conscientious were given challenges like "organize and clean your desks" or "make a list of tasks you would like to complete."

The second trial had more than 400 college students at several universities choose which trait they wanted to work on. Yet, unbeknownst to them, half of the participants were randomly assigned to receive challenges targeting a characteristic that they didn't choose.

In both studies, the students' personality traits were measured before and after tasks were assigned using the 44-item Big Five Inventory test that is standard among psychologists.

Hudson found that students who completed more tasks for conscientiousness-building tasks saw an improvement, even when they were not aware of why they were assigned the tasks. But for those who did not

choose to work on emotional stability, the challenges were entirely inert - or even made that trait worse.

Hudson suspected that the reason people must be motivated to change emotional stability is that this trait dealt with negative emotions.

"For many people, it can be difficult to just stop feeling angry or just stop being stressed," he said.

"My hunch is that indirect strategies for changing someone's emotions, such as writing in a journal or thinking about positive things, can only really work when people want to use those techniques to change their emotions," he added. Conscientiousness, on the other hand, can be easily faked and increased over time through mechanical acts, like cleaning your room or using a calendar.

"Motivation is largely irrelevant to interventions targeting conscientiousness, as long as participants adhere to the intervention," Hudson concluded.

'How You Speak Up At Work Can Affect Whether You Are Picked For Team'

Agencies

Suggesting a creative idea or a more efficient way to work can help companies overcome challenges and meet goals. New research shows more subtle and often overlooked form of speaking up has a big effect on the way work gets done and how teams come together.

"What we say within a group, the ideas we suggest and the way we support others signals something about who we are to our coworkers. It can attract people to us or repel them," said Melissa Chamberlin, assistant professor of management and entrepreneurship at Iowa State University, and co-author of a paper recently published in the Journal of Management.

In the paper, Chamberlin and her research team demonstrate how two different ways of communicating work-related issues shape reputations and affect the formation of teams to complete short-term projects. They found people who use a "supportive voice," which fuels trust and cooperation, have a higher chance of being recruited to a team compared to those who use a more task-oriented "challenging voice."

Challenging voice pushes back against the status quo and offers ideas for improvement. While it has some downsides, such as perceived criticism or conflict, a challenging voice tends to signal an employee's competence or expertise. Chamberlin said managers, especially in dynamic and fast-paced industries, often value this communication behaviour as something that can help teams complete tasks efficiently and effectively.

"Supportive voice is still about speaking up in the workplace, but it's looking at what's going well in the group or team. It might defend the status quo by saying there's value in what the team is already doing," said Chamberlin.

A supportive voice signals someone's approachability and trustworthiness. It fosters strong interpersonal relationships, which Chamberlin said affects a team's ability to communicate and coordinate efforts in order to reach goals.

To understand the effects of the two communication behaviours on team formation, the researchers collected data

from a cohort of full-time, first-year Master of Business Administration students over a four-month period.

The students were periodically assigned to different teams to complete projects and then asked to rate fellow team members' use of challenging and supportive voice, quality of work, reputation and trust. Near the end of the study, students were allowed to assemble into teams without any direction



from the MBA office.

The study results revealed students who ranked high on challenging voice built a reputation for conducting high-quality work, but students preferred to work in teams with those who frequently used supportive voice. Chamberlin said the results were surprising.

"Because challenging voice is the predominant form of speaking up we encourage in classrooms and as managers, we thought it was going to be a strong driver of people selecting team members later. But as it turns out, this more supportive voice that helps establish relationships and a sense of trust amongst individuals in the group was more important," Chamberlin said.

The researchers pointed out that having both types of voice would be ideal, but between the two, supportive voice was a stronger driver of team formation.

Chamberlin said the paper's findings could help employees realize the way they speak up can have a strong effect on informal teaming up at a later point and help them move into leadership roles.

As for managers, Chamberlin said the results could encourage them to foster and provide space for a more supportive voice by coaching this type of behaviour and rewarding employees who speak up supportively.

Study Finds Children's Expression Exhibit Poor Sleep

Agencies

A new study by the University of Houston, examined whether changes in children's facial expressions of emotion after sleep restriction predicted social problems concurrently and/or over time.

The research has been published in the 'Affective Science Journal'.

"Sleep problems in children are routinely linked with lower social competence and more problems in peer relationships, but we really don't understand what drives these associations," reported Alfano.

Based on findings from some of her prior research, Alfano hypothesized that the answers might partly lie in the ways children's faces express emotions when tired.

To test this theory, Alfano and colleagues examined 37 children between the ages of 7 and 11 during two in-lab emotional assessments; one when children were well-rested and another after two nights of partial sleep restriction. During these assessments, children viewed positive (think kittens and ice cream) and negative (think getting a shot and ferocious dogs) pictures on a computer

screen while a high-definition camera recorded their facial expressions. Participants' parents provided reports of their child's social functioning at that time and approximately two years later.

"As we suspected, children who displayed less positive facial expressions in response to pleasant images when sleep-restricted were reported to have more social problems two years later, even when controlling for earlier social problems," said Alfano.

Although concurrent relationships between sleep-based changes in facial expressions and social problems were not found, Alfano suggested that this may be due to developmental differences in social behaviour and peer relationships.

"For younger children, more explicit behaviours such as sharing and taking turns may be more important for friendships than subtle facial expressions. However, emotional expression becomes more important with age," explained Alfano.

"Facial expressions not only provide others with an understanding of how you are feeling but are known to have a contagion effect on how others feel," she said.

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: - Provisional Selection list for admission to PG Diploma Course in Rehabilitation Psychology -2021 at CRC Srinagar, third list thereof.

Reference: - Notification No. 133-BOPEE of 2021 dated 26-11-2021.

**Notification No: 145-BOPEE OF 2021
DATED: 11-12-2021**

Consequent upon the receipt of shortfall from Composite Regional Centre, Srinagar, after the last date of joining of candidates pursuant to Notification No: 133-BOPEE of 2021 dated: 26-11-2021, the candidate figuring below has been provisionally recommended for admission to PG Diploma Course in Rehabilitation Psychology at CRC, Srinagar.

| S No | Name | Father Name | Grd. %age | PG %age | Weightage @90% on eligibility in grad. | Weightage @90% on eligibility in Post-grad. | Add. Points for higher qualification | Total Score | Rank | Eligibility determined on |
|------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Bilal Magbool Mir | Mohd Magbool Mir | 65.70 | | 59.13 | | | 59.13 | 23 | BA |

The above provisionally selected candidate is advised to report the Composite Regional Center for admission upto 16th December 2021 along with all necessary documents for verification and further scrutiny by the said Centre who shall allow him to join only on production and verification of original requisite certificates including Domicile certificate of the candidate.

In case the above mentioned candidate fails to take admission against this Notification, a waiting list of the following candidates shall be operative for admission by the center: -

| S No | Name | Father Name | Grd. %age | PG %age | Weightage @90% on eligibility in grad. | Weightage @90% on eligibility in Post-grad. | Add. Points for higher qualification | Total Score | Rank | Eligibility determined on |
|------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|---------|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Nahida Noor | Noor Mohammad Mir | | 65.23 | | 58.71 | | 57.71 | 24 | MA |
| 2 | Mehmaz Bano | Abdul Qayoom Parry | | 64.69 | | 58.22 | | 58.22 | 26 | MA |

The candidates in the waiting list shall report to the college for admission on 17-12-2021 at 10:30 A.M only. The Director of the center shall admit only one of these two candidates on the basis of merit and complete the admission formalities in case any shortfall only on that day.

The CRC shall forward list of admitted candidates along with shortfall, if any, to the BOPEE on 18th December, 2021 (upto 02:00 P.M) through e-mail.

E & OE
(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No. BOPEE/Exam-25/2021
Dated: 11-12-2021
DIPK-NB-5811/21

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

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Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: - Provisional Select List of eligible candidates for admission to GNM (Lateral Entry) courses-2021 during Mop up Round of physical Counselling.

Reference: - Notification No.142-BOPEE of 2021 dated 08-12-2021.

**NOTIFICATION No: 146-BOPEE OF 2021
DATED: 11-12-2021.**

Pursuant to Notification No. 142-BOPEE of 2021 dated 08-12-2021, the Board conducted 3rd round of up-gradation/ allotment (Mop-up) physical counselling of eligible candidates who had applied for GNM (Lateral Entry) courses 2021 on 11-12-2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seats as per their merit-cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to GNM (Lateral Entry) Courses-2021 in various Colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f. 13-12-2021 to 20-12-2021 (03.00 PM) along with following documents/ certificates:-

1. Mark Cards of FMPHW/MMPHW/ANM.
2. Date of birth Certificate of 10th Class.
3. Domicile Certificate
4. Category Certificate, if any
5. Medical fitness certificate,
6. Any other certificates/ document as required by the College Authorities.

The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions up to 20th of December-2021 positively.

It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents/ eligibility as per Indian Nursing Council (INC) guidelines before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents the same shall be reported to the Board for further course of action under rules.

In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (20-12-2021) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holidays/ off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities since delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only.

Further, due to non-availability of eligible reserved category candidates in the Govt. Institutions against below mentioned categories, the Board, as provided under Proviso to Section 9(2) of J&K Reservation Act, 2004, converted 13 (thirteen) seats into Open Merit and filled up the same amongst the available eligible OM category candidates. The details of 13 category seats converted into OM are:- ALC:-04 seats, CDP:- 03 seats, SP:-02 seats, JKPM:- 01 seat & PSP :- 03 seats.

The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com /jakbopee@gmail.com/coejakbopee@gmail.com on 21st of December-2021 (upto 04.00 PM).

Note:

1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under Law shall be initiated against such candidate(s).
2. The Concerned Colleges/Institutions shall ensure that, any person with disability, if selected in open merit or some reserved category, constitute a special Medical Board to assess such candidates and make recommendations based on which colleges shall take further necessary action. In case any such candidate does not fulfill the bench marks of eligibility, he/she shall not be admitted to the course/ college and the matter shall be reported to the BOPEE.
3. For fee / documents required for admission in the College/ Institute, the provisionally selected candidates are advised to contact concerned College, Institute before the last date of admission as fixed by Board.
4. The Heads of Institutions are advised to release the documents and fee deposited by the candidates who have upgraded from one stream to other stream as per circular issued by J&K Paramedical Council or upgraded and shifted from one Institute to other, without any loss of time.
5. The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in e- information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time.

E & OE
No. BOPEE/Exam-10/2021
Dated: 11-12-2021
DIPK-NB-5812/21
(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

GI Tagging For Kashmiri Carpets To Begin Soon: Dir I&C



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Director Industries and Commerce, Mahmood Ahmad Shah on Monday said that department will launch GI tags for the Kashmiri carpets soon which will restore customers' confidence, besides protecting authenticity of artisans.

Shah said that the department will be launching GI tagging for Kashmir carpets within a week as the stamp trial is under process, according to news agency KNS.

He said that GI tags will restore customers' confidence in the authenticity of the carpet. "In the past two years exports of handicrafts have lessened so the department has launched a new scheme of 10% incentives for exports in order to increase export sale. 10% incentives will be provided on the export sale of Pashmina shawls and Kashmiri carpets, by virtue of this scheme and GI tags, the department is hoping that export sales will again be increased."

Replying to a question about Pashmina Shawls, Shah said that the department has started GI campaigning since last 6-7 months. "Earlier, 500 Pashmina Shawls were given GI tags per month which provided confidence to customers that the purchased commodity is authentic, but in the last month due to campaigning for GI tags, about 1500 Pashmina shawls were given GI tags. Due to the promotional campaigning, people now are getting aware about the importance of GI tags in protecting a artisan."

He said that the department recently has blacklisted a handicraft dealer because the dealer was selling machine made carpet in the price range of hand made carpet. "I want to aware

people not to misbrand hand made carpets. The department will take strict action against the defaulters," he said.

Shah further said that the new land allotment policy has been started by the department and they have taken applications of land allotment through online portal. "Over 2500 applications are from Kashmir and according to our yardstick 40 marks investment would be given per kanal of land and rest 40 marks are given for employment generation and rest of the numbers are also given for green, red and orange areas."

He said that additional numbers are allotted for women entrepreneurs and ex-servicemen. "Based on all these parameters, the department scrutinises the projects. Earlier people complained of bias in the first come first serve basis policy. So the department has kept this policy aside and according to our new industrial policy online portal system has been made transparent for the benefit of people," he informed.

He said that the applications are scrutinised on the basis of investment and employment parameters.

Shah said that the majority of the land applications are from the locals as they have done investments here and better understand the working environment of Kashmir, and locals can easily tackle difficulties which are being faced in the Valley. "People are more interested in manufacturing sector and the department is trying to promote green industries so that natural environment could also be preserved," he said.

Shah said that the department has got the UNESCO tag and they are trying to design craft doors.

"The department is looking for the areas where these designs can be made and is trying to establish a direct connection between the people and artisan," he said.

'J&K Saw Highest-Ever Tourist Footfall In November'



Tourism Deptt to promote tourism cooperatives for boosting tourism

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Monday chaired a meeting to review various activities being undertaken by the Tourism Department to highlight and promote new tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department along with MD, JK-TDC, Directors Tourism Jammu and Kashmir, Director, Culture Department, and concerned officers of the Department participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the tourism in Jammu and Kashmir has crossed the mark of highest tourist footfall in November when 1,27,605 tourists visited the Union territory in a single month. Moreover, to attract local and foreign tourists to the UT, the Tourism Department is organizing various roadshows across major cities of the country and raising awareness on the tourism-related events, activities, and destinations in Jammu and Kashmir.

These cities include Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, and Lucknow.

It was further informed that as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Department organized an iconic week celebration in the last week of October 2021, which included perfor-

mances on Hafiz Nagma, Kalam-e-Khusroo, Kalam-e-Baba Fareed, Qawwali, Baul Sufi folk, Darvish Sufi dance, and Haziri Kathak, besides literary seminar on Sufism and exhibition of local arts, calligraphy, Sufi traditions, and houseboat festival.

To celebrate 75 years of Independence, the Department is organizing 75 tourism festivals to promote 75 off-beat destinations. These destinations will be developed with proper infrastructure and requisite facilities to tap their tourism potential in collaboration with locals, youth clubs, and Panchayati Raj Institutions. The festivals organized so far are- Gurez festival, Monsoon festival, Patnitop & Kashmir, Lolab festival, Wular festival, Aharbal festival, Tosamaidan festival, and Verinag festival.

The Chief Secretary asked the Tourism Department to promote 75 new tourist places by developing comprehensive facilities in an integrated manner having adequate provisions of recreational activities, eateries, and restrooms.

Dr. Mehta asked the Department to preserve, restore, and promote the cultural and architectural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. He advised the Department to raise awareness about these places by organizing dedicated travel, trekking expeditions, mountain bike adventures, and stays around the identified sites. He advised the Department to promote tourism cooperatives for comprehensive tourism development through collective efforts of locals, youth, PRIs through Department-sponsored training, capacity-building, and

handholding.

In the winter months, the Department will further organize the Jammu festival, white water rafting championship, Christmas carnival, Winter Carnival, Gulmarg snow festival, Lohri festival, Mata Vaishno Devi Sangeet Sammelan, and several others, as a part of its calendar of activities under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The Department celebrated International Mountain Day on 11th December under the theme 'Sustainable Mountain Tourism' through several activities including a painting competition and exhibition, wall climbing event at Nowgam, Mountain biking expedition, and inauguration of Paragliding season.

The Chief Secretary asked the Department to actively promote wall and rock climbing sport throughout the Union territory, as there exists a huge potential on this account. He impressed upon the Department to strive for observing the most vibrant winter season this year with a special focus on the local and domestic tourists, now that the National Highway to the Kashmir valley has been upgraded.

To promote rural tourism, it was informed that specific activities will be organized along the identified rural circuits across Jammu and Kashmir, including Hokersar-Parishaspura-Gohan in Gulmarg, Waderbala, Nowgam Mawar-Lolab in Kupwara, Chari-Sharief-Doodhpathri-Yousmarg in Budgam Saderkoot Payeen-Watlab in Bandipora and, Bani-Basohli-Sarthal and Billawar Duggan in Kathua, among others.

Retail Inflation Inches Up To Three-Month High Of 4.91% In November



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation inched up to a three-month high of 4.91 per cent in November, mainly due to an uptick in food prices, government data showed on Monday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation, however, remained within the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank of India. The government has mandated the central bank to keep the inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent).

The annual CPI inflation was 4.48 per cent in October 2021 and 6.93 per cent in November 2020. It had eased from 5.3 per cent in August to 4.35 per cent in September and then moved up to 4.48 per cent in October.

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), inflation in vegetables segment was negative on a yearly basis. However, it was on the higher side as compared to the preceding month.

The rate of price rise in the 'oils and fat' segment was 29.67 per cent year-on-year. The inflation was, however, lower in November over October.

On the other hand, inflation in the fruit basket was higher in November over the preceding month.

Overall, inflation in the food basket was 1.87 per cent in November compared to 0.85 per cent a month earlier. However, it was significantly down from 9.5 per cent in November 2020.

With the Centre and state governments reducing taxes on

petrol and diesel, inflation in the 'fuel and light' segment was low on a sequential basis.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said the recent correction in prices of many food items other than tomatoes, has provided relief for the inflation trajectory, especially given the unfavourable base effects that lie ahead.

"In our assessment, as long as the CPI inflation remains within the target of 2-6 per cent, the Monetary Policy Committee and RBI will prefer to prioritise growth, and maintain policy support to impart durability and sustainability to the recovery," she said.

Morup Namgail, Head-Agriculture, IFSCO Kisan Sanchar Ltd said the comforting feature for the common man is the declining prices of vegetables on an annual basis, which to a large extent can be attributed to seasonal factors and decline in transport cost on account of reduction in prices of petrol and diesel.

The Reserve Bank, which mainly factors in the retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government to keep the inflation at 4 per cent with margin of 2 per cent on either side.

The RBI had last week said over the rest of the year, inflation prints are likely to be somewhat higher as base effects turn adverse. However, it is expected that headline inflation will peak in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal and soften thereafter.

Committee On MSP To Be Set Up 'Very Soon In Near Future': Agri Secy

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A committee on the minimum support price (MSP) and other farm issues, including the promotion of zero budget natural farming, will be set up "very soon in the near future", Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal said on Monday.

The Prime Minister has announced this. It has to be taken on a mission mode and the zero budget natural farming also. Very soon in near future, it (the committee) will be set up," Agrawal told the media here. Agrawal was briefing about a three-day national event with focus on natural farming to be held at Anand, Gujarat, from December 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address virtually the valedictory function on December 16. Gujarat Chief Secretary Pankaj Kumar was also present virtually during the press conference.

Asked what aspects of natural farming and if the outcome of the national event will be discussed in the proposed committee to be set up soon, the secretary said that the contours of the panel has not yet been decided.

Modi on November 19 while an-



nouncing repeal of the three controversial farm laws, which had triggered a massive farmer protest at Delhi borders, had also said the government will set up a committee to make MSP more effective and transparent as well as suggest ways to promote zero budget natural farming. Thousands of farmers, especially from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh had staged relentless protests at Delhi borders against these three laws for over a year.

The three farm laws were repealed in Parliament on November 29 but the stalemate continued as farmers sought government assurance on their other demands such as legal guarantee on MSP, compensation to families of farmers who died during the movement and withdrawal of cases against them.

Banks Urge Unions To Withdraw Two-Day Nationwide Strike

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Public sector banks including State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday urged unions to reconsider their decision to go on a two-day nationwide strike, and invited them for further discussions.

Bank unions under the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) umbrella have called a strike on December 16 and 17 against the proposed public sector bank privatisation. In the Budget 2021-22, the government had announced its intent to take up the privatisation of two public sector banks (PSBs).

The country's largest lender SBI in a tweet urged its staff members to reconsider their decision and refrain from participating in strike.

"Furthermore, considering the ongoing pandemic situation, resorting to a strike will cause great inconvenience to the stakeholders," the tweet said.

Canara Bank in a tweet said the bank has called a meeting with the relevant stakeholders on December 14 to discuss various issues.

"To ensure seamless services



to our customers, we have invited the leaders of majority associations/unions for discussions and appealed to them for withdrawal of proposed strike call, given on December 16 and 17, 2021," Indian Bank said in a tweet.

UCO Bank makes a humble request to its bank unions to call off the nationwide bank strike in the interest of its esteemed customers, the Kolkata-based lender said in a tweet.

Central Bank of India asked the unions to advise its members to channelise maximum efforts towards excelling their performance for the overall growth of the bank.

"This quarter ending December 2021 is crucial for our bank growth and sincere effort are to be made by all centralities to come out of this alarming situation and exit PCA (prompt

corrective action) at the earliest," it said in a letter to both employees and officer union.

Management of banks and the Indian Banks' Association are reaching out to UFBU for addressing their demands and concerns and arriving at an amicable solution, Bank of India said in a tweet assuring employees.

Members of UFBU include All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE), All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) and Bank Employees Confederation of India (BEFI).

Others are Indian National Bank Employees Federation (INBEF), Indian National Bank Officers Congress (INBOC), National Organisation of Bank Workers (NOBW) and National Organisation of Bank Officers (NOBO).

PNB appealed to its staff and officers unions to withdraw their proposed strike.

Earlier in the day, the finance minister in a reply to the Lok Sabha said the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation is yet to be decided two candidates for privatisation.

As Many As 41,177 Posts Vacant At Public Sector Banks: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As many as 41,177 positions or 5 per cent of the total sanctioned posts at public sector banks were vacant as on December 1, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

There are more than 8,05,986 sanctioned positions at Public Sector Banks (PSBs). Among the banks, State Bank of India (SBI) had the maximum number of vacant posts at 8,544, according to official data.

To a query in the Lok Sabha on whether the government is aware of the fact that there is a huge shortage of staff in the PSBs due to which they are unable to perform their duties properly, the minister replied in the negative.

Citing inputs received from the PSBs, the minister said that as on December 1, this year, 95 per cent staff is in position against the sanctioned staff strength, adding that the small proportion of vacancies is substantially attributable to attrition on account of superannuation and other usual factors.

"As on 1.12.2021, there are 8,05,986 sanctioned posts and 41,177 vacant posts in Public Sector Banks," Sitharaman said in a written reply.

The posts are spread across three categories -- officer, clerk



and sub-staff. There are 12 PSBs. While SBI had 8,544 vacant posts, the number for Punjab National Bank was at 6,743. The Central Bank of India had 6,295 vacant positions, followed by Indian Overseas Bank at 5,112 and Bank of India at 4,848.

At SBI, there were 3,423 vacant posts for officers and 5,121 vacancies at the clerk level.

Sitharaman also said that no post/vacancy has been abolished during the last six years in the PSBs, except one post in Punjab & Sind Bank in 2016.

Banks undertake staff recruitment to fill vacancies on an on-going basis as per their requirement, she added.

Other PSBs are Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, UCO Bank and Union Bank of India, as per the data.

Before the start of the Question Hour, the Lok Sabha paid tributes to nine people, including eight security personnel, who died when terrorists attacked Parliament in 2001.

SHORT TAKES

Cabinet Committee On Privatisation Yet To Take Decision On Two Banks: FM

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the cabinet committee on privatisation is yet to take a decision with regard to divesting two public sector banks. The government had in Budget 2021-22 announced its intent to take up privatisation of two public sector banks (PSBs) during the year and approval of a policy of strategic disinvestment of public sector enterprises, she said in the Lok Sabha. "Consideration of various issues related to disinvestment, which inter alia, include selection of the bank(s) entrusted to the Cabinet committee designated for this purpose. Decision by the Cabinet committee concerned for privatisation of PSBs has not been taken in this regard," she said. (PTI)

Centre Urged To Reduce Tax Burden On LLPs, Proprietary Firms, Individuals

KOLKATA: Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India has urged the Centre to extend lower corporate tax benefit to Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and proprietary firms as it would make funds available with MSMEs and boost private investment cycle. A body of direct tax professionals also sought for reduction of tax burden on individuals and requested the government to raise the income tax exemption limit at Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 4 lakh per annum in the upcoming budget for 2022-23 fiscal. EEPC India Chairman Mahesh Desai claimed around 84 per cent of small businesses are being denied the benefit of lower corporate tax which was aimed at providing industrial units with more investible surplus. (PTI)

Gold Advances Rs 62; Silver Rises By Rs 195

NEW DELHI: Gold prices rose by Rs 62 to Rs 47,262 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday in line with recovery in the precious metal in global markets, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 47,200 per 10 gram. Silver also moved higher by Rs 195 to Rs 60,122 per kg from Rs 59,927 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,786 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.23 per ounce. "Gold prices traded up with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.15 per cent up at USD 1,786 per ounce on Monday," according to HDFC Securities, Senior Analyst (Commodities), Tapan Patel. (PTI)

Sensex Tumbles 503 Pts Amid Mixed Global Cues

MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks reversed early gains to close deep in the red on Monday, pressured by hectic selling in market heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC twins amid a mixed trend overseas. Investors adopted a cautious approach ahead of inflation data and a slew of central bank meetings this week, experts said. Sliding for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 503.25 points or 0.86 per cent lower at 58,283.42. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 143.05 points or 0.82 per cent to 17,368.25. Bajaj Finance was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 3.10 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, M&M, Nestle India, SBI and HDFC. (PTI)

Rupee Unchanged At 75.78 Against US Dollar

MUMBAI: The Indian rupee gave up its early gains to settle unchanged at 75.78 against the US dollar on Monday as sell-offs in domestic equities and firming crude oil prices weighed on forex market sentiment. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a strong note at 75.64 and traded between a high of 75.63 and a low of 75.78 against the US dollar in a highly volatile trading session. The local unit finally settled at 75.78 a dollar. "Dollar bulls, broadly, remain in control as rupee consolidated near 75.80 and dollar index near 96. Rupee erased most of early morning gains along with domestic equities ahead of retail inflation data," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. (PTI)

SC Acquits Bank Official Accused In Fraudulent Withdrawal Of Rs 10 Lakh, Raps CBI For 'Casual' Probe

AGENCEIS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday made strong observations against the CBI over its probe into alleged fraudulent withdrawal of Rs 10 lakh from a Grameena Bank branch in 1994-95 and acquitted the accused branch manager, saying the agency "either adopted a casual and callous approach or there was some hidden pressure to derail a fair investigation".

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli allowed the appeal of branch manager N Raghavender against the 2009 verdict of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

The high court had dismissed the criminal appeal against the 2002 judgment of the special CBI judge, Hyderabad holding Raghavender guilty of cheating and various other offences and sentenced him to a five years of jail term. Two other acquitted, however, were acquitted of all the charges.

"We face no difficulty in holding that the prosecution has failed to prove the charges under Sections 409 (criminal breach of trust), 420

(cheating) and 477A (falsification of accounts) IPC against the Appellant beyond reasonable doubt. As a necessary corollary thereto, his conviction under Section 13(2) read with Section 13(1)(d) of the PC Act can also not be sustained, the verdict, penned by Justice Surya Kant, said.

The apex court, while acquitting the branch manager, said the benefit of doubt was being extended to him on account of a "thin margin between strong suspicion and conclusive proof" and hence, he will not be entitled to initiate a second round of litigation to seek relief like reinstatement or to claim other service benefits from the bank.

In the 48-page judgment, it rapped the CBI for poor probe leading to the acquittal of the accused.

"We are also constrained to observe that in this case the CBI has either adopted a casual and callous approach or there was some hidden pressure to derail a fair investigation. The resultant effect is that though there is a strong suspicion of criminal breach of trust, cheating and/or fabrication of the bank records against the appellant, but

such suspicion falls short of a conclusive proof to hold him guilty of the criminal charges.

"The best evidence having been withheld by the prosecution, the benefit of doubt must be extended to the Appellant, for no conviction can be sustained on the basis of conjectures and surmises. Non-production of the records of the bank also adversely comments on the fairness and independence of the investigation conducted in the instant case, it said.

Sparing the accused from criminal case, the bench, however, said that it has already held that the appellant was deemed to be guilty of gross departmental misconduct, for which the punishment of dismissal from service has been adequately awarded.

It requires no repetition that standard of proof to establish a misconduct in a domestic enquiry i.e. even preponderance of evidence, is drastically different to those of proving a criminal charge beyond any reasonable doubt. The appeal is accordingly disposed of in the above terms. Bail bonds, if any, furnished by the Appellant stand discharged, it said.

Three accused, including

two who were employed with Sri Rama Grameena Bank, Nizamabad, had conspired in 1994-95 to cheat the bank.

The employee of the bank allegedly allowed withdrawals of Rs 10 lakh in a current account of one Nishita Educational Academy, Nizamabad without having sufficient funds, in pursuance of the agreement, the CBI had alleged.

Raghavender had worked as the branch manager in the bank and Sandhya Rani, the accused number 2, was working as a clerk-cum-cashier there from 1991-1996, the agency had said, adding Vinay Kumar was the third accused and was the treasurer of Nishita Educational Academy. Two accused were acquitted by the courts below and the branch manager was allowed to walk free by the top court.

The apex court, in the verdict, said, First, no financial loss was caused to the bank. Second, the record before us does not indicate that any pecuniary loss was caused to B Satyajit Reddy or to any other customer of the bank. Third, the material before us does not disclose any conspiracy between the accused persons.

In the absence of any reliable evidence that could unfold a prior meeting of minds, the High Court erred in holding that appellant and other accused orchestrated the transactions in question to extend an undue benefit to Accused No.3."

The verdict dealt with the ingredients of various offences alleged to have been committed by the accused. Section 409 IPC pertains to criminal breach of trust by a public servant or a banker, in respect of the property entrusted to him. The onus is on the prosecution to prove that the accused, a public servant or a banker was entrusted with the property which he is duly bound to account for and that he has committed criminal breach of trust...., it said.

There is no doubt that the accused branch manager had the sole authority to issue and pass the "three loose cheques", but no evidence has been led that it was an illegal practice, it said, adding, We are of the considered opinion that the Prosecution has failed to establish the charge of criminal breach of trust against the Appellant beyond a reasonable doubt." PTI

Pak Held Responsible For US' Shortcomings In Afghanistan: PM Imran

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: The US made mistakes in Afghanistan and Pakistan was blamed for America's failures and not given credit for the sacrifices it made in the global war on terror, Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Monday.

Addressing the opening session of the Margalla Dialogue 2021 seminar in Islamabad, organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) think-tank, Khan said Pakistan faced the biggest collateral damage in the Afghan war. "Pakistan was held responsible for the shortcomings of the United States," he said.

Pakistan faced the biggest collateral damage in the Afghan war as it was the only US ally that suffered more than 80,000 casualties, displacement of millions of people and over 100 billion dollars economic losses, Khan said.

Khan said Pakistan was blamed for the wrong reasons by the international community, whereas it remained silent on the Kashmir issue. He regretted that Pakistan was not able to effectively present its point of view before the world.

Noting that only military power was not a guarantee for national security, which was an

all-encompassing concept, Khan asserted that, "You can't have national security until there is inclusive growth."

Unequal distribution of resources leads to anarchy among the people who are left out of the mainstream development. The uplift of the underprivileged segment of the society was critical to ensure across the board national security," he said.

He also emphasised that rule of law and equality for all were the preconditions for democracy.

"Corruption, particularly of the elite, was detrimental to the development of a country," he said.

Khan stressed on research to promote original thinking within a society and said that lack of in-depth research led to reliance on second-hand information by the western think tanks on important issues such as Afghanistan.

He also talked about Islamophobia and urged for a strong response by Muslim think tanks to neutralise the concept that Islam and terrorism were linked.

Afghanistan has been under Taliban rule since August 15 when the Afghan hardline militant group ousted the elected government of President Ashraf Ghani and forced him to flee the country and take refuge in the UAE.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

BJP Workers

missing from Zargar's residence, they said

A close associate, also neighbor, of Saqib Tantray, identified as Arif Ahmad Mir, has also been missing since morning, they added.

2 Cops Killed

fire upon a police bus carrying personnel of Armed Reserve Police (ARP) 9th battalion in Aripora locality of Zewan, a police official said. In the surprise militant attack, he said, fourteen police personnel, including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI), were injured.

All the injured, the police official said, were removed to the army's Badami Bagh cantonment hospital for treatment. However, two of the cops succumbed to the grave gunshot injuries. They have been identified as Assistant Sub Inspector Ghulam Hassan of Ramban and Safique Ali of Mahore in Reasi.

The injured police constables have been identified as Sajad Ahmad, Rameez Ahmad, Bishamber Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Vikas Sharma, Abdul Majeed, Mudassar Ahmad, Ravi Kanth, Showkat Ali, Arshid Ahmad, Satveer Sharma and Aadil Ali.

According to reports, the police bus was on its way towards Pantha Chowk from the police complex in Zewan when the militants ambushed it.

According to the reports, the militant attack triggered panic in the high security zone and prompted the locals to rush indoors. The movement of traffic on Zewan-Pantha Chowk road was also affected for nearly an hour.

In a statement issued late night, a police spokesperson said that the preliminary investigation has revealed that three militants had fired indiscriminately upon a police vehicle carrying cops back to their campus after finishing their duties.

"Although the fire was retaliated however taking advantage of darkness the terrorists managed to escape from the spot. In this terror incident 14 police personnel were injured and were shifted to hospital for treatment," he said.

He said ASI and a selection grade constable succumbed to their injuries while the condition of other injured personnel is stated to be stable.

The police spokesperson also quoted IGP Kashmir as saying that credible sources have revealed that the attack was carried out by Kashmir Tigers, an offshoot of JeM.

"In the retaliatory firing, one of the terrorists got injured and the group involved in this gruesome terrorist attack will be soon brought to justice," he said.

Police, the spokesperson said has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law and officers continue to work to establish the circumstances which lead to this "terror crime"

Meanwhile, a massive cordon and search operation was launched in the area after the deadly militant attack. According to reports, additional reinforcements of police, army and CRPF reached the shootout spot and launched a combing operation to track down the attackers.

condemned the attack. **Police Kills 2**

cops manning one such checkpoint, came under indiscriminate fire from militants

"However, the fire was effectively retaliated, leading to a brief encounter. In the ensuing encounter, two terrorists were neutralized on spot," he said.

The police spokesperson identified one of the killed militants as Aadil Ahmad Wani of Daramdoora Shopian and another one a foreign militant, quoting credible sources.

He said both the militants were associated with LeT and as per police records were involved in several terror crime cases and civilian atrocities and played a key role in number of recent killings in Srinagar city.

He further said that Wani was a Pakistan trained "A" category militant and was involved in an attack on police post Warpora in Sopore in March last year in which one policeman Wajahat Asadullah and a civilian Shaban Wagay were killed.

Besides, the police spokesperson said that the killed local militant was also involved in several grenade attacks on police and security force establishments, including two grenade attacks at Bus Stand Sopore in which 19 civilians and 2 policemen were injured.

"Arms & ammunition including 02 AK rifles and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes," he said.

In this connection, he said, police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated.

"People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitised and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

PM Modi Seeks the 20th anniversary of the Parliament Attack -- officials said.

The bus came under fire from militants in Zewan in Pantha Chowk area this evening, police officials said.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said, "PM Narendra Modi has sought details on the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. He has also expressed condolences to the families of those security personnel who have been martyred in the attack."

LG Hails Abrogation

last two years under the guidance of the PM, top priority is being given to the equitable and holistic development of all sections, and the areas which were kept backward since independence have been included in the mainstream development.

"The policies that have been implemented on the ground after 2019 have brought social justice to all sections for the first time since independence," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, spoke on the present situation and development scenario of Jammu and Kashmir, and observed that after August 2019, all the constitutional rights have been extended to 1.25 crore people of J&K in its truest sense.

He further said that a new era of development has been ushered in the UT by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"For decades the Valmiki community, Tribals, Gorkhas, Daughters of J&K,

West Pakistani refugees and backward classes were treated as second-class citizens. Such rules were made that a sweeper's son and daughter can only become a sweeper. The talents of the poor were stifled with manufactured restrictions," the LG said, as per official spokesperson.

Referring to various "discriminatory laws and provisions" being run in the erstwhile state, the LG, as per the official spokesperson said that now all those laws of discrimination have been abolished.

"Tribal population has been provided due rights under the Forest Rights Act; three-tier Panchayati Raj system has been implemented for the first time in J&K and elections were conducted in the most fair and transparent manner," he said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG underlined that everyone is being provided opportunities to lead a better life irrespective of religion, caste, class, and said that countless schemes have been started for the Youth in the economic, social, and educational fields, and a host of opportunities have been created for women to become independent and successful.

Sinha, he said, observed that mechanization and reforms done in J&K's Agriculture and Horticulture sector in the last two years has resulted in substantial increase in the monthly income of the farmers, much higher than the national average.

He said the LG also observed that it is due to transparent, responsive, corruption-free, and accountable administration that the common man is feeling connected with the journey of development and prosperity in J&K.

"Now every penny that is spent for development is accounted for and the details of every project are kept in public domain," the LG added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG also elucidated great strides achieved by the UT administration in the past two years in the health, tourism, and industrial sectors.

"All the rights enshrined in the constitution are being extended to the citizens, and Jammu Kashmir is now moving towards becoming a strong pillar of AatmaNirbhar Bharat," Sinha said.

What's On Agenda

earlier this year, saying the exercise was an outcome of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, which the party has challenged in the Supreme Court.

In addition to the NC parliamentarians, BJP MPs Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma are associate members of the commission.

"The letter was jointly sent by me, Lone Sahab (Akbar Lone) and Doctor Sahab (Farooq Abdullah)," Masoodi said.

"All three of us will first go through the agenda before taking the decision whether we will participate in the meeting or not. Our first priority has always been to choose and participate in any meeting which is in benefit of our people and state," he said.

He further added, "We will go through the material that is provided to us so that we can look into it, decide whether it favours our people or not and subsequently, conclude the decision on our participation."

As per the National Conference

MP, the party has also reminded the Delimitation Commission that there has been no response from the commission on its previous letter.

"Till now, the Commission hasn't given any reply to the party's letter that was written in February this year," Masoodi said.

Pertinently, on February 17, while opting to stay out from the commission's first meeting, the NC MPs had sent a letter to the Commission and stated that the party had boycotted the first meeting of the Commission because the exercise was an outcome of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act-2019, which the party had challenged in the Supreme Court.

The letter had also called upon the Commission to halt the delimitation proceedings as the exercise was being conducted in accordance with the provisions of an Act which is under judicial scrutiny.

Masoodi said once the party MPs get a response from the Commission, they will study it and then take a decision.

"There is absolutely no way that we could've participated in the Delimitation Commission's meeting without even knowing what that meeting is all about. We've been told that the commission will provide a reply to our letter by Tuesday morning and similarly the party will deliberate its next step," Masoodi said.

"Maybe the party leadership will go for a meeting of senior leaders to decide whether we will participate or not. Or maybe the three of us will have a vis-à-vis discussion as we are currently here in New Delhi," he said.

He further added, "If we're satisfied with the legality of the commission's agenda, we may participate."

Meanwhile, BJP has decided to attend the Delimitation Commission's meeting that has been scheduled for next week.

"BJP will participate and cooperate with the Commission which is a Constitutional body and is working as per the laid down norms," Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said.

On March 6, 2020, the government of India set up the Delimitation Commission and tasked it to finish delimitation in a year. On March 4 this year, it was granted a year's extension. This was done on the request of the commission members since it couldn't make much progress due to the "Covid-19-induced shutdown across the country."

Jammu and Kashmir saw the last delimitation exercise in 1994-95, after 22 years, which resulted in an increase in the number of Assembly constituencies from 76 to 87. The Jammu region saw an increase of five seats (from 32 to 37 seats), the Kashmir Valley an increase of four seats (from 42 to 46) and Ladakh two seats (from two to four).

The erstwhile State as a whole had a total of 111 seats—24 reserved and vacant for Pakistan controlled Kashmir. (With agency inputs)

Ladakh Shuts

Ironically, when Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of its statehood and downgraded into two union territories, there were celebrations in Leh. The Ladakh Buddhist Association, which was part of the celebrations then, is now a part of the political alliance demanding statehood and constitutional guarantees for job and land rights exclusively for the people of Ladakh.

Initially, the BJP unit of Ladakh was a

part of the alliance but later pulled out of it as the party came under criticism for "doublespeak".

This is also the first time when the leadership in Muslim-majority Kargil and Buddhist-dominated Leh have joined hands for their political future.

Meanwhile, talking to media persons the KDA head Asgar Ali Karbali said that despite the minus temperature people of Ladakh have overwhelmingly supported the band call and made it successful.

He said "our struggle will continue till the government of India and Home Ministry call the KDA and LAB a joint apex body for talks to settle down all issues".

He said some vested interests try to sabotage the call, but people have shown them doors by observing successful bandh, Karbali said.

Social activist Sajad Kargili praised the people of Ladakh for observing complete bandh in favour of their four demands.

Talking to media persons Kargili said "some vested interested people do not respect the aspirations of the people of Ladakh but it will not hamper our struggle for our four demands including a statehood, constitutional safeguard, recruitment of youth and separate seats in Lok Sabha and Raj Sabha for Leh and Kargil districts."

He alleged that some people from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tried to sabotage the band call. But the unity and strength among the people of Ladakh proved to them they would not succeed in their nefarious designs.

"I urge all people including BJP to come forward and become a part of our struggle", Karbali added. (UNI)

Cold Wave

Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigud recorded minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag registered a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius.

The Meteorological Department has forecast light rain/snow at isolated scattered places in Jammu and Kashmir for Tuesday.

J&K Logs 119

93 were detected in Kashmir Valley and the remaining 26 from different districts of Jammu division.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 48 new cases of coronavirus, Baramulla 11, Kupwara, Bandipora and Ganderbal 8 each, Budgam 6, Pulwama 3, and Shopian 1 new case of Covid-19. The twin districts of Kulgam and Anantnag in south Kashmir reported no fresh cases.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 20 fresh cases of virus, Udhampur and Dodda two each and one new case each in Rajouri and Poonch. No new cases of coronavirus were registered in the five districts of Kishtwar, Ramban

"Moreover, 215 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 84 from Jammu Division and 131 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

They further added that one new case of Mucormycosis was reported today, thus taking the total number of confirmed cases to 50 across J&K.

J&K Records Lowest

J&K where the percentage stood at

0.001 percent).

Revealing some other important factors that affect the demographic change in a region, the report has mentioned that the annual new HIV infections in thousands in J&K including Ladakh was recorded at 0.17 percent which is the eighth lowest in India.

The report has also revealed that the annual AIDS related deaths in J&K were recorded at 0.08 percent (in thousand) which is the seventh lowest death rate in India. As per the figures available with Kashmir Observer, the percentage change in annual AIDS-related deaths from 2010 to 2020 in J&K has declined by negative 29 percent.

Notably, the report has also revealed that the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) needed in J&K in thousand was recorded at the ninth lowest in India with 0.05 percent.

The report has also concluded that there still remain some gaps that are a source of concern and need to be addressed. "Further saturation of CST(Care, Support and Treatment) services will cause greater impact and even further reduction in annual ARD(AIDS related Deaths) towards attainment of 'zero ARD' in the future, and simultaneously augmentation of HIV prevention by fast-tracking progress on 'Undetectable' which is directly 'Untransmittable.'" The report further reads.

Soldier Shoots

area, they said. The soldier succumbed to injuries later, they said. The reason for the soldier taking such an extreme step was not immediately known.

School Named

named after Subedar Lal Singh, who was killed during 1971 war in Bangladesh, an official spokesperson said Monday. The school was inaugurated by war veteran's widow Mohinder Kour and his 3 sons.

The official spokesperson said that Singh was born in village Chak Salarian of Ramgarh and had received his primary education in village Malookan Wala and village Jakhana(Badala), now in Pakistan.

"At an age of 14 years 6 months he joined the Indian Army in the Punjab Regiment. He served in different parts of the country and took part in different operations," he said.

The Subedar, he said, died on first December 1971 in an operation "Cactus Lily Eastern Theatre" during Bangladesh war.

42 Employees Found

directions of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din- Bhat multiple teams of senior officers conducted surprise inspections of different offices in the district and found 42 employees of various offices unauthorizedly absent from duties, an official spokesperson said.

Taking serious note of their unauthorized absence, he said, the Deputy Commissioner has ordered deduction of one day salary of these employees.

"Further explanation was also sought from all the absent employees," he added.

Train Crushes

on Sunday evening, the official said.

He said the body has been shifted to Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, for a post mortem and identification. (PTI)

DC Bandipora Inaugurates Martial Arts Workshop At SK Stadium



Handed over sports kits to all zonal officers for distribution in schools

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Dr. Owais Ahmad on Monday inaugurated a martial arts workshop for the Physical Education teachers of the district at SK Stadium Bandipora. He also handed over the sports kits under district Capex to Zonal Officers for onward distribution to various schools of the District.

The workshop was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora in collaboration with Ali's Sports Academy. The workshop was aimed at training the Physical Education Teachers, Masters and Rehber-e-Khel teachers in sports activities as part of capacity building measures to upgrade sports activities in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Bandipora said the Physical Education teachers are the backbone of sports activities in the district as they are the ones who develop the interest of kids in sports at schools and help in promoting sports activities in the district.

He said there was a dire need to inform the physical education teachers about the modern techniques and new sports activities

that will help in upgrading the sports activities in the district.

Dr Owais said the upgrading of sports infrastructure and promoting sports activities is the prime priority of the district administration and hailed the youngsters for taking keen interest in sports. He said the youth of Bandipora have showcased their talent at international level and have become guiding forces for other youth who spoil their leisure time.

He said the district administration has been on forefront in developing sports infrastructure in the district. The DC added that several initiatives are in pipeline to further augment the sports infrastructure. He said a DPR has been recently prepared to propose a range of activities in sports under Mission Youth.

District Information Officer Jahangeer Akhoo, District Officer District Youth Services and Sports Gh Qadir, International martial artist Faisal Ali was also present on the occasion and held the training sessions.

Later the DC handed over sports items to the five educational zones of the district including Bandipora, Quilmuqam, Sumbal, Hajin and Gurez for further distribution to their respective schools.

The sports kit included 15 footballs, five cricket bats, 10 pairs of Badminton rackets, 20 boxes of shuttle cocks, 25 volleyballs, 35 skipping ropes, 35 tennicoit rings, and 7 volleyball nets.

J&K Shines In Senior National Wushu Championship

Secretary Sports Council felicitates players



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, on Monday felicitated the medal winners of Senior National Wushu Championship held at Bhopal Madhya Pradesh recently.

Terming this as a token of appreciation for all the hard work that athletes have put in to bring laurels for J&K, she reaffirmed administration's commitment towards acknowledging all the good work that players, coaches and other team members pool in to shine at any given platform.

Secretary complimented Rajinder Singh, an ace Wushu player, for clinching gold medal in the event consequently for the fifth time at Senior National championship. She assured him all support from the J&K Sports Council and administration to harness his special talent to the fullest.

Meanwhile, Secretary felicitated Raya Chib for winning silver medal in women's category besides honoring Ishant Singh, Abijeet Salathia, Naveed Farooq Mir, Showket Yousof and Mohammed Maqsood Rather for bagging bronze medals in their

specific categories in the event. President Wushu Association J&K, Vijay Saraf, expressed gratitude to J&K government for providing best facilities as well as opportunities to Wushu players.

Kuldeep Handu, Dronacharya Awardee and National Wushu Coach also thanked the administration and Sports Council for providing best coaching facilities to the players.

Pertinently, all medal winners have been shortlisted for the national coaching camp scheduled to be held in Bhopal from 1st January 2022 at ASI Centre.

J&K Bank Enter Finals Of Christmas Gold Cup

Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&K Bank football team on Monday entered the finals of 15th Christmas Gold Cup Football Tournament 2021, being played at GGM Science College Ground, here.

Playing against Pegasus Hero's FC, the J&K Bank team scored four goals to hand a

comprehensive beating to their semifinal opponent. UneeB opened the scoring in the 31st minute, before Aqif scored 2 goals in the 54th and 76th minute to make the score 3-0 in favour of J&K Bank. Furqan scored in the 78th minute to make the score 4-0, and that's how it stayed till the final whistle.

The J&K Bank team will now face Shaheen FC in the finals. Shaheen FC defeated Jammu United 2-1 in the second semifinal with goals from Inder and Sanjeev.

The final match of Christmas Gold Cup will be played on Friday, December 17. The match will kick off at 2:00 PM.



Tug Of War Competitions Held At Baramulla

Locals appreciate efforts of DYSS for organising sports activities for youth



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports on Monday conducted inter school district level Tug of war at Khawaja Bagh here. The competitions were organised in the age group of U/19 and U/17 boys and girls at High School Baramulla. An impressive number of students participated in the said event. Many locals had also gathered to witness the event.

In U/19 category (Boys) Higher Secondary School Sopore won the final against BHSS Baramulla while as HSS Rampura won the final against GHSS Sopore in (Girls). In the U/17 (Boys) category BHSS

Sopore defeated BHSS Baramulla in an enthralling match, where as in girls category HSS Rampura defeated GHSS Sopore.

Locals of the area have appreciated efforts of the Government particularly the Department of Youth Services & Sports in conducting sports activities for young boys and girls. A middle aged businessman from the area, Mohammad Qasim who had come to witness the enthralling matches of Tug of War was heard saying that it is really heart-warming to see youth taking active part in sports as this is the best way to keep young blood away from the bad habits like drug abuse etc.

Hamstring Injury Rules Rohit Sharma Out Of SA Test Series

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma was on Monday ruled out of the entire three-Test series against South Africa as his old left-hamstring injury resurfaced during the team's net session in Mumbai where he also took a hit on his hand.

India A captain Priyank Panchal will be Rohit's replacement opener in the Test series.

"Team India Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma sustained a left hamstring injury during his training session here in Mumbai yesterday. He has been ruled out of the upcoming 3-match Test series against South Africa. Priyank Panchal will replace Rohit Sharma in the Test squad," BCCI stated in a press release.

The Board has not announced a stand-in vice-captain but it is expected that KL Rahul is the front-runner for being Virat Kohli's deputy during the Tests.



"Yes, Rohit did suffer an injury on his hand but even after that he had batted. So we can presume that hand injury isn't serious. But thereafter, it seemed the old hamstring problem resurfaced once again and it might take some time before he is fully fit and available.

"They are trying to sort it out. Hamstring injuries normally take four weeks which could effectively rule him out of Test series," a senior BCCI source told PTI on Monday.



REAL KASHMIR FC'S SHAHNAWAZ BASHIR with his player of the match award after the Snow Leopards trounced Gokulam Kerala FC 2-1 on Sunday to reach the finals of IFA Shield Cup, at Kalyani, West Bengal. Shah Nawaz was heavily praised for his playmaking display during the match against fellow I-League opponents, setting up the winner for his team.

"Hard work does pay off and so have the boys of RKFC done today. Kudos to them especially today's man of the match Shah Nawaz Bashir who was exceptionally brilliant," RKFC founder Sandeep Chattoo told PTI.

Real Kashmir will now play Sreenidi Deccan FC on December 15, with kick off time yet to be decided. The Srinagar-based side, who are the defending champions, will look to retain the 124th IFA Shield Cup. Sreenidi is also an I-League club and will give a tough fight to RKFC.

Mercedes Loses Both Its Protests After Hamilton Loses Formula One World Title To Verstappen

Agencies

ABU DHABI: Mercedes lost both of its protests after Lewis Hamilton lost the Formula One world title to Max Verstappen on the final lap of the last race at the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.



losing the protests, Mercedes filed for reconsideration to the International Court of Appeal.

Verstappen overtook Hamilton on Lap 58 in thrilling style after a crash involving Nicholas Latifi brought out the safety car with just a few laps left and confusion surrounded the restart.

After One of the lost protests was whether Verstappen had broken rules by passing Hamilton before the safety car period had ended, when they were jostling next to each other waiting for the restart.

"Although Car 33 (Verstappen) did at one stage, for a very short period of time, move slightly in front of Car 44 (Hamilton), at a time when both cars were accelerating and braking, it moved back behind Car 44," stewards concluded.

"It was not in front when the Safety Car period ended (i.e. at the line). Accordingly, the Protest is dismissed."

The other protest concerned the restart procedure itself and the number of lapped cars overtaking the safety car, having been given the green light to do so.

Of the lapped drivers, only Lando Norris, Fernando Alonso, Esteban Ocon, Charles Leclerc and Sebastian Vettel overtook — those five were originally between Hamilton and Verstap-

pen — while Daniel Ricciardo, Lance Stroll and Mick Schumacher did not.

Mercedes argued Hamilton would have won the race if all had overtaken the safety car due to the time required, making a final lap showdown impossible. Stewards ruled that it made no difference since the other three were not interfering with the outcome of the race, and also that race director Michael Masi had authority "to control the use of the safety car" in this case.

Jammu Athlete Wins Silver At World Para Taekwondo Championships

Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&K Taekwondo Association on Monday congratulated Chandeeep Singh for scripting history once again at world level by bringing a Silver medal for India and J&K at 9th World Para Taekwondo Championships 2021.

"It's really a matter of joy and pride that a Para athlete from J&K became the only two times Silver medalist at World Taekwondo Para Championships," the Association said.

"Chandeeep Singh has been training under Atul Pangotra (Coach, JKSC) for the past 5 years. The duo made the nation proud by bringing laurels to the country and J&K."

D. N. Pangotra (President, JKTA) and SM Bali (Senior VP, JKTA) congratulated Chandeeep

on his victory and wished him luck for the future endeavours. They also thanked LG, Shri Manoj Sinha Sir, Advisor to LG, Farooq Khan, Principal Secretary Alok Kumar (IRS), J&K Sports Council and Nuzhat Gul (Secretary, JKSC) for financially supporting Chandeeep for the said Championship.

J&K Taekwondo Association will be organizing a welcome function for Chandeeep Singh.

Atul Pangotra (Coach, JKSC) also congratulated Chandeeep Singh and his parents for this prestigious achievement at World Level. He said that Chandeeep is an inspiration for all the Athletes of J&K. His sheer dedication and focus made him today achieve such a feat in this Olympic sport. All the players from J&K expressed joy over the win of Chandeeep and are highly motivated for Taekwondo.



Jammu Registers Win In 33rd Jr. Volleyball Championship

Advisor Khan distributes prizes among winners of the tourney



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Monday distributed trophies among the winners and finalists of 33rd Junior level volleyball tournament organised by the Volleyball Association of J&K.

On the occasion the Advisor was the chief guest, who also watched the final match played between the boys of Jammu and Kathua districts. Excise Commissioner, Kishore Singh Chib was the guest of honour besides Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul was also present.

The Advisor maintained that in sports every player in the field is the winner. He said that after watching today's game he is sure that the quality of sports played in J&K has upgraded a lot. He said that the players are depicting great skill and talent in the field nowadays as the department is getting lot more attention and importance than the past.

Khan also reiterated that it is for this reason that many national associations are approaching us for

hosting their tournaments. He said that J&K is fast coming up as a Sports destination of the country as the sports infrastructure has got major fillip under PM Development Plan.

The Advisor said that every district of J&K is getting its share of stadia and sports events that is happening to be pivotal in making sports icons out of its youth. He asked the youth to be ambassadors of development and adopt sports to live progressive lives. He beckoned them to be guiding light for those fallen into the trap of drug addiction.

It was said that 17 districts participated in the boys category while as in girls category 11 districts took part in the tournament from past 3 days.

The final was today played between Jammu and Kathua in boys category. Among girls Jammu and Srinagar reached into the finals. In both the games Jammu won and clinched the trophies with impressive performances. A total of about 50 matches were played during this tournament at three venues with finals today played at MA stadium on the third day of the tournament.

UEFA Voids Champions League Draw After Mistake

Agencies

NYON: UEFA will have to redo the Champions League draw for the round of 16 after mistakenly placing Manchester United's name into the wrong pot.

UEFA voided the initial results of Monday's draw, which had created another matchup between Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi after Manchester United was paired with Paris Saint-Germain.

However, United had initially been paired with Villarreal even though the English club's name should not have been in that pot since the two advanced from the same group.

UEFA blamed the mishap on "a technical problem with the soft-

ware of an external service provider that instructs the officials as to which teams are eligible to play each other."

"As a result of this, the draw has been declared void," UEFA said in a statement published 90 minutes after the draw was done.

A new draw was set to take place at 3 pm local time (1400 GMT).

After United's name was initially pulled out, Manchester City was then drawn to play Villarreal instead.

United's name was then not put in the pot as a potential opponent for Atlético Madrid in the subsequent pairing, which saw Bayern Munich picked out.

PSG and Man United were later the final two teams picked. (AP)

If An Aurangzeb Comes, A Shivaji Also Emerges, Says PM Modi At 'Immortal' Kashi

LUCKNOW: With the UP Assembly polls a couple of months away, Prime Minister Modi invoked Raja Suheldev, a royal of yore who was very popular in eastern UP as he had defeated the army of Muslim invader Salar Masood, during his speech at the courtyard of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor after inaugurating its Phase-I in Varanasi on Monday.



Giving words to his emotions, the PM said that Kashi Vishwanath temple was testimony to the country's ancient history. Rummaging through the pages of history, the PM said Kashi was immortal.

"Kashi Avisnashi hai (Kashi is immortal). Invaders attacked this city, tried to destroy it but Kashi withstood every attack as sultanates rose and fell. History is witness to Aurangzeb's atrocities, his terror. He tried to change civilisation by the sword. He tried to crush culture with fanaticism. But the soil of this country is magical. Here if an (Mughal Emperor) Aurangzeb comes, a (Maratha warrior) Shivaji also emerges," said the PM.

In the same vein he cited the example of Mahraja Suheldev who had defeated the invader Salar Masood in the battle of Bahraich. "If any Salar Masood moves here, then brave warriors like Raja Suheldev make the invader feel the power of unity," added the PM.

The PM even mentioned how British Governor General Warren Hastings had to make a hasty retreat in the guise of a woman from Kashi.

Prime Minister Modi opened the corridor for the public explaining the antiquity and exclusivity of Kashi as the abode of Lord Shiva. "One will take pride in coming here as this is a confluence of ancient and new. The whole new complex of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham is not just a grand building,

but a symbol of the Sanatan culture of India, our spiritual soul and India's antiquity and traditions," said the PM. "The new India is proud of its culture and also has confidence on its ability ... there is Virasat (legacy) blended with Vikas in New India," averred the PM adding that Vishwanath Dham was full of energy.

"Many ancient temples lost in the vicinity have been restored again. When I came to Varanasi, I found people doubtful of the mettle of the people of Kashi. They used to say restoration of Vishwanath Dham was a daunting task and that nobody could do it. Many Modis have come and gone but no one could change it," said the PM explaining how the efforts and the conviction of the people helped the dream project take such a beautiful shape in four years.

HISTORY HAS SEEN THE TORTURE of Aurangzeb, who tried to kill culture with radicalism. But in this country an Aurangzeb is matched by a Shivaji"

Javed Akhtar Seeks Non Bailable Warrant Against Kangana Ranaut In Defamation Case

Agenceis

MUMBAI: Veteran scriptwriter-lyricist Javed Akhtar on Monday moved a plea before a court seeking issuance of a non-bailable warrant against Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut in a criminal defamation case filed by him against her.

The application, moved by Mr Akhtar's lawyer Jay Bharadwaj, listed the number of exemptions Ms Ranaut has sought for one reason or another since March this year.

She had last appeared before Andheri metropolitan magistrate RR Khan on September 20.

"It can be clearly deciphered from the conduct of the accused that from the time of issuance of process by this court (Andheri metropolitan magistrate court) she has been deploying all possible tactics to cause inordinate delays in the matter," the application said.

It also mentioned the actor was making "false and incorrect statements" before the court.

As per Mr Akhtar's application, Ms Ranaut, on the last date of hearing, which was on October 21, had sought exemption claiming she was suffering from high temperature and body ache.

PM Modi Pays Tribute To Security Personnel Killed In 2001 Parliament Attack

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to security personnel who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists during the Parliament attack on this day in 2001.

All five terrorists involved in the attack and eight security personnel besides a gardener had died in the incident which brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

"I pay my tributes to all those security personnel who were martyred in the line of duty during the Parliament attack in 2001. Their service to the nation and supreme sacrifice continues to inspire every citizen," PM Modi tweeted.

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