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P5 STATE

SECURITY ALONG IB HEIGHTENED AHEAD OF R-DAY CELEBRATIONS

Security forces on Saturday launched area domination patrol in forward villages along the International Border (IB) in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir to frustrate...

P7

5 WAYS TO START LIVING MORE ETHICALLY TODAY

"Any decision that has an impact on others now or in the future is an ethical choice," explains ethicist and author, Christopher Gilbert in his book There's No Right Way To Do the Wrong Thing.



P11 SPORTS

VIRAT KOHLI STEPS DOWN AS INDIA TEST CAPTAIN

Virat Kohli on Saturday dropped a bombshell by quitting Test captaincy following the unexpected series defeat against South Africa. Kohli was



Quote!

Don't let yesterday take up too much of today
- Will Rogers

NEWS DIGEST

6 LeT 'Associates' Held In North Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested six Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant associates and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession in the twin districts of Baramulla and Bandipora. Around 2:05 pm on January 11, Police, Army's 22 RR and the personnel of CRPF 179 battalion at a checkpoint established at Chinari **More on P10**

IED Defused In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: An improvised explosive device (IED) weighing 10 kilograms was defused by the bomb disposal squad in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday. A senior police officer said that the IED was detected by the police and armies of 14 RR in an orchard in Bagh area of Bandipora, according to news agency GNS. They said bomb disposal squad teams of the **More on P10**

650 Apple Boxes Stolen From Truck

SRINAGAR: Unknown persons stole 650 apple boxes from a truck in south Kashmir's Shopian district, reports said Saturday. Aqib Ahmed, a truck driver from Vehil Shopian reported to police that during the intervening night, unknown persons stole 650 apple boxes from his truck. **More on P10**

Leopard Found Dead In Samba

JAMMU: A leopard was found dead in a forest area in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials of wildlife department said. The carcass was found in Ghagwal forest by sarpanch Darshan Kumar and was recovered by the rescue team of the department when he informed them, they said. A preliminary investigation **More on P10**

J&K Under Covid Grip: Record 3251 People Test Positive, 4 Succumb



The officials of civil administration joined by police, restrict movement of traffic in Srinagar city on Saturday to enforce weekend lockdown: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir continues to grapple with the Coronavirus crisis as 3251 more people tested positive for the virus on Saturday, the highest number in the recent months, while four more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley witnessed an unprecedented spike as 2122 people contracted the infection in the last 24 hours. During

the same time, 1129 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were also registered from various parts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected in J&K to 355874.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 624 new cases of virus, Baramulla 471, Budgam 416, Anantnag 228, Kupwara 137, Bandipora 117, Pulwama 67, Kulgam 37, Ganderbal 21 and Shopian 4.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 685 fresh cases of

infection, Udhampur 125, Samba 93, Kathua 59, Reasi 42, Poonch 35, Rajouri 34, Kishtwar 29, Doda 24 and Ramban 3.

"Moreover, 390 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 239 from Jammu Division and 151 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, the officials said that four more people, two each from Jammu and Kashmir divisions, succumbed to Covid-19 related **More on P10**

250 Doctors, Paramedics Infected In 2 Weeks

At least 250 doctors and paramedics of various hospitals across Kashmir have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last fortnight, an official said on Saturday. He said with such a large number of members from the medical fraternity getting infected with the virus, the valley was finding the situation challenging.

"Over 250 doctors and paramedics of Government Medical College Srinagar and its associated hospitals tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 15 days," professor and head of department, community medicine, GMC Srinagar, Dr Salim Khan said. Giving out details, Khan said these doctors and paramedics work at the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, Bone and Joint Hospital, **More on P10**

'Precautions, Not Panic Can Beat Covid'

Terming home isolation as a key to Covid-19 management, the Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Dr Mushtaq Ahmad Rather on Saturday urged people not to panic but take precautions to defeat spread of the deadly infection further. Addressing media at the office of the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, Rather said the third Covid-19 wave is mild and home isolation is very important to defeat the virus and people must be cautious. He said people who are tested positive have to focus on 6Ms: Mixing, Monitoring Medicine, Meals, Mindset and activity, Movement towards hospital. The director said if a person is **More on P10**

Cluster University Defers Exams

Cluster University Srinagar on Saturday deferred till further orders all the examinations of the varsity which were scheduled to begin next week. "This is notified for the information of concerned that all the examinations of Cluster University Srinagar scheduled from 17th of January 2022 have been deferred till further orders," reads an order by Cluster University Kashmir. "The decision has been taken in view of the surge in COVID cases." Revised schedule for these examinations shall be notified separately, the order reads further. "Students are advised to remain in touch with the University official website (www.cursrinagar.edu.in) for further detail."

Man Arrested For Social Media Post

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested a man from south Kashmir's Pulwama district on charges of misusing social media platforms and indulging in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity of union of India and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mir Mushtaq Ahmad of Bonora village of Pulwama was arrested for hate campaign, bullying and anti-national activities on social media platforms, a police spokesperson said Saturday.

Ahmad, he said, through his social media account was indulging in activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and union of India and UT J&K and advocates abets unlawful activities, and commits offences which is likely to disrupt the public tranquillity, harmony. The police spokesperson further claimed **More on P10**

Govt Announces Rules For Land Conversion

Agencies

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced rules for converting agricultural land into non-agricultural land beyond the already stipulated 400 square metres which was allowed for only residential purposes.

The facility of land conversion is believed to become pivotal for the union territory's industrial growth that had largely been impeded by non-availability of land for the industrial purposes.

An official statement said: "The Revenue Department framed Jammu and Kashmir Agricultural Land (Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes) Regulations which empowered land owners to convert agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes beyond 400 square

metres for residential purposes.

"The concerned district development commissioner will head the committee which will examine the plea for conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural and grant permission after recommendations from the Committee.

"The Committee will have the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) as the Member Secretary and will include senior most officers in the districts of Public Works (R&B), Irrigation & Flood Control, Power Development, Pollution Control Committee (if required), Agriculture, Industries and Commerce, Development Authority of the district, Forests and any other member(s) co-opted by the Chairman.

"The district level Committee will meet every week on a fixed day to consider cases for

change of land use. The District Collectors will, however, be empowered to call additional meetings to dispose of the cases.

"The Government has listed certain conditions on which the permission for conversion of land use will be granted. The grant of permission shall be subject to the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act and Rules framed. The land shall not be used for a purpose other than that for which permission is granted.

"If the applicant does not commence non-agricultural use applied for within one year from order of the date and up to the maximum period of two years from first date of permission, the permission granted shall be deemed to have lapsed. The Assistant Commissioner Revenue/Sub Divisional **More on P10**

Army Chief Says Won't Let Status Quo Change Along LAC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army's message is clear that it will not let any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo along the country's borders succeed, Army Chief Gen M M Naravane said on Saturday.

In his address at the Army Day Parade here, he said last year was extremely challenging for the Army and cited the developments on the northern borders with China.

Army Day is observed on January 15 to mark Field



Marshal K M Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, replacing his British predecessor in 1949.

Referring to the eastern Ladakh **More on P10**

Pak National Repatriated 6 Hours After Arrest

OUR MESSAGE IS CLEAR, the Indian Army won't let any attempt to unilaterally change status quo along country's borders to succeed."

A Pakistani national was arrested shortly after he inadvertently crossed into the Indian side along the International Border (IB) in Samba sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, a senior BSF official said. Deputy Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF), **More on P10**

Drama Unfolds At Kashmir Press Club

Senior Journalist, Aides Accused Of Forcible Takeover Of Club

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: A high voltage drama unfolded at the Kashmir Press Club (KPC) here on Saturday after a senior journalist and his associates took over the club with the alleged official patronage, evoking widespread criticism from the media bodies.

According to reports, a group of scribes led by Times of India correspondent Saleem Pandit appeared at the KPC here on Saturday afternoon and held an hour long meeting before announcing the formation of a three-member interim body with himself as President, Zulfikar Majid, as General Secretary and



Arshid Rasool as Treasurer. The interim body, as per a statement, has been formed till elections are held in free and fair manner.

The statement further said that various journalist bodies across the Kashmir Valley unanimously decided to form an **More on P10**



A shopkeeper unaware of weekend lockdown, arranges dry vegetables at his store in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

No Major Snowfall Expected In Kashmir Till Jan End: MeT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Weatherman on Saturday said that there was no forecast of any major rain or snow till the end of January in J&K.

"Under the influence of feeble Western Disturbance, weather most likely to remain generally cloudy with possibility of very light to light rain/snow in plains of J&K during 16-19th and light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches," an official of the MeT department said in a statement. "As of today, there's no forecast of any major **More on P10**



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**Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K Govt.
Office of the Wildlife Warden, South Kashmir Division**

Bijbehara-192124, Anantnag, Tel./Fax: +91 1932234474, Email: wildlifejk.skd@gmail.com

**SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No. 06of 2021-22, Dated11/01/2022**

For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K UT etenders (in single cover) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. PWD UT/Central Governments for below mentioned works:

Sr.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lac)	Cost of Tender Document [Non-refundable] (Amount in)	Time for Completion		Class of Contractor
01	Construction of Meso-Carnivore Enclosure at Mini-Zoo Pahalgam, Lidder Valley Range.	6.76	300	30	Capex	DEE/CEE

Note: Tender Fee to be deposited in any Government Treasury against Revenue Head 0406- Forestry and Wildlife.

The successful bidder has to deposit 3% of the tendered amount in shape of CDR

Position of AA/TS :Accorded

Position of Funds:Budgeted

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specification, Drawings, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website <https://jktenders.gov.in> as per the schedule of dates given below:

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11-01-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	13-01-2022 to 20-01-2022
3.	Bid submission start date	13-01-2022 from 04:30 PM
4.	Bid submission End date	20-01-2022 upto 6:30 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	22-01-2022at 11:30 AM

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of Treasury Challan Receipt of deposited in any Government Treasury against Revenue Head 0406-Forestry and Wildlife as per format in Annexure - "A"

2. In pursuance to Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dated:- 22-12-2020 issued by Finance Department of J&K, there is no requirement of submission of Bid Security/ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). However, every bidder has to furnish an undertaken/ declaration accepting that if it withdraws or modifies its bids during the period of bid validity or if it fails to sign the contract or fails to submit an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security within 07 days of opening of price bid, if they are awarded the contract, they will be suspended from participating in any tender process in future till 31st March, 2023 Aforementioned undertaken/ declaration needs to be furnished as per format in Annexure - "B" and same must be uploaded.

3. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site <https://jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir Region. (Tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain Valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

Sd/-
Wildlife Warden
South Kashmir Division
No. : 1336-40/WLWS/21-22.
Date : 11-01-2022 DIPK-16735/21

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, J&K JAMMU
RAIL HEAD COMPLEX, JAMMU**

EXTENSION NOTICE

Due to poor response to this office's e-NIT No.VTP/AIS140/250,dated 22-09-2021 published/uploaded on www.jktenders.gov.in under tender ID No.2021_TRANS_140654_1, the last date for submission of proposals is hereby extended as per schedule given below:

Last date for queries/clarifications of PSU's	07-02-2022 03:00 PM
Purchaser's response to queries	14-02-2022 05:00 PM
Last date for submission of proposals (Online mode)	21-02-2022 03:00 PM
Last date for submission of original bid security (Physical mode)	28-02-2022 03:00 PM
Date of opening technical proposals	07-03-2022 02:30 PM
Date of opening price proposals	(will be intimated later for technically qualified bidders)

No.JK/TC/VLT/2021/129-35
Date: 14/01/2022

Additional Transport Commissioner
J&K Jammu

DIPK-16742/21

از نیات رہبر پورہ با اجلاس غلام محی الدین صاحب		از نیات رہبر پورہ با اجلاس غلام محی الدین صاحب	
درخواست منجانب: اسرار فیاض ولد فیاض احمد شمس ساکنہ رہبر پورہ تحصیل مٹن		درخواست منجانب: اسرار فیاض ولد فیاض احمد شمس ساکنہ رہبر پورہ تحصیل مٹن	
بہر حصول: RBA- سر تقی		بہر حصول: RBA- سر تقی	
اشتہار برآورد گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔		اشتہار برآورد گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔	
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالہ ایک درخواست سر تقی دفتر بدین پیش کیا ہے جس کی		معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالہ ایک درخواست سر تقی دفتر بدین پیش کیا ہے جس کی	
فوار پورٹ جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ		فوار پورٹ جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ	
سالہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے وہاں سکونت پذیر ہے۔		سالہ پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے وہاں سکونت پذیر ہے۔	
نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت
1	فیاض احمد شمس ولد فیاض احمد شمس	1	فاروق احمد عبد الغنی شمس
2	دعیدہ زوجہ فیاض احمد شمس	2	مسماۃ حفصہ زوجہ فاروق احمد شمس
3	اقراء فیاض دختر فیاض احمد شمس	3	محمد لطیف ولد فاروق احمد شمس
4	اسرار فیاض ولد فیاض احمد شمس	4	روینہ جان زوجہ محمد لطیف شمس
5	اوز فیاض ولد فیاض احمد شمس	5	شیخ صدیق احمد ولد محمد لطیف شمس
6	اسطرح سائل کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور سائل کے کنبہ میں کوئی بھی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔ سائل کے کنبہ کے پاس دھند میں 3 کنال موجود آراضی موجود ہے۔ اور سائل کے سالانہ آمدنی 90,000/ روپے ہیں۔ اسطور سائل کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی سے 162000/ روپے سکتے۔ سارا کان RBA سر تقی اہرام کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عراض ہو تو وہ بعد اسات دن کے اندر اندر پنا عذر یا اعتراض دفتر بدین پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے مبعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔	6	ماہرہ جان دختر محمد لطیف شمس
7	فوزیہ فاروق دختر فاروق احمد شمس	7	فوزیہ فاروق دختر فاروق احمد شمس
اسکے علاوہ مزید کوئی افراد کنبہ میں نہیں ہے۔ سالہ کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی وغیرہ زرعی مبلغ 450,456 روپے ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو وہ دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر پیش کریں مبعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔		اسکے علاوہ مزید کوئی افراد کنبہ میں نہیں ہے۔ سالہ کے کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی وغیرہ زرعی مبلغ 450,456 روپے ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہوگا تو وہ دفتر میں اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر پیش کریں مبعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔	
نائب تحصیلدار۔		نائب تحصیلدار۔	
RNA		RNA	

Study Finds Non-English Language Science May Save Biodiversity

Agencies

According to recent research, non-English language science may hold untapped information which might be crucial for the conservation of global biodiversity. The research has been published in the "PLOS Biology Journal". Few studies to date have quantified the contribution of science written in non-English languages to scientific communities and the application of science. These researchers scrutinized over 400,000 peer-reviewed papers in 326 journals published in 16 languages, identifying 1,234 studies that provided scientific knowledge on saving species and ecosystems. Importantly, the number of such non-English-language studies being published is increasing, particularly in geographic areas and for species where English-language knowledge is scarce, including Latin America and other regions where conservation is needed the most. These findings have important implications for global efforts to tackle the biodiversity crisis, where lack of



evidence is an issue commonly faced when trying to implement evidence-based conservation. The authors demonstrated that incorporating non-English-language studies can expand the availability of scientific evidence on species and ecosystems into 12-25 per cent more areas and 5-32 per cent more species. "This can be a game-changer," said Dr Tatsuya Amano at the University of Queensland, Australia. Most global studies and assessments on biodiversity reported significant gaps in the availability of scientific knowledge, quite often without having explored science written in non-English languages. The findings of this research indicated

that making the best use of non-English-language science can be a quick, cost-effective approach to filling such gaps, facilitating a wider application of evidence-based conservation globally. "When English alone is clearly not providing us with sufficient scientific evidence for making effective conservation decisions, we cannot afford to be overlooking any evidence out there as we try to tackle this urgent issue," Dr Amano said. This research also sheds light on how linguistically and culturally diverse scientific communities can maximize the contribution of science to addressing urgent global challenges. "This research would not have been possible without the tremendous contribution from our 62 collaborators, who are collectively native speakers of 17 languages," stressed Amano, who is a native Japanese speaker himself. "This clearly showcases why it is important to nurture culturally-diverse scientific communities. Global challenges call for contributions from diverse communities from every corner of the globe," Amano added.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship 2022-23

Description: Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship 2022-23 is a research opportunity offered to outstanding engineers to recognize, encourage and support translational research for achieving excellence in engineering, innovation, and technology development.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for the Indian nationals working in India in various capacities of the engineering profession in public-funded institutions. The candidates must possess adequate professional qualifications and hold at least a Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 5 years of service left in the parent organization as of the date of the award.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 25,000 per month and other benefits
Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/AKT8

Scholarship Name 2: Rolls-Royce Unnati COVID Scholarship for Women in STEM 2021

Description: Rolls-Royce India Private Limited invites applications from girl students who are pursuing graduation (general and professional) courses in STEM. The scholarship is meant to support students who have lost their primary earning family member/s due to COVID-19.
Eligibility: Open for Indian girls who are currently pursuing graduation (general and professional) courses in STEM, who have lost their parent(s)/ earning family member/s due to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. Annual family income of the applicants must be less than INR 6,00,000 (6 lakh) from all sources.
Prizes & Rewards: Fixed one-time scholarship of INR 25,000
Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2022
Application mode: Online applica-

wards a career of their choice.

Eligibility: Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2021 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher



tions only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RRUS1

Scholarship Name 3: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship Programme 2021-22
Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program provides financial aid to students pursuing studies at various post-matric and undergraduate levels to continue their education and proceed to-

secondary, 3-year graduation, 4-year engineering, and Diploma courses respectively. Annual Family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of up to INR 30,000 per year for up to 4 years of studies depending on their current level of education
Last Date to Apply: 31-01-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KISF1

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No; JK04 2011 0012198 Somewhere. Now I am applying 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 RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
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COVID-19: Doctors allege 'cruel dictates' from Govt Dental College Admin

Agencies

Srinagar Even after the government orders biometric attendance, the biometric attendance is still in place at Government Dental College Srinagar.

Doctors while talking with the news agency said that biometric attendance is still in place irrespective of government orders, “there by principle is putting the lives of doctors at risk.”

They said the hospital is mostly run by post graduates and senior residents and risking their lives needs strict intervention from higher authorities.

They said that since the resurgence of Covid-19 through the past one week or so, many of them have returned as Covid positive.

“We are still being forced to come to the hospital for marking our biometric attendance as there are verbal orders that the isolation period will be marked as ‘on casual leave’ means our salary deduction,” they said.

“You can imagine that one doctor being Covid positive, coming to mark their attendance at an already congested biometric attendance point, begins the chain and you can enquire about the number of doctors returning positive over the last one week in GDC,” they said.

They alleged that many of their contacts who are symptomatic don't want to get tested just for the fear that their isolation period would be marked as absent or on casual leave.

Meanwhile, Principal Government Dental College Srinagar Riyaz Farooq termed the allegations baseless and said that they have already processed and are processing the leave as per SO issued by the government on this behalf.



Amid increase in COVID-19 cases, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday in order to prevent the virus from spreading has announced weekend lockdown in the Union Territory. Pic Abid Bhat

'Unannounced' Weekend Lockdown Takes Traders By Surprise

Agencies

Srinagar: The imposition of weekend lockdown without making any announcement has led to the sufferings of tourists as well as the losses to the traders; alleged trade bodies, stating that the unexpected decision has surprised all in the Valley.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCC&I) president, Sheikh Ashiq said that it was surprising to see the government imposing a lockdown today without making any prior notice.

“The business fraternity are well concerned citizens as well. Covid was not new for the people as it exists for the past three years now. The traders have always stood to save lives and livelihood also. But, the decision came as a surprise to all,” he said.

Ashiq further added that the decision should have been planned and conveyed to the people before as it was not a matter of a day only, but a long planning issue. He also said that such decisions come as a jolt for the people, who are daily earners.

He also said that after today's unannounced lockdown, they have received reports from different parts, claiming that the tourists present in the Valley faced immense hardships throughout the day due to unexpected and surprising decisions.

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DC oversees Implementation Of Weekend Restrictions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR,.- The Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Balwal Saturday visited various City areas to oversee the implementation of the weekend restrictions re-imposed by State Executive Committee after sudden spike in Covid-19 cases to contain the fast spread of the Coronavirus.

During the visit, the DC visited Jehangir Chowk, Numaish Gah, Magarmal Bagh, New Secretariat Road, Batalmool and other adjoining areas to take first-hand appraisal of the implementation of additional measures under weekend restrictions imposed by the government in view of the uneven trend observed in daily Covid-19 cases as well as the rising positivity rate.

On the occasion, the DC appealed to the people of Srinagar to abide by the weekend restrictions and do not invite complete lockdown. He said violation of CAB and weekend restrictions will have serious repercussions. The DC said imposition of weekend restrictions is a part of the additional measures undertaken in the larger interest of public health, safety and precautionary measures to contain the further spread of COVID-19 as the third wave engulfs the globe.

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Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd

Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government

Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

T: 0194-2311312 (S) | F: 0194-2311420 (S) | T/F: 0191-2476079 (J)
E: jkhpmttd@gmail.com

No: JKHPMC/e-NIT No.84 of 2021
Dt:14-01-2022

Subject: Corrigendum regarding modification in JV clause in r/o Notice 84 of 2021, dated 10-12-2021.
In respect of the “Tender” for “Design, Construction, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Equipment including Civil Works for 40 MT Integrated Pack House with Pre-Cooling and Cold Room for Apples with One (01) month's free trial run on Turnkey Basis at JKHPMC's Premises in Doabagh, Sopore, Jammu & Kashmir”, a “Technical Corrigendum” is published on the e-Procurement Portal of Govt. of J&K www.jktenders.gov.in. Prospective Bidders can check the website for more details.

Other Terms and Conditions will remain the same unless notified otherwise.

DIPK-NB-6592/21

Sd/-
Managing Director
JKHPMC Ltd

سانچہ ارجحہ

یہ خبر نہایت ہی اذکھہ سا تھوڑی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی سید حسن ولد مرحوم سید حسین شاہ ساکنہ ڈیگٹ سربنگر مورہ 15 جنوری 2022 کو اس دار فانی سے طرعت کر گئے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جوار رحمت میں جگہ نصیب عطا کرے۔ مرحوم کو انکے آبائی مقبرہ ڈیگٹ میں سپرد خاک کیا گیا۔ موجودہ COVID-19 دہائی صورتحال کے پیش نظر راجائی فائبروٹائی مقبرہ پر ہی انتظام پذیر ہوئی اور اس طرح میں آئندہ کوئی بھی اجتماعی فائبروٹائی انجام نہیں دی جاتی گی۔ مومنین سے سورہ فاتحہ اور دعا مغفرت کی استدعا ہے۔

سکوا راجن

سید قدوسی، سید عتیق، سید آصف علی (فرزند)

inf Cell No: 7006644163

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" Contractor Card. If anybody having any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office Superintending Engineer R&B Office Anantnag / Kulgam Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Syed Shahid Farooq
S/O Syed Farooq
Ahmad
R/O Aho-piason

Rna_r

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of School Education Kashmir, J&K

Ms. Dimple Tickoo Teacher, GHS Zewan Srinagar

No: DSEK/Estt/III/B-Trs/MZ/63/2020/3215-18

Dated:14-01-022

Pre-Termination Notice

Whereas, you were appointed in the Department as teacher under PM's Special Package for Kashmiri Migrants on 07/07/218 and was subsequently posted at GHS Zewan; and

Whereas, you assumed the post of teacher physically on 02/08/2018 and from the next day viz 03/08/2018 remained un-authorizedly absent from your legitimate duties; and

Whereas, you were provided opportunity by this office on 06/07/2021 (through Joint Show Cause notice) and were asked therein to present yourself before this Directorate with statement of defense within 07 days failing which action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you without serving any further notice; and

Whereas, neither you presented yourself before this Directorate nor responded to these notices, indicating thereby that you are not interested to work in the Department; and Whereas, un-authorized absence from duties attracts action as warranted in terms of article 128 of J&K Civil Services Rules (Volume I) of 1956, which reads as under:-

"Absence without leave or after the end of leave involves loss of appointment".

Whereas, the issue was placed before the Designated Committee in its meeting held on 11/12/2020, and a committee after thread-bare discussion took the following decision:

"Process for termination under Article-128 J&K CSR of 1956 after issuance of pre-termination notice"

Now, before action under Article 128 of J&K Civil Services Rules (Volume I) of 1956 is initiated against you for remaining un-authorizedly absent from your legitimate duties w.e.f. 03/08/2018, an opportunity is hereby again provided for hearing you and your statement of defense which must reach to this Directorate within 7 days after issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be construed that you have nothing to say in this regard and proposed action shall be initiated against you without further notice.

DIPK-16753/21

Sd /-Director,
School Education Kashmir

SKIMS Medical College-Hospital

Bemina Srinagar (J&K) - 190017
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

POSTPONEMENT NOTICE

It is hereby notified that in view of upsurge in COVID-19 cases across the UT of J&K and pursuant to the instructions issued by the Govt, including social distancing and health consideration, the written test (Objective Type) for the post of Data Manager on contractual basis under ATF Scheme, which was scheduled to be conducted on 18.01.2022 at Lecture Hall Complex, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina is hereby postponed till further notice.

(Dr. Abdul Majid)
Prof & HOD Psychiatry &
Nodal Officer, ATF Scheme

DIPK-NB-6596/21

No. SKIMS/MCH/ PSY/2022/45
Dated: 15-01-2022

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
12 Jumada al-Sani
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	6: 08
ZUHR	12:38
ASR	4:07
Magrib	5:48
ISHA	7: 12

This Day In History

- 1929 - WHP-AM in Harrisburg PA begins radio transmissions
- 1935 - Adolf Hitler orders German rearmament in violation of The Treaty of Versailles
- 1939 - Germany occupies Czechoslovakia
- 1939 - Hungary annexes republic of Karpato-Ukraine
- 1940 - German air raid on British fleet base Scapa Flow
- 1941 - Blitzard hits North Dakota & Minnesota killing 60
- 1945 - Allies secure Iwo Jima
- 1945 - Würzburg, Germany is 90% destroyed, with 5,000 dead, in only 20 minutes by British bombers.
- 1959 - Iraq & USSR sign economic/technical treaty
- 1962 - 1st launching of Titan 2-rocket
- 1962 - US Super-Constellation disappears above Pacific Ocean, kills 167
- 1966 - Gemini 8 launched with Armstrong & Scott, aborted after 6.5 orbits
- 1968 - General Motors produces its 100 millionth automobile, the Oldsmobile Toronado.
- 1969 - Viasa DC-9 crashes at Maracaibo's Grano de Oro airport, killing 155
- 1970 - New English Bible published
- 1971 - Northern Ireland Prime Minister Chichester-Clark meets with British PM Heath to discuss the security situation in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - Shah of Iran and Consortium members agree to nationalize all assets immediately in return for an assured 20-year supply of Iranian oil
- 1973 - OPEC discusses raising prices to offset decline of U.S. dollar value
- 1976 - British Prime Minister Harold Wilson announces his resignation
- 1977 - US president Carter pleads for Palestinian homeland
- 1978 - Amoco Cadiz spills 223,000 tons of crude oil off French coast
- 1978 - Soyuz 26 returns to Earth
- 1978 - US Senate accepts Panama Canal treaty
- 1984 - South Africa & Mozambique sign non attack treaty
- 1985 - Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut
- 1988 - US sends 3,000 soldiers to Nicaragua's neighbor Honduras
- 1994 - Moravcik forms Slovakia government
- 1995 - Mississippi House of Representatives formally abolishes slavery & ratifies 13th Amendment.
- 1995 - World best 7th wkt stand 461 by Bhupinder Singh Jr & P Dhamani
- 1998 - Pope John Paul II asks God for forgiveness for the inactivity and silence of some Roman Catholics during the Holocaust.
- 2003 - The largest coordinated worldwide vigil takes place, as part of the global protests against Iraq war.

From KO Archives

74% Polling In Panchayat Polls: Govt

JAMMU - : Defying throaty and boycott calls an estimated 74 percent of nearly two and a half lakh voters today cast ballots as the opening day of the first phase of panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir passed off peacefully. Polling was held in seven and half blocks of the border districts of Kupwara, Rajouri and Poonch, chief electoral officer (CEO) Pramod Jain said. He said 85 percent polling was recorded at panchayats of Krapora block of Kupwara district. However, it was only 70 percent each in Tangdhar and Teetwal blocks of the district.

Jain said 68 and 65 polling was recorded in Mehdhar and Balakote blocks of Poonch districts respectively, while it was about 78 percent in three blocks of Rajouri district.

He said counting was in progress and the results were expected by late evening.

Police said, barring one incident of altercation between two groups during which some polling boxes were damaged in Aruni village of Poonch district, polling was peaceful.

A report from Tangdhar block said two women — 120-year-old Tahira Begum and 108-year-old Yakdab Bibi polled at the booth.

The polling in the remaining blocks of the three districts would be held on January 17 and 19, Jain said, adding over five lakh electorates will decide the fate of 1667 candidates, panchs and sarpanchs in 125 panchayats. (PTI)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 16 January, 2001)

Will Not Form Alliance With SP, Says ASP Chief Chandrashekhar



Chandrashekhar Azad, president of the Azad Samaj Party (ASP), has dubbed Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav as 'anti-Dalit' and made it clear that he is not going to form an alliance with the SP in the upcoming assembly polls.

Chandrashekhar claimed that Akhilesh does not understand the meaning of social justice and accused the SP chief of humiliating him.

"Akhilesh has insulted Dalits. He only needs Dalit votes, not leaders. It has become clear from his behaviour that he is similar to the BJP," Chandrashekhar said while interacting with the media in Lucknow on Saturday.

He also asserted that the BJP will not be allowed to come to power.

"I have had a lot of meetings with Akhilesh Yadav in the last 6 months and we also had many positive conversations, but in the end I felt that Akhilesh does not need Dalits. He does not want Dalit leaders in his alliance. He only wants Dalits to vote for him," Chandrashekhar told reporters.

He said that all issues including reservation were discussed (with Akhilesh). "Akhilesh assured me he will respond by the evening (on the alliance issue). But he didn't. Probably doesn't want an alliance."

FOR NINE YEARS, I HAVE BEEN gathering the 'Bahujan' (Dalit) community. Our aim is to stop the BJP. An attempt was made to stop my press conference. My fight is not to become an MLA, but to get social justice,"

"For nine years, I have been gathering the 'Bahujan' (Dalit) community. Our aim is to stop the BJP. An attempt was made to stop my press conference. My fight is not to become an MLA, but to get social justice," Chandrashekhar added.

He added, "If Akhilesh comes to power, then it is necessary to discuss the situation ahead. Intellectuals have warned us of possible violence against Dalits. Akhilesh humiliated us after 40 days. He insulted the people of the 'Bahujan' community."

Chandrashekhar said, "In the past, we were finalising things regarding the alliance. We were constantly talking to the SP and Akhilesh Yadav. From what we understood from his words, it is clear that he does not want Bahujans in the alliance. Several issues needed to be cleared."

"The character of political parties changes after coming to power. Such examples have been seen in the previous government. In such a situation, we are determined to work for the protection of Dalit rights. The SP president remained silent on the issue of our rights."

Chandrashekhar had met Akhilesh Yadav at the SP office on Friday. The meeting between the two leaders lasted for about an hour. **IANIS**

Indian Army's New Combat Uniform Unveiled: Top 5 Things To Know

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has unveiled a new combat uniform that is comfortable, climate friendly and features a digital disruptive pattern. A contingent of commandos of Parachute regiment, wearing the new uniforms, took part in the Army Day parade today.

Following are the top 5 things to know about the Indian Army's new combat uniform:

The uniform, which features a mix of colours including olive and earthen, has been designed taking into considerations aspects like areas of deployment of the troops and climatic conditions in which they operate.

The new uniform has been designed after analysing combat uniforms of armies of various other countries, in association with National Institute of Fashion Technology, sources said.

This uniform is more comfortable and it would be worn in all types of terrains, they said. The



digital disruptive pattern is designed with help of computer aid, they said.

The shirt in the new uniform does not have to be tucked in the trouser, the sources said. The shirt in the old uniform had to be tucked in.

The sources said the new uniforms would not be available in the open market.



SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT Akhilesh Yadav during 'Vijay Rath Yatra' in Hardoi- PTI PHOTO

BJP Wickets Are Falling, Party Couldn't Fathom Our Strategy: Akhilesh Yadav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW: Akhilesh Yadav on Friday taunted the BJP for losing "one wicket after the other" and not fathoming the Samajwadi Party (SP) strategy as he inducted two ministers and six other MLAs who recently deserted the ruling alliance into his Samajwadi Party.

Apart from the six BJP MLAs, a legislator from BJP ally Apna Dal (Sonelal) also joined the Samajwadi Party at a large public meeting in the compound of the party office, a defiance of Covid norms that led to the registration of a case.

The Election Commission (EC) has banned election meetings till January 15. In apparent deference to the EC order, the meeting was called a "virtual rally" and a "press conference", going by the banner behind the dais.

"The BJP wickets are falling one after the other. Our 'baba' CM doesn't know how to play cricket. Even if he knew, he has dropped the catch," the SP president commented on Friday. The meeting between the two leaders lasted for about an hour. **IANIS**

Mr Yadav also mocked the chief minister over his "80 versus 20" remark, suggesting that Yogi Adityanath should get himself a

THE BJP WICKETS ARE falling one after the other. Our 'baba' CM doesn't know how to play cricket. Even if he knew, he has dropped the catch,"

math teacher.

The Chief Minister had recently said 80 per cent of the voters will be on the BJP's side and the remaining 20 percent against it in next month's assembly polls, a jibe that many thought alluded to the Muslim proportion of the state's population.

The SP leader said the real proportion of those with the two rivals was just the opposite.

And after the entry of Swami Prasad Maurya and the others in the SP, the BJP would lose even this 20 percent, Mr Yadav said after conferring the party membership to the OBC leader who resigned from the Adityanath cabinet earlier this week.

Mr Maurya too referred to the 80-20 remark. "Now it will be 15 and 85. Eighty-five is ours, there will be divisions in the 15 as well," he said. He also vowed to "finish" the BJP.

'Damage Control': In First List, BJP Gives Tickets To 44 OBC Candidates In UP

NEW DELHI: In an attempt to control the damage caused by exodus of leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya and others, the BJP has given majority representation to the OBCs in its first list of candidates for the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls.

Of 107 candidates announced on Saturday, 44 comes from OBC communities.

Several OBC leaders including Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan, Dharam Singh Saini and others resigned from BJP in the last few days.

A saffron party leader said that extent of damage caused by exit of Swami Prasad Maurya and other OBC leaders is still to be accessed but the list shows that the party tried to keep the backward communities in good faith by giving almost half of the tickets to OBC candidates in the first list.

"Polls results will show the real impact of the recent exodus led by Maurya but the



leadership realised the importance of OBC communities. To win their support, the bulk share of tickets in the first list went to them," he said.

The OBC plays an important and decisive role in Uttar Pradesh politics and constitutes over 50 per cent of the total electorate of the state. While the non-Yadav OBCs constitute around 35 per cent of the state's total electorate.

The BJP is eyeing to win the election for a second consecutive term with the support of

Using wrestling terms, the new entrant challenged BJP leaders to try whatever move they wanted. "I will ground you into the earth. I will finish the Bharatiya Janata Party as the time has come to rid Uttar Pradesh of your oppression."

Mr Maurya was the first to desert the BJP, and the move was followed by similar announcement by others -- mostly leaders from the Other Backward Classes who claimed that the ruling party had ignored their community.

Apart from Maurya, his former cabinet colleague Dharam Singh Saini and five other BJP MLA joined the SP on Friday.

They are Bhagwati Sagar (from Bilhaur in Kanpur), Roshanlal Verma (Tilhar in Shahjahanpur), Vinay Shukla (Bidhuna in Auraiya), Brajesh Prajapati (Tindwari in Bahraich) and Mukesh Verma (Shikohabad in Firozabad).

Amar Singh, an MLA who represented BJP ally Apna Dal (Sonelal), also joined the opposition party. Several district and block-level politicians, aligned to different parties, also switched sides at the event.

But Dara Singh Chauhan, who too had quit the state cabinet, was absent. Sources said he is likely to join the SP on Sunday.

Mayawati's BSP Announces First List Of 53 Candidates For UP Elections

Asian News International

LUCKNOW: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has released the first list of candidates on 53 assembly seats of Uttar Pradesh for the upcoming polls.

"We have finalized candidates on 53 seats in the first list, remaining 5 will be released in a day or two," BSP chief Mayawati said Saturday while addressing a press conference in Lucknow.

Elections for the 403 Assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh will be held in seven phases starting February 10. A total of 58 assembly seats spread over 11 districts will go the polls in the first phase on February 10.

Mayawati expressed confidence about winning the polls and forming the government.

"In the upcoming assembly elections, the people will definitely bring our party to power again and I also want to assure them that after coming to power this time our party will again run the government in all matters like its previous regime," she said.



Polling in Uttar Pradesh will be held on February 10, 14, 20, 23, 27 and March 3 and 7 in seven phases. The counting of votes will take place on March 10.

In 2017 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won 312 out of 403 seats. The Samajwadi Party and the Congress had sealed an alliance with the former contesting on 298 seats and the latter on the remaining 105 seats. The SP could manage to win only 47 seats and Congress won seven seats. Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP) had won 19 seats.

IN THE UPCOMING ASSEMBLY elections, the people will definitely bring our party to power again and I also want to assure them that after coming to power this time our party will again run the government in all matters like its previous regime,"

2 Shot Dead By Ex Army Man During Clash In Gujarat's Porbandar: Cops



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PORBANDAR: A former Army man allegedly gunned down two persons during a clash between two groups of a community in Gujarat's Porbandar town, police said on Saturday.

An offence has been registered against 11 persons, including a local BJP councillor and his son, for the incident that took place on Friday night, an official said.

The two groups held a grudge against each other over some past dispute about the municipal election held in February last year, Superintendent of Police Porbandar Ravi Mohan Saini said.

"Last night, some members of two groups from Maher community clashed. One of them was a former Army man, who had a licenced weapon. Two persons died from shots fired from the weapon at a close range," the official said.

According to the police, the clash erupted after vehicles of some members of the two

groups were hit, following which people started hurling abuses and firing in the air.

Armed with a revolver, swords and baseball bats, they attacked each other, leaving two dead and one (the complainant) seriously injured, it was stated.

The police have arrested three persons including ex-Army man Arbhman Odedara and seized the weapon, he said, adding that efforts are underway to nab others.

An FIR has been registered under sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapons) and 504 (intentional insult) of the IPC against 11 persons, an official of Kamla Baug police station said.

The deceased persons were identified as Kalpesh Bhutia and Raj Keshwala, he said.

Local BJP councillor Bhima Odedara and his son Nilesh are among 11 persons named in the FIR, he added.

LAST NIGHT, SOME MEMBERS OF TWO groups from Maher community clashed. One of them was a former Army man, who had a licenced weapon. Two persons died from shots fired from the weapon at a close range,"

Republic Day Parade: Only 24,000 People To Attend, No Foreign Dignitaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Approximately 24,000 people will be permitted to attend the Republic Day parade on January 26 this year given the COVID-19 situation in the national capital, sources in the defence establishment said today.

In 2020, before the pandemic struck India, around 1.25 lakh people were permitted to attend the parade, they noted.

Last year's Republic Day parade took place amid the Covid pandemic and close to 25,000 people were allowed to attend it, sources mentioned.

Like last year, this time too



the parade may not have any foreign dignitary as the chief guest due to the pandemic, they said, adding India was

planning to invite the leaders of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

Out of the approximately 24,000 people who will be attending the parade this year, 19,000 would be invited and the rest would be the general public, who can purchase tickets, sources said.

All COVID-19 protocols will be followed at the parade. Social distancing norms would be followed while making the seating arrangements, they mentioned, adding sanitiser dispensers will be available everywhere and wearing masks would be compulsory.

Woman On Scooter Dies After Throat Slit By Kite String In Madhya Pradesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UJJAIN (MADHYA PRADESH): A 20-year-old woman lost her life as the 'Chinese string' (string coated with powdered glass) of a kite slit her throat in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain city on Saturday, police said.

The incident took place at Zero Point Bridge under Madhav Nagar police station limits when the woman was riding a scooter with a friend, Additional Superintendent of Police Ravindra Verma said.

A kite string slashed her throat and she bled to death on the spot, the officer said, adding that the girl who was riding



pillion was safe.

A case was registered and

search was on for the person who was flying the kite. Police

were also scanning CCTV footage of the area, Verma said.

Police will also take action against the suppliers and sellers of powdered glass-coated string, commonly called 'Chinese string', the officer added.

The string is coated with powdered glass to make it razor-sharp and enable it to 'cut' other kites flying in the sky.

But the incidents of people, especially bike-riders, getting slashed by it, sometimes fatally, are reported every year around the Makar Sankranti festival.

In many places, the use of such string is illegal.

SKUAST-K commemorates Yuva Diwas

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Youth Day, 'Yuva Diwas' was organized by NSS wing of Department of Students' Welfare Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir in virtual mode to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The theme for the programme was 'Harmony of Religion in view of Swami Vivekananda' under which essay competition was organized among students of the faculty. Students, faculty members and NSS volunteers of Faculty of Horticulture participated in the daylong programme to express their own view about the religion.

Dr Seemi Lohani, Organiser of this programme in her welcome address enlightened the audience about the importance of conducting such programme with an aim to bring students of different religions under one umbrella. Director Education, Prof MN Khan, who was the guest of honour, deliberated upon the importance of religion and education in understanding spiritual, moral and social values.

Director Extension, Prof Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi, Chief guest, in his remarks encouraged and appreciated the students for taking part in the daylong event. He emphasized the importance of acknowledging each other values irrespective of religion and cast. He also advised the audience to acquire

religious knowledge which can act as a guiding force to the right path and can pave the way for a happy and peaceful community.

Dean Students' Welfare Prof MAA Siddique, Co-patron, enlightened the audience about the teachings of religion in imbining ethics for prosperous growth of the society as a cohesive unit.

Students delivered lectures covering diverse topics about the religion and teaching of Swami Vivekananda as driving source of inspiration and motivation for young generation.

Students throw light upon the teachings of Swami Vivekananda of preaching religious tolerance and combing Indian spirituality with Western material progress which can supplement and complement each other. Students advocated the slogan of bringing unity and innovation to ignite, motivate and activate youth to nation building.

Dr. Z. A. Rather, co-organizer, expressed his views about the value and relevance of humanity in religion and stressed that It is not just a set of rules only that we take from religion but the teaching that make us good human beings.

In the end, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Malik, co-organizer presented the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and participants for gracing the event. In his concluding remarks, he emphasised upon the practising of today's message to act as good human beings.

Director SCERT Chairs Valedictory Function Of KATHASHILP



Observer News Service

JAMMU: To carry forward the goal of National Mission by Ministry of Education, GOI, NIPUN BHARAT (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) to ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27, SCERT J&K, Jammu Division has been organizing "Kathashilp" -a weekly series of online story-telling sessions for children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.

Programme was launched by Population Education, Girl Education, ECCE and Education for All Wing of SCERT J&K, Jammu Division in collaboration with Eduweave Foundation and partnered with Miranda House college, Delhi under the directions of Prof.Veena Pandita Director SCERT & guidance of Surinder Kumar Joint Director SCERT-JK J&K and N.P. Singh-Head of the Wing on Oct 9, 2021

Today's session was inaugurated by Surinder Kumar, Joint Director SCERT-JK Jammu Division and Valedictory function was chaired by Director SCERT J&K Prof Veena Pandita who impressed upon the criti-

cal relevance of stories and story-telling as a time-tested & effective tool and pedagogical approaches for enhancing literacy & developing language skills among children. She also complemented Team Kathashilp at SCERT and Team Eduweave Foundation and Students of Miranda House for wonderful Conducting 16 week long story sessions.

Prof Bijalaxmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House, University of Delhi who was Guest of honour also was all praise for her students and SCERT J&K and Eduweave Foundation for providing them the platform where as Ms Amita Kaushik, Director Eduweave Foundation and Asst professor, Swaran Lata Saha were special guests on the occasion.

Through this initiative children (5-9yrs) were introduced to the magic of stories through different story telling techniques using props, puppets, gestures and voice modulations.

The key objectives of this program were Strengthening foundational literacy skills among students of 5 to 9 years of age by using story-telling method as a pedagogical tool. Enabling children to become motivated, independent, and engaged readers and writers

Security Along IB Heightened Ahead Of R-Day Celebrations

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Security forces on Saturday launched area domination patrol in forward villages along the International Border (IB) in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir to frustrate any attempt by anti-national elements to disrupt the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations, an official said.

Police assisted by other security forces also carried out a search operation in the Nikki Tawi area of Jammu as part of the stepped up security arrangements across the province which is hosting the main Republic Day function in the Union Territory, where Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will unfurl the national flag, the officials said.

They said police along with CRPF, BSF and Army started area domination patrols in the villages near the International Border in Samba district as part



of a security drill to keep an eye on suspicious movement from across the border.

"We have started area domination patrols to look for loopholes to further strengthen our border security grid," a police officer said.

He said long-range patrol to cover 15 km per day was part of the area domination to scuttle any attempts by anti-national elements to disrupt the Republic day celebrations.

In the past, attempts have been made from across the border to push armed militants and smuggle weapons to disturb the Republic Day functions, he said, adding police and other security forces are alive to the threat and have taken all necessary measures to counter the nefarious designs of the inimical elements bent upon to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Cong Seeks Rehabilitation Of Roop Nagar Families

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Saturday sought personal intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in undoing the injustice meted out to tribal families who were displaced during an anti-encroachment drive by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) here recently.

A party delegation led by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee chief G A Mir visited the affected families at Roop Nagar, in the outskirts of Jammu, and said the party stood by them.

The JDA on Tuesday retrieved prime land worth several crores

of rupees during an anti-encroachment drive with the assistance of police and district administration in Roop Nagar.

According to JDA officials, some 17 structures, including houses and cowsheds, were razed to the ground in the posh area, measuring over five acres.

The affected families, mostly Gujjars and Bakarwals, claimed that they were in possession of the land for over eight decades.

They alleged that they were suddenly rendered homeless by the government without serving any notice and in the harsh winter.

Lt Governor Sinha should personally intervene in the matter to undo the injustice meted out

to the poor tribal families who have been rendered homeless and appropriate action must be taken against the guilty, Mir, who was accompanied by senior party leaders, including working president Raman Bhalla, said.

The PCC team listened to the grievances of the agitating families and denounced the selective action of the JDA against the tribal families having residential houses and cattle sheds since 1947, a party spokesman said.

Mir lashed out at the arbitrary and selective action of the government and said such selective action against the poor sent wrong signals and it needed to be denounced.

BJP Core Group Meet Discusses Covid Situation In J-K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Saturday held a joint meeting of core groups of all its organisational districts in Jammu and discussed the COVID-19 situation in the union territory.

J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina inaugurated the meeting at the party headquarters here, while Union minister Jitendra Singh and other senior leaders joined it virtually, a party spokesperson said.

"A core group meeting of all organisational districts of Jammu province was held to discuss the prevailing situation, especially the surge in COVID-19 cases," Raina told reporters.

At the meeting, the party workers were directed to extend their support to the administration in its efforts for the mitigation of COVID-19 and to serve the people in the best

Patient Ends Life At Kulgam Hospital

SRINAGAR: An elderly patient allegedly committed suicide by jumping from 4th floor of the District Hospital Kulgam on Saturday.

An official said that an elderly patient ended his life by jumping from the fourth floor of the district hospital this morning.

He identified him as Abdul Ahad Malla (70) a resident of Tarigam area of Kulgam district.

He said that patient was suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease besides depression, which might be reason behind the extreme step.

He added that investigation in this regard has been taken up—(KNO)

NITI Aayog Convenes Discussion Over 'Aspirational Districts Forum'

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In a bid to provide a platform where public functionaries can deliberate and discuss different means and modalities for up-scaling the indicators of socio-economic development, Country's top most think tank NITI Aayog on Saturday organized a virtual panel discussion under the banner of "Aspirational Districts Forum" in which Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Bhupinder Kumar participated.

Bhupinder Kumar was the sole representative from the UT of J&K and the only Deputy Commissioner among all the DCs of the country. He was specially invited in the event as the Baramulla district has recorded overwhelming and



remarkable performance thrice in subsequent NITI Aayog's delta rankings.

At the outset, CEO Amitabh Kant presented the keynote address wherein he underlined several policy objectives envisaged under the Aspirational Districts programme. He welcomed all the participants besides extending warm applause and appreciations to DC Baramulla for excelling and recording marvelous perfor-

mance among all the aspirational districts of the country.

Bhupinder Kumar, in his address gave a detailed sketch of the developmental journey of Baramulla district and shared his valuable experience while achieving milestones in public service delivery which enabled the district to stand at the apex in competitive federalism.

While presenting his valuable suggestions and feedback for achieving development

oriented outcomes, the DC also put forth some issues and challenges confronting the pace of development. He added that there is a dire need to upgrade basic infrastructure in government health institutions as the people largely prefer the private sector for primary as well as secondary healthcare services. He further said that this has increased the out of pocket expenditure which has serious implications on the marginal and weaker sections of the society.

The Deputy Commissioner also presented an overview of developmental profile more especially in health and other vital sectors and said that better outcomes were achieved through collaborative approach among various stakeholders.

Medical Student's Body Reaches Home

Agencies

BUDGAM: Body of a Kashmiri MBBS student, who died in a Bangladesh College on Wednesday, reached her native village in Budgam on Saturday, officials said.

An official said that the body of Seema Zehra, a resident of Zabar Mohalla in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, reached her home on late Saturday evening where her last rites were

performed.

Seema was a 2nd year student at Addin Sakina Medical College Jessore, Bangladesh and died on January 12 at her College campus.

Arrangements were made to airlift the body from Bangladesh to Srinagar after Jammu Kashmir LG Manoj Sinha assured the family of all possible help to bring back the student's mortal remains, the officials said—(KNO)

Advisor Khan Reviews Developmental Works In Kupwara



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Braving winter chill that has engulfed the Kashmir Valley in the aftermath of the recent heavy snowfall, Lt Governor's advisor Farooq Khan on Saturday visited border town of Kupwara district and chaired a meeting with elected representatives of the Panchayati Raj System (PRI) including District and Block Development Council members.

Khan heard the issues raised by the participants and assured them that the administration is working round-the-clock to ensure proper functioning of the grass-root level institutions.

"Kupwara has always been a beacon of nationalism which was evident by the participation of its people in the democratic exercises even in 1996 (when militancy was at its peak). The 2014 assembly elections and later the local bodies polls in 2018 again proved your belief in democracy," Khan said chairing the meeting. He said the administration is working to strengthen and empower the DDC, BDC and other PRI members across the Union territory.

"We want you to take lead in the developmental works in your constituencies to fulfill the

dream of Naya (new) Kashmir," the advisor said, urging the PRIs to extend their cooperation to the civil administration in speeding up the developmental works.

Khan assured the participants that all their problems would be addressed in a time-bound manner so that there is no obstacle in fulfilling the promises made to the public.

"You are public representatives and know their needs. You should guide the district administration in developmental activities so that the people get some relief," he said.

Earlier, the DDC and BDC members highlighted various issues of public importance and the issues concerning them as well, officials said.

Khan has been camping in the valley and recently visited various hospitals to take stock of the Covid preparedness.

During his visit to the hospitals, he said a proper mechanism should be kept readily available at all the hospitals in order to fight the rising number of Covid cases. Khan has been making appeals to people for following proper Covid protocols and stressed that it should become a routine habit.

UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR									
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.									
NOTICE INVITING TENDER									
NIT No-273 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering						DATED-14.01.2022.			
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:									
S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DDC (In Rupees)	E/Money in shape of CDR/FDR	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
01	Macadamization/Widening of Road from main road to Ziyarat Shareef with inner links at Rampora by way of Providing and laying WBM grade-2nd	6.80 lacs	300/-	13600/-	15 days	21.01. 2022	DEE/ CEE	Back To Village	Accorded
02	Upgradation/Macadimization of all inner links with drains at different spots a RD Pora (Phase 4)	5.00 lacs	200/-	10000/-	15 days	21.01. 2022	DEE	Back To Village	Accorded
03	Providing and laying of RCC Spun pipes at Spots on Sopore Town	1.00 lacs	200/-	2000/-	10 days	21.01. 2022	DEE	3054 M&R	
04	Construction of Drain from H/O Gh Rasool Lone to Darasgah at Nehrapora Ward No14 of MC Sopore (Balance portions towards damma complex)	2.70 lacs	200/-	5400/-	15 days	21.01. 2022	DEE	My Town My pride	Accorded
Position of funds: Available									
1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:									
01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14.01.2022							
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14.01.2022(10.00 A.M) to 20.01.2022(4.00P.M)							
03.	Bid submission start date	14.01.2022from (04.00P.M)							
04.	Bid submission end date	20.01.2022upto (4.00 P.M)							
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	21.01.2022at (04.10 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore							
2 Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Earnest Money in shape of CDR/ FDR in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore(tender inviting authority).									
3. All Bidders have to submit performance security as per circular of Finance Department vide Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Kashmir's endorsement No: CE/R&B/HD/32857-92 date:01.01.2021.									
4. The 1 st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR / BG, and Treasury challan within 02 days before fixation of contract and 2%CDR shall be released after receipt of 5% performance security and same shall be released after DLP is over.									
5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).									
6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.									
7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.									
7.1	Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.								
7.2	To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.								
1.3	The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.								
7.4	Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1								
7.5	Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.								
19	The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful/ Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original with the tender receiving authority, irrespective of submission of hard copies and failure of submission of tender document fee be bidder using the site shall entail him or blacklisting.								
20.	All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No:2 of 2020-21 issued under No:-641-61dated: 22.4.2020 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)								
21.	If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.								
For and on behalf of the, Lt. Governor of J&K UT,									
No:- 16964-84		Dated:- 14.01.2022						DIPK-16737/21	
									Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

KASHMIR

OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



“There’s a considerable spike in covid-19 cases. While this wave seems to be unstoppable — Covid appropriate behaviour still works. Wear mask, maintain physical distance and stay in ventilated spaces. Get vaccinated and stay vigilant”

@tooba_tweets

“Doctors ke liye thaali peetni thi. Tumne doctors hi peet diye yaar”

@baxiaabhishek

“Viruses want to survive and for that it’s host (humans) must survive too. All viruses eventually downgrade their strength so that not to kill host. Expect newer #Covid variants to be very mild, just like common flu”

@tariqtramboo

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Srinagar In Decay - II

Amidst the Srinagar Municipal Corporation's utterly dismal showing on the garbage disposal front come reports of yet another triumph in dereliction of duty – legally designated residential enclaves are to be declared commercial areas in abject capitulation before galloping violations of the famed Srinagar Master Plan.

The distinction between purely residential and commercial areas had already become blurred due to unregulated sprouting of business outlets in zones meant exclusively for habitation. The unchecked shopping complex syndrome which has been allowed to straddle the city indiscriminately has turned Srinagar into a vast market place with no demarcation of business and private zones. Markets are taking over even the few enclaves specifically planned as exclusive residential zones. And the commercialization of other residential areas, which do not enjoy the luxury of being designated as such, has overturned the very basic character of the once quiet and peaceful localities.

Every city worth the name has maintained clearly demarcated business districts to spare residential areas the unwelcome intrusion of commercial activity. Even in the case of New Delhi, that appeared to have lost the battle with indiscriminate commercialization, a turnaround has been witnessed with the government putting its foot down and upholding the sanctity of residential areas by a series of strict measures. Centralized and localized shopping malls, closing down of commercial spaces in residential areas and other such steps have restored a semblance of sanity to Delhi.


But how do the bright sparks of Srinagar respond to the city's crisis? By simply caving in to the fait accompli. Sparing themselves the headache of thinking out a Srinagar-specific way out, our illustrious rulers take the shortcut of a legal artifice: let us solve the problem by one stroke of the pen and declare the mongrelized residential areas as commercial zones.

The turmoil of the past years is often cited as the reason for the many ills plaguing government functioning, but no attempt is made to explain the booming commercial sector which has put such tremendous pressure on civic infrastructure. Taking a differential element for analysis, the case of Lal Chowk could prove particularly illuminating. This commercial hub of the city had begun showing unmistakable signs of saturation over two decades ago. But civic and government agencies have responded by choosing not to act. The message from Lal Chowk was clear – the demand for commercial space was growing at an incredible pace, and what was happening in the heart of the city would definitely be replicated in other parts of Srinagar. One of the several possible ways to address the need would have been to plan a satellite commercial district, even a series of them, that could absorb the overflow from Lal Chowk and other major markets of the city. The top-heavy and ugly construction in the city's markets and the resulting intractable congestion, not to speak of traffic flow disasters, could have been avoided by the admittedly cost-intensive, but in the long run, cheaper, alternative of developing segregated, exclusively commercial zones. The daily needs of residential areas can always be met by planned and centralized shopping arcades or malls that would leave the peace of these zones largely undisturbed.

True, city planning cannot be carried out in isolated segments, but has to be a holistic exercise including social, economic and other factors. But that is precisely what the bloated officialdom of the state is being paid for. But, instead of applying its mind to the pressing issues, the ruling class and its complicit bureaucracy is content with merely going through the motions of administration.

Kashmir has had a singular set of rulers whose frequent jaunts outside and abroad have left them totally untouched and innocent of any desire to learn or be influenced by successful civic models elsewhere. Not a single ruler has ever voiced even the feeble wish of developing Srinagar on sane, practical and environmentally-sound lines. While the city is literally gasping for survival, all it gets as treatment is inaction on the bureaucratic front in the face of runaway commercialization and civic failure, and grandiose schemes on the rulers' front like golf courses and tulip gardens –a classic case of asking a bread-starved people to eat cake.

Highest Seat Of Nepotism



For Representational Purposes Only/ Getty Images

Mukhtar Ahmad Farooqi

HIGHER education is at the top of education pyramid and is considered as the backbone of any society. Universities, Institutes of technology, colleges, seminaries, academies are the institutions where higher learning or tertiary level of learning takes place. The main purpose of these institutions is not merely impart in-depth knowledge. They are places where apart from knowledge transmission/dissemination, knowledge creation takes place.

Even though higher education in India had been showing a rise, both, in terms of expansion as well as students opting to go for higher education due to saturation and non-employability at secondary levels; recent rankings of institutions of higher learning have shown mostly decline from the previously assigned rankings. This indeed is worrisome.

Intellectual class and academicians consider inbreeding and nepotism as the main causes of their degrading academic productivity and quality.

Inbreeding or more precisely “academic inbreeding” is the practice wherein the universities or more specifically their departments give preference to home trained candidates while recruiting teaching faculty that is those who have completed their PG degree or terminal degree usually a PhD at the same university in preference to those candidates who have completed such degrees from other universities even when the later are better qualified or skilled. They remain there throughout their careers. Menace of inbreeding has not only made institutions of higher learning bereft of academic growth, productivity and mobility but also has led to a rise of “Yes-Man” culture in these institutions. Those candidates who have the ability of making good connections with faculty members after securing admission in their respective PG courses get top ranks/Gold medals and also make sure there are no hurdles when they apply for research programmes irrespective of their worth.

In rare cases, inbreeding maybe beneficial to academic institutions but in society like ours where having any “channel” can do wonders for you, benefits of academic inbreeding are almost negligible.

Another practice – rather a menace — that is marring our academic institutions is nepotism. Throughout our academic journeys, we all have experienced nepotism in one form or another. Nepotism is the practice of people in high positions or possessing power to favour their own friends and family as for SET 3 points and for NET 5 points which meant that a candidate with NET & SET will secure 8 points while a candidate with NET/

“SIMILARLY, MOST OF THE RESEARCH seats are also allotted to aspirants on the basis of academic nepotism and favouritism which has led to the emergence of such dynasties which can be deemed as “Academic dynasties.”

instead of those who may be more qualified or talented. Institutions of higher learning, especially universities, where recruitments for faculty positions are done by respective university boards, meritocracy becomes the main casualty. Various independent studies have shown that people in power have adjusted their immediate family members or friends on top posts irrespective of their ability or worth for that very post due to ever increasing menace of nepotism thereby guaranteeing their career advancement regardless of their merit. At times even eligibility criteria is modified so as to give edge to their kinship.

Let us try to understand this by a case study where in a candidate despite having qualified NET/JRF got less points than the person having NET and SET only in a particular subject. Rules were modified in such a manner that for NET with JRF only 7 points were earmarked while

JRF only 7 points despite the fact that a person after qualifying NET/JRF does not apply rather need not to apply/qualify SET. This willful edition/modification meant that NET/JRF candidate got less aggregate points. After the final selection list was out, later concluded that eligibility norms were unethically changed so as to the adjust other candidate despite both having similar set of qualifications/degrees and publications.

Similarly, most of the research seats are also allotted to aspirants on the basis of academic nepotism and favoritism which has led to the emergence of such dynasties which can be deemed as “Academic dynasties.” They are later awarded PhDs irrespective of the quality of research done or their ability to defend their thesis. Competency remains just a slogan in such a scenario. Upon being hired, they become loyal to their so called “supervisors

” and this illegitimate and unethical practice continues for generations to establish hierarchy of such lobbyists. On certain occasions some posts have been exclusively created in academic council meetings to adjust their siblings or immediate family members by relaxing usual rules and norms.

These practices not only raise questions on the organizational or institutional integrity but also breeds distrust among other co-learners and outside learners of similar learning stages, and dampens their motivation ultimately quality and productivity. Likewise, if some candidates somehow manage to secure their placements on merit, cronyism becomes their enemy which means close friends and family members of politicians are given preference against merit system. Despite giving sermons of upholding merit, governments/ authorities at the helm of affairs have failed to discourage such illegitimate and unethical practices in these academic institutions thereby deflating motivation among skilled/ talented and deserving pass outs.

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

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What Will Our Long-Term Peace With Covid-19 Look Like?

John Letzing

It seems clear that the coronavirus will endure in one form or another.

So experts now argue for a 'new normal' strategy for COVID-19.

They say Omicron may be nudging the disease into an endemic phase.

On New Year's Eve I watched revelers navigate crowded sidewalks on the fringes of San Francisco's financial district, headed to events like a Black & White Ball in a mall.

The day before, the city had registered 1,820 new cases of COVID-19 – just two weeks after the 7-day rolling average was still hovering below 200. These partygoers likely realized what they were risking. Yet here they were, determined and decked out in evening wear.

A few days later and a bit further to the south, a line of people waiting for COVID-19 tests stretched six city blocks. The surge was official. Yet, the mayor refrained from triggering any new restrictions.

We seem to be making a volatile peace with the pandemic. Taking more of what we can in bursts of “normal” life and accepting existential uncertainty in return.

The idea of simply eradicating COVID-19 like smallpox seems more unattainable every day. Instead, a growing familiarity with the disease, effective vaccines that make it possible to record fewer deaths, and political considerations have nudged us away from a hot war and closer to a stalemate.

COVID-19 isn't the first disease we've adapted to

What is still a pandemic may be shifting, thanks to the highly-infectious Omicron variant, into a more grimly predictable endemic phase.

Some experts have begun arguing for official strategies that account for this. An opinion piece published last week by former members of US President Joe Biden's transition COVID-19 advisory board contends that leaders need to start clearly spelling out their goals for the “new normal” of life with COVID-19.”

“In delineating a national strategy,” the former advisers wrote, “humility is essential.”

Some people have been wondering aloud or in print if they should just give up, allow themselves to get Omicron, and be done with it (answer: no).

It's unclear whether anyone in the 14th century suggested they might just give up and catch the Black Death. Yet, depleted populations somehow managed to adapt to and move past a disease that also disproportionately killed older people and those with pre-existing conditions.

That early version of the plague, a scourge that persists into the present, spurred initial attempts at international disease control like the first quarantine. It also helped people grasp the importance of basic hygiene and social distancing for containing disease, and spawned early precursors of international health authorities.

Being proactive as the pandemic 'burns itself out'

“Ultimately, all pandemics burn themselves out,” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious disease expert in the US, said in an interview this past November. The choice with COVID-19, he added, is whether we want to let it kill and infect a lot more people in the process – or get more proactive.

In order to be proactive in the new normal, the former Biden advisers wrote in their opinion piece, real-time information systems will be necessary to more closely track COVID-19. The US, for example, still relies on imprecise estimates of the disease's spread, projections, and limited monitoring of the genetic changes causing new variants, they wrote.

Vaccine mandates will also be necessary to cope, former Biden advisers wrote in a separate opinion piece.

That's because at least 90% of the population will probably need immunity for a genuine “return to normalcy,” they wrote, and few countries have ever managed to hit a vaccination rate like that without requirements.

According to one tally, only a few countries have so far reached 90% in terms of people receiving at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose: the UAE, Cuba, and Chile.

Evidence suggests vaccination may remain a reliable way to limit fatalities as COVID-19 endures. In Canada, for example, the death rate from the disease fell from 2.95 per million in 2020 to 0.42 per million in 2021, as the country recorded one of the highest vaccination rates in the world.

More reading on learning to live with COVID-19

For more context, here are links to further reading from the World Economic Forum's Strategic Intelligence platform:

- It was obvious that without a global strategy it would be impossible to beat a global pandemic, according to this piece, which suggests that more vaccine sharing with less-developed countries could've limited the emergence of variants. (Brookings)

- Just a matter of weeks ago life seemed to be sliding towards something that looked like it might be normal, according to this piece. Now, the task will be figuring out how much disease and death we'll tolerate. (Wired)
- Clearly COVID-19 variant Omicron is more infectious, but how can we be sure it causes less-severe disease than other variants? According to this piece, the best evidence is the epidemic's trajectory in Britain. (The Conversation)
- Some experts hesitate to declare a new normal, according to this piece, because too little is yet known about protection against the next variant – “because we will undoubtedly get a next variant.” (The New Yorker)
- The software firm GitLab was ahead of the curve when it appointed a head of remote work in 2019, according to this piece, which notes that now might be a good time for other companies to follow. (Raconteur)
- Throughout the pandemic governments have enlisted psychologists to “nudge” the public into safe and healthy behavior. Turns out, according to this piece, that maybe wasn't such a great approach. (The Conversation)
- One way to help us co-exist with COVID-19, according to this study; get more shots for things like flu and measles into arms, because “even unrelated vaccines could help reduce the burden of the pandemic.” (Science Daily)

On the Strategic Intelligence platform, you can find feeds of expert analysis related to COVID-19, Vaccination and hundreds of additional topics. You'll need to register to view.

The author is the Digital Editor, Strategic Intelligence, World Economic Forum. The article was originally published by World Economic Forum

5 Ways To Start Living More Ethically Today

AMALIAH

“Any decision that has an impact on others now or in the future is an ethical choice,” explains ethicist and author, Christopher Gilbert in his book *There's No Right Way To Do the Wrong Thing*.

When put this way, the world of ethical living is suddenly a whole lot larger.

Over the past few years, “ethical responsibility” has tipped from only holding corporations accountable for the state of the world, to highlighting the role of our individual choices. While factors such as moving away from unethical brands and taking steps towards zero waste at home will always remain important aspects of the conversation, it is equally important to consider the whole picture when it comes to the circulation of money. When we consider where our money sits before we spend it, how we save it and where it is invested, we realise that we have a lot more power to shape a more ethical world.

As Gilbert says: “We can each take concrete steps to re-align our moral compasses, give ourselves control over fairness and equity and in the end, create the healthier world we actually want to live in.”

These concrete steps look different for everyone. For some, it's looking beyond labels when buying clothes and other “fast” items; for others it is making everyday changes towards utilising more reusable materials. Whatever your starting point, it is a humbling experience and a privilege to recognise how our actions impact the world at large.

It is our responsibility to do the right thing – at least when we can.

To give ourselves more control over fairness and equity, it makes sense to dive deeper into the extent of our purchasing power. Once again, we have partnered with Algra to delve into some out-of-the-box ways to live more ethically.

Algra believes that, for too long, banking has been too much about the banks and not enough about people. Thus, their work revolves around bringing balance to the equation. Algra



“FOR THOSE IN BUSINESS, CONSIDER THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF FAIR AND timely compensation of your clients and employees. This ensures a healthy and ethical circulation of money and keeps people motivated to work towards individual and collective goals

bra is building a digital bank driven by the pursuit of a balanced world that aims to empower its users through ethical financial services. One of those services is ensuring that the way you spend, save and manage your day to day spending is as ethical as possible.

Here are 5 ways you can contribute to the ethical circulation of money

1. Banking

Choosing ethical banking is now easier than ever. Algra defines ethical finance as one that “combines your money with your values.” They are showing how institutions have a key role in ensuring we live in a world where companies prioritise ethical

practices. This entails a commitment to ensuring that your money isn't invested into harmful activities and instead contributes to the betterment of the world at large. Ethical banking means giving back to the community, understanding their different needs and catering to them accordingly. At its best, ethical banking contributes to a more inclusive society through both internal practices and external programs.

2. Pension

Similar to banking, consider where your pension is being invested, especially if you are employed. Educate yourself on the different options available to you depending on your individ-

ual circumstances. Pension investment options – an overview is a great place to start your research. Consider where you want your money to grow as you work your way towards retirement.

3. Travelling

There are small, more ethical choices you can make even while on holiday.

“Unfortunately, the reality is that the growth of travel and tourism over the last six decades or so has caused more harm than good. But by becoming more aware of the impact cheap package holidays, waste-pumping cruises, sprawling resorts – to name a few culprits – have on people, animals, and the environment, we're

taking one step closer to rethinking our travel habits and making travel better for everyone.”

When budgeting, take into account how ethical each of your purchases will be. Consider investing in activities, tour guides and transportation that are better for the economy you are travelling into and be mindful of paying fair prices to local vendors. Quality over quantity is a rule that extends further than material things and works as a great standard for ethical consumption.

4. Payroll

For those in business, consider the positive impact of fair and timely compensation of your clients and employees. This ensures a healthy and ethical circulation of money and keeps people motivated to work towards individual and collective goals. When you receive your own paycheck, decide on a fair percentage to set aside for essentials, luxuries, charity and investments.

5. Charity

Through incentives of reward and the annual obligation to pay Zakat (annual tax on wealth), Islam teaches us the importance of the redistribution of wealth and a healthy detachment from material things. Many of us may set career or financial goals, however, by setting goals for charity throughout the year we can make the intention to purify our wealth regularly.

Talking about money can be taboo but when phrases like “healthy detachment” and “ethical spending” are attached to it, it can be even more difficult to discuss. However, ethical banking practices such as that of Algra make it easier to align our money with our values, while contributing to a better world in the process. When put that way, money is suddenly easier to talk about as well. Algra offers round-up donations to a number of UK charities and commits 10% of all of its profits to community causes.

The article was originally published by amaliah.com

Fit Into Aussie Working Holiday Visa

There Is No Cap On Applicants. Prior To The Pandemic Annual Numbers Were Greater Than 100,000

Grant Wyeth

Several weeks ago I wrote about the revelation from the Australian Bureau of Statistics that Australia's birth rate has fallen to its lowest ever level. I argued that a major factor in this drop was the exorbitant cost of housing in the country, especially in Sydney and Melbourne. The inability of young people to feel financially secure and to plan their lives effectively inhibits the desire to have children. This in turn limits the country's capabilities – its ideas, the industries it has, its cultural output, and also its ability to defend itself.

Fewer children also means that the country's median age is set to increase. Australia's median age is currently 37.5 years old. This is quite good in comparison to some of its OECD peers – Japan's median age is 48.4 years, while Germany's is 45.7. The importance of the median age is that the state is looking for as many taxpayers as possible to off-set the costs of those who are not paying taxes yet (children) and who are no longer paying as many taxes (retirees). The higher the median age, the more unfavorable this dependency ratio is.

So with birth rates declining, Australia has to start considering what mechanisms it has to maintain a healthy median age. Over the past few decades Australia has increasingly relied on its immigration program to meet its immediate need for people. However, there is one specific visa that provides the country with an important stream of young and educated people. Most countries would consider this opportunity too good to be true, yet Australia seems carelessly ambivalent about it.

This is the Working Holiday visa. This visa offers people between the ages of 18 and 30 from a number of European,



North American, and East Asian countries the ability to live and work in the country for a year (French, Canadian, and Irish citizens can access it up to age 35). The visa holder can then reapply for subsequent visas up to three years total. There is no cap on applicants. Prior to the pandemic annual numbers were greater than 100,000.

The visa is colloquially known as the “backpacker” visa, as it is often used by people who are looking to take some time off after school and before

university to travel around Australia and work periodically to finance their trip. Yet given the age brackets of the visa, it is also accessed by those who have completed degrees and are looking to utilize their skills in Australia as a way of advancing their careers, or indeed to find a way of migrating to the country more permanently.

The beauty of this visa is that other countries bear the cost of education while Australia reaps the rewards. It circumvents a large chunk of the de-

“THREE YEARS LIVING IN A COUNTRY is long enough to put down roots. It is long enough to understand one's future prospects in the country, and to develop important social and personal bonds. Yet the visa designed to accommodate these personal bonds is so aggressively expensive that its actual goal is to disincentivize people from applying for it

pendency ratio, and delivers the country exactly what it needs – young, skilled people with an enthusiasm for Australia.

Given Australia's declining birth rates, and the potential problem of a higher median age, it would make sense for Canberra to try and vacuum up as many of these people as possible. The question that should be at the forefront of the government's mind is this: How to make it easier for these people to transition to longer term visas, permanent residency, and citizenship?

Three years living in a country is long enough to put down roots. It is long enough to understand one's future prospects in the country, and to develop important social and personal bonds. Yet the visa designed to accommodate these personal bonds is so aggressively expensive that its actual goal is to disincentivize people from applying for it. Australia's partner visa costs \$5,650, a significant financial burden for young people (and also those not so young). In comparison, partner visas cost \$830 in Canada, \$325 in the United States, \$223 in Sweden, and \$112 in France.*

This high bar is built on the assumption that a great many people applying for partner visas will be attempting to scam the system. It's also a belief that

those in genuine relationships will have no problem paying such costs. The Australian government sees this as a test of love, but in reality it is a tax on love without any awareness of the social implications.

This is where the real problem for Australia lies; the tension between its culture of suspicion around its border and the things that are actually beneficial to the country. As we are currently witnessing with the saga around Novak Djokovic – as well as the ongoing offshore detention centers in Nauru and Papua New Guinea – this suspicion leads to farcical scenarios that defy practicality and work against the country's own interests.

While issues like birth rates, median ages, and dependency ratios can seem distant and abstract, disconnected from the lived realities of most people, the solutions to these macro policy problems come from micro responses. Governments need to recognize that a country's social health is reflected in its bureaucratic hurdles, and that social health improved when it establishes rules that are clear, attainable, and built on positive objectives rather than mistrust and fear.

The Diplomat

Infants With Low-Risk Deliveries May Not Need Antibiotics At Birth: Study

Agencies

A team of researchers has found that infants born through uncomplicated caesarean delivery, without labour or membrane rupture before delivery and no concern for infection, should not need antibiotics at birth.

The research has been published in the 'Pediatrics Journal'.

"Given the risks associated with early-onset sepsis in infants, it isn't surprising that newborns are often administered antibiotics immediately after birth," said first author Dustin D. Flannery, DO, MSCE, an attending neonatologist and clinical researcher at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"However, our study shows that it is safe to withhold antibiotics in infants, including those born preterm, with low-risk de-

livery characteristics. Such infants are unlikely to be infected at birth, and can be spared the potential complications of systemic antibiotic exposure," he added.

Newborn infants are at risk for early-onset sepsis (EOS), a life-threatening infection that can occur within 72 hours after birth, due to exposure to bacteria during the birthing process. Predicting which infants will develop EOS, however, is challenging.

Treat Covid like flu, end mass vaccination after boosters: UK vaccine expert

This has led to an order of magnitude higher rate of antibiotic use compared to the rate of infants with confirmed infection. Prolonged antibiotic use among newborns is associated with serious adverse outcomes among preterm infants and potential longstanding complications

among full-term infants, underscoring the need for a better way to assess infection risk.

Since the primary way a newborn is exposed to bacteria is through the delivery process, the researchers decided to analyse delivery characteristics to see if they could help providers identify infants at the lowest risk of EOS. In a retrospective study, they assessed all infants born between 2009 and 2014 at two Philadelphia birth hospitals who had blood or cerebrospinal fluid culture obtained within 72 hours after birth.

They examined medical record data for confirmed infection and for delivery characteristics, defining a "low-risk" delivery as a caesarean section, without rupture of amniotic membranes prior to delivery; an absence of labor or attempts to induce labour; and an absence of suspected or

confirmed maternal intraamniotic infection or foetal distress.

The researchers also included infants born across the gestational age spectrum. Prior studies have assessed EOS risk in both extremely preterm (less than 28 weeks gestation) and full-term (37 weeks or more) infants, but few have analysed the risk among late and moderately preterm infants (28-36 weeks' gestation), despite the fact that these infants make up the bulk of neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admissions.

Overall, 7,549 infants had a culture drawn and were included in the study. Of these, 1,121 (14.8 per cent) were born in a low-risk delivery setting and 6,428 (85.2 per cent) were not. A total of 41 infants had confirmed cases of EOS; none of the infected patients were born in the setting of a low-risk delivery.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
CIVILWORKS
SINGLECOVERSYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)
EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender NIT No. 318 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No.20870-77
Dated.13.01.2022

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees}	Earnest Money	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contactor
1.	Repair/Renovation of Sub-Centre Yangoora.	Rs.7.34 Lacs	Rs.300/=	Rs.14680/=	15-Days	Health Sector	DEE/CEE
2.	Upgradation of NTPHC Gutlibagh b.w.o Facelifitting with other Items.	Rs.4.12 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.8240/=	15-Days	Health Sector	DEE

1. TheBiddingdocumentsconsistingofqualifyinginformation,eligibilitycriteria,specification s,Drawings,billofquantities(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Dateof Issue	
2	Period of downloadingof bidding documents	14/01/2022 from 3.30PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	14/01/2022 from 3.30 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	19/01/2022 upto 4.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	20/01/2022 at 10.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.
- Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- 2.1 The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering.Besides the successful bidder shall have to provide Performance Security at the rate as shall be in vogue at the time of award of contract strictly as per circular instructions from the Government from time to time.The Bid Security shall be released to bidders after the contract is fixed in favour of the successful bidder and in the case of successful bidder only after submitting Performance Security at stipulated value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP.
- 2.2 Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.
3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notifiedonWebSitewww.jktenders.gov.in andconveyedtothebiddersautomaticallythroughane-mailmessageontheire-mailaddress.The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division (tender receiving authority).
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
5. The earnest money shall be forfeited lf:-
- a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified timelimit.
- c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Any other cause which in the absolvediscretionof theacceptingauthorityisbeyondthecontractor'sdesire.
- On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion oftheworkmaybeextendedby aperiodconsideredreasonablebytheDepartment.
- Extension oftimeshallbealsoadmissibleintheeventoftemporariesuspensionofwork.
10. Thetender/bid isliableto rejection ifitdoesnotfulfilltherequirementsaslaiddown in NIT.
11. AllothertermsconditionsareasperPWDForm25(DoubleagreementForm)

No.20870-77
Dated:13-01-22

DIPK-16715/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

Tel:0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com.

Sub:- Application for transfer of registration certificate of Hotel "Grand Mushtaq" located at Indira Nagar, Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Mir S/o Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir R/o Batwara, Srinagar has approached this office for transfer of registration certificate of Hotel "Grand Mushtaq" located at Indira Nagar, Srinagar;

Whereas, the Hotel "Grand Mushtaq" is presently registered in the name Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir S/o Mr. Sonuallah Mir R/o Batwara, Srinagar with this Department since 2007 vide Registration No. Reg/1751/DT/37/L3 dated 10.01.2007 with 39 rooms and the registration certificate is renewed upto 31.03.2021;

Whereas, the registration certificate holder has passed away leaving behind following legal heirs, as per legal heir certificate issued by Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar vide No.579/Srn/Ac/4604 dated 16.03.2015 :-

- a) Mst. Yawqeeda Mushtaq – wife
Ajaz Ahmad – son
b) Saimna Mushtaq – Daughter
c) Azhar-ud-Din – Son

Whereas, the applicant has submitted all the requisite documents including Irrevocable General Power of Attorney executed before Sub-Registrar, Srinagar, death certificate, Registration Certificate in Original, Land Ownership Documents, Character Certificate of applicant, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, Domicile Certificates and general affidavit, for transfer of registration certificate of the said hotel in her favour;

Whereas, transfer of registration certificate for the guest house is purely for purpose of running operation management of the said guest house and does not confer any right of ownership or any other proprietary matters connected to the said guest house upon the transferee;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/2012, before changes are made in the registration records of this Department in respect of transfer of registration certificate of the above named hotel from late Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir S/o Mr. Sonuallah Mir R/o Batwara, Srinagar in favour of Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Mir S/o Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir R/o Batwara, Srinagar, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection/s, the same should reach the office of undersigned within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objections, if any, received beyond the period of 07 days will not be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules & merits, after submission of all the requisite documents and norms.

Sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration

DIPK-16767/21
No: Reg/H/95/579/DTK

Dated: 15.01.2022

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESTATES KASHMIR

E-mail:- ddestsgr@gmail.com

- f - Tel / Fax:- 0194-2452435

CIRCULAR

All the Non-Move employees who are avail- ing boarding / lodging facilities in the private hotels hired by the Estates Department at Srinagar and intend to continue the facility during Winter Session 2021-22 are advised to apply afresh on prescribed format for continu- ation of the accommodation. They should personally submit the application in the of- fice of the Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir at Partap Park, Srinagar within a period of Seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which their allotment shall not be extended.

No. DDES/N-Move/2021-22/163-65
Dated:- 15/01/2022

Sd/-
Deputy Director Estates
Kashmir, Srinagar

DIPK-16787/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE, RAJBAGH-SRINAGAR, KASHMIR-190008

TELE-FAX: 0194-2311287/2311484,
Email:Kashmirhorticulture@gmail.com
website: http://HortiKashmir.gov.in

E-Nit No 45 of 2021 Dated:- 11-01-2022

Note:- All bidding process will be done on
www.jktenders.gov.in

Notice inviting e-Tender

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor Union Ter- ritory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from reputed authorized dealers for supply of Technical/ Standard Chemicals required for the Pesticide Testing Laborato- ry, Rajbagh-Srinagar as listed in the tender document.

The Bidding documents consisting of quali- fying information, eligibility Criteria, speci- fications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Tender Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Critical Dates:

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11-01-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11-01-2022
3	Bid Submission Start Date	12-01-2022
4	Bid submission End Date	25-01-2022
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (online)	27-01-2022 10:30 AM

The tender document may be downloaded from the Govt.
e-procurement website www.jktenders.gov.in.

(Ajaz Ahmad Bhat) JKAS
Director General

DIPK-16785/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Change of title name in the Registration certi- cate of the Travel unit running under the name & style "M/s Making Memories".

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Altaf Ahmad Bhat S/o Mr. Ghulam Qadir Bhat R/o Turka, Batpora, Tangmarg, Kashmir, has approached this office for change of title name of his Travel unit from M/s Making Memories to M/s Kashmir Story Tour & Travels under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the Travel unit is registered with this Department under the Registration of Tourist Trade Act/Rules under Registration No. JKEA00000390 dated 19-06-2021 as Excursion Agency. The Registration Certificate is valid up to 31-12-2021.

Whereas, the applicant along with his application has submitted Regis- tration Certificate, Bank statement, Bank NOC in support of his claim de- picting that no loan has been availed by the unit holder against the said Travel unit.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under Registra- tion of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before the request for change of title is considered in favour of M/s Making Memories, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/Organizations, etc for objection if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. No objections beyond period of 7 days will be enter- tained and changes in the Registration records shall be made under rules.

No: Reg/

Dated: 2022

Deputy Director Tourism,
Registration (Kashmir)

DIPK-16706/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE, Ground Water Division,Sgr.

Gist of e-Tender.

e-NIT No:- PHE/GWDS/ 72 of 01/2022

For and on behalf of lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. No	Name of work	No. of Hand Pump Wells	Est. Cost Rs.in Lacs	Earnest money	Cost of Tender	Time of comple- Documenttion	Class of Contract	Technical Sanction	Programme
01	Construction of (01 No) 125 mm machine drilled hand Pump wells at Vail Nagbal in District Anantnag.	01 No	Rs.4.45 Lacs	9000/-	Rs. 200/-	07 days	Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells	PHE/ GWD/107 of 01/2022	PRI Grants (District Capex Budget 2021-22)

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	14-01-2022 (02:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	14-01-2022 (02:00 PM) to upto 28-01-2022 (02:00 PM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	14-01-2022 (02:00 PM) to upto 28-01-2022 (02:00 PM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	29-01-2022 (02:00 PM)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar- Kashmir-190011	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www.Jktenders.gov.in	
9.	The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who posses valid registration certificate of Registered for Automobile work shop holders.	
10	Note:- The tenders uploaded without Scan copy of CDR and T.R shall be out rightly rejected.	

No: -PHE/GWDS/5670

Dated:13 -01-2022.

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti PHE Ground
Water Division, Sgr

DIPK-16775/21

High Density Plantation Gaining Momentum At Kulgam



Horticulture Deptt. promoting, propagating new interventions for quality production

Observer News Service

KULGAM: One of the main industries supporting the economy of Kashmir is horticulture bearing variety of fruits and providing sustenance to a major chunk rural population particularly those living on keravas and high terrains. Due to the temperate climate, Kashmir grows numerous varieties of apples, apricots, almonds, peaches, cherries, plums, pears, walnuts and other fruits.

As the horticulture sector witnessed prolific production and cultivators earned huge income, this sector attracted more and more people into the pursuit. This attraction of farmers to grow their orchards found new High Density plants provided by Horticulture department.

The Department of Horticulture, Kashmir trained farmers and acquainted them with the modern technology and high density plants to increase their income manifold.

In district Kulgam, Horticulture Department through farmer awareness programmes, seminars, training programmes and other channels educated people about High Density Plantation and motivated them to introduce these varieties in their orchards as it ensures bumper crop and increases in income.

Kulgam witnesses those efforts materializing on ground as many people have created HDP orchards on their fields since the last couple of years.

"High Density Plantation gives higher yield as well as returns per unit area by increasing the number of trees per unit area in comparison to the traditional varieties", said Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal.

With minimum investment and huge return, the HDP has elevated the socio-economic status of people affiliated with the horticulture. This farming is not only benefiting farmers directly but also helps in the increase of

GDP of the region.

With every passing year, High Density Apple farming is gaining momentum in Kulgam and as the success of farmers who adopted it at the first instance has become talk of the town.

Mohammad Sikander Rather, a resident of Mirhama Modergam area established High Density Orchard with the help of the department during 2017-18. At that particular time, the Horticulture Department provided him 888 HD plants for an area of eight Kanals.

As his orchard grew and plants started bearing crops in a year, Sikander was flabbergasted with the abundant product.

He started working hard to harvest crops even in large quantities but his sole hard work was insufficient for his big orchard. He employed a few more people who helped him in his multiple efforts like to operate the farm machinery and other time bound horticulture activities in the orchard. Sikander pays them good wages for their work which helps them to feed their respective families.

He is satisfied with HD Orchards as this year also his realization of profit was more than double as compared to conventional apple farming.

Almost 23254 hectares of land is under Horticulture production while the number of orchardists at present in the district is 64000. This sector yielded 244493 Metric Tons production in 2021-22 with turnover of Rs.1441 Crores.

The trend of converting other land into orchard land is increasing besides t under Area Expansion Programme, during current fiscal year, an area of 138.10 Kanals has been brought under Ultra High Density Plantation (Apple) with financial assistance of Rs 140.00 Lakhs. Moreover, an area of 8.9 hectares has been brought under normal high density plantation (Apple) under CSS-MIDH.

To boost the production through Modernization/Mechanization, the Department has provided Tractors, Power Tillers, Motor power sprayers, Brush cutters and Water lifting devices were distributed among the beneficiaries.

Omicron Shadow Over Kashmir's Winter Wonderland; 30% Bookings Cancelled



Tourism activities hit, tour operators, hoteliers worried; say bad luck yet again

Agencies

GULMARG: As Omicron variant of virus casts shadow over the Kashmir's winter tourist spot—Gulmarg, hoteliers and tour operators here are worried as bookings have started to get cancelled while as tourism activities are coming to a halt gradually. Tour operators say that 30 per cent bookings have got cancelled in the past few days.

People associated with different business sectors at the winter wonderland Gulmarg expressed their concerns saying that their work has got affected largely and the flow of tourists has come down highly.

"We have witnessed 30 per cent cancellation of bookings," said a tour operator. "This all happened due to the outbreak

of new virus variant Omicron."

J&K has recorded over 22 cases of Omicron recently while as Covid cases have increased manifold. The UT also reports two to four Covid related deaths on an average every day.

The tour operators and hoteliers at Gulmarg resort said that their business is getting badly hit yet again like in 2020 and 2021.

"As a result, hoteliers, snow biking, Horse sledging, skiing and other adventure sports activities have come to a halt," they said.

Mukhtar Ahmad, president of Hoteliers Association Gulmarg while expressing concerns related to business loss said that whenever there is any such situation, the only sector that is directly and first affected is tourism as seen in the past two years.

"In such a situation travel gets affected and people face difficulties. All travellers including those coming for leisure trips and winter sports remain hesitant to visit Gulmarg in the wake of Omicron and Covid spread," he said, adding that "We have not seen tourists for a year in the previous season

given the virus threat while the khelo India game gave a boost but yet again we are again back to square one."

He maintained that the hoteliers at Gulmarg constantly encourage the guests to follow all the precautionary measures and ensure proper behaviour, but "the fact remains that tourism has once again got hit badly."

Zubair Ahmad, president of ATV Bikes operating at Gulmarg said that their business is getting directly affected. "If there are restrictions there won't be a flow of tourists which means loss to us. Out of 100 tourists, 30 would opt for our services. The situation is grim again," he said.

Sledge Association president Tariq Ahmad said that they are witnessing less tourist arrivals since past ten days. "This indeed is a bad luck," he lamented.

Notably, Kashmir valley is seen as the hub of tourism activities not only in summers but in winters as well while Gulmarg is famously known for skiing, snow biking and other winter games when it snows in the valley. (KNO)

'Zero Budget Natural Farming Needed To Cope With Economic Challenges'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Saturday said that amid global agriculture scenario and changing economic dimensions, zero budget natural farming has a great scope and is inevitably needed to cope with the economic and environmental challenges.

He said that this is the only way of cultivation which is economically viable and ecologically sustainable adding that the climate change and economic slowdown is a global phenomenon (because of different inter related reasons), under such circumstances the agriculture sector has a lead role to play for a sustainable economic ecosystem.

The Director said this during his visit to different areas of Gander-



bal district.

Addressing the farming community, the Director said that we have to focus on the ideas of minimum expenditures on cultivation procedures. He said that the Department is vigorously working on an ambitious plan for the promotion and development of zero budget natural farming.

He added that by promoting this concept we can make a big leap in the financial security of our farming community. Director Agriculture proposed

the site for establishment of zero budget natural farming schools at Ganderbal, Srinagar in order to generate a trained (in zero budget natural farming) human resource.

He asked the concerned officers to increase the efforts for the promotion of zero budget natural farming among the farmers. He said amid Covid-19 pandemic scenario with the help of technology tools like social media, awareness among the farmers could be generated more effectively.

Start-ups Are Backbone Of New India: PM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for innovating for India and from India to tackle challenges facing the country as he counted steps taken by the government in freeing entrepreneurs and innovation from bureaucratic silos.

"Our startups are changing the rules of the game. I believe that startups are going to be the backbone of New India," he said interacting with youngsters from the world of startups. "Let us innovate for India, innovate from India."

India, he said, has over 60,000 startups with 42 unicorns.

The government is focusing on three aspects to strengthen innovation, entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem - "Freeing entrepreneurship, innovation from government and bureaucratic silos; setting up institutional mechanisms to promote innovation, and handholding of youth innovators," he said.

Narrating successes during the recent years, he said 28,000 patents were granted last year



as compared to 4,000 patents in 2013-14. Against registration of 70,000 trademarks in 2013-14, 2.5 lakh trademarks have been registered in 2020-21.

"India's ranking on the Global Innovation Index is improving because of the programme on innovation started in the country. India was ranked 81 in 2015 and now it is at No. 46," he said.

Startups are not just bringing innovations but are also evolving as major job creators.

The year 2022 has brought new opportunities and avenues for startups, he said adding January 16 will be celebrated as National Startup Day to help percolate startup culture to the grassroot level.

Maruti Suzuki Hikes Vehicle Prices By Up To 4.3%

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Saturday said it has increased the prices of its models by up to 4.3 per cent with immediate effect to partially offset the impact of the rise in input costs.

The company has enhanced prices across its models in the range of 0.1 per cent to 4.3 per cent owing to an increase in various input costs.

"The weighted average price increase in ex-showroom Prices (Delhi) across models is 1.7 per cent. The new prices are effective from today," the auto major said in a regulatory filing.

MSI sells a range of cars from Alto to S-Cross priced between



Rs 3.15 lakh and Rs 12.56 lakh, respectively.

The auto major has already hiked the vehicle prices three times last year by 1.4 per cent in January, 1.6 per cent in April and 1.9 per cent in September, taking the total quantum to 4.9 per cent.

Last month, the company had stated that it has been forced to hike prices due to the increase in the cost of essential commodities like steel, aluminium, copper, plastic and precious metals over the last year.

'Industrial, Warehousing Leasing Up 35% In 2021; New Supply Rises 64%'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Leasing of industrial and warehousing spaces across eight major cities went up by 35 per cent during 2021 to 35.1 million square feet, driven by higher demand from third-party logistics and e-commerce players, according to Savills India.

The leasing stood at 26 million square feet in the previous calendar year.

Property consultant Savills India highlighted in a report that

fresh supply rose 64 per cent to 36 million square feet from 22 million square feet during the period under review.

Third-party logistics (3PL) players and e-commerce companies continued to drive warehousing demand, accounting for 62 per cent of the total absorption in 2021, followed by manufacturing sector at 14 per cent.

Among the major eight cities in India, Delhi-NCR led with the highest absorption in 2021 at 8.1 million square feet, followed by Pune at 6.5 million square feet.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

GIST TO NIT e-Tendering No. 76 of 2021-22

Dated:- 14 /01/2022

For and on behalf of Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation e- tenders in two cover system are invited on item wise basis from Registered Dealers/Distributors/Authorized Dealers or General order supplier for the following items .

S. No.	Name of the work	Total Value of The supply(Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money	Date and time of Bid opening	Time period of Supply
1	Supply of spare parts required for (Suction/Jetting Night Soil Vehicle) Make TATA-1109 LPT.MODEL-2008. Details mentioned in Annexure (A)	4.91	2%	25/01/2022	10 Days

Detailed e-NIT with terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 14-01-2022.(10 AM) up to 24-01-2022.(04 PM)

No. SMC/EEM/3196-3200.

Dated: 14 /01/2022

DIPK-NB-6586/21

Sd

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

MECHANICAL DIVISION

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF LAW, JUSTICE & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

NOTARY SECTION, CIVIL SECRETARIAT

SRINAGAR/JAMMU

CIRCULAR

As per Rule-14 of the Notaries Rules, 1956, every notary, shall, in the first week of January every year, submit to the appropriate Government, an annual return in Form-XIV of the notarial acts done by him during the preceding year.

It has been observed that despite the clear mandate of the aforementioned rule, most of the notaries have not submitted their annual return for the year 2021.

It is, therefore, enjoined upon all the enrolled notaries, who have not submitted their annual return of notarial acts for the year 2021, to submit the same to the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs within a period of 15 days in Form -XIV as provided in Rule -14 of the Notaries Rules, 1956 from the date of publication of this circular, failing which action as warranted under rules shall be initiated.

No: LAW (Notary) 50/2021

Dated:12-01-2022

DIPK-16704/21

(Sajad-un-Nabi Gashroo)

Additional Secretary to Government

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

HEMA COMPLEX, SECTOR -3, CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU/ ZAMZAM COMPLEX RAMBAGH SRINAGAR.

www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Result of Computer Based Type Test (Skill Test) for the post of Junior Assistant, Cadrex Clerk, Cashier, Jr Assistant /Computer-cum-Jr Assistant/ Clerk/Store Attendant and Welfare Organizer, UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various Districts, advertised vide Advertisement Notification Nos 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 and 03 of 2021- regarding.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) issued phase wise schedule for conduct of Computer Based Type Test (Skill Test) for the post of Junior Assistant, Cadrex Clerk, Cashier, Jr. Assistant /Computer-cum-Jr. Assistant/ Clerk/Store Attendant and Welfare Organizer, UT Cadre, Divisional Cadres and various Districts, advertised vide Advertisement Notification Nos 04, 05, 06 and 07 of 2020 and 01, 02 and 03 of 2021 w.e.f. 20.10.2021 to 31.12.2021; and

- Whereas, the Computer Based Type Test (Skill Test) for the post of Junior Assistant, Cadrex Clerk, Cashier, Jr. Assistant /Computer-cum-Jr. Assistant/ Clerk/Store Attendant and Welfare Organizer was conducted w.e.f. 20.10.2021 to 31.12.2021 at NIELIT, Jammu (formerly DOEACC, an Institution Under Ministry of Comm. & IT, Govt of India), University Campus, Jammu and NIELT (formerly DOEACC), Old Airport Road, Rangreth, Budgam; and,
- Whereas, the prescribed qualification and criteria for selection as per the Advertisement Notifications issued from time to time is as under:

Prescribed qualification:	Graduation from any recognized University with knowledge of type writing. Having not less than 35 words speed per minute.
Criteria for selection:	Skill Test = 20 points and Written Examination/CBT =80 points. The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test (Only those candidates who achieve an accuracy of typing of 90% or above and a type-speed of minimum 35 words per minute shall be considered qualified for second stage).

- Now therefore, based on the performance of candidates in the Computer Based Type Test (Skill Test), the candidates figuring in Annexure "A" to this notification, are hereby declared to have qualified the aforesaid Computer Based Type Test (Skill Test) for the post of Junior Assistant, Cadrex Clerk, Cashier, Jr. Assistant /Computer-cum-Jr. Assistant/ Clerk/Store Attendant and Welfare Organizer.
- Further, it is also notified for information of all such candidates, in whose case, the supplementary Skill/ Type Test is scheduled to be held on 17.01.2022, that their result shall be declared separately after conduct of the Skill Test.

By Order.

No. SSB/COE/2022/405-411

Dated: 15.01.2022

DIPK-16802/21

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS

Controller Of Examinations

J&K Services Selection Board

CBI Books GAIL Director In Alleged Bribery Case, Arrests 5

NEW DELHI: The CBI has booked E S Ranganathan, director (marketing) of GAIL, and arrested five persons including alleged middlemen and businessmen in a case of alleged bribery of over Rs 50 lakh for giving discounts to private companies buying petro chemical products marketed by the Maharatna PSU, officials said Saturday.

Following the registration of the case on Friday, the CBI conducted searches at about eight locations in Delhi-NCR including the office of Ranganathan at Bhikaji Kama Place in Delhi and his residence in Sector 62, Noida.

The CBI has so far recovered Rs 1.3 crore in cash from Ranganathan's premises.

Besides Ranganathan, the agency has also booked middlemen Pawan Gaur and Rajesh Kumar, N

Ramakrishnan Nair who had allegedly collected bribes, businessmen Saurabh Gupta and his Panchkula-based company United Polymer Industries and Aditya Bansal and his company Karnal-based Bansal Agency, they said.

"CBI laid a trap and apprehended a private person (Gaur) and a director of a private company (Kumar) based at Delhi when the alleged bribe of Rs 10 lakh was received by the private person from the said director of private company allegedly on behalf of director (marketing) GAIL, (Ranganathan)," CBI spokesperson RC Joshi said.

The agency has so far arrested five persons but Ranganathan has not yet been taken into custody. Searches at this premises are still on, sources said.

"Subsequent, searches were conducted at the premises of accused at Delhi, Noida,Gurgaon, Panchkula, Karnal etc, which led to recovery of Rs.84 lakh(approx), so far which include recovery of Rs 75 lakh from Gurgaon based private person. Searches are continuing at the premises of public servant," Joshi said.

It is alleged that Ranganathan was "indulging into corrupt and illegal activities in criminal conspiracy" with Gaur and Kumar who is also director of Rishab Polychem Pvt. Ltd based at Bahudargarh Road, Delhi.

Kumar and Gaur allegedly acted as Ranganathan's middlemen, by obtaining bribe from the private companies buying petro chemical products marketed by the GAIL, the FIR alleged.

It said sources informed the CBI that at the direction of Kumar, Gaur had asked Ranganathan for allowing some discount to the buyers on petro chemical products being marketed by GAIL in return of illegal gratification.

It is alleged that Kumar and Gaur met Ranganathan at his Noida residence on December 11 last year for discussing the proposal, the FIR alleged. Two days later Gaur informed Kumar that proposal of discounts is being considered in GAIL, the FIR alleged.

In order to arrange bribes, Kumar got in touch with other prospective beneficiaries of discount, after the final decision is taken in GAIL on issuance of the discount order. Gaur, Kumar and Ranganathan again met at a five star hotel in Delhi on December 14 to discuss it further.

HDFC Bank Q3 Results: Net Profit Rises 18%

Agenceis

SRINAGAR: The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank Limited approved the Bank's (Indian GAAP) results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2021, at its meeting held in Mumbai on Saturday. The accounts have been subjected to a 'Limited Review' by the statutory auditors of the Bank.

The Bank's net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 12.1% to 26,627.0 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2021 from 23,760.8 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2020.

Net interest income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter ended December 31, 2021 grew by 13.0% to 18,443.5 crore from 16,317.6 crore for the quarter ended December 31, 2020. Advances grew at 16.5% reaching new heights driven through

relationship management, digital offering and breadth of products. Core net interest margin was at 4.1%. New liability relationships added during the quarter remained at an all time high. This continued focus on deposits helped in the maintenance of a healthy liquidity coverage ratio at 123%, well above the regulatory requirement, which positions the Bank favorably to capitalize on growth opportunities.

Total deposits as of December 31, 2021 were 1,445,918 crore, an increase of 13.8% over December 31, 2020. CASA deposits grew by 24.6% with savings account deposits at 471,029 crore and current account deposits at 210,195 crore. Time deposits were at 764,693 crore, an increase of 5.6% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year, resulting in CASA deposits comprising 47.1% of total deposits as of December 31, 2021. Total advances as of December 31, 2021 were

1,260,863 crore, an increase of 16.5% over December 31, 2020. Retail loans grew by 13.3%, commercial and rural banking loans grew by 29.4% and corporate and other wholesale loans grew by 7.5%. Overseas advances constituted 3.4% of total advances.

The total loan book was 60,478 crore as on December 31, 2021 as against 60,068 crore as on December 31, 2020. Liquidity coverage ratio was healthy at 222%.

The consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December 31, 2021 was 10,591 crore, up 20.8%, over the quarter ended December 31, 2020. Consolidated advances grew by 15.8% from 1,133,410 crore as on December 31, 2020 to 1,312,142 crore as on December 31, 2021.

The consolidated net profit for the nine months ended December 31, 2021 was 27,610 crore, up 18.0%, over the nine months ended December 31, 2020.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Under Covid

complications on Saturday, taking the death toll to 4561 in J&K- 2218 in Jammu and 2343 in Kashmir.

The officials also said that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported Saturday, thus the total numbers of confirmed cases remain 51 across J&K.

250 Doctors, Paramedics

Chest Disease Hospital and Super-Speciality Hospital, Shireen Bagh, here. Several hospitals in the valley, including the SMHS and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences SKIMS, have either shut down services at the outpatient department or put on hold non-essential elective surgeries in view of the surge in coronavirus cases in the union territory, he said.

'Precautions, Not Panic

tested positive he/she should follow these protocols till next eight days to ensure that the Covid-19 is prevented from further spread.

Positive persons should isolate at home and stay away from elders, people with comorbidities, pregnant ladies and children and follow home isolation measures.

"People should take hot water, liquids, healthy food and be isolation. Also go for exercise which is also important," he said.

While explaining the guidelines issued by the medical experts, he said monitoring or maintaining the body temperature is very important.

"Those tested positive should get in constant touch with the local health authorities and helpline numbers are available to seek help in case of emergency," he said.

The director said for the treatment they have trained all the health care providers and engaged local health workers including Agamwadi workers and ASHAs across all villages and facilities have been set up.

He also appealed media to play their role for the dissemination of information for the general public that will help to contain the virus in a more holistic way.

The director said that control rooms have been created at district, sub-district and block level and people can contact the doctors in case of kind of help.

He said on the directions of the Lieutenant Governor and Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Health and Medical Education, Vivek Bhardwaj, Covid beds have been kept available in rural areas where people have no option to go for isolation.

The director also said they have recently held a trail of all the oxygen facilities and those have been kept on ready mode.

He also said that apart from dedicated 500 bedded DRDO Covid-19 hospital, beds have also been kept available at tertiary care hospitals, district and sub-district level.

The director said that all the facilities have been kept in ready mode in view of new surge in cases and the same is being reviewed on daily basis.

The director said that people do not need to panic however precautions are the only way to defeat Covid-19 from further spread.

"We need the cooperation of the people to fight the pandemic and once people cooperate with the authorities then only we will be in a position to combat the virus. The fight with the virus is incomplete without the cooperation of people," he said.

Rather said that the first line of defense is mask, sanitation, hand hygiene and social distancing which should be maintained at any cost.

The director said that they have already directed all CMOs, BMOs and Medical Superintendents across Kashmir to increase the IEC activities and get in touch with the public to generate awareness about the disease.

He said that people should avoid unnecessary travel, avoid gatherings

and functions which could be a reason for the exponential growth of the virus.

Weekend Curbs

report not older than 72 hours or on-spot RAT test.

The order said vaccinated people will be allowed entry to parks after due verification.

The SEC however reiterated that gathering of 25 people at any indoor or outdoor function or gathering up to 25 vaccinated people or 25 per cent of the authorised capacity, whichever is less, preferably in open spaces at banquet halls will be allowed.

Cinema halls, theatres, multiplexes, restaurants, clubs, gymnasiums and swimming pools are permitted to continue operation at 25 per cent of the authorised capacity.

Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest single-day rise of Covid cases this year on Friday when 2,456 fresh infections pushed the tally to 3,52,623, while five fatalities took the death linked to the viral disease to 4,557.

The SEC directed all deputy commissioners to intensify testing and constitute teams to enforce Covid appropriate behaviour.

The Home Secretary will monitor the enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour closely and submit a report to the chairperson of the SEC daily basis, the order said. District magistrates can order the setting up of as many micro containment zones as needed.

Man Arrested

that Ahmad was involved in criminal intimidation on social media, and also in cyber stalking and cyber bullying.

"Taking cognizance, Police has registered a case vide FIR No.06/2022 under relevant sections of law in Police Station Pulwama and further investigation into the matter has been initiated," he said.

Ahmad's arrest comes four days after Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir; Vijay Kumar directed his men to take stringent action against the people, including trouble makers and rumour mongers, who misuse social media platforms for inciting violence.

On Friday, human rights activist Mohammad Ahsan Untoo was arrested by police for allegedly inciting violence through social media platforms.

Pertinently, last year in December, police issued two back to back advertisements in local dailies warning netizens to refrain from posting content that is "supporting & promoting militancy through social media or face cases under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act."

Govt Announces

Magistrate concerned can take action for any violation under provisions of the Act.

"For conversion of agricultural land, the owner will be charged a fee equivalent to Rs 5 percent of market value of the land as notified for the purpose under the Stamps Act. If subsequently land use is changed for a purpose other than that for which permission has been given, then the fee, if applicable on differential market value, shall be charged after permission for the purpose is accorded by the concerned District Collector."

The statement went on to say that the Revenue Department has fixed a 30 days time limit for grant of permission.

"If no decision/comment is conveyed within a period of 30 days after receipt of application complete in all respects, the District Collector shall, deeming due consideration, grant permission exercising the powers vested on him and report details with explanatory notes to the Revenue Department. The timeline of 30 days shall be counted from the date of addressing all deficiencies as may be communicated by the District

Collectors.

"It shall be the duty of every Agriculture Extension Officer to report violations of these regulations in their respective areas of jurisdiction to the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM or the Tehsildar. In case he fails to do so, it shall be treated as dereliction of duty on his part and he shall be liable to disciplinary action," it added. (IANS)

Army Chief Says

standoff, Gen Naravane said that to keep the situation under control, the 14th round military-level talks were held between India and China recently.

He said joint efforts at various levels have led to disengagement in many areas which in itself is a constructive step.

Gen Naravane said that on the basis of mutual and equal security, efforts would continue to find a solution to the current situation.

He asserted that the morale of the soldiers deployed on snow-capped mountains for the country's security was sky-high.

"Our patience is a sign of our self-confidence, but no one should make the mistake of testing it," Gen Naravane said.

"Our message is clear, the Indian Army won't let any attempt to unilaterally change status quo along country's borders to succeed."

The armies of India and China are locked in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 5, 2020, after a violent clash erupted in the Pangong lake area. Both countries have conducted 14 rounds of military-level talks to resolve the standoff.

After May 5, 2020, both Indian and Chinese militaries gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry.

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

However, the disengagement process is yet to be done in areas of Hot Springs, Depsang bulge and Demchok. Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the sensitive sector.

Gen Naravane said that the situation on the LoC (Line of Control) is better than the previous year but Pakistan is still harbouring militants.

Nearly 300-400 militants in training camps across the border are waiting to intrude into India, he said, adding a total of 194 militants were killed in counter-operations in the last one year.

"Attempts to smuggle arms across the border through drones continue," he mentioned.

In the interior areas of Jammu and Kashmir, there has been progressive improvement during the last two years, he noted.

Therefore, militant organisations across the border have been trying to create hurdles on the path of the development and they have increased their attempts, the Army chief stated.

"It is a part of their conspiracy to target non-locals and poor labourers," he added.

The security situation in the Northeast has improved significantly in the last one year due to proactive military operations, he mentioned.

Because of these operations, most of the militant organisations in the Northeast have announced ceasefire, he said.

The reduction in the number of troops to handle the internal security is a sign of improved situation, he added.

India's Myanmar border is very important in terms of security and Assam Rifles is giving proper attention to it, he said.

The Army and Assam Rifles, along with the state governments in the

Northeast, are jointly giving shape to the 'Act East' policy of the central government, Gen Naravane noted.

He said the Indian Army is taking concrete steps to modernise itself so as to face current challenges and future dangers.

"Along with top institutions such as IITs, the Army is speedily working on new technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, unmanned systems, directed energy weapons and swarm drones," he mentioned.

Gen Naravane said the plan to creating joint theatre commands with the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force is moving ahead in a time-bound manner.

"You will see a lot of related transformational changes in future," he added.

The Army chief also talked about the achievements of Army soldiers in last year's Tokyo Olympics.

He said 16 athletes of the Indian Army took part at last year's Olympics and one of them (Neeraj Chopra) was able to get India's first gold medal in athletics.

"This (winning gold medal) is a golden moment in our country's sports history," he mentioned.

Pak National

S P S Sandhu said the intruder was repatriated within six hours of his arrest at a flag meeting with Pakistani Rangers after completion of necessary formalities.

"One Pakistani national crossed over inadvertently to India on the Balhad border today (Saturday) at about 1300 hours. He came about 200 metres inside India and was apprehended by the alert troops," said Sandhu, who is also the Public Relations Officer of BSF Jammu frontier.

He said on preliminary questioning, it was found that the man, hailing from Shakargarh tehsil of Pakistan, had accidentally crossed the IB into this side.

The BSF established contact with Pakistani counterparts and informed them about the accidental crossing of their national into this side, the official said.

"The Pakistani national was handed over to Pakistani Rangers at 6.45 pm on proper receipt through a flag meeting," Sandhu said.

Drama Unfolds

interim body.

However, hours after the alleged takeover by the Pandit led group, at least nine Kashmir-based journalist bodies issued a joint statement describing the move as "illegal and arbitrary". The statement termed the group which took over KPC as "disgruntled" journalists and alleged that they were having an "open support from the local administration."

The statement claimed that the "disgruntled" journalists had barged into the valley's premier press club and had held the office members as "hostage".

"On January 15, the day when the administration had declared weekend lockdown in view of Covid surge, a group of journalists barged into the club office and forcibly took control of the club by keeping the office members hostage." The joint statement reads. "Large number of police and paramilitary personnel were deployed beforehand for this highly condemnable and completely illegal move."

Expressing anguish over the "illegal and arbitrary" takeover of KPC, the statement further reads that "the administration, by allowing a few disgruntled elements to hoodwink the Club constitution, bylaws and flout all norms of law, has set a wrong and dangerous precedent".

The authorities, the statement further reads, had already communicated about the mandatory re-registration, which was initiated by the KPC management, but it took authorities more than six months to verify the

credentials of the management body.

Notably, a fortnight back, the J&K Administration had issued a re-registration for Kashmir Press Club but in an unprecedented decision, it was withdrawn a day after the independent journalist body announced to hold elections of the Club on February 15, this year.

"On 29 December, the re registration was finally issued following that the Club decided to initiate the process of fresh elections and also announced the date. But all of a sudden a group of journalists, including some non members, approached the district administration with a proposal for an "interim body" and it is followed by a communication from the government that the re-registration has been kept in abeyance." The joint statement reads.

The nine journalist bodies which have opposed the takeover include: Journalist Federation of Kashmir (JFK), Kashmir Working Journalists Association (KWJA), Kashmir Press Photographer Association (KPPA), Kashmir Press Club(KPC), Jammu and Kashmir Journalist Association (JKJA), Kashmir Video Journalist Association (KMVA), Kashmir Working Journalists Association, Kashmir National Television Journalist Association (KNTJA) and Kashmir Journalist Association (KJA).

This move, the statement read, in which a group of journalists self-appointed itself as an "interim body," is uncivil, illegal, unconstitutional and without any precedence. It has been taken at a time when the process of registration is still pending before the authorities.

The journalist bodies have also appealed to the press bodies across the country including Press Council of India, Press Club of India, Federation of Press Clubs and Editors Guild of India to take a strong note of how the "local administration is supporting lawlessness and throttling a democratic media body". "If such incidents are allowed to happen with a Press Club in Kashmir this can be precedent for the future," the statement ends.

Notably, on Friday, The Jammu and Kashmir administration had suspended the registration of Kashmir Press Club citing an adverse report by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of J&K Police.

No Major Snowfall

rain/snow till ending jan. (accuracy 60-70%)."

Meanwhile sub-zero cold conditions continued in Kashmir Valley and Ladakh with Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, recording a low of minus 4.5°C on Saturday.

The official said that the minimum temperature in Srinagar was down by more than a degree Celsius than previous night's minus 3.4°C. It was minus 2.1°C below normal for this time of year.

Kashmir is presently under the grip of 40-day long harshest period of winter, known locally as 'Chillai Kalan ', which started from December 21. It is followed by a 20-day long 'Chillai Khurd' and a 10-day-long 'Chilla Bachha'.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 9.5°C against 10.5°C on the previous night, he said. The temperature was minus 1.6°C below normal for this time of the year in the famous resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 11.4°C against minus 10.3°C last night, he said.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 7.6°C against minus 7.8°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 7.2°C against minus 7.5°C on the previous night, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a minimum of minus 5.0°C against minus 1.3°C on the previous

night, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 7.7°C against previous night's 5.7°C which is 0.7°C above normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 0.8°C, Katra 5.0 °C and Bhaderwah saw a minimum of minus 2.1°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 16.8°C against last night's minus 13.8°C while mercury at automatic station in Kargil settled at minus 18.6°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 27.6°C against last night's minus 23.8°C, official said.

6 LeT 'Associates

crossing Darpora noticed the suspicious movement of three people coming from village Gund Brath towards Bomai, a police spokesperson said Saturday. The trio, he said, were subsequently asked to stop, but they tried to flee from the spot.

"However were apprehended tactfully by the vigilant security forces," the police spokesperson said.

Upon searches, he said, two pistols, two magazines, thirteen pistol rounds and a hand grenade were recovered from their possession.

The police spokesperson identified them as Arafat Majeed Dar of Harwan Sopore, Tauseef Ahmed Dar of Arampora Sopore and Momin Nazir Khan of Arampora Sopore at present Natipora Srinagar.

He said that the preliminary investigation has revealed that the arrested persons are associates/OGWs of militant organisation LeT and have been providing logistical and other materialistic support to militants.

Accordingly, he said, a case has been registered at Police Station Bomai under relevant sections of law and further investigation is going on.

Similarly, the police spokesperson said that three more alleged LeT militant associates were arrested from the neighbouring Bandipora district on specific inputs.

He identified them as Gh Mohammad, Irshad Hussain both residents of Ashtangoo Bandipora and Ashiq Hussain resident of Sopore.

"Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession," the police spokesperson said.

He further added that preliminary investigations have revealed that the accused were working to expand the militant activities of LeT especially foreign militants by providing them logistic and other material support including mobile phones and Sim cards.

One among the arrested persons, he said, is a former militant and his anti-national activities have recycled many times during the past. Further investigation is going on.

Army and police reached at the spot and defused it without any damage.

Meanwhile a case has been registered and further investigations taken up in this regard.

650 Apple Boxes

a local news agency KNT reported Saturday.

The truck bearing registration number JK22B-3177 had been parked in Rai village of the district.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the complaint and registered a case under relevant sections of law.

Leopard Found

suggested that the leopard died naturally, they said.

However, an FIR was registered in connection with the death and a post-mortem will be conducted to ascertain the exact cause of the leopard's death for further action, the officials said. (PTI)

Australia, Sri Lanka Register Wins On Day 1 Of U-19 World Cup



Press Trust of India

GEORGETOWN: Australia and Sri Lanka logged their first points at the U-19 World Cup after registering comfortable victories over West Indies and Scotland, respectively, on the opening day here.

While Australia notched up a six-wicket win over West Indies, Sri Lanka beat Scotland by 40 runs in two Group D matches on Friday.

A disciplined Australian bowling unit first bundled out hosts West Indies for a paltry 169 and then returned to overhaul the target, scoring 170 for four in 44.5 overs with Teague Wyllie hitting a 129-ball 86, studded with eight hits to the fence.

For WI, skipper Ackeem Augustine top-scored with a 67-ball 57.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, the West Indies were off to a disastrous start as they found themselves reeling at 12 for three in the sixth over at the Providence Stadium, with pacer Tom Whitney and leg-spinner William Salzmann doing the damage.

Auguste joined wicketkeeper Rivaldo Clarke (37 off 42 balls) in the middle and the two stitched together a partnership of 95 runs for the fourth wicket, steadying the innings in the process.

However, the home team suffered another collapse following the dismissal of Clarke by Indian-origin spinner Nivethan Radhakrishnan (3/48) in the 22nd over.

In reply, Australia lost Corey Miller for a naught but his opening partner Wyllie anchored the chase with a responsible un-

beaten fifty.

Wyllie forged a 53-run partnership with skipper Cooper Connolly (23) after first down Isaac Higgins (9) was also sent back in the 8th over.

In the day's other match at Georgetown's Everest Cricket Club Ground, Scotland bowled out Sri Lanka for 218 in 45.2 overs.

With a run-a-ball 84, Sakuna Nidarshana Liyanage emerged as the top-scorer for Sri Lanka, while Chamindu Wickramasinghe (28), Sadisha Rajapaksa (24) got starts but could not capitalise on them.

Down the order, Raveen de Silva contributed 30 off 50 balls.

For Scotland, Sean Fischer Keogh was the most successful bowler with figures of 3/56 while there were two wickets apiece for Jack Jarvis and Oliver Davidson.

Chasing the total, Scotland batters got starts but couldn't capitalise on them with Wellalage emerging as the wrecker-in-chief with his five-wicket haul.

Brief scores:

West Indies U-19: 169 all out in 40.1 overs (Ackeem Augustine 57, McKenny Clarke 29; Tom Whitney 3/20, Nivethan Radhakrishnan 3/48, Cooper Connolly 3/17) lost to Australia U-19: 170 for 4 in 44.5 overs (Teague Wyllie 86, Nivethan Radhakrishnan 31, Cooper Connolly 23; Johann Layne 1/19)

Sri Lanka U-19: 209 all out in 45.2 overs (Sakuna Nidarshana Liyanage 79, Sean Fischer-Keogh 3/56) beat Scotland U-19: 178 all out in 48.4 overs (Jack Jarvis 55; Duniith Wellalage 5/27, Shevon Daniel 2/16).

Australia Leads England As 17 Wickets Tumble On Day 2



Agencies

HOBART: Australia yet again rolled over England in the Ashes for a below-par score of 188 as 17 wickets tumbled against pace on the second day of the fifth test on Saturday.

Australia, which was bowled out for 303, did not require the offspin of Nathan Lyon to grab a 115-run first-innings lead as captain Pat Cummins led the charge with 4-45 and Mitchell Starc grabbed 3-53.

Scott Boland was unlucky after Chris Woakes (36) got twice dropped in the slip cordon to finish with 1-33 and Cameron Green (1-45) got the wicket of debutant Sam Billings, who made 29.

England fast bowlers Stuart Broad and Mark Wood bowled with similar intensity of the Australian pace quartet as the home team stuttered to 37-3 at stumps at the day-night test for an overall lead of 152 with seven wickets in hand.

Steve Smith was unbeaten on 17 while nightwatchman Boland braved the barrage of short-pitched deliveries to stay not out on 3 off 25 balls.

The endless batting woes of England in the Ashes saw its top order yet again struggle against the seam and swing of Cummins and Starc, who both beat the batsmen outside the off stump in a superb display of

fast bowling.

Joe Root (34) and Dawid Malan (35) tried to resurrect the innings with a 49-run third-wicket stand after both openers fell cheaply before dinner break.

Starc and Cummins, however, ended England's poor show by sharing the last three wickets before England challenged Australia in a tough hour-and-a-half.

Lyon (31) had earlier scored half of the runs Australia added in the afternoon after resuming at 241-6.

Wood (3-115) took two quick wickets of Starc (3) and Cummins (2) but Lyon hit the fast bowler for three sixes and a square driven boundary much to the frustration of England.

Broad wrapped up the innings when he clipped the ball to bowl Lyon and finish with 3-59, but England sorely missed Ollie Robinson (2-24), who had back spasms and couldn't bowl after delivering eight overs on Day 1.

Robinson had Australia on the mat at 12-3 inside the first 10 overs, including an opening spell that removed David Warner and Steve Smith for ducks on Friday, before Head's second century of the series and an invaluable 74 by Cameron Green rescued Australia's innings.

England has already lost the Ashes after dropping the first three test matches and drawing at Sydney.

Virat Kohli Steps Down As India Test Captain

Press Trust of India

CAPE TOWN: Virat Kohli on Saturday dropped a bombshell by quitting Test captaincy following the unexpected series defeat against South Africa.

Kohli was appointed Test captain back in 2014 when M S Dhoni stepped down in the middle of the series against Australia.

"Every thing has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test captain of India, it's now. There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey but there has never been lack of effort or lack of belief," Kohli wrote in a statement which he posted on Twitter, taking everyone by surprise.

His shock announcement came a day after India lost the Test series in South Africa 1-2.

Kohli led India to the top of world rankings and during his tenure, the team recorded a memorable series win in Australia.

The 33-year old had recently quit as T20 captain and was later sacked at ODI captain by the BCCI.

Below is his statement:



"It's been 7 years of hard work, toil and relentless perseverance everyday to take the team in the right direction. I've done the job with absolute honesty and left nothing out there. Every thing has to come to a halt at some stage and for me as Test Captain of India, it's now. There have been many ups and also some downs along the journey, but never has there been a lack of effort or lack of belief. I have always believed in giving my 120 percent in everything I do, and if I can't do that, I know it's not the right thing to do. I have absolute clarity in my heart and I cannot be dishonest to my team.

"I want to thank the BCCI

for giving me the opportunity to lead my country for such a long period of time and more importantly to all the teammates who bought into the vision I had for the team from day one and never gave up in any situation. You guys have made this journey so memorable and beautiful. To Ravi Bhai and the support group who were the engine behind this vehicle that moved us upwards in Test Cricket consistently, you all have played a massive role in bringing this vision to life. Lastly, a big thank you to MS Dhoni who believed in me as a Captain and found me to be an able individual who could take Indian Cricket forward."

Former Players React To Kohli's Decision

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Various former India cricketers have taken to Twitter to express their views.

Former India batter Suresh Raina on Saturday said that he is shocked to see Virat Kohli stepping down as the Test captain.

"Although I also am shocked by @imVkohli sudden decision, I respect his call. I can only applaud him for what he has done for world cricket & India. Easily one of the most aggressive and fittest players India has had. A journey well-travelled," added former India skipper Mohammad Azharuddin.

Former India pacer Irfan Pathan wrote: "Whenever the talk of Indian cricket captains will arise in Test cricket @imVkohli's name will be up there, not only for results but the kind of impact he had as a captain. Thank you #ViratKohli." Meanwhile, BCCI treasurer

ful reign," wrote former India opener Wasim Jaffer.

The great Virender Sehwag wrote: Many Congratulations #ViratKohli on an outstanding career as India's Test Captain. Stats don't lie & he was not only the most successful Indian Test Captain but one of the most successful in the world. Can be very proud @imVkohli & looking forward to watch u dominate with the bat."

"It's always an honour to lead the dynamic Indian team. And the decision to step down is an emotional heavy moment. A journey well-travelled," added former India skipper Mohammad Azharuddin.

Former India pacer Irfan Pathan wrote: "Whenever the talk of Indian cricket captains will arise in Test cricket @imVkohli's name will be up there, not only for results but the kind of impact he had as a captain. Thank you #ViratKohli." Meanwhile, BCCI treasurer

Arun Dhumal said that there is no doubt that Virat Kohli is the most successful Indian team captain and cricket in the country would continue to thrive under his mentorship and batting skills.

Dhumal's remarks came as Kohli stepped down as India's Test captain after leading the side for seven years. "Virat beyond doubt is the most successful Indian cricket team captain. We respect his decision and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours as a batter. I am sure under his leadership, mentorship and with his batting skills, Indian cricket would keep doing well," Dhumal said.

The BCCI tweeted: "BCCI congratulates #TeamIndia captain @imVkohli for his admirable leadership qualities that took the Test team to unprecedented heights. He led India in 68 matches and has been the most successful captain with 40 wins."

India Drops To 5th In WTC Standings After SA Loss



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's seven-wicket loss to South Africa in the series-deciding third Test has cost them a top four spot as (now ex-captain) Virat Kohli and his men slipped to the fifth position in the World Test Championship standings.

India, the runners up of the inaugural edition of the WTC, are currently placed fifth in second cycle with a 49.07 percent-

age of points won (PCT), which is taken into account rather than the points earned.

India have played nine Tests in the second cycle of WTC, winning four, losing three and drawing two. They have 53 points, the highest among all teams so far.

After the second Test India were in fourth position with 55.21 PCT and South Africa were one slot behind with a PCT of 50.

But the win in the Newlands Test has helped South Africa (66.66 PCT) rise to the fourth spot.

Currently, Sri Lanka leads the standings with a 100 PCT followed by Australia (83.33) and Pakistan (75).

Reigning champions New Zealand, who drew a two-match series with Bangladesh at home earlier this week, are placed sixth with a PCT of 33.33.

Ghana Angered By Late Gabon Equalizer, Game Ends In Melee

Agencies

YAOUNDE, Cameroon: Ghana conceded a late goal to draw with Gabon 1-1 and also had a player red-carded for a punch on an opponent after the final whistle as their African Cup of Nations game ended in a melee on Friday.

The result left four-time African champion Ghana, which famously hasn't won the Cup of Nations since 1982, third in Group C behind Morocco and Gabon.

Ghana substitute Benjamin Tetteh was the man sent off after the game ended for landing a punch on Gabon's Aaron Boupendza as players and team

officials pushed and shoved each other on the field at Yaounde's Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium. Boupendza raced into the middle of the post-game melee and Tetteh greeted him with a right hand. Tetteh is heading for a ban.

While Ghana also frets over a possible group-stage exit, Morocco is through to the last 16 in Cameroon after a 2-0 win over debutant Comoros in the day's first game in Group C.

Senegal continued to struggle at the start of its African Cup and drew with Guinea 0-0 in Group B, although that result left both teams in good shape to qualify.

Ghana's anger erupted at the end because it felt Gabon's goal



in the 88th minute was against the spirit of the game. Ghana

Man City Go 13 Points Clear In EPL



Agencies

MANCHESTER: Kevin De Bruyne curled home a brilliant second-half goal to earn Manchester City a 1-0 win over Chelsea and a 13-point lead over its nearest rival in the Premier League on Saturday.

The Belgium midfielder collected a pass from Joao Cancelo deep in his own half, drove forward, and found the bottom corner with a shot from just outside the area.

It gave City a 12th straight win on its relentless march toward a sixth title in 11 years, with third-place Liverpool now the team with likely the best chance of catching Pep Guardiola's side at 14 points behind but with two games in hand.

It also would have given De Bruyne a certain sense of personal satisfaction, being a former Chelsea player — he was

sold in 2014 without making a mark at Stamford Bridge — and considering the anguish he suffered by being forced off with a head injury during the Champions League final loss to same opponent last season.

City dominated the majority of an intense game at Etihad Stadium, stopping second-place Chelsea from having a shot in the first half and seeing Jack Grealish squander the best chance before halftime when his shot was deflected behind by the outstretched leg of goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

Romelu Lukaku had Chelsea's best opportunity at the start of the second half, but Ederson saved the striker's curling shot after he had been played through. Otherwise, the visitors were penned back inside their own half by City's press and control of the ball. (AP)

Arsenal-Tottenham Latest EPL Game Called Off



Agencies

LONDON: Arsenal's request to call off its north London derby match against Tottenham because of a lack of senior players available was granted by the Premier League on Saturday.

"We know how much this match means to our fans around the world," Arsenal said of the decision to postpone Sunday's match which will cause some consternation among rival teams.

It was reached because Arsenal has fewer than the required number of players — 13 outfield and one goalkeeper — because of a combination of COVID-19 cases, injuries and players away on international duty at the African Cup of Nations.

However, Arsenal has recently decided to let two players go out on loan and has one player out suspended in Granit Xhaka. In Arsenal's most recent update, there were not many coronavirus-related absences for this game.

On Friday, Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said he would be aggrieved if he discovered that rival Premier League clubs were abusing coronavirus postponement rules after his club's request to call off a match — against Wolverhampton on Dec. 19 — was rejected despite seven COVID-19 cases in their squad.

Asked if he thought some clubs were attempting to push the limits on postponements with

tactics such as including general injuries and Africa Cup of Nations absences, Tuchel replied: "I strongly, strongly hope that's not the case, because otherwise I would be very, very angry."

Arsenal-Tottenham is the 21st Premier League game postponed since Dec. 12, mainly due to players having to isolate, and it is causing a backlog of fixtures for the second half of the season.

"What started out as postponements due to a pandemic has now become about clubs not having their best team," Gary Neville, the former Manchester United and England defender and now TV pundit, said on Twitter. "The Premier League must stop this now, draw a line in the sand and say all games go ahead unless you have an exceptional amount of CV cases. It's wrong."

Burnley's shortage of players due to coronavirus cases and injuries prompted the postponement of its match against Leicester this weekend. Burnley has played 17 league games this season, the fewest in the division and five less than leader Manchester City.

FRANCE

Paris Saint-Germain goalkeeper Keylor Navas tested positive for the coronavirus on Saturday morning and has started isolating, the French league leader said.

PSG said backup Lucas Lavallee was replacing Navas in the squad to face Brest later on Saturday.

could get attention from medical staff. Gabon didn't give it back and instead started a move that ended with substitute Jim Allevinah sweeping a shot across Ghana goalkeeper Jojo Wollacott and into the bottom right corner.

Meanwhile, Malawi beat Zimbabwe 2-1, coming from 1-0 down with a brace by Gabadinho Mhango. Malawi is playing in its first African Cup since 2010 and only its third ever, and gave itself a chance of reaching the second round.

The top two teams in each of the six groups qualify automatically for the round of 16 as well as the four best third-place teams.

Pakistan Announces Permanent Residency Scheme For Rich Foreign Nationals

Agenceis

Pakistan has decided to offer a permanent residency scheme for wealthy foreign nationals, including Sikhs living in the US and Canada, Afghans and Chinese, to attract investment and boost its flagging economy and national growth, it emerged on Saturday.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry through an overnight tweet announced that the new scheme was in line with the new National Security Policy, which was formally launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday.

"In line with new National Security Policy, through which Pakistan declared geo-economics as the core of its national security doctrine, the government has decided to allow permanent residency scheme for foreign nationals, the new policy allows foreigners to get permanent resident status in lieu of investment," the tweet said.

The Express Tribune newspaper reported that while sharing the background of the scheme, a key federal minister said that one of the purposes of opening the PR scheme was to attract rich Afghans, who were moving to Turkey, Malaysia and some other countries following the fall of Kabul last August.

"They needed to be incentivised," Chaudhry said.

In addition, the minister said, the scheme targets the Sikhs living in Canada and USA, who were willing to invest in religious sites, especially in Kartarpur Corridor but had no option to do so.

He said the third objective of the scheme was to incentivise the Chinese nationals, who wish to move or establish industrial units in Pakistan.

"It's a historic step... for the first time in the history of Pakistan foreigners are being al-

lowed to invest in the real estate sector," he said.

The Cabinet on Tuesday had directed the finance and interior ministries to sit with the Board of Investment and deliberate upon a scheme where foreign citizens could be facilitated in buying properties in Pakistan.

In just three days, the government has given a go-ahead to the scheme in an attempt to bring in billions of dollars in foreign exchange.

Citing Turkey's example, which recently allowed foreigners to buy properties in the country, the information minister had termed the project a "game-changer," saying that the foreigners would be able to buy houses, hotels and invest in real estate once the scheme was approved.

Giving an example of Sikh pilgrims, the information minister had said that they would be able to buy property in Kartarpur, assuring that both the projects will have complete legal protection.

Sources while referring to the federal Cabinet's decision taken in its last meeting to launch a housing project in the capital for the overseas Pakistanis said that it has now been decided that two more such projects would be launched in Lahore and Karachi.

In the post-Cabinet press briefing, the information minister had shared that a housing project stretching on 400 kanals (50 acres) of land was being launched for the overseas Pakistanis, saying it would have roughly 6,000 apartments and houses.

While sharing the purpose of the scheme, the minister had said that all the overseas Pakistanis who have Roshan Digital Accounts would be able to invest in the housing project, hoping that the government would fetch roughly USD 2 billion from the project in the capital, the media report said.

YouTube Channel 'Punjabi Lehr' Reunites Over 200 Partition Families From India And Pakistan



Agenceis

LAHORE: Much like the landmark Kartarpur Corridor that connects India and Pakistan, Punjabi Lehr, the Pakistan-based YouTube channel that brought together two brothers separated by Partition after 74 years and got many a little teary-eyed, has reunited over 200 friends and families across the border.

A video of the tearful reunion, showing the elderly brothers, one from India and another from Pakistan, hugging each other at the visa-free Kartarpur Corridor this week, has gone viral.

The emotional meeting of 84-year-old Saddique Khan from Pakistan's Punjab and his brother from Indian Punjab, Habib alias Sikka Khan, lasted more than an hour before the brothers returned to their respective homes.

The reunion of the two octogenarian brothers separated during Partition in 1947, in addition to being a showstopper for pilgrims in Kartarpur, also put a spotlight on the Pakistan-based YouTube channel that helped them meet and hug each other after 74 years.

Nasir Dhillon, who runs his YouTube channel with over 531,000 subscribers, says the channel's aim is "to bridge a gap between the peoples of East and West Punjab, created by Partition."

"With the help of the people of both sides of the Indian and Pakistani Punjab, we have reunited over 200 friends and families across the border," Dhillon told PTL. "People from both sides of

the border share their stories of separation from their immediate family members, relatives and friends during bloody riots of Participation in 1947, and some link is found through such videos (stories) that help find their loved ones, friends and their ancestral houses," said Dhillon, who runs the channel with Bhupinder Singh Lovely of Nankana Sahib.

The 37-year-old man from Faisalabad who served as a police officer for 12 years in Punjab Police started his YouTube channel some four years ago.

He said his grandfather gave him the motivation to start the channel to help reunite the families and friends separated by Partition and promote love among the people across the border.

"My grandfather was from Indian Punjab village Karan Taran Panjwar. He would tell me stories of the partition that kindled my interest in doing something related to reuniting the people across the border," he said.

"My grandfather and my father had a desire to visit the village but unfortunately they left the world without having this desire fulfilled," he said.

Dhillon, a father of three who is in the real estate business, said he too wants to visit his ancestral village if the Indian government provides him with a visa.

Uploading a clip of over 84-year-old Saddique Khan of Faisalabad (some 130 kms from Lahore) some two years ago on the channel helped trace his younger

brother on another side of Punjab.

This week Saddique met his lost brother Habib alias Sikka Khan at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in an emotional reunion after 74 years.

In an over one-hour meeting, Saddique who was 10 years old in 1947, tried to recollect his memories related to his family.

Younger Sikka was one-and-a-half-year-old at that time.

"My mother, young Habib who was in her lap and younger sister were at grandparents' house when the riots broke out. My father and I left for Pakistan in a chaotic situation. On the way my father was killed," Dhillon quoted Saddique as having said.

Dhillon said when he uploaded the interview of Saddique talking about his lost brother during Partition about two years ago, a doctor from Canada contacted him and informed him he belonged to Phulewala village of Indian Punjab and helped trace Sikka.

"Both brothers then were connected by WhatsApp video call and talked hours about their family," Dhillon said.

Sikka told Saddique their mother committed suicide by jumping into a canal as she had developed a mental disorder after losing her husband, son and some other relatives.

Their sister also died a few years after Partition, he said.

Saddique was brought up by his uncle while Sikka was taken care of by a Sikh family.

Saddique got married and had children and grandchildren while Sikka remained single, he said.

Added Safety Rules For Some Boeing 787 Landings Near 5G Service

U.S. Federal safety officials are directing operators of some Boeing planes to adopt extra procedures when landing on wet or snowy runways near impending 5G service because, they say, interference from the wireless networks could mean that the planes need more room to land.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Friday that interference could delay systems like thrust reversers on Boeing 787s from kicking in, leaving only the brakes to slow the plane.

That "could prevent an aircraft from stopping on the runway," the FAA said.

Similar orders could be issued in the coming days for other planes. The FAA has asked Boeing and Airbus for information about many models. Boeing said it is working with its suppliers, airlines, telecom companies and regulators "to ensure that every commercial airplane model can safely and confidently operate when 5G is implemented in the

might be vulnerable to spectrum interference. The agency said this week it expects to estimate the percentage of those planes soon, but didn't put a date on it.

"Aircraft with untested altimeters or that need retrofitting or replacement will be unable to perform low-visibility landings where 5G is deployed," the agency said in a statement.

The order regarding Boeing 787s covers 137 planes in the U.S. and 1,010 worldwide. The 787 is a two-aisle plane that is popular on longer routes, including many international flights.

The FAA said that based on information from Boeing, the 787s might not shift properly from flying to landing mode if there is interference, which could delay the activation of systems that help slow the plane.

AT&T and Verizon have twice agreed to postpone activating their new networks because of concerns raised by aviation groups and the FAA, most recently after the FAA and Transportation



United States."

The order for the Boeing jets comes a day after the FAA began issuing restrictions that airlines and other aircraft operators will face at many airports when AT&T and Verizon launch new, faster 5G wireless service Wednesday.

The agency is still studying whether those wireless networks will interfere with altimeters, which measure an aircraft's height above the ground. Data from altimeters is used to help pilots land when visibility is poor.

The devices operate on a portion of the radio spectrum that is close to the range used by the new 5G service, called C-Band.

This week's FAA actions are part of a larger fight between the aviation regulator and the telecom industry. The telecom companies and the Federal Communications Commission say 5G networks do not pose a threat to aviation. The FAA says more study is needed.

The FAA is conducting tests to learn how many commercial planes have altimeters that

Secretary Pete Buttigieg weighed in on the aviation industry's side. Buttigieg and FAA Administrator Stephen Dickson warned that flights could be canceled or diverted to avoid potential safety risks.

Under an agreement with the telecom companies, the FAA designated 50 airports that will have buffer zones in which the companies will turn off 5G transmitters or make other changes to limit potential interference through early July.

The 50 include the three major airports in the New York City area — LaGuardia, JFK and Newark Liberty — O'Hare and Midway in Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth International, Bush Intercontinental in Houston, Los Angeles International and San Francisco.

That concession by the telecoms was modeled after an approach used in France, although the FAA said last week that France requires more dramatic reductions in cell-tower reach around airports.

China Says UK Spy Claims Result Of Watching 'Too Many 007 Movies'

Agenceis

BEIJING: China on Friday dismissed a rare public warning by British security services that a suspected Chinese agent was trying to influence lawmakers, saying it was the result of watching "too many 007 movies".

British authorities said on Thursday that a London-based solicitor "knowingly engaged in political interference activities" inside parliament, citing Britain's counter-intelligence and domestic spy agency MI5.

Christine Lee had reportedly worked on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party to gain influence through donations, the office of House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said.

China's foreign ministry denied engaging in "interference activities", blasting the accusations as "alarmist remarks based on some individuals' subjective assumptions".

"Perhaps some individuals have watched too many 007 movies, leading to unnecessary mental associations," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a regular press conference, referring to the James Bond book and movie franchise.



MI5's security notice said Lee was acting "on behalf of the United Front Work Department of the Chinese Communist Party" and answered to figures in China and Hong Kong.

Academics and multiple foreign governments have long recognised the United Front as a tool for influencing organisations and politicians abroad.

The opaque party-controlled network covers issues such as minority rights within China to monitoring Chinese communities overseas.

Lee had previously been celebrated as a link between China and Britain and it was unclear what evidence sparked MI5's public warning — a highly unusual move from the intelligence services.

China Blasts US Sanctions On Iran With Launch Of Strategic Partnership

Agenceis

China has reaffirmed its opposition to unilateral sanctions by the United States against Iran as the Chinese and Iranian foreign ministers announced the launch of a 25-year cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening economic and political ties.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in the city of Wuxi, in Jiangsu province on Friday, with a summary of the meeting posted on China's foreign ministry website on Saturday.

Wang, who is also State Councillor, said the US bears primary responsibility for the ongoing difficulties with Iran, having unilaterally withdrawn from a 2015 nuclear deal.

The United States reimposed the sanctions that the agreement had removed and slapped new



bans under different labels.

Wang said China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions against Iran, political manipulation through topics including human rights, and interference in the internal affairs of Iran and other regional countries.

Iran and China signed the landmark agreement in March last year in defiance of the US's unilateral sanctions to strengthen long-standing economic and political alliance.

The deal officially documents the Sino-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that had been announced during a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to boost economic cooperation between the two countries for the next 25 years, and paves the way for Iran's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, a massive infrastructure project stretching from East Asia to Europe.



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