

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday 04 February | 02 Rajab al Murajab | 1442 Hijri | Vol: 25 | Issue: 30 | Pages: 12 | Price: ₹3

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P5 STATE

MEHBOOBA, OMAR TARGET K'TAKA COLLEGE FOR DENYING ENTRY TO GIRL STUDENTS

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah on Thursday hit out at a college administration in Karnataka for denying entry to Muslim

THINK

BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER: ANSWERING THE "WHY"

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a serious mental illness marked by erratic moods and emotions, as well as relationships and behavior. An in depth description of BPD



P11 SPORTS

INDIA'S WINTER OLYMPIC CONTINGENT COVID-FREE

A day after testing positive for COVID-19, the manager of India's Winter Olympics contingent, Mohammad Abbas Wani, has returned negative



Invisible threads are the strongest ties
— Friedrich Nietzsche

NEWS DIGEST

Applications Invited For Khadim-ul-Hujaj

SRINAGAR: The Haj Committee of India (HCI), Mumbai has invited applications from the government for nomination as Khadim-ul-Hujaj for Haj-2022, an official spokesperson said Thursday. The applications have been sought by HCI vide Circular No-9 issued on February 2. "Accordingly, all interested persons are informed to go through the details of the said Circular available ►► More On P10

SPO Dies Of Suspected Heart Attack

SRINAGAR: A Special Police Officer (SPO) died on Thursday after allegedly suffering a heart attack in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, SPO Parem Parkesh of village Dara Dullian complained of chest pain during duty at Shiv Ji Mandir Kunyian this afternoon, a local news agency GNS reported Thursday. The SPO, reports said, was immediately shifted to Raja ►► More On P10

Minor Boy Killed In Hit & Run Case

SRINAGAR: A minor boy was killed on Thursday in a hit and run case in Maidanpora area of Kupwara district, official sources said. They said the boy Adhar Khan (8) son of Irshad Ahmad Khan of Batpora Hayhama who was presently at maternal uncle's home at Maidanpora Lolab was hit by an unknown vehicle and got seriously injured. He was immediately rushed ►► More On P10

Mechanic Found Dead In Nowgam

SRINAGAR: A young mechanic on Thursday was found hanging from a tree in Nowgam area of this capital city. 24-year-old Tawheed Ahmad was found hanging from a tree in the Zonipora area of Nowgam on Thursday morning, reports said. The deceased was a generator mechanic by profession. Station House Officer (SHO) Nowgam police station has reached the ►► More On P10

Corona III Wave Slows Down, 1982 Test Positive



A health worker collects nasal swabs from tourists for Covid-19 testing in the outskirts of Srinagar. KO File photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed lowest daily Coronavirus cases for the first time in the last 20 days, as 1982 more people tested positive for the virus on Thursday while seven others succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir Valley reported 1288 fresh cases of novel

Coronavirus on Thursday while the remaining 694 were detected in various districts of Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in J&K to 442462.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 413 new cases of virus, Baramulla 253, Kupwara 230, Budgam 116, Anantnag 71, Bandipora 56, Kulgam 47, Pulwama and Ganderbal 44 each and Shopian 14.

In the winter capital,

officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 310 new cases of Coronavirus, Doda 76, Udhampur 74, Kathua 62, Ramban 45, Samba 34, Kishtwar 28, Rajouri 26, Poonch 21 and Reasi 18.

"Moreover, 5093 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 1554 from Jammu Division and 3539 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said ►► More On P10

KATHUA RAPE-MURDER

Mastermind Moves HC For Suspension Of Life Term



File photo

Press Trust Of India

CHANDIGARH: The bail application of main accused Sanji Ram, sentenced to undergo a life imprisonment for the rape and murder of an eight-year-old nomad girl in Kathua, has been posted for hearing on February 24 by the Punjab

and Haryana High Court. The application came up for hearing on Thursday before a division bench of justices Tejinder Singh Dhindsa and Lalit Batra through video conferencing during which the counsel for Jammu and Kashmir RS Cheema requested for a new date that was granted. ►► More On P10

6 Killed In Kishtwar Cab Crash

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Six people were killed on Thursday when a cab ferrying them skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The tragic accident occurred on Thursday evening when the eco passenger vehicle (JK17-5089) skidded off the road and rolled down into the gorge near Nagriana in Kishtwar district, a police official said.

He said five people died on the spot while another injured succumbed on the way to the hospital. The police official identified the deceased as Latief Ahmad Rather, Rehman Butt, Irfan Ahmad, Ghulam Hassan, Atta Mohammad and Zubair Ahmad, all residents of Nagriana. ►► More On P10

ALREADY RUMOURS HAVE STARTED doing rounds that the case was going to be re-investigated by the CBI and all the accused will be out on bail."

CAG Pulls Up I&FC Dept Over Jhelum Dredging, Misappropriation Of Funds

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the Jammu and Kashmir irrigation & flood control department for lapses in achieving required targets for dredging of Jhelum river that had hamstrung the disaster management response post 2014 floods.

The audit by the CAG noted that the there was a shortfall of targets by I&FC department in terms of dredging that was required under the Prime Minister's Development Package for Crisis Management project's to increase the carrying capacity of flood waters of the Jhelum river and through the Flood Spill Channel (FSC).



File photo

The audit has strictly noted that the contractor dredged out only 0.84 lakh cum bed material (12 per cent) of total quantity allotted up to January 2017 and thereby attracted the forfeiture of the performance guarantee as per

the terms and conditions of the contract.

"The SLCC directed the CE, I&FC Department, Kashmir to put on notice the contractor firm to honor the contractual obligations and to also extend the period of completion of contract

up to March 2018 on the same terms and conditions, as in the original contract. However, even in the extended period dredging of only 5.015 lakh cum of bed material, which is 72 per cent of allotted quantity was achieved. The performance bank guarantee, however, was not invoked by the Department." The audit noted

As per the audit, the overall achievement of dredging of river bed material was 6.86 lakh cum (98 per cent) against a target of 7 lakh cum but the dredging of Jhelum river was not carried out as per the requirements fixed at six sites.

"In fact, 0.58 lakh cum extra bed material was dredged out ►► More On P10

ON VERIFICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL (A&E), J&K, Srinagar, it was noticed (June 2019) that a voucher worth ₹ 8,600 for maintenance of photocopier in place of drawn amount of ₹ six lakh was submitted alongwith the monthly account. The misappropriation of funds was facilitated due to lack of proper internal control and monitoring mechanism and evident negligence of the Drawing and Disbursing Officer to check correctness of bills or to get these verified in accordance with standing Financial Rules."

More Rains, Snow In Next 48 Hours

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Most parts of Kashmir received fresh snowfall while rain and sleet lashed Srinagar city as the minimum temperature improved across the valley due to the precipitation overnight, officials said on Thursday.

Gulmarg and Pahalgam, tourist resorts in the north and south of the valley respectively, recorded more than six inches of fresh snowfall, while Ganderbal district received around five inches of fresh snow, the officials said.

Baramulla, Kupwara and other parts of the valley also received significant snowfall since Wednesday, they said.

Fakeer Gujri area along the Zabarwan range in Srinagar district also recorded fresh snowfall rain and sleet lashed the rest of the district last night.

The weather is expected to remain wet over the next 48 hours, officials said.

The precipitation has resulted in increase in the minimum temperature across Kashmir.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 0.6 degrees Celsius 2.5 degrees up from 1.9 degrees ►► More On P10

India, Pakistan In Backchannel Talks?

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A leading Pakistani businessman has claimed that India and Pakistan are engaged in backchannel talks and the same will hopefully yield good results in the future.

"If things prove between the two neighbours, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could visit Pakistan in a month," Mian Muhammad Mansha claimed on Wednesday, according to

Dawn newspaper.

Mansha, who is the chairman of Nishat Group, made these remarks at a gathering of businessmen at the Lahore Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

He advised the two countries to resolve their disputes and start trade to fight erty in the region.

"If the economy does not improve, the country may face disastrous consequences. Pakistan should improve trade relations with India and take a regional approach ►► More On

MEA Refuses To Comment

Ministry of External Affairs said it does not comment on observations from private individuals when asked to react to claims by the leading Pakistani businessman. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi neither confirmed nor denied the claim and instead said it was not ►► More On P10

Indus Commissioners Meet Likely In March

The design of the 624 MW power project on the Chenab in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is likely to be among the issues discussed at the next meeting of the Permanent ►► More On P10



JOIN INDIAN NAVY

Indian Navy invites online applications from unmarried men & women candidates, to join as Short Service Commission Officers.

| Branch / Cadre | Educational Qualification | Vacancies | Born Between (Both Dates Inclusive) |
|--|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| SSC Executive (Information Technology) | Minimum 60% marks in English in class X or XII and must have qualified one of the undermentioned educational qualification with minimum 60% overall qualifying marks, in either or a combination of following:- (a) MSc / BE / B Tech / M Tech (Computer Science / Computer Science & Engineering / Computer Engineering / Information Technology / Software Systems / Cyber Security / System Administration & Networking / Computer Systems & Networking Data Analytics / Artificial Intelligence) or (b) MCA with BCA / BSc (Computer Science/ Information Technology) | 50 | 02 Jul 1997 & 01 Jan 2003 |

Entry is open from 27 Jan 22.

The last date for submission of online application is 10 Feb 22.

For eligibility criteria and details, visit www.joinindiannavy.gov.in and

Employment News dated 29 Jan 22.



Scan this QR Code to apply online

dayp 10701/13/0019/2122

دسویں برسی

اہلیہ نذیر احمد ڈار ساکنہ مائیکمہ حال نندریٹش کالونی بمبئی آج سے دس برس قبل آج

ہی کے دن 4 فروری 2012ء ہم سے جدا ہو کر اس دار فانی سے رخصت کر گئیں

تھیں۔ مرحومہ ملنسار ہجوم و صلوات اور خوش

اخلاق خاتون تھیں۔ اللہ گواہ ہے کہ ہم آپ

کو ابھی تک بھول نہیں پائے ہیں اور نہ ہی

بھول پائیں گے۔ ہم اللہ تعالیٰ سے

دعا گو ہیں کہ وہ انہیں کروٹ کروٹ جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے۔ آمین

از طرف: نذیر احمد ڈار

7889774238



از دفتر تحصیلدار کزنر اسسٹنٹ کلکٹر درجاول

عنوان: غیر قانونی بریدگی درخت چنار واقع در موضع واکوٹرا پورہ
اشہار نظام برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام زیر نسبت کلکڑی درخت چنار ضبط شدہ اذواق در موضع واکوٹرا پورہ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر خد اکوٹیک شکایت موصول ہوئی ہے کہ موضع واکوٹرا پورہ میں کچھ لوگوں نے ایک درخت چنار غیر قانونی طور پر برید کیا ہے جس کی نسبت دفتر خد نے فوری طور پر کارروائی کرتے ہوئے برید شدہ درخت چنار کو ضبط کیا اور لوٹ افرا کے خلاف قانونی کارروائی کی اور اب ضبط شدہ کلکڑی کی بولی کرنی مطلب ہے ضبط شدہ کلکڑی خریدنا 18000 (18000) روپیہ کی مالیت کا ہے اور بولی اس رقم سے شروع ہوگی۔

لہذا ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشہار خد مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ بولی بنیادی مورخہ 07 فروری 2022 کو بوقت دوپہر 2 بجے موضع واکوٹرا پورہ میں منعقد ہوگی اور خواہشمند حضرات نیلواہی میں شرکت کرنے کے لئے تاریخ مقررہ پر موضع واکوٹرا پورہ میں حاضر ہو جائیں اور کامیاب بولی دہندہ اور کم بولی اس وقت ادا کرنی ہوگی۔

تحریر الصدر
تحصیلدار کزنر
اسسٹنٹ کلکٹر درجاول
nyc
No: TK/OQ/2021880
Dated: 02-02-2022

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars

Samir Ahmad Dar
Father's name: Gh Hassan Dar
Mother Name : Hafiza Begum
Roll No: 686406 Year 2012 Session Annual Private
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before under signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.



Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore
fko

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR.

ATTENTION PLEASE.

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he /she has lost his/ her qualification certificate/s having the following description:-

ROLL NO 197428
CLASS 10TH
YEAR & SESSION ANNUAL PVT. 2007
REGISTRATION NO 06NKF10003
NAME SAUQI JAN
FATHERS NAME MANZOOR AHMAD GANIE
MOTHERS NAME MUBEENA AKHTER
DATE OF BIRTH 20-03-1992
RESIDENCE KURIGAM QAZIGUND



Now the candidate has, applied for issuance of DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S. Be fore the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.
(Besides, the losted "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE", bearing Serial No /s 4001970 is /are be treat ed as "CANCELLED").

Sd/= Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD
rna



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NAAC Accredited Grade "A+" | HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

| S. No | Name of Work | Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Earnest Money In Rs. | Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.) | Time of completion | Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender. | Date & Time of Opening of Bid | Class of Contr |
|-------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Various Civil repair and renovation works in the Department of Urdu at Main Campus. | 3.95 | 7,900/- | Rs. 200/- | 01-Month | 01-02 -2022 to 10-02-2022 (6.00 PM) | 11-02-2022 (11.30 AM) | "DEE" |

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: - F (UCD) (E.Tend)/KU/84/21
DATED:01/02/22.

DIPK-NB-6866/21 Executive Engineer

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL BALIHARAN, PATTAN.

RESOLUTION

In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing Body dated on 10-12-2021 elections were held for the Managing Body through secret ballot on 12-01-2022. The following have been elected for the Managing Body of Madina Public High School Baliharan, Pattan.

01 Mr. Syed Mukhtar Hussain
03. Mr. Ali Mohammad Joo
05. Mr. Reyaz Ahmad Khawaja
07. Mir. Ruheee Jan
09. Mir. Rizwana Akhter
02. Mr. Gh. Nabi Mir
04. Mir- Gh. Hassan Rather
06. Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Dar
08 Mr. Gh. Hassan Sofi

| S. NO. | Name | Parentage | Residence | Qualification | Occupation | Designation |
|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 01 | Mr. Syed Mukhtar Hussain | Syed Sadiq Razvi | Baliharan | BA | Business. | Chairman |
| 02 | Mr. Gh. Nabi Mir | Ali Mohammad Mir | Hanjiweera | B.A. B.Ed. | Rtd. Employee | Secretary |
| 03 | Mr. Ali Mohammad Joo | Gh. Mohammad Joo | Dever (Parhaspora) | MA B.Ed. | Principal of School | Member |
| 04 | Mr. Gh. Hassan Rather | Ali Mohammad Rather | Mattipora | 12th | Pvt. Service | Member |
| 05 | Mr. Reyaz Ahmad Khawaja | All Mohammad Khawaja | Baliharan | 10+ 02 | Business | Parent Member |
| 06 | Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Oar | Gh. Mohammad Dar | Bonichakal Baliharan | MA B. Ed | Pvt Service | Member |
| 07 | Mtr. Ruheee Jan | Gh. Mustafa Malik | Mirgund | B.A. B.Ed. | Pvt Service | Member |
| 08 | Mr. Gh. Hassan Sofi | Mohammad Zaman Sofi | Baliharan | 10+02 | Pvt. Service | Parent Member |
| 09 | Mtr. Rizwana Akhter | Fida Hussain Malik | Mirgund | BAB.Ed. | Staff-representative | Member |

The managing Body resolved to approach the worthy Director School Education Kashmir for the approval of above cited Body. Objection if any, will not be entertained after seven days.
No: CH/MPHS/BH 915
Dated: 03-02-2022

CHAIRMAN
MADINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
BALIHARAN, PATTAN.

Rosemary Compound May Block Covid-19 Infection, Early Study Suggests

Press Trust Of India

Washington- A compound found in the medicinal and culinary herb rosemary may potentially block the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and prevent inflammation caused by COVID-19, a preliminary study suggests. The research, published in the journal Antioxidants, found that the compound, carnosic acid, can block the interaction between the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and the receptor protein ACE2.

Spike protein is used by the SARS-CoV-2 virus to infect the cells, while ACE2 acts as a gateway to enter the cells. The researchers also reviewed evidence from prior studies that carnosic acid has a separate effect in inhibiting a powerful inflammatory pathway that is active in severe COVID-19 as well as in other diseases including Alzheimer's. "We think that carnosic acid, or some optimised derivative, is worth investigating as a potentially cheap, safe, and effective treatment for COVID-19 and some other inflammation-related disorders," said study senior author Stuart Lipton, a profes-



sor at Scripps Research, US. Rosemary is an economically important plant species that is widely distributed due to its culinary, medicinal, and cosmetic uses. In a 2016 study, Lipton and colleagues showed that carnosic acid found in rosemary activates an anti-inflammatory, antioxidant signalling pathway called the Nrf2. They found evidence that this pathway reduces Alzheimer's-like signs in mouse models of that disease, which is known to feature brain inflammation. For the new study, Lipton

and colleagues from the Tokyo University of Technology, Japan, described their further studies of this anti-inflammatory effect on the immune cells that drive inflammation in COVID-19 and Alzheimer's. The researchers proposed that this effect could be beneficial against the inflammation observed in COVID-19 and in some cases of the post-COVID syndrome known as long COVID. Long COVID is characterised by symptoms such as cognitive difficulties often described as "brain fog."

Using a standard infectivity assay, the researchers showed that carnosic acid can directly block SARS-CoV-2's ability to infect cells, with progressively greater infection-blocking activity at higher doses.

While the finding is preliminary, the researchers propose that carnosic acid has this antiviral effect, despite being a safe and relatively unreactive compound, because it is converted to its active form by the inflammation and oxidation found at sites of infection.

In that active form, they suggest, the compound modifies the ACE2 receptor for SARS-CoV-2 -- making the receptor impregnable to the virus and thereby blocking infection.

"Carnosic acid represents a 'pathologically activated therapeutic' in preclinical models of disease -- inactive and innocuous in its normal state, but converted to an active form where it needs to be active," Lipton said.

The researchers are working to synthesise and test more potent derivatives of carnosic acid with improved drug characteristics for potential use in inflammation-related disorders.

GENESIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LARNOO ANANTNAG

The list of Proposed Panel of Managing Body is as under:

| S. No | Name with parentage | Qualification | Designation |
|-------|---|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Gulzar Ahmad Itoo S/o Ab Salam Itoo R/o Baghi Wanpoh Kulgam | M.Sc. | Principal |
| 2 | Bilal Ahmad Bhat S/o Gull Mohd Bhat R/o Nowgam Shangus Anantnag | M.A | Teacher Member |
| 3 | Rayees Ahmad Bhat S/o Late Gh Rasool Bhat R/o Batpora Larnoo Ang. | M.A, B.Ed. | Member |
| 4 | Ashiq Ahmad Raina S/o Ab Rashid Raina R/o Iqbalpora Khriti Larnoo Ang | 10+2 | Parent Member |
| 5 | Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Gh Nabi Bhat R/o Batpora Larnoo Ang | 10th | Parent Member |
| 6 | Sajad Ahmad Shah Baba S/o Gh Mohi-Din Shah Baba R/o Namithpora Draway Larnoo Ang. | M.A | Teacher |
| 7 | Showkat Ahmad Bhat S/o Gh Nabi Bhat R/o Larnoo Ang | 10th | Member |
| 8 | Shaheena Kowsir D/o Farooq Ahmad Shah R/o Larnoo Ang | M.A,B.ed | Teacher |
| 9 | Nisar Ahmad Beig S/o Ab Gani Beig R/o Khriti Larnoo | 12th | Parent Member |

Note:- I am going to get the approval of Managing Body to be approved by the Director of School Education Kashmir Srinagar. If anybody has any sort of objection regarding in this matter he/she may file the same within a week's time of the date of publication in Directorate of School Education Srinagar.

rna

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Division Baramulla

e-mail id- ifcdebaramulla@gmail.com/exenifcdebaramulla@ifckashmir.com

Er. Durfashan Tariq,
Junior Engineer,
I&FC Division, Baramulla.
R/o: Sherwani Colony Khawajabagh Bala.

No: I&FCDB/6181-86
Dated: 01/02/2022.

Sub: Last and Final show cause notice

Ref: 1. This office show cause notice issued under No. I&FCD/2305-10 dated: 10-08-2021.
2. This office show cause notice-II issued No. I&FCDB/3820-25 dated: 16-10-2021.
3. This office show cause notice-III issued No. I&FCDB/5341-46 dated 22-12-2021.

Whereas you proceeded on earned leave with effect from 01-01-2021 and was supposed to resume your duties back on due date, but instead of joining you remained unauthorized absent from your legitimate duties.

Where as you were already informed/communicated that your leave application for 18 months "leave without pay" W.e.f 01-05-2021 was not accepted by this office due to uncertified reason.

Whereas you were provided enough opportunities to resume your duties through served notices followed by final notice, which was also published in daily newspaper "Tameel-i-Irshad" on 29-12-2021 besides same notices also mailed on your email-id, but neither you responded the notices nor resumed your duties indicating therefore that you are no more interested to work in the Department.

Whereas, due to remaining unauthorized absent for more than 08 months from duties being a Govt. Employee attracts action as warranted in terms of Article 113 of J&K CSR (V.I) of 1956.

Now before action under Article 113 of J&K CSR (V.I) of 1956 is initiated against you for remaining unauthorized absent from your duties W.e.f 01-05-2021 as opportunity is hereby provided for hearing you and your statement as defence which must reach to this office within 15 days positively after issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be treated that you have nothing to say in this regard and proposed action shall be initiated against you without further notice.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation & FC Division
Baramulla

DIPK-17462/21

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

SUB-OFFICE BUDGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th, 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Farooq Ahamd Chopan
Father's Name : Ab Salam Chopan
Mother's Name : Aasha Gagiend Kallan Budgam



Details of Marks Certificate lost
• Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 227445 Session /Year Bi-Annual 2006

• Higher Secondary School Examination (class 12th)
Roll No 229252 Session /Year Annual 2007
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before under signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Budgam
pd_r

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his/her qualification certificate/s as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 3114480
Class: 10th
Year & Session; 2016 - Bi-Annual
Registration No: N13440120028
Name : Tajamul Sultan
Father's name: Mohammad Sultan Sheikh
Mother Name : Fatima Begum
Date of Birth:- 25-12-1999
Residenc:- Edipora Bomai Zainageer Sopore



According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate , so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate bearing S. No: 714149 " be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/2022
Dated 02-02-2022

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.
fko

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars

Tajamul Sultan
Father's name: Mohammad Sultan Sheikh
Mother Name : Fatima Begum
Roll No: 3114480 Year 2016 Session Bi-Annual



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before under signed with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore
fko

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

Contact:-0194-3550112
G-mail- yardimiciuniqu92@gmail.com
I.G: yardimci_multi_venture
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

ELECTRONICS

10X MOBILE STORE

All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories

Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-7889657769

TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.
Sannat Nagar Srinagar

Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979





District Legal Services Authority Announces Free Legal Aid To Victim

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Legal Services Authority Srinagar on Wednesday decided to Provide Free Legal Aid to Acid Victim of Hawal area of District Srinagar who was Injured in an acid attack days before.

While taking cognizance of the brutal & inhuman act committed by the assailant by throwing acid on a girl aged 24 years old victim at wantpora Eidgah area of District Srinagar, DLSA decided to Provide Free Legal Aid to Victim.

Secretary DLSA Noor Mohammad Mir said that it is the duty of District Legal Services Authority Srinagar to come forward for all possible help to victim & her family vis-à-vis Legal Services free of cost.

Accordingly DLSA sgr hereby engages/ Appoints one of the Panel Lawyer DLSA Sgr as Legal Aid Counsel for the victim & her family. The engaged/appointed Legal Aid Counsel shall extend his fullest Legal Services free of cost at every forum (Police, Court or any Govt. agency) as & when contacted by the Victims Family.

Ensure stringent punishment to acid attackers: Mehbooba

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Former chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president, Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday demanded stringent action against those who attacked a girl from Srinagar with acid a few days back.

Mehbooba while talking to reporters said that acid attack on Srinagar girl is an inhuman act and those behind this heinous crime should be given stringent punishment so that such incidents are put to an end.

Referring to Nallah Sindh and others, she said that the government has been allowing contractors from outside Jammu and Kashmir to extract sand and Bajri from these water bodies.

“Such happenings are increasing unemployment in the Union Territory. The government has not been able to provide employment to locals, rather it is snatching the means of unemployment from the locals, leaving the locals to lurch at large,” she said.



Many parts of Srinagar on Wednesday experienced fresh snowfall while plains received rains, bringing down the temperature further in the Valley. However, a local Meteorological department (MeT) here has predicted erratic weather conditions till February 08. Pic Abid Bhat

One Lakh Provided To Acid Attack Survivor: Admin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 03: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Balwal Thursday visited SMHS Hospital to oversee the medical treatment levels to the 24-year old acid attack survivor.

During the visit, the DC and SSP interacted with the parents of the acid attack victim. Expressing anguish at the incident, the DC and SSP conveyed their solidarity to the victim and her family in this hour of pain.

On the occasion, the DC handed over a cheque of Rs 1 lakh out of District Red Cross Fund as an immediate assistance to the victim's family and also assured all possible support from the District Administration Srinagar.

While interacting with the Medical Superintendent SMHS Hospital, Dr Kanwal Jeet Singh and other Doctors, the DC enquired about the medical treatment being provided to the acid victim.

The DC was informed that all the best medical facilities are being given to the acid survivor and utmost care is being provided. The doctors are monitor-

Ready to bear all medical expenses for victim: Bukhari

Observer News Service

Srinagar:- Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari along with Party leaders on Thursday visited SMHS hospital today to express his solidarity with the acid attack victim who was targeted days ago in Srinagar.

Altaf Bukhari met the family members of the victim and assured all possible help including financial support for advanced medical treatment across the nation.

Speaking to media persons here, he said that “We are here to express our solidarity and uncompromising support with the family.”

Emphasizing on the need of educat-

ing the members of civil society in protecting the interests of women, he said that “It's our collective social responsibility to ensure that the rehabilitation of the victim is not stigmatized and we all play a role in our capacities.”

Demanding stern action against the perpetrators of this heinous crime, Bukhari said that the Party will provide expert legal services to the family to ensure that justice is meted out to the victim.

Praying for the swift and complete recovery of the victim, he expressed hope that with the prayers of the well wishes and the medical treatment of the local doctors, the victim will recover soon.

ing her condition and the survivor is in stable condition, informed the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital.

Meanwhile, the family of the victim also appreciated the District administra-

tion Srinagar for extending all possible assistance from their end. They thanked SSP Srinagar for apprehending the accused within no time and demanded harshest punishment under the Law.

Cab Drivers Protest In Sgr, Allege Harassment By Traffic Cops

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Feb 3, KNT: Scores of tourist cab drivers Thursday staged a protest here against what they termed as harassment by the traffic department on the name of document checking, saying that they are being stopped after every half a kilometer while travelling towards tourist destinations.

Talking to reporters, Zakir Hussain, a cab driver said that the traffic cops on the way to tourist destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, stop them after every half a kilometer

for document checking.

He said that such harassment is creating a bad impression with tourists.

“Even after paying taxes and completing all documentation, we are being harassed and those who have owned their personal cabs without any contracts are moving freely,” he said. “We appreciate Superintendent of Police (SP) traffic and department for managing the traffic mess in City and we appeal them to look into our concerns too as it brings a bad impression in front of tourists travelling in our cabs,” the cab drivers said.

SAD DEMISE



With profound grief we inform that our father Mohammad Jamal Gujree son of Mobammad Saboor Gujree, a resident of Hazratbal-A left for heavenly abode on February 3, 2022 after suffering a cardiac arrest. The congregational Fatiha prayers for the departed soul shall be offered on February 5, at our ancestral graveyard in Dargah Hazratbal at 10:30 am.

Grief Stricken

Irfan Jamal

Junaid Jamal

7006455534 | 9717835092

ako

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلنتره درخواست منجانب غلام نبی وارلد عبدالکریم وارلساکنہ شیخ پورہ تحصیل کریری برادر حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بحق پسر جابید احمد و دختر ڈاہدہ اختر تحت ایس آر آو 144,294,375

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہماں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکن سالکہ شیخ پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کمپنی کی ماہانہ آمدنی 10000 ہے کمپنہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

| | | |
|--------------------|----|------------|
| غلام نبی وار سربرہ | 61 | دکانداری |
| جابید احمد وار پسر | 31 | زمینداری |
| شبیم بیگم بہو | 33 | گھریلو کام |
| امیرہ جابید پوتی | 4 | زیر تعلیم |
| ڈاہدہ اختر دختر | 29 | زیر تعلیم |

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمپنہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار

ashk

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلنتره درخواست منجانب غلام نبی خان ولد لوی خان ساکنہ شیخ پورہ تحصیل کریری برادر حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بحق پسر بشیر احمد خان تحت ایس آر آو 144,294,375

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہماں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکن سالکہ شیخ پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کمپنی کی ماہانہ آمدنی 10000 ہے کمپنہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|------------|
| غلام نبی خان سربرہ | 53 | زمینداری |
| رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ | 50 | گھریلو کام |
| طارق نبی احمد خان پسر | 27 | زیر تعلیم |
| شاہین بیگم بہو | 30 | گھریلو کام |
| بشیر احمد خان پسر | 24 | زیر تعلیم |
| محمد انور خان پسر | 23 | زیر تعلیم |

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمپنہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار

ash k

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلنتره درخواست منجانب فاروق احمد بٹ ولد محمد سلطان بٹ ساکنہ برزہ وشن تحصیل کریری برادر حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بحق دختر زینت فاروق تحت سی ار 144,294,375

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہماں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکن سالکہ برزہ وشن میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کمپنی کی سالانہ آمدنی 72000 ہے کمپنہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|------------|
| فاروق احمد بٹ و سربرہ | 48 | زمینداری |
| نسیم بیگم زوجہ | 25 | گھریلو کام |
| زینت فاروق دختر | 21 | زیر تعلیم |
| ادھر فاروق دختر | 18 | زیر تعلیم |

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمپنہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار

ash k r

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلنتره درخواست منجانب غلام نبی چوپان ولد غلام رسول چوپان ساکنہ کلنتره بالا تحصیل کریری برادر حصول legal heir پاپت Pony Wala License بحق خود

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست ساکن دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہماں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکن سالکہ کا غلام رسول چوپان مورخہ 26-08-2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے ساکن اسنے والد کی پوتی والد لاسن اپنے نام کرنا چاہتا ہے متوفانی

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| محمد لطیف چوپان پسر متوفانی | 34 |
| غلام نبی چوپان پسر متوفانی | 32 |
| حیدر بیگم دختر متوفانی | 38 |
| نسیم بیگم دختر متوفانی | 30 |

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمپنہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار

ash k r

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

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)



PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 6: 01 |
| ZUHR | 12:45 |
| ASR | 4:24 |
| Magrib | 6:07 |
| ISHA | 7: 28 |

This Day In History

- 1454 - In the Thirteen Years' War, the Secret Council of the Prussian Confederation sends a formal act of disobedience to the Grand Master
- 1508 - Maximilian I assumes imperial title without being crowned
- 1600 - Astronomers Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler meet for the first time near Prague
- 1620 - Prince Bethlen Gabor of Hungary signs peace with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II
- 1699 - 350 rebellious Streltsi executed in Moscow
- 1783 - Worst quake in 8 years kills some 50,000 in Calabria, Italy
- 1789 - 1st US electoral college chooses George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice-President
- 1794 - French National Convention proclaims abolition of slavery
- 1797 - Earthquake in Quito, Ecuador kills 41,000
- 1859 - One of the oldest known copies of the Bible, "The Codex Sinaiticus" (Sinai Bible), is seen in Egypt by Constantin von Tischendorf who takes the manuscript home with him
- 1861 - Confederate constitutional convention meets for 1st time; Jefferson Davis elected President of Confederacy (US Civil War)
- 1922 - After boycotts and international pressure, Japan agrees to return Shantung Province to China.
- 1933 - German President Paul von Hindenburg limits freedom of the press
- 1938 - Adolf Hitler seizes control of German army and puts Nazis in key posts
- 1941 - British tanks occupy Maus, Libya
- 1941 - Former Dutch premier De Geer flies to Berlin
- 1941 - United Service Organization (USO) founded
- 1942 - Clinton Pierce becomes 1st US general wounded in action in WW II
- 1945 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin meet at Yalta in the Crimea to discuss the final phase of World War II
- 1949 - Failed assassination attempt on Shah of Persia Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
- 1961 - Sputnik 7 launches into Earth orbit; probable Venus probe failure
- 1967 - US launches Lunar Orbiter 3
- 1969 - The Palestine National Congress appoints Yasser Arafat chairman of the PLO
- 1971 - British car maker Rolls Royce declared itself bankrupt
- 1971 - The NASDAQ stock exchange, the second-largest in the world - behind the New York Stock Exchange - is founded in New York City
- 1973 - An International inspection team is sent to Vietnam to observe progress on the Paris truce agreement
- 1976 - 7.5 earthquake kills 22,778 in Guatemala & Honduras
- 1976 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1976 - Hua Guofeng becomes Premier of the People's Republic of China
- MVP: David Thompson, Denver Nuggets, SG
- 1980 - Bani Sadr sworn in as premier of Iran
- 1987 - US President Reagan's veto of Clean Water Act is overridden by Congress
- 1991 - NZ cricketers Martin Crowe and Andrew Jones make a world record 467 run stand, against Sri Lanka at the Basin Reserve in Wellington

From KO Archives

Counter-Insurgents Form Joint Front In JK

Observer News Service

JAMMU - In a bid to counter the growing menace of foreign militants of yesteryears under eleven different counter insurgency groups have joined hands and formed Muttahida Quomi Mahaz (Joint National Front). This group will give a befitting reply to Pakistan's Inter service Intelligence (ISI) and militants and agents in the state, chairman of the front and National Conference MLC Javed Hussain Shah told reporters here yesterday.

Shah, who also heads a counter insurgency group, national security organisation, said efforts were also on to bring J and K Awami League supremo Jamshed Shirazi alias Kukka Parrey and Liaquat alias Hilal Haider in the new front.

He said the centre should not be soft toward the Hurriyat Conference and demanded arrest of the Hurriyat leaders who he alleged are involved in anti-national activities.

Besides holding rallies and mass contact programmes, the Mahaz would appeal to people to come to the streets against the Hurriyat and ISI.

Organisations which have joined the Muttahida Quomi Mahaz front include national security organisation of Javed Hussain Shah, all J&K and K People's patriotic front of Nabi Azad, Jammu Kashmir welfare forum of Sammad Khan, militancy Mukhalif Mocha of Ch Jalal-u-Din, Sada-i-Kashmir of Shabnum Shafiq, Aman Conference of Majid Khan, Muslim Mujahideen of Mukhtar-ul-Aziz, Kashmir Liberation council of Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, Secular Awami Tehreek of Abdul Ahad, J&K Ikhwah of Bashir Ahmed Khan and Awami Tehreek headed by Wali Mohammad Wani.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 04 February, 2001)

We Are Witnessing Trailers Of Future Conflicts: Army Chief



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India is witnessing trailers of future conflicts and its adversaries will continue with efforts to achieve their strategic aims, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane said on Thursday delving into national security challenges emanating from China and Pakistan.

In an address at an online seminar, he said India is facing "unique, substantial and multi-domain" security challenges and that developments on the northern borders had adequately underscored the requirement of ready and capable forces.

Without naming China and Pakistan, the Chief of Army Staff said that the disputed borders with nuclear-capable neighbours coupled with state-sponsored proxy war were stretching the security apparatus and the resources.

"We are witnessing trailers of future conflicts. These are being enacted daily on the information battlefield, in the networks and cyberspace. They are also being played along unsettled and active borders," he said.

"It is for us now to visualise the battlefield contours of tomorrow

based on these trailers. If you look around, you will realise the reality of today," he said.

The Army chief said the developments on the northern borders had adequately underscored the requirement of ready and capable forces with an optimal component of boots on the ground backed by modern technology to preserve the country's sovereignty and integrity.

"Our adversary shall continue with their efforts to achieve their strategic aims...sort of conflict by use of grey zone activities in the political, military and economic domains, and do so in a collusive manner," he said.

"The events of 2020 have been testimony to the diversity of security threats in all domains and this has brought the spotlight towards non-contact and grey zone warfare. We need to augment capabilities in both non-contact and contact modes of warfare," he said referring to the eastern Ladakh face-off.

In an oblique reference to China, he said that some nations are challenging the globally accepted norms and the rules-based order.

Gen Naravane said the developments in Afghanistan had again brought to focus the use of proxies and non-state actors to decisive effect.



LAST YEAR WAS A REMARKABLE YEAR for space travel, but 2022 will primarily be the year of the moon, with governments and private companies working in partnership to make their ambitions a reality. (Shutterstock)

No Info With Us, MEA On Pegasus Row

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said it does not have any information relating to the Pegasus spyware controversy.

"The alleged matter that has been referred to is under investigation by a committee set up by the Supreme Court. No information is available with the Ministry of External Affairs on this matter," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

He was responding to a volley of questions on a recent New York Times report that claimed India bought the Pegasus spyware as part of a USD 2 billion defence deal with Israel in 2017. The media report said Pegasus and a missile system were the "centrepieces" of a roughly USD 2 billion deal of sophisticated weapons and



intelligence gear between the two countries.

It also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in July 2017 - the first by an Indian Prime Minister.

"As regards the Prime Minister's visit to Israel in 2017, MoUs were signed, the details of which are publicly avail-

able," Mr Bagchi said.

An international investigative consortium had claimed last year that many Indian ministers, politicians, activists, businessmen and journalists were potentially targeted by Pegasus, the phone-hacking software of Israeli firm NSO Group Technologies.

THE ALLEGED MATTER THAT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO IS under investigation by a committee set up by the Supreme Court. No information is available with the Ministry of External Affairs on this matter,"

Mahua Moitra Dares BJP's 'Heckler Team' Ahead Of Her Parliamentary Speech

Agencies

NEW DELHI: A day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a blistering attack on the Centre, Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mahua Moitra on Thursday gave a hint of what will be coming in her Parliament speech today when she replies to the President's address.

Mahua Moitra is a vocal critic of the BJP and had also grabbed many eyeballs with her fiery speeches in the Parliament earlier also.

In a dare to the BJP leaders, whom she called the 'heckler team', Mahua Moitra, a TMC MP from Krishnanagar in West Bengal, asked them to be ready for her another fiery speech and 'read up on imaginary points of order'. "Tweeting her dare, Mitra wrote, "Am speaking this evening in Lok Sabha on President's Address. Just wanted to give early heads up to BJP to get heckler team ready and read up on imagi-



nary points of order. Drink some gaumutra shots too".

Moitra is known for her fiery speeches in Parliament and war of words with social media trolls, many from what she calls the BJP's "IT cell". Mahua Moitra's colleague and MP Saugata Roy had on Wednesday laid the foundation for Moitra's offensive on the government today. Saugata Roy yesterday accused the Centre of appointing Governors who work at odds with state government.

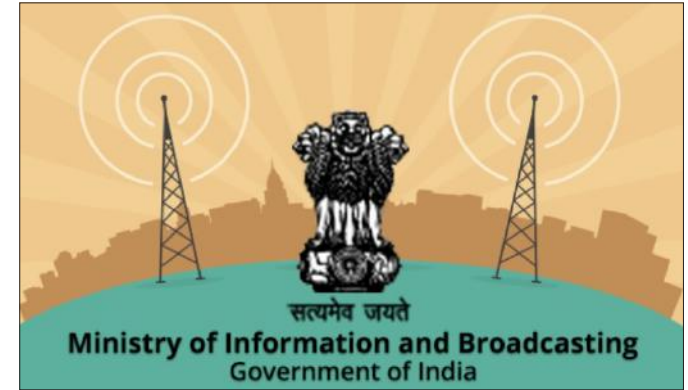
"Why has the centre imposed governors? In Tamil Nadu, there are complaints against a Governor who disrespects ministers.

In Maharashtra, there is a Governor who is disturbing the Maharashtra government. We have found a Governor who tweets every day," Saugata Roy said in Lok Sabha yesterday.

This came after Rahul Gandhi trained his guns at the Centre on a number of issues including unemployment and its foreign policy. Accusing the government of making a strategic mistake, Gandhi had said that BJP has brought China and Pakistan together. "Do not be under any illusion, do not underestimate the force that is standing in front of you. This is a serious threat to India," he had said.

The Wayanad MP also alleged that the BJP created two Indias -- one for poor and one for rich -- and are continuing with their efforts to widen the gap between the two. He also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to start working towards bringing the two Indias, created by this government, together.

Govt Takes Action Against 160 TV Channels For 'Anti-India Content'



Press Trust Of India

The government on Thursday said it was concerned about the freedom of speech and expression and that the country was not in the times of 1975 or the Emergency.

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan told the Rajya Sabha that the government has initiated action against 160 TV channels and blocked 60 channels on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter pages as their content was against the integrity and safety of the nation.

"Our government is concerned about the freedom of speech and expression... We are not in 1975. We are not in Emergency...", he said in the House during the Question Hour.

Murugan was responding to a question by an opposition member who alleged that the government was misusing penal provisions to curb the freedom of speech and expression.

Replying to supplementaries on action against news channels for anti-national content, he said the Press Council of India and a three-tier mechanism is place to check the content.

This, he said, includes self-regulatory mechanism and self-regulatory bodies and if the grievances

are not sorted out, only then does the inter-departmental committee takes up and sorts out the issues.

"We wish to inform you that we have initiated 160 cases against TV channels," the minister told the House.

Asked about the action against MediaOne channel, he said, "We are not doing anything on MediaOne. Whatever permissions to channels are being given (are) after the Home Ministry gives security clearance. MediaOne matter is sub-judice also."

"Within two months, our government initiated action against 60 channels whose content was against the nation and against the integrity and safety of the nation. We cannot tolerate it."

"We blocked 60 channels, including Youtube and Facebook and Twitter accounts as they disturbed the nation's peace and security. We are concerned about the freedom of speech and freedom of expression," the minister of state told the Rajya Sabha.

In a written reply, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said all programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the programme code laid down in Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

UP Schools Threaten To Stop Online Classes If Not Allowed To Reopen



IANs

Nearly 250 educational institutions under the Unaided Private School Association (UPSA) have threatened to stop online classes and withdraw support during the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election process if the state government does not order re-summation of physical classes.

The UPSA said it would wait till February 6 after which it would discontinue all online classes.

It has been opposing the state government's decision on closure of schools by saying that when all public places like parks, markets, railway stations and malls are open, then why schools should remain closed where Covid-19 safety norms are being followed.

The government had issued directives regarding closure of all schools in Uttar Pradesh for offline classes from January 16 to 23. Later, the closure was extended till February 6 considering the Covid-19 situation and schools were asked to

conduct online classes.

"The government is calling students for various programmes where Covid-19 safety protocol is being ignored then why it is not allowing schools to conduct classes on the campus," asked UPSA president Anil Agarwal.

He said excessive interference of government in the functioning of private schools, be it fee hike, use of school vehicles in elections, or delay in fee reimbursement to schools for admissions under the Right to Education, was adversely impacting the standard of education.

"The government's directive to schools to not to increase the fee will not be accepted. We will increase the fee according to the UP Fee Regulation Act," he added.

Agarwal said schools had to suffer huge financial losses due to pandemic as a number of students had left schools.

The UPSA fears having to shut down their institutions if the state government does not allow them to increase fees.

SHORT TAKES

2 Girls Held With Drugs Worth Rs 12 Cr In Delhi



NEW DELHI: Three persons, including two teenage girls and a 27-year-old woman were arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly smuggling heroin worth Rs 12 crore, an official said on Thursday. According to the information, an FIR was registered against them at the Mohan Nagar Police Station of Dwarka District. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Shankar Chaudhary said that the police have recently launched an operation 'Varchasv' under which the

girls were held. He said that it was a joint operation between Delhi and Haryana Police. A case was recently lodged with the Sonapat Police and a team of Haryana Police came to Dwarka in the national capital. After developing the information, a joint raiding team of Dwarka District and Haryana Police was formed.

The team raided a house in the Bhagwati Garden extension area in Dwarka. "We detained three from the spot. They tried to run away, but were chased and caught by our staff. Heroin was recovered from them," said Chaudhary. The girls were identified as Shivani (18), Preeti (18), and Kiran (27). On checking their purses, polythene containing off-white substance weighing 400 gms was recovered from the possession of Shivani, 424 gms was recovered from Kiran and polythene containing white substance weighing 439 gms was found with Preeti, said the police. The total weight of the recovered substance came out to be 1,263 gms, which was later found to be heroin. After following due process of law, all three were booked under the 21 NDPS Act.--IANs

13 Yr Old Dies After Gas Leaks From Geyser

Asian News International



NEW DELHI: A 13-year-old girl died due to inhalation of carbon monoxide leaking from the bathroom geyser in Delhi's Dwarka on January 31, Delhi police said. The girl had gone to take a bath and when she did not return the family members broke the door. The girl was found unconscious in the bathroom and was taken to a hospital where she was declared dead. Post mortem report said death was due to inhalation of Carbon Monoxide gas leaking from a geyser, said police. Probe in the matter is going on. Further details are awaited.

80-Year-Old Cobbler Fighting 20Th Polls



CHANDIGARH: Neither his age nor his financial constraints prevent an 80-year-old cobbler in Punjab's Hoshiarpur from contesting elections. As Punjab goes to polls on February 20, he will be fighting his 20th election. Om Prakash Jakhu, who mends and cleans shoes for a living at a small shop near the Hoshiarpur Clock Tower, says it is his "junoon" (passion) which keeps him going. He is contesting the elections from Hoshiarpur on Bharatrashtna Democratic Party.

"For half of my life, I have been fighting elections. Most of them have been for the MLA post," Mr Jakhu says. The other candidates in the fray from this constituency include Congress' sitting MLA Sunder Sham Arora, BJP's Tikshan Sud and AAP's Bram Shanker. "I am contesting my 20th election," Mr Jakhu says with a sense of pride, even though he has not tasted electoral success yet. The octogenarian says he has even contested the municipal elections from different segments in Hoshiarpur district, such as Shamchaurasi, Chabewal and Garhiwala, and that he has been a candidate of the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Lok Janshakti Party in the past. Even though Jakhu's earnings may be just enough for him and his family to live from hand to mouth, that does not deter him from taking the electoral plunge. "It is my junoon," he says about contesting polls.--PTI

Udhampur Village Gets Electricity First Time Since 1947



Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: A historic feat was achieved under the Power Sector in District Udhampur as the village Saddal of Block Panchari received electricity supply for the first time in 73 years of Independence.

The electrification work of the village was started after the PRIs and local people of the village projected their grievance before Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib during a Public outreach programme held at Panchari, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the PRIs and Local

people thanked the Deputy Commissioner for prompt action because of which the herculean task of electrifying the remote village was completed in a record time.

Meanwhile, to celebrate the historic moment with the villagers, BDC Chairman, Panchari Jeevan Sharma visited the village and congratulated the villagers on getting electricity supply for the first time. PRIs and Local people also thanked the District Administration for meeting their long pending demand.

The residents were elated on getting electricity supply as now their children can now focus on their studies.

Banihal Highway Open For Two-Way Traffic Today

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for both way traffic on Friday but commuters have been asked to check status of the thoroughfare before travel in view of the inclement weather, officials said.

"Commuters are advised not to travel on Jammu-Srinagar highway (NH-44) without confirming the status of road from TCU Jammu/ Ramban & Srinagar in view of inclement weather prediction issued by met department," a traffic department official here said.

"However, on 04-02-2022, subject to fair weather and better road conditions LMVs/passenger/private cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar highway viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa," he said, adding, "TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."

He said cut off for LMVs/private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) will be at 0800 hours to 1200 hours,

from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0900 hours to 1300 hours and from Navvug Tunnel (Qazigund side) 0900 hours to 1300 hours "(subject to change depending on the road position then)" He said no vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings.

Regarding HMVs/Load carriers, he said, "subject to fair weather and better road conditions, they shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the traffic situation on highway." He said TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the highway.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali.

Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also remained closed in view of snow accumulation, the traffic department official said. (GNS)

TRF Militant Arrested In Bandipora: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a hybrid militant of The Resistance Front, an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that police and security forces came to know the suspicious movement of TRF militants in Chandergeer Hajin on February 3. Accordingly, he said, a naka was placed by Bandipora Police along with 13 RR at Check-Chandergeer Hajin.

"While conducting search of pedestrians and vehicles, one suspect person tried to conceal his presence on seeing the Naka Party, who was tactfully apprehended and on his personal search 01 Chinese grenade was recovered and on his further disclosure 01 Chinese Pistol, 01 Pistol Magazine, 04 Pistol Rounds and 02 more Chinese hand Grenades were recovered," the police spokesperson said.

During preliminary questioning, he said, the apprehended man disclosed his identity as Shabir Ahmad Dar resident of Chandergeer Hajin.

"Being a Hybrid militant of TRF outfit he was working on the directions of handlers across

the border Lala Umar and Huzai-fa. He was in touch with Abbas Sheikh (now killed) and Basit an active militant and was assigned the task of reviving local militancy in Bandipora district, particularly in Hajin. Since there is no local active militant left in Hajin area after the elimination of LeT Militant Saleem Parray," the police spokesperson said.

He further said that it is pertinent to mention that the subject was working for LeT outfit on the directions of LeT operatives namely Bashir Puji (now in Jail) and Muzaffar Nata (Killed).

"The accused was arrested in 2017 for his involvement in subversive activities and close proximity with the LeT commanders in Hajin area at that time. While in Jail he was motivated by some LeT militants, who were lodged with him to revive TRF/LeT by way of local recruitment once he is out of jail," he said.

"Soon after he started subversive activities he was apprehended before he could do any further damage to peace and tranquility by way of motivating local youth to join militant ranks," he added. In this connection, the police spokesperson said that a case FIR has been registered in police station Hajin and further investigation taken up.

ROW OVER HIJAB

Mehbooba, Omar Target K'taka College For Denying Entry To Girl Students

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah on Thursday hit out at a college administration in Karnataka for denying entry to Muslim girls who were wearing hijab.

Mehbooba also hit out at the Centre saying its slogan for educating girl child was "hollow" as Muslim girls were denied education for wearing hijab.

"Beti bachao beti parhao is yet another hollow slogan. Muslim girls are being denied the right to education simply because of their attire. Legitimising the marginalisation of Muslims is one more step towards converting Gandhi's India into Godhse's India," she tweeted.

Taking a dig at the dress code diktat against Muslim girl students, Abdullah posted pictures of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister



Yogi Adityanath, veteran BJP leader Uma Bharti and Lok Sabha member from Bhopal Pragya Thakur wearing saffron robes alongside the picture of Muslim students wearing hijab.

"Individuals are free to choose what to wear. You may or may not like their choice but that's a right we all have. If these public representatives can wear saffron robes, then these girls can use hijab. Muslims are not second class citizens," he wrote on Twitter.

The two leaders were reacting to media reports about a college at Kundapura in Karnataka denying entry to Muslim girl students who were wearing hijab.

The reports also claimed that hooligans claiming affiliation with some right-wing group had visited the college, objecting to the attire of Muslim girl students.

Authorities Order Blacklisting Of Non-Performing Contractors

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district have ordered blacklisting of contractors for their alleged non-performance in completion of projects, officials said on Thursday.

It also ordered the withholding salary of an executive engineer of the Jal Shakti Department for poor performance in project expenditure in the district, they said.

District Development Com-

missioner, Doda, Vikas Sharma took a detailed review of the performance of the rural development department (RDD) under the area development plan including tendering of works, the status of allotment, physical and financial completion as of January 2022, the officials said.

Taking cognisance of the poor performance by executive engineer Jal Shakti division Gandoh, he ordered withholding of his salary with immediate effect, they added.

Sharma also ordered black-

listing of contractors for their non-performance in the completion of projects, the officials said.

While reviewing the progress of the power sector, the DDC asked the Shalaka Infra to hand over all the 71 completed sites to the Jammu power corporation within seven days, they said.

He asked the corporation to start preparation for commissioning of these projects in different parts of the district, they added.

Advisor Orders Action Over Arbitrary Engagement Of Individuals By District Offices

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Thursday took strong notice of arbitrary engagement of individuals by district offices of the social welfare department and issued directions seeking explanation and taking stern action against the erring officers.

Khan passed these directions while taking an exhaustive review of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) of Social Welfare Department here on Thursday, an official spokesperson said.

Advisor emphasized that the ICDS is aimed primarily at providing nutrition to children, especially those from the underprivileged and far flung areas. He also reviewed issues pertaining to pending payments in this regard.

Secretary Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, informed the Advisor that up-to-date targets, both physical as well as financial, under Poshan Abhiyan are being achieved successfully by the department. Similarly, the targets under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) are also being achieved by the department. Around 44 thousand,



of targeted 49 thousand beneficiaries, have already been provided cash assistance of Rs 5 thousand under the scheme, she added.

She informed that drinking water and toilet facilities are being constructed in each Anganwadi centre of the UT. Out of target of 28078 drinking water facilities, only 1900 are remaining to be created besides only 2600, out of projected 25469 toilet projects, are yet to be completed, added the Secretary.

Advisor took stock of the staff rationalisation procedures being adopted by Social Welfare Department for efficient and optimum utilisation of Anganwadi Centres and the workers therein.

Advisor Khan called for framing fresh and clear rules to eliminate scope of ambiguity in issues pertaining to disbursement of relief,

eligibility of beneficiaries and related concerns. He asked the officers for geo-tagging of every Anganwadi Centre of the UT for effective functioning of these vital institutes of the government.

Taking strong notice of arbitrary engagement of individuals by district offices, Advisor issued directions seeking explanation and taking stern action against the erring officers. He also assessed departmental issues including those pertaining to DPCs and recruitment besides legal matters.

Advisor gave patient hearing to all issues and demands highlighted by MD ICDS assuring an appropriate resolution of the same.

Those present in the meeting included Mission Director ICDS, Rubina Kousar among other officers of the Social Welfare Department and ICDS.

Handicapped Father Struggling To Treat Acid Victim Daughter

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Shamim Ahmad Kumar, father of a 17 year old girl who was attacked with acid in October last in Shopian is struggling hard to treat her daughter.

In October 2021, a 17 year old girl from Kral-Check village of Keller hamlet in south Kashmir's Shopian was attacked by a local youth with acid in her locality after which involved youth was arrested and put behind bars but the girl is battling to regain her shape.

Shamim Ahmad Kumar, father of the victim said that he has already spent around 15 lakh rupees for treatment of her daughter but now he has no money to bear the expenses of medicine besides surgery.

"I am handicapped and working at a government school in my native village where I have been getting Rs 400 per month salary since 1995. How is it possible for me to bear the expens-

es of surgeries," he said.

"After the incident we had circulated a public appeal for donations and somehow we managed to treat her but now we are short of money," Kumar said.

Apart from the daughter Kumar has a minor son. His wife got divorce before four years ago and is presently living in a shed.

"My daughter has already gone through five surgeries at a private hospital. She needs to go through at least three more surgeries costing around Rs 20 lakh," he said.

He said that the wounds of her daughter are healing but as per doctors it will take around a year more and three more surgeries for satisfactory recovery.

"My daughter hasn't lost eyesight but tears are continuously coming out of her eyes due to the acid effect. My daughter is in Srinagar as I am unable to take her home as we don't have any house," he said—(KNO)

DC Baramulla Reviews Progress Under NTEP



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Bhupinder Kumar on Thursday convened a meeting of District Tuberculosis Forum committee to review the progress under National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in the district.

On the occasion, a brief presentation about the achievements of NTEP programmed was presented by District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr Rehana, wherein she informed that 105967 persons have been screened in various medical blocks of the district of which 3514 samples have been collected so far.

It was also informed that the treatment success rate is increasing and patients are currently on treatment in the district and are undergoing regular health checkups for their proper treatment.

On the occasion, the DC im-

pressed upon all the members to work with better coordination to ensure cent percent elimination of Tuberculosis disease from the district.

The DC directed Chief Medical Officer Baramulla to convene all the BMOs of the district to mobilize all the available resources productively and effectively in order to get the desired results.

Moreover, DC insisted Nikshay Poshan Yojana to be implemented and TPT TB Preventive therapy to be implemented in letter and spirit besides mobilising the services of Print and electronic media for the general awareness with regard to TB in common masses.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer Zilla Parishad, Chief Medical Officer Baramulla, WHO Representative TB Consultant, HOD Community Medicine GMC Baramulla and President DAK Baramulla besides other concerned functionaries of the district.

NC District V-P Among 5 To Join BJP From Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Five prominent personalities including National Conference district vice-president Kartar Singh Rathore on Thursday joined the BJP in Jammu.

Nath Ram, a retired horticulture officer, Surjeet Singh, a retired government employee, Rimal Chand, a retired Naib Tehsildar, and Sonam Narbo, a Buddhist leader, were the other four who joined the party at a function here.

The joining was held in presence of J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, general secretary Ashok Koul, and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta, a BJP spokesman said.

Welcoming the new entrants, Raina said that the men joined BJP leaving their earlier affiliations with a strong belief in the BJP's ideology and the working pattern.

He said prominent persons from all over the region are joining the party on a regular basis.

DC Anantnag Fixes Timelines For Removal Of Encroachments

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Continuing sub divisional level review of the Revenue department, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Thursday chaired a meeting of sub divisional collectorate Pahalgam.

During the meeting issues related to encroachment, implementation of new services under revenue, establishment and office spaces were discussed. The DC on the occasion laid stress on removal of encroachments from Kahcharie and State land in a systematic manner. He was informed that more than 3000 kanals of land has been retrieved from encroachers in Pahalgam, Saller and Grigufwara tehsils.

Reviewing the status of pending court cases, Dr Singla fixed timelines for disposal of cases.



He directed the concerned officer to ensure that all pendencies are disposed off in the next two months.

The meeting held discussion on the present infrastructure availability for revenue officials. In this regard, directions were issued to ensure that patwar khana should operate from vacant govt building before turning to rented accommodations.

DC Singla stressed that the field functionaries must be present within their jurisdiction at least twice a week so that people

can bring forth their issues.

The present deployment of lumberdars and chowkidars was also reviewed with directions to ensure their presence in their jurisdiction. Tehsildar Pahalgam was directed to sack one lumberdar, who has been absent from duties for some time now. There was emphasis on organizing regular camps in the far flung areas so that people can avail revenue services without inconvenience.

Regarding Jamabandies and Girdawaris, the DC was in-

formed that 100 percent jama-bandis and girdawaris stand completed and socially audited. It was also informed that there is minimal pendency in mutations in the sub division.

The DC encouraged the officials to take up any pendency in mutations particularly related to inheritance in a mission mode. Regarding transfer of land to government departments, mutations have been completed in all cases.

Dr Singla also reviewed the functioning of SDM office and issued directions to hold regular review meetings with line departments. He also directed the SDM to conduct surprise visits and ensure attendance in subordinate offices.

There was thorough deliberation regarding the services that have been brought in the ambit of the public services guarantee act.

Thieves Steal 24 Sheep In Anantnag

Srinagar: Unknown thieves stole two dozen sheep from a tin shed in south Kashmir's Anantnag village.

This cattle theft incident occurred during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday at Lassipora Khrew village of the district.

The owner of the livestock, Muhammad Yaqub Bhat told a local news agency KNT that thieves have cut a portion of the tin shed and stole 24 sheep worth lakhs of rupees.

"This live-stock was the only source of income for me. I have suffered heavily. We have informed police about the theft incident and I hope culprits will be nabbed and sheep will be given back to me," he said.

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
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K O V I E W

Budget 2022-23

As is expected, the union government budget for 2022 has been hailed by the government and run down by the opposition. This year's budget is significant as it comes just ahead of the polls in the five states including the all-important one in Uttar Pradesh. So, the government was mindful about sending the right message to the electorate across the poll-going states. The outcome in these elections will to a good extent determine the future of this government, more so when general elections are just two years away. And the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman did her best to live up to the diverse expectations and try to keep all sections of people happy. Whether she has succeeded or failed in this will be a distinct factor in the outcome of the polls.

However, as was evident from the budget, the government stayed short of increasing cash transfers to farmers under PM-Kisan from the current Rs 6,000 per year, or by providing income tax relief to the middle class. The outlay on MGNREGA has also been slashed to Rs 73,000 crore, from Rs 1,11,700 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 98,000 crore in revised estimates for 2021-22.

As for other salient features of the budget, the government has projected GDP growth at 8% to 8.5% compared with an estimated 9.2% for the current fiscal year and a 6.6% contraction the previous year. Sitharaman unveiled a 39.45 trillion budget which focussed on stepping up investment on highways and offer affordable housing to people. The government also raised government capital expenditure by 35.4 percent to Rs 7.5 trillion and increased orders for local defense companies, something that is seen as a boon for the India Inc. Domestic defence industry got a boost with the finance minister announcing that 68 percent of the capital procurement budget will be earmarked for domestic industry in 2022-23, up from 58 percent in 2021-22. Significantly, Sitharaman also announced a new scheme to build infrastructure in villages along China border.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi later in his reaction to the budget mentioned that developing infrastructure in sparsely populated villages along the LAC was also necessary for the country's security.

PM Modi lauded the budget as a step towards a modern, self-reliant India with its focus on providing basic amenities to the poor, middle class and youth. The PM also said the budget proposes to make a four-fold increase in public investments as compared to those in the UPA regime. The opposition, meanwhile has slammed the budget as anti-poor. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi described the Union Budget for 2022-23 as a "zero-sum budget", saying it has nothing for the salaried, middle class and the poor. However, the budget's biggest test will be the outcome of the upcoming polls. That alone will show whether the proposals have resonated with people or not.

OTHER OPINION

A Dose Of Realism

The World Health Organization (WHO) chief, Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, in a recent briefing, noted that 90 million cases of coronavirus have been reported since the Omicron variant was first identified 10 weeks ago. His statement comes in the context of many countries easing their restrictive movement measures amid public fatigue. From WHO's perspective, the blanket lifting of restrictions poses a problem as most people appear to believe that Omicron is less threatening compared to previous variants and that two shots of vaccines are an adequate defence against the virus. He underlined that a narrative that "preventing transmission is no longer possible and no longer necessary" had taken hold and this was problematic. This was false, he underscored at the briefing, as the virus continues to evolve and four of the six WHO regions globally are reporting an increasing trend in deaths.

Britain, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and Finland are on the path of easing COVID-19 restrictions. In India too, with current evidence pointing to a fall in the daily caseload, several States have moved to ease movement restrictions. WHO has also said that the newly emerged variant, BA.2, is as transmissible as Omicron and that all measures needed to contain the original Omicron variant are applicable to it too. After facing criticism that it did not move soon enough in 2020 to alert the world of the magnitude of the calamity that it awaited, WHO, which takes a global view of the crisis, cannot be faulted for airing concerns from the evidence available so far. It has also consistently warned that the pandemic cannot be over until all regions of the world are sufficiently vaccinated and that economic inequity continues to be a driver of the pandemic. The coronavirus, while secular in its infectiousness, affects nations differently. The richer ones can afford to bear the consequences of disrupted social activity a little longer than the rest. Just about half the world has been fully vaccinated; unfortunately, so far, the available vaccines are only equipped to protect against disease rather than infection. WHO must use its influence to continue to encourage vaccination and step in with advice and expertise to help countries access necessary doses and bear upon governments to do more to meet vaccination targets. Framing the pandemic as a war that humanity must 'win' was useful to accelerate the development of vaccines. However, science is not equipped yet to predict the future trajectory of the coronavirus; COVID-appropriate behaviour, vaccines and accessible health care remain the only credible defences.

The Hindu

The Patriarchy In Acid Attack



"Did you hurt a woman today;

I have to ask these obscene questions..."

Kabir

ACID ATTACK IS ONE OF
such barbaric crimes
unleashed on women
which comes from the
belief of domination.
This is a social
phenomenon that is
deeply embedded in a
gender hierarchy
based on patriarchal
control over women

This couplet from the poem of famous American author and poet Ntozake Shange defines the plight of women in our society. The daily trauma they wake up and sleep with. As the horrendous and despicable crimes against women are seeing an uncontrollable spiral these questions need to be asked. As if the world has come to an end for the women. They fear and don't feel safe anywhere even in their own houses with their own families.

In deeply patriarchal conservative societies, women have been the victims of inequality since time immemorial. They have been reduced to the object of honour for the families and will have to bind by the wishes and whims of the families without their own identity. In such a male dominated setup, women occupy a disadvantaged position. Therefore, crimes against women are primarily instances of domination and control. Even sexual violence against women stems from this skewed power equation.

Acid attack is one of such barbaric crimes unleashed on women which comes from the belief of domination. This is a social phenomenon that is

deeply embedded in a gender hierarchy based on patriarchal control over women. It manifests the historical inequality, domination and discrimination against women. The social structure created has resulted in torture and assault on the voices of challenge. The barbarity against women is the byproduct of that patriarchal mindset to keep women in their place. The perpetrators are motivated and driven by the idea of domination.

Although acid attack is a crime which can be committed against any individual but mostly the targets of these attacks are women especially young ones. The major reason for these attacks is women refusing to bow and challenging the prevailing social order. Thus, acid throwing is an act of revenge motivated by anger and jealousy. The main aim of these attacks is to inflict physical and mental pain on the victim.

This was exactly what transpired yesterday in the case of the Hawal acid attack case. According to Police which has now arrested three in the case, the accused had pursued the victim who had declined his engagement proposal. This had motivated the crime that was executed with the help of two affiliates.

While it may seem like a simple case of anger motivated crime, it can be fundamentally explained by how men see any attack on their power as an opportunity to resist through inflicting punishment on the opposite gender. Expressing outrage, an-

ger and demanding punishments through social media amounts to lip service only until the next incident of barbarity takes place. The incidents of domestic abuse, honour killings, harassment, acid throwing won't happen until we move beyond the rhetoric and begin to challenge the deeply patriarchal social order in our homes and societies.

Even that won't be enough until we open our hearts and minds for the victims of gendered violence. The victims always find it tough to survive after incidents of violence, they feel the othering and isolation due to the victim blaming. We always end up blaming victims until proven otherwise. Again, this comes from the same mindset of domination. There must be compensation, counselling and rehabilitation for them. We must own them and open our doors for them. We need to think beyond criminal justice and focus on victim justice.

Currently we can begin with resting our hot takes on such incidents, hang our heads in shame, let the women speak, hear them, accept the bitter truths and anger from them.

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

Kabir is a student and can be reached at @kabir_writes on Twitter



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Education For All

We live in a society in which merit is considered to be purely related to an individual's talent and hard work, it is important to understand that meritocracy is a product of privilege and anybody can fetch a good merit if given the proper guidance and equipped with adequate resources. As long we turn a blind eye to this basic fact we can never lift our population out of poverty, achieve great miles and harness our societies true potential. It is important to

establish a level playing field where everyone gets an equal opportunity to explore their interests and hone their skills. The government has to reach out to people and apprise them about the importance of education.

Investing on educating the youth will have countless benefits for the society. It is necessary that the government incentivises people to enrol their children in schools and higher educational institutes and ensures that the quality education is imparted to the students by certified teachers professors. In Kashmir, the past

several years have dented the education system quite badly especially for the underprivileged, the provision of quality education was disrupted by the political crises and the outbreak of the Covid was a final nail in the coffin. This period has witnessed a high drop out rate especially among girls. According to the the Ministry of education report the drop out rate among secondary and elementary education levels has increased to 16.6 % and 3.7% from 2019 to 2020. One primary reason for the drop-out rate can be attributed to bias for

boys' education which prevails in our society. The remedy for correcting this problem is to provide the girls with the necessary resources to continue their education. The government should subsidise the provision of books or give them at a free cost, this may seem insignificant but this is an impediment for many in our society. We should ensure that no child is bereft of education because of the lack of capital.

Safoora Shafi
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MINDFUL FRIDAYS

“IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE GENETIC MAKEUP THAT makes you more prone to BPD, you might still get it if you live in a familial environment that is extremely invalidating. Similarly, some people are inherently hypersensitive but do not have BPD.”

Borderline Personality Disorder

Answering The “Why”

Wasim Kakroo

Borderline personality disorder (BPD) is a serious mental illness marked by erratic moods and emotions, as well as relationships and behavior. An in depth description of BPD as a mental health issue has been given in last Friday's article in Mindful Fridays column.

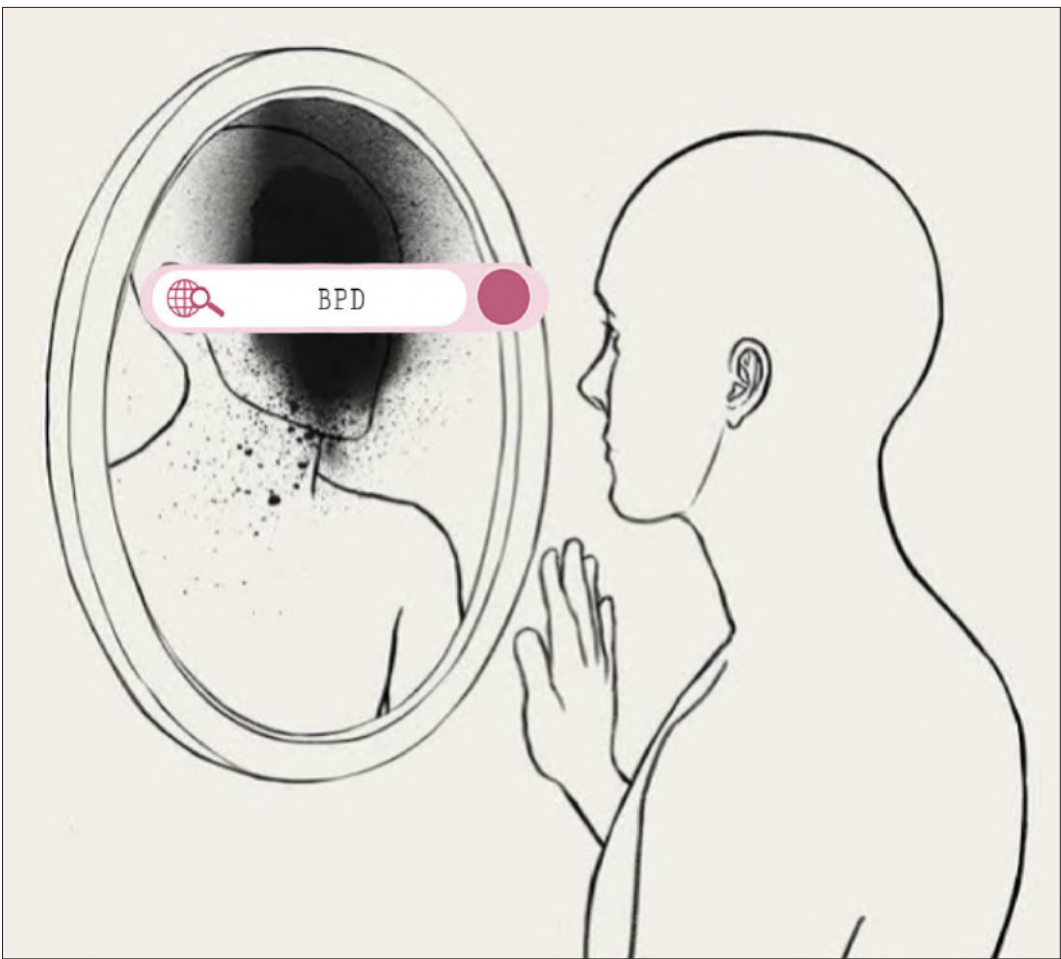
BPD, like many other illnesses, is caused by a combination of factors. Actually BPD is caused by an interaction between nature and nurture. While there are three basic causes of BPD — genes, brain abnormalities, and environmental variables — they all interact to generate the condition. Let's take a closer look at each one.

Genetics: A person's genetics play a significant role in whether or not he or she develops BPD. Earlier, two or three decades ago, experts felt that adverse childhood experiences were the main cause. Though bad parenting experiences can obviously impact the development of BPD, however, genetic roots are of BPD are more powerful than most people realize.

It's self-evident that everyone is born differently. We all experience emotions at certain levels, however, some people, are born with more sensitive or emotionally fragile personalities. These people may experience emotions more intensely than others. However, just because someone is "sensitive" does not mean they will have BPD. The environment also plays a role.

Brain abnormalities: A person with BPD Abnormalities may be born with a brain that has distinct characteristics. Research has found that some parts of the brain of the people with BPD respond to emotional situations differently than other people. Your brain is on high alert if you have BPD. Things scare and stress you much more than they do other people.

The amygdala (the brain's emotional centre) and the frontal lobes (the brain's rational centre) interact with each other to regulate behavior of a person. People with BPD have exaggerated emotional response, while the frontal lobe that governs rationality remains underactive and hijacked by amygdala especially during emotionally charged situations. Your fight-or-flight switch operated by amygdala is easily tripped, and once activated; it takes control of your reasoning brain, triggering primordial survival instincts that aren't necessarily appropriate for the situation. Thus when compared to healthy people, their brains are programmed to respond differently that is often outside of social norms.



“AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOUR BRAIN ISN'T THE same as everyone else's? However, the truth is that you have the ability to change your brain. You create new brain connections every time you exercise a new coping response or self-soothing approach

Furthermore, people with BPD have a reduced capacity to recognize other people's facial expressions, which may contribute to social and relationship issues. Research has shown that growing up in a dysfunctional home environment where one does not learn to manage one's emotions reinforces the brain patterns and emotional responses specific to BPD.

Environmental determinants: An invalidating atmosphere is the tipping point for the development of BPD. Invalidation happens when parents or caregivers ignore or punish the child's emotional experiences. Consider the following scenario: When someone cries while watching a movie, friends and family may ask, 'What are you crying about?' 'I don't see what the big issue is.' They may have grown up with persistent criticism and dismissal. Thus a chronically invalidating environment can become a strong factor in the development of BPD.

A temperamentally sensitive child can annoy a family that is already under stress. If a child says they are hungry, they may be told that they are not. Or the child may voice their dissatisfaction with something at school, to which their parents may respond by telling them to shut up and get over it. The temperamentally sensitive child may start to feel horrible about himself and may feel unwell, mentally ill, or incapable. As such children become older, they become more self-critical and look for methods to cope, which can lead to maladaptive behaviors including eating disorders and self-injury.

Traumatic experiences, such as emotional/sexual abuse, early separation from caregivers, parental insensitivity, emotional neglect and abandonment, especially during early childhood, are the ultimate examples of an invalidating environment. As a victim, one's needs and safety are overlooked when they go through these experiences. They aren't being protected by the people around them. These more serious situations are often the "trigger point" for the onset of BPD.

An individual's surroundings may respond to — and hence reward — emotionally driven and emotionally charged behaviors, which can reinforce difficulties. E.g., a client may observe that the only time their parents told her they loved her was when she was in the hospital after she attempted a suicide.

If you don't have the genetic makeup that makes you more prone to BPD, you might still get it if you live in a familial environment that is extremely invalidating. Similarly, some people are inherently hypersensitive but do not have BPD. It all comes down to how genes, brain activity, and the family environment interact.

The whole discussion we had today in this article may give the impression that there is nothing you can do. After all, what can you do if your brain isn't the same as everyone else's? However, the truth is that you have the ability to change your brain. You create new brain connections every time you exercise a new coping response or self-soothing approach. Some therapeutic treatments, such as mindfulness meditation, that we will discuss in the next article, next Friday, can even increase the amount of brain matter in your brain. And the more you practice, the more these routes will get stronger and more automatic.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He works at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com



Comedy of Errors

FRIDAY 04 FEBRUARY 2022
TIME: 8:00 PM IST



Beware! Using Heater In Winter May Cause Dry Eye Disease

Srinagar: Most people expect certain health challenges in winter season, like colds and flu. Sometimes, cold or windy weather and indoor heating may cause people to experience dry eyes more often in the winter months.

The dry eye symptoms can be uncomfortable and can prevent you from participating in activities that you enjoy.

Dr. ShaziaShafi, Senior Eye Consultant, Sharp Sight Eye Hospital says, “Hot air releases from heaters cause dry eyes due to the dry environment they create and the proximity of the blowing

air to the eyes. Moreover, the heat leads the tears to evaporate, leaving the eyes unprotected.The hot, dry air from heating vents may irritate your eyes, particularly if you wear contact lenses. To avoid suffering from dry eyes, try not to sit directly in front of a space heater or the heating vents in your home.”

Dr. Shazia adds, you can also redirect the heating vents in your car heaters, so that they aren’t blowing directly on your face.

How does it affect you?

The heaters emit a type of radiation that is much different from the radiation associated with x-ray machines

or germicidal light bulbs. Some of the properties of IR radiation (IRR) are similar to the properties of visible light; however, your eyes cannot see IRR. IR heaters will not heat up a room or the air within that room.

Dr. Shazia says, “The IRR mostly passes through the air, not heating the air but will heat other materials such as furniture or your body. This heating, if extreme, can cause fires or dangerous skin burns.”

Apart from the obvious side-effects such as drying out your skin, heaters also burn up oxygen concentration from the surrounding.

Treatment

Dr. Shazia says,” to prevent constant dry eyes, try to keep artificial heating to minimum, keep the direction of air away from your eyes. Use protective eye glasses if your exposure is high, use lubricating eye drops prescribed by your Ophthalmologist. In case of increase in dry eye symptoms like burning, itching, discomfort, redness or heaviness of eyes it is always better to visit your nearest eye hospital/Ophthalmologist to look for any other causes.”

Your eyes are your most precious asset, your window to the world, help us to help you care for them better!



Dr. Shazia Shafi

“To prevent constant dry eyes, try to keep artificial heating to minimum, keep the direction of air away from your eyes. Use protective eye glasses if your exposure is high, use lubricating eye drops prescribed by your Ophthalmologist.

Three Tips To Help You Stay Motivated To Keep Exercising All Year Long

Agencies

February. The month of shattered dreams and ambitions. The trainers are gathering dust and chocolate bars have replaced protein bars. The gusto with which we attacked our new year resolutions is a vague memory.

If your motivation to stick to your resolution to exercise more this year is waning, you're not alone. It's suggested around 80% of people will have given up on their new year resolutions by February.

But the reason your motivation wanes might actually be because you chose the wrong motives and goals to begin with. And research shows us that choosing the right type of goal is the key to keeping us motivated over the long term.



Lower the effort

Many of us believe that we need to grime, contort, sweat and pant our way to a healthier life. So at the beginning of January, we put in a load of effort to help us reach our goals.

Unfortunately, our brain encourages us to avoid physical effort. This is why the excessive effort we use when exercising will work against us in the long run – leading us to feel less motivated to exercise by the end of January. Our brain is constantly monitoring our body for any changes from our resting state, which could mean danger to our health. The more physical effort we use, the more a signal is activated and our brain tells us that the activity just isn't worth the effort and potential risk.

This is why minimising the effort we need to put into exercise may actually better help us stick to our resolutions in the long-term. For example, if you're dreading even a fifteen minute jog, do five minutes instead. Or if you hate running but enjoy zumba, do that instead. The golden rule is that the activity you're trying to motivate yourself to do needs to be pleasurable. And research shows we're much more likely to do something if it requires less effort – especially when we're starting new exercise regimes.

The same principle applies to reducing the psychological effort required to exercise, as our brains also encourage us to avoid it – to such an extent that, when given the choice, we often prefer physical pain instead. It does this because it wants to save

psychological effort for times of emergency.

When it comes to starting a new exercise regime in the new year, things like fitting workouts into our schedule or getting out of bed an hour earlier all require psychological effort. To reduce psychological effort, it may help to minimise needless decision-making. When it's time to exercise, remove decisions like whether to walk or drive to exercise class, or put your trainers in the same place so you don't have to look for them.

Although these sound like small decisions to make, they can all add up to us feeling less motivated to exercise when we're required to make them. Research even shows that when we think our goals require little effort to achieve, we're more likely to achieve them.

Choose short-term goals

Another basic motivational mistake many of us made in January was to set our goals too far in the future. Many people start exercising with the aim to lose a few pounds – perhaps in order to fit into their favourite jeans again. But when the outcome is far in the future, our brains don't associate the motivation (fitting into our jeans) with exercising – so we're less inclined to exercise.

By choosing a goal that has a more immediate outcome, our brains will associate the outcome positively with exercise because they occur simultaneously. For example, the mood-boosting benefits of exercise occur more quickly than physical health changes so this may be a better motivator for you to keep exercising well past January. In short, make the reason for exercise an immediate

one you can achieve – and the long-term benefits will follow.

Focus on 'being' instead of 'having'

The final motivational fix is switching the type of goal you have. So-called “have” goals serve little purpose for our motivational brain, which focuses on more important things – such as being effective at what we do and making social bonds. An example of a “have” goal would be exercising so that you can have a better body. This type of goal is viewed as less important by our brain because it does not help us meet essential goals that help us thrive.

On the other hand, the types of goals that are more likely to keep us motivated are “be” goals. An example of a be goal would be exercising to be healthy, or to be more athletic. Be goals are superior because humans tend to want to bond with other like-minded people based on our identities. This motivation is thought to have developed in our ancestral past, as forming bonds helped us to survive. So someone may find exercise easier to stick with if they're doing it as a way to demonstrate their athleticism, for example. As a result, people do a better job of sticking to be goals, compared to other types of goals.

Even if you have fallen off the wagon slightly by the end of January, that doesn't mean you have to give up on your goals entirely. But making some tweaks to them – and your approach to exercise—may help you better stick to your goals for the rest of the year.

The Conversation

Pictorial Warning On Sodas Can Fight Childhood Obesity, Says Study

Agencies

We often see warnings on cigarette packets, that cigarette smoking is injurious to health. What if the same is put on an innocent-looking soda bottle, filled with unhealthy levels of sugar? A recent study examines the same.

The study, published in the journal 'PLOS Medicine', was the first to examine in a realistic setting whether pictorial health warnings on sugary drinks – like juice and soda – influenced which beverages parents bought for their children.

The findings were promising: The warnings reduced parental purchases of sugary drinks for their kids by 17 per cent.

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health ran the study in a unique laboratory – the “UNC Mini Mart.” The space was set up to mimic a convenience store shopping experience.

“We created this store because we saw a major need for research that tests the impact of policies in a food store setting that is much more realistic. When people make choices about what food to buy, they are juggling dozens of factors like taste, cost, and advertising and are looking at many products at once,” says senior author Lindsey Smith Taillie, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition at the Gillings School and a member of UNC's Carolina Population Center (CPC).

“Showing that warnings can cut through the noise of everything else that's happening in a food store is powerful evidence that they would help reduce sugary drink purchases in the real world,” she said.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MADINA
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GUND KHAWAJA QASIM, PATTAN.

RESOLUTION
In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing Body dated on 15-12-2021 elections were held for the Managing Body through secret ballot on 14-01-2022.
The following have been elected for the Managing Body of Madina Public High School Gund Khawaja Qasim, Pattan.
01 Mr. Gh. Mohammad Rather
03 Mr. Firdous Ahmad Oar.
05 Mtr. Roohl qasim
07. Mtr. Fancy Ishaq
09. Mr. Mohammad Akbar Waza
02. Mr. Mohd Abass Dar
04. Mr.MohdAfzal Joo
06. Mr. Syed Ashraf
08 Mr. Syed Javeed Ahmad

| S. NO. | Name | Parentage | Residence | Qualification | Occupation | Designation |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 01 | Mr. Gh. Mohammad Rather | Gh. Hussoln Rather | Mattipora | M.A B.Ed. | Retired Employee | Chairman |
| 02 | Mr. Mohd Abass Dar | Mohd Akbar Dar | Tantraypora | Graduate | Administrator of School | Member |
| 03 | Mr. Firdous Ahmad Dar | Gh. Mohammad Dar | Path Kani-hama | B.Sc. B. Ed | Principal of School | Member |
| 04 | Mr.Mohd Afzal Joo | Gh. Hassan Joo | Gund Khawaja Qasim | 10402 | Pvt. Service | Parent Member |
| 05 | Mtr. Roohl Qasim | Mohammad Qasim Mir | Gund Khawaja Qasim | MA. | Pvt. Service | Member |
| 06 | Mr. Syed Ashraf | Syed Bakir Shah | Haggerpora Budbugh | 10402 | Pvt. Service | Parent Member |
| 07 | Mtr. Fancy Ishaq | Mohammad Ishaq | Gund Khawaja Qasim | B.A. B.Ed. | Pvt. Service | Member |
| 08 | Mr. Syed Javeed Ahmad | Syed Qasim | Goom Ah-madpora | M.A. M.Ed. | Staff representative | Member |
| 09 | Mr. Mohammad Akbar Waza | All Mohammad waza | Kripalpora Bala | B.A | Pvt. Service | Member |

The Managing Body resolved to approach the worthy Director Schoot Education Kashmir for thtftap-approval of above cited Body. Objection If any will not be entertained after seven days.
NO: CH/MPHS/GK 816

Chairman
Madina Public High School
Gund Khawaja Qasim, Pattan.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/bridges/Buildings)
TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 crores)
NIT No:- 124 of R&B Qazigund/2020-22/10520-35 Dated:- 01/02/2022 (E-tendering)
For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis/%age basis (as the case may be) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for each of the following works:-

| S. No | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/ Doc. (Rs. In Lacs) | Earnest Money (Rs.) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG | Time of completion | Time & Date of Opening of tender (Technical Bid) | Class of Contractor |
|-------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Construction of Community/Marriage Hall at M.C Qazigund. | 281.71 | 5500/= | 563420/= | 18 Months | 22-02-2021 | Any Class Only |

Major Head of Account = Capex Budget-2021-22
Position of AAA =
Position of funds = AVAILABLE.

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents
3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting
4. Bid submission Start Date
5. Bid Submission End Date
6. Deadline for receiving the Hard Copy of documents including Original DD & EMD, Affidavit on correctness of information - [The date should be one day after bid submission end date]
7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) - [The date should be one day after deadline for receiving of hard copies]
8. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)

01/02/2022
From 03/02/2021,11.00 A.M to 19/02/2022, 4.00 P.M
07-02-2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Ang/ Kul H.Q Khanabal.
08/02/2022 From 10.00 A.M
19/02/2022 upto 4.00 P.M
21/02/2022 at 4.00 P.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Ang/ Kul H.Q Khanabal
22/02/2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the of the Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Ang/ Kul H.Q Khanabal.
To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

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

1.1 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 Qazigund.
(The Date of Treasury Challan, earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
1.2 All bidders have to submit Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Ang/Kul H.Q Khanabal as per the circular of Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir.
2. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract cost as Performance Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Superintending Engineer RnB Circle Ang/Kul H.Q Khanabal Kashmir within 3 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity and and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Bid Security.
3. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
4. The date and time of opening of Financial-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 Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Chief Engineer (R&B) , Engineering Complex .
The date for same shall be intimated separately.
5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
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 specified time period issue of letter on intent.
c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
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 to 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 vendors.
7.3. 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-2.
7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.
8. All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate from concerned Chief Engineer /Superintending Engineer of Enlistment Registration Card.
Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
9.1 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 Qazigund.
(The Date of Treasury Challan, earnest money/EMD must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
9.2 All bidders have to submit Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer RnB Circle Ang/Kul H.Q Khanabal Kashmir as per the circular of Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir.
10. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract cost as Performance Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Superintending Engineer RnB Circle Ang/Kul H.Q Khanabal Kashmir within 3 days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity and and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Bid Security. Bidders may contact office of the Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department Kashmir or concerned Executive Engineer R&B Division Qazigund for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
11. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
12. The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified.
13. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
14. Defect Liability Period shall be 03 Years after date of completion.
15. All key construction material (i.e. cement, steel, bitumen, pipes etc) shall have to be arranged by the contractor strictly as per specifications with the approval of Engineer-in-charge.
16. Qualification criteria for the work and other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding document available on website
No:- 10520-35
Dated:01/02/2022

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Qazigund
//M.Ishaq//

DIPK-17490/21

Budget 2022-23: A Step Towards Boosting Infrastructure, Economy For J&K



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday presented the Budget for the Financial Year 2022-23 in the Parliament.

The budget seeks to lay the foundation and give a blueprint to steer the economy over the AMRIT KAAL of the next 25 years – from India at 75 to India at 100. Its fundamental tenets include transparency of financial statements and fiscal position, reflecting the government's intent, strengths and challenges to build a robust economy.

This budget has been amicably drafted to benefit all the sections of the Society keeping empathetic approach. This budget will speed up the development works in the Nation and will also boost up the employment opportunities for the youth.

With a total outlay at 39.45 lakh crore, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been granted Rs. 35,581.44 crore as a part of Central Government's assistance, grants and loans for the financial year of 2022-23, which is very significant in terms of the developmental aspects for the Union Territory. In the previous years a total of 34,704 crore was granted to Jammu and Kashmir. So there has been an increase of Rs 877 crore in budget from last year which is indeed a significant development for entire Jammu and Kashmir.

In other words, the Budget 2022-23 is a step towards boosting infrastructure and economy for J&K.

During the Budget speech, the Finance Minister announced enormous amount as grant to J&K for Power Projects of Chenab, Special Scholarship Scheme,

Industrial Development Scheme, Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants at Bhaderwah including a package under Special Category of States.

As per the budget, a sum of Rs 260 crore has been allocated for Industrial Development and Rs. 225 crores for scholarships. Also, an amount of Rs 273 crore has been allotted for rehabilitation of Dal Lake and Nagin Lake. Correspondingly, a total of Rs 279 crore have been allocated as grants for contribution to Union Territory's Disaster Response Fund whereas 4 crore is assigned for setting up Institute of High-Altitude Medicinal Plants at Bhaderwah.

Moreover, as per the Budget document, 800 MW Ratle power project and 624 MW Kiru power project have been granted 476 crore and 130 crores respectively. Both these projects are being constructed on river Chenab in District Kishtwar. Additionally, for capital expenditure, Rs 500 crore have also been allocated for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a significant development under the budget, the border villages through 'VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAMME' with less population, limited connectivity and poor infrastructure will get development gains. This will include construction of village infrastructure, housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, provisioning of decentralized renewable energy, direct to home access for Doordarshan and educational channels as well as support for livelihood generation. Additional funding for these activities will be earmarked besides existing schemes will also be covered and their outcome will be defined and monitored on constant basis.

9% Ethanol Blending In Petrol Achieved; 20% Target By 2025: Puri

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India has achieved 9 per cent ethanol blending in petrol and is confident of meeting the 20 per cent target by 2025, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

Presently, 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane or surplus foodgrain, is required to be blended or mixed in petrol (meaning 10 per cent of ethanol mixed with 90 per cent of petrol) with a view to cutting oil import dependence and provide farmers with an additional source of income.

Replying in the Lok Sabha during Question Hour, Puri said "In January, we have already exceeded the 9 per cent mark. We are confident that from 9 per cent to 20 per cent in the period between now and 2025 is doable".

Last year, the government brought forward the target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol

blending with petrol to 2025, five years ahead of its previous target, to help reduce its dependence on costly oil imports, 10 per cent ethanol blending is to be achieved in 2022.

"I'm absolutely confident that 20 per cent target will be met by 2025," Puri said.

India is the world's third-biggest oil importer, relying on foreign suppliers to meet more than 85 per cent of its oil demand.

A 10 per cent blend would require 4 billion litres of ethanol by 2021-2022 sugar year (November 2021 to October 2022).

To achieve 20 per cent blending by 2025, and to meet the requirement of the chemical and other sectors, about 12 billion litres of alcohol/ethanol would be required. The sugar industry will divert 6 million tonne of surplus sugar to produce 7 billion litres of the ethanol needed while the other 5 billion litres of ethanol will be produced from excess grain.

India's Services Sector Activity Slips Further In Jan; Biz Confidence Hits 6-Month Low

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's services sector activity moderated further in January as new business rose at a noticeably slower rate amid the escalation of the pandemic, reintroduction of restrictions and inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted India Services Business Activity Index fell to 51.5 in January, down from 55.5 in December, pointing to the slowest rate of expansion in the current six-month sequence of growth.

For the sixth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

According to survey participants, demand was restricted by the fast spread of the Omicron variant and the reinstatement of curfews in parts of the country.

"The escalation of the pandemic and reintroduction of curfews had a detrimental impact on growth across the service sector. Both new business and output rose at slight rates that were the weakest in six months," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit, said.

Companies became increasingly worried that growth would be harmed by the intensification of the pandemic, reintroduction of restrictions and inflationary pressures. Business sentiment remained positive but slipped to a six-month low.

"Concerns about how long the current wave of COVID-19 will last dampened business confidence and caused job shedding. Firms were also alarmed about



price pressures," Lima noted.

Service sector jobs declined for the second month running during January, owing to reduced output requirements among some businesses and future uncertainty.

Meanwhile, the Composite PMI Output Index -- which measures combined services and manufacturing output -- fell from 56.4 in December to 53.0 in January, signalling the slowest rate of expansion in the current six-month period of growth. Services activity and manufacturing production increased at weaker rates.

The January data pointed to a second successive monthly drop in private sector employment. Despite being modest, the rate of job shedding accelerated from December, the survey said.

On the price front, the January data pointed to a stronger increase in expenses among service providers, with the overall rate of inflation climbing to its highest since December 2011. Survey members said there were higher food, fuel, material, staff and transportation costs.

"The latest PMI results brought worrying news as input

prices increased at the sharpest rate in over a decade. Charges rose at a faster pace as some firms continued to transfer additional cost burdens to consumers, but the rate of inflation here was moderate as the vast majority of monitored companies left their fees unchanged since December," Lima said.

Meanwhile, the monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is slated to announce its policy on February 9.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her Budget speech on February 1, announced that the government will borrow about Rs 11.6 lakh crore from the market in 2022-23 to meet its expenditure requirement.

The country's fiscal deficit is projected to be higher at 6.9 per cent this fiscal as against 6.8 per cent estimated earlier, Sitharaman said.

India's economy is projected to grow by 9.2 per cent in the current fiscal before slowing to 8-8.5 per cent in 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023). It had contracted by 6.6 per cent in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021.

Direct Tax Collections Expected To Breach Rs 12.50 Lakh Cr Target: CBDT Chairman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Direct tax collections are expected to breach the revised target of Rs 12.50 lakh crore and set an all-time high and "historic" record by the end of this financial year in March, CBDT Chairman J B Mohapatra said.

Multiple reasons like "easing" of tax compliance processes for tax payers and enhanced ability of the taxman in data processing were cited by him for mopping up these high-volume of collections under two major heads -- corporate tax and personal income tax.

"As we speak (February 1), the direct tax collection numbers stand at Rs 10.38 lakh crore so it is only 70,000 crore less from the BE (budget estimate) numbers of Rs 11.08 lakh crore. This number, at this point in time, is better than the last year's total collections," Mohapatra told PTI in a post-Budget interview.

He also said that "the department never crossed Rs 11.18 lakh crore in its history".

"This year we are going to breach Rs 12 lakh crore...our target is Rs 12.50 lakh crore (revised

estimates) and we have good confidence of achieving the target and probably exceeding it," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chief said.

With two months still to go for the March 31 fiscal end, Mohapatra said the target looked well



within reach.

Out of the total direct tax collection target of Rs 12.50 lakh crore for the 2021-22 fiscal given by the government to the Income Tax (I-T) department, Rs 6.35 lakh crore is expected to come from the corporate tax category, while Rs 6.15 lakh crore is expected from personal income tax collections.

The CBDT head said the tax department was in "good space" this time due to a variety of measures undertaken in the direct taxes collection system over the

last few years, both for the taxpayer and the tax authority.

"We have not been in this space for a long, long time. This is because we have done things to ease the tax compliance (for taxpayers) and we have confidence in the data processing abilities of the Income-tax department," he said.

Also, the consolidation and formalisation of businesses, the inter-play of resource sharing among various agencies like the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), market regulator Sebi and other agencies are "helping us build the repository of data so we are leveraging on each others intelligence", Mohapatra said.

The taxman also gets a volume of taxpayer data under multiple categories electronically and hence, they do not have to look at tax evaders individually.

"Also, we have brought in processes for voluntary compliance system for the taxpayers," Mohapatra said.

The head of the policy-making body for the tax department also gave out comparative figures of direct tax collections over the last few years.

Cryptocurrency Will Never Be A Legal Tender: Govt



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI, FEB 3 (PTI) Cryptocurrency will never be a legal tender, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said on Thursday clearing the air on the legality of private digital currencies in the market.

The 2022-23 Budget has given a clarity on taxation of virtual digital assets and proposed to impose a 30 per cent tax on gains made on such trades, besides subjecting crypto transactions, beyond a threshold, to 1 per cent TDS.

In an interview with PTI, Somanathan said just like gold and diamond, despite being valuable, are not a legal tender, private cryptocurrencies too will never be a legal tender.

"Crypto will never be a legal tender. Legal tender means by law it is accepted in settlement of debts. India will not be making any crypto asset as a legal tender. Only 'Digital Rupee' of the Reserve Bank will be a legal tender in India," Somanathan said.

Except El Salvador, which in September last year adopted Bitcoin as legal tender, no other country has made crypto a legal tender.

India is working on legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies, but no draft has yet been released publicly.

In the meanwhile, a central bank-backed digital currency will start circulating in the next fiscal to usher in cheaper, more efficient currency management.

From April 1, 30 per cent tax will have to be paid on income from cryptocurrencies. Income tax return form from next year will have a separate column to declare gains from crypto.

Asked why the government has not listed private crypto regulation bill for the ongoing Bud-

get session, despite listing it in the previous Winter Session in December, Somanathan said "it was felt that wider consultation is necessary before the legislation is brought on what should be the nature of regulation, should there be a regulation or should it be only taxation".

The government had listed for introduction the 'Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill' for regulating cryptocurrencies in the previous session of Parliament. The bill comes amid concerns over such currencies being allegedly used for luring investors with misleading claims. Currently, there is no regulation or any ban on use of cryptocurrencies in the country.

"We are in a democracy. In a democracy, the government starts with something but then there is feedback. Government is listening to that feedback; based on that feedback they are yet to come to a final conclusion on how it should be done. Meanwhile, the questions of tax clarity cannot wait forever because volumes had become very large," Somanathan said.

He further said that regulation of cryptocurrencies will have to take into account the international consensus since there would be cross-border transactions. "Some international elements will have to be tied up to make the regulation effective. All those consultations are on," the finance secretary said.

The crypto market in India grew 641 per cent in the year through June 2021, according to an October report by industry research firm Chainalysis.

As the country keeps pace with the global move towards virtual financial instruments, the Budget has also announced the India's central bank will launch 'digital rupee' in the next fiscal.

India For Global Response To Regulate Cryptocurrencies: DEA Secy

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India favours a global consensus on regulating cryptocurrencies as a local response may not yield the desired results because these instruments are traded on the internet and not tied to any jurisdiction, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said.

"Regulation or ban whatever it is, appropriate policy response to crypto assets is in the making. How long, I am unable to put a finger on. I don't see this happening in the Budget session for sure. The work is in progress," he said when asked whether the government would come out with a regulation on private cryptocurrencies in the ongoing Budget session of Parliament.

He further said discussions on regulating cryptocurrencies would begin at G20 -- a grouping of developed and developing economies.

"Whatever regulations are brought in, unless there is a global consensus they won't succeed. It may succeed 80-90 per cent but it

will not be a comprehensive solution. So at this point of time, we are interacting with various stakeholders, especially the institutional stakeholders and not crypto stakeholders.

"Stakeholders which have the mandate on monetary policy, fiscal policy, financial stability and development economics are in touch... I do expect that in the current year the discussion would be starting in the G20 forum on appropriate global response to crypto assets," he told PTI in an interview.

The first Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting of G20 under the presidency of Indonesia is scheduled to begin on February 17. The second meeting would take place in April, and the third in July.

Seth further said two actions have been announced in the Budget -- first, a central bank promoted digital currency and to facilitate that whatever amendments are needed to the RBI Act have been put in the Finance Act.

SHORT TAKES

Markets Snap 3-Day Rally As Profit-Booking Hammers IT, Finance Stocks

MUMBAI: The Sensex and Nifty buckled under heavy selling pressure on Thursday as investors pocketed gains in IT, finance and bank stocks after three sessions of robust gains.

Nervousness in European markets ahead of central bank meetings coupled with lacklustre macroeconomic data back home also sapped risk appetite, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 770.31 points or 1.29 per cent to finish at 58,788.02. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty lost 219.80 points or 1.24 per cent to close at 17,560.20.

HDFC was the top laggard among the Sensex constituents, tumbling 3.23 per cent, followed by Infosys, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra and Kotak Bank. Only five counters closed in the green -- ITC, Maruti, Titan, SBI, and Asian Paints, advancing up to 1.14 per cent.

On the macroeconomic front, India's services sector activity moderated further in January as new business rose at a noticeably slower rate amid the escalation of the pandemic, reintroduction of restrictions and inflationary pressures, a monthly survey showed. (PTI)

IMF Approves USD 1 Bn Loan Tranche For Pak

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund has approved the completion of the sixth review of its stalled USD 6 billion programme for Pakistan, paving the way for an immediate disbursement of about USD 1 billion loan tranche for the cash-strapped country. The IMF's Executive Board held a meeting in Washington DC on Wednesday to consider Pakistan's request for completion of the sixth review and release of a USD 1 billion tranche under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

The completion of this review allows for an immediate disbursement of 750 million in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) (about USD 1 billion) to Pakistan, bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to SDR 2,144 million (about USD 3 billion) or 106 per cent of the country's quota, the Dawn newspaper reported on Thursday.

Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin also confirmed the approval in a tweet. I am pleased to announce that the IMF Board has approved the 6th tranche of their programme for Pakistan, he wrote. In July 2019, Pakistan and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement on economic policies for a three-year Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Under the agreement, Pakistan was to receive about USD 6 billion for a period of 39 months. (PTI)

Gold Marginally Higher; Silver Tumbles Rs 536

NEW DELHI: Gold price in the national capital on Thursday gained Rs 37 to Rs 47,902 per 10 grams supported by rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 47,865 per 10 grams.

However, silver tumbled Rs 536 to Rs 61,102 per kg from Rs 61,638 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,803 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.55 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded weak with spot gold prices at COMEX trading marginally down at USD 1,803 per ounce on Thursday," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (commodities) at HDFC Securities, said. (PTI)

Former Director Of PMC Bank Arrested In Bihar

MUMBAI: Former director of Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank Daljit Singh Bal was apprehended by the Mumbai police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in Bihar, an official said on Thursday.

Bal, who is wanted in the PMC Bank scam case, was arrested at Raxaul in east Champaran close to the India-Nepal border, the official said.

The EOW of the Mumbai police, which is probing the multi-crore scam, had issued a lookout notice against Bal and 10 former directors of the bank.

Bal will be taken into custody by the Mumbai by this evening, he said.

The fraud at PMC Bank came to light in September, 2019 after the RBI placed directions on the urban co-operative bank and placed an administrator. It was discovered that the bank had allegedly created fictitious accounts to hide over ₹6,700 crore in loans extended to the almost-bankrupt HDIL.

The EOW and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) have registered cases against senior bank officials and HDIL promoters. (PTI)

Rupee Slips 5 Paise To Close At 74.88 Against US Dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee declined 5 paise to close at 74.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, weighed down by the strength of the American currency and muted domestic equities.

Forex traders said elevated crude oil prices also dragged down the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.84 against the American dollar, and later witnessed an intra-day high of 74.75 and a low of 74.92 against the greenback.

The local unit finally ended the day at 74.88, down 5 paise from the previous close of 74.83.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.22 per cent higher at 96.14. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share Sensex ended 770.31 points or 1.29 per cent lower at 58,788.02, while the broader NSE Nifty settled down 219.80 points or 1.24 per cent at 17,560.20.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.92 per cent to USD 88.65 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 183.60 crore, as per stock exchange data. (PTI)

Owaisi's Car Fired Upon In Poll-Bound UP, 1 Arrested

Ghaziabad: AIMIM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi's car was allegedly fired upon in Hapur while he was returning to Delhi after attending election-related events in western Uttar Pradesh.

Owaisi's vehicle was near the Chhijarsi toll plaza on the Hapur-Ghaziabad stretch of the National Highway 24 when the incident took place at around 6 pm, he said.

No one was injured in the incident, Owaisi said while urging the Election Commission (EC) to ensure an independent probe into the incident.

Uttar Pradesh's Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said one person involved in the episode has been arrested and a pistol seized from him.

The local Hapur Police said its multiple teams are investigating the case even as the inspector general of the Meerut zone was rushed in to supervise the probe, which has come barely a week ahead of the first phase of the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls.

Some time ago, my car was fired at near Chhijarsi toll gate. Four rounds of shots were fired. There were 3-4 people, all of them ran away and left the weapons there. My car got punctured, but I moved to another car and left. We are all safe. Alhamdu'lillah, Owaisi tweeted in Hindi.

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president and Hyderabad MP said he had left Delhi in the morning for election-related programmes in Meerut and Kithore, where he held door-to-door campaigns for party's candidates.

Owaisi's convoy had four cars, according to the MP.

We were at the toll gate and had slowed down when we suddenly heard three-to-four rounds of gunshots. My car also got some dents and a tyre got punctured, he later told reporters.

I urge the EC to ensure an independent probe into the incident. It must be known who is behind this

incident. It's also an appeal to the Modi government and the Yogi government, he added.

ADG Prashant Kumar in Lucknow said the local police had got into action as soon as the AIMIM chief had tweeted about the incident.

Some people were detained from the incident spot by the police. Video footage were also secured. It appeared that two people had opened fire and of them has been arrested. He has been identified as Sachin, a resident of Badalpur area of Gautam Buddh Nagar district. An illegal pistol has also been seized from him, Kumar said.

He said the police are gathering information regarding who else was involved along with Sachin and efforts are on to unveil the episode and the motive behind it.

What's satisfactory is that the police responded quickly and one person has been held and video footage ascertains his involvement in the episode. Search is on for his associate. The Meerut IG is at the spot, the senior officer said.

Hapur Superintendent of Police Deepak Bhuker said, We are also finding out how they planned this (shooting). Since the incident took place at the toll plaza, we are also checking the CCTV footage available there. Police teams have been deployed and very soon others involved in the episode will also be held.

Bhuker said the investigation was at the preliminary stage and other facts and details would be shared as and when available.

Meanwhile, senior district officials, including those from the administration and the police, reached the incident site, where several activists and supporters of the AIMIM had started gathering after the shootout.

Elections are scheduled for February 10 in 58 assembly constituencies across 11 districts of western Uttar Pradesh, where polls will be held in seven phases.

Maximum temp in Delhi drops to 14.4°C, lowest for February in 19 years

Agenceis

New Delhi: Delhiites shivered due to cold winds that swept through the national capital on Thursday, bringing the maximum temperature down by eight notches to 14.4 degrees Celsius, the coldest for the month in 19 years.

Overnight rains brought the temperature down in the city, with people waking up to a windy, cloudy and foggy morning

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a western disturbance has brought the temperature down with winds sweeping Delhi at a speed of 30 to 40 kilometres per hour.

The maximum temperature recorded on Thursday is the lowest in the last 19 years for this month. It was on February 1, 2003 when the national capital had recorded a high of 14.3 degrees Celsius.

Thursday's maximum temperature is the fourth-lowest recorded for the month in the last 71 years.

On February 1, 1970, the maximum temperature was recorded at 12.3 degrees Celsius, which remains the lowest recorded for the month. On February 21, 1954, Delhi

had recorded a high of 13.9 degrees Celsius, which remains the second lowest maximum temperature recorded for the month.

The minimum temperature recorded on Thursday morning was 11 degrees Celsius, three notches above the season's average.

The national capital recorded 0.2 mm of rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. Humidity levels oscillated between 74 per cent and 95 per cent.

The Ayanagar observatory recorded a high of 13.8 degrees Celsius eight notches below the season's average, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 10.4 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal.

The Palam observatory recorded a maximum temperature of 14.8 degrees Celsius, eight degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature stood at 10.6 degrees Celsius, two notches above normal.

The weatherman has forecast very light rain or drizzle for Friday, with partly cloudy skies. The maximum and the minimum temperatures are likely to settle at 17 and nine degrees Celsius, respectively.

On wednesday, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 23.4 degrees Celsius, a notch

above normal, the IMD said. The city witnessed moderate fog on Wednesday morning with a minimum recorded temperature of 11.2 degrees Celsius, three notches above the season's average, it said.

Despite rains, Delhi's air quality was recorded in the 'very poor' category as the 24-hour air quality index (AQI) read 321 at 4 pm.

The AQI of neighbouring Faridabad was 331, Ghaziabad 305 and Gurugram 320.

The AQI of Greater Noida was 279 and that of Noida was 295, both in the 'poor' category.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

According to the government's air quality forecast agency SAFAR, the AQI is likely to improve due to rain and gusty winds.

"Intermittent rain is expected on Friday which will improving the AQI further to 'lower end of poor' or 'moderate'. From February 5 onwards, air quality will gradually degrade as rate of accumulation of pollutants is likely to be more than that of ventilation," it said.

Safe For Covid Patients To Undergo Surgery: Centre

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday asserted that coronavirus patients requiring surgery need not be denied surgical intervention, saying present data indicates that such procedures are safe and not associated with higher chances of complications or deaths with the current variant.

At a press conference, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry, Lav Agarwal, presented an "Analysis of Surgeries during the current surge Covid OT cases in AIIMS, Delhi" from December 20, 2021 January 20, 2022 at a press conference. According to the study, a total of 53 Covid cases underwent surgery, of which 32 (60 per cent) were given regional

anaesthesia and 21 (40 per cent) were given general anaesthesia.

Of the 32 cases, 26 cases were Lower segment Cesarean section (LSCS).

"No complications during surgery and immediate post operative period was found in the study. Also, no deaths and complications in other cases as well were noted," Agarwal said.

Besides, 21 cases were done under General Anaesthesia (GA) which included six cases of Laparotomy, four cases of Decompressive craniectomy, two cases each of Tracheostomy and amputation.

The clinical data and evidence which has emerged showed no aggravation and respiratory status in any case, the analysis found. The Chest X

Ray of all 21 patients not suggestive of Covid in the peri-operative period and indicating no respiratory complication after general anaesthesia in Covid positive patients, Agarwal said.

Of the total 21 cases, 17 survived and four died. All reported deaths were primarily due to other causes and not linked/aggravated due to COVID-19 infection, he said.

"The present data indicates that unlike the evidence during earlier surge, with the current variant surgery is safe and not associated with higher chances of complications or deaths in Covid positive patients. Therefore, patients who need surgery need not be denied surgical intervention presently," Agarwal said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Corona Ill Wave

that seven more people, five in Jammu and two in Kashmir, died of Covid-19 related complications during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4699 in J&K--2299 in Jammu and 2400 in Kashmir.

The officials further said that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.

More Rains,

Celsius the previous night, they said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 6.0 degrees Celsius up from minus 8.0 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 1.7 degrees Celsius up from minus 6.1 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

Officials said Qazigund recorded the minimum of 0.2 degrees Celsius up from the previous night's minus 1.2 degrees Celsius.

The nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.0 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 1.0 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir is currently under the influence of a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) which began on Monday after the Chilla-i-Kalan -- the 40-day harshest winter period -- ended.

Chilla-i-Kalan, which had begun on December 21 last year -- is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

However, the 'Chilla-i-Kalan' this year was not harsh like the last year and there was less snowfall during the period.

After the end of 'Chillai-Khurd', a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' follows. However, both these periods are considered less harsh.

India, Pakistan

to economic development. Europe fought two great wars, but ultimately settled for peace and regional development. There is no permanent enmity."

Trade relations between Pakistan and India have been suspended since August 2019 when New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status and split the state into two Union Territories

There have been reports of backchannel talks last summer between the two economies of the region brokered by a Gulf state. However, the government said the talks were discontinued due to alleged Indian repression of the people of Kashmir, as well as its refusal to recall its troops from the valley and restore its special status.

MEA Refuses

the practice of South Block to comment on statements by private individuals.

Indus Commissioners

Indus Commission as part of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

Article VIII (5) of the IWT says: "The

Commission shall meet regularly at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan."

The Indus Commissioners from India and Pakistan had met in March 2021.

"Under the provisions of the Treaty, the Commission shall meet regularly at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan. The last meeting was held in New Delhi on March 23, 24, 2021. So, the next meeting is due," Indus Commissioner P.K. Saxena said.

The dates of the meeting - mostly likely to be held in March - are yet to be decided. The agenda for the meeting would be finalised only after the dates are fixed.

Amongst the likely subjects to be discussed would be Pakistan's objection to the design of the power project over Chenab. In August 2021, Pakistan's Indus Commissioner Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah had raised objection to the design of the run-of-the-river Kiru project.

Saxena had then said, the design is fully compliant as per the provisions of the IWT.

The concrete gravity Kiru project is located in Kishtwar district of J&K. The Rs 4,287.59 crore (at 2018 level) project by Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd, is a joint venture between NHPC Lt and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

Under the 1960 vintage IWT, India and Pakistan share the waters of six rivers in the Indus basin that flow through India towards Pakistan. Of these, India has complete rights over three eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas and Ravi, while Pakistan has right over the western rivers Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus.

India can, however, build run-of-the-river projects on the western rivers. Pakistan gets almost 80 per cent share of the Indus basin waters (approx 135 MAF) against India's 33 MAF.

Incidentally, in August 2021 itself, a Parliamentary Standing Committee had recommended that India should renegotiate the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan in view of the "present day pressing issues such as climate change, global warming and environmental impact assessment".

However, the Permanent Indus Commission has no role in the policy decision.

Mastermind Moves

Ram had moved an application under section 389 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the high court. Under this provision, an accused can approach the court for suspension of his sentence pending an appeal.

Ram was given a life term till his last breath by a sessions court of Pathakot that described it as a "devilish and monstrous crime".

"There are various lacunas in the investigations conducted by the prosecution agency as well as in the statements recorded during trial court," the petition of Ram claimed while seeking relief.

Ram, the mastermind and caretaker of the 'devasthanam' (temple) where the crime took place in January 2018, Deepak Khajuria, a Special Police Officer, and Parvesh Kumar, a civilian -- the three main accused -- were given life term.

Three other policemen were sentenced to five-year imprisonment for cover up and destruction of evidence while Ram's son Vishal was acquitted.

"In the present case, facts are many but truth is one that under a criminal conspiracy, an innocent eight-year-old minor girl has been

kidnapped, wrongfully confined, drugged, raped and ultimately murdered. The perpetrators of this crime have acted in such a manner as if there is a 'law of jungle' prevalent in the society," sessions judge at Pathankot Tejwinder Singh had said in his order in June 2019.

Holding that perpetrators of the gangrape acted as if there is a "law of jungle" prevalent in the society, Singh had summed up the enormity of the crime with a touching couplet by Mirza Ghalib which says "Pinha tha daam-e-sakht qareeb ashiyaan ke, udhne hi nahi paye the ki girftar hum hue" (hunters had placed the net near a nest and the young one was caught before it could take its first flight).

In his judgment after hearing arguments from both sides for 367 days, the judge had termed in his 432-page judgment the crime as "devilish and monstrous" committed in the most "shameful, inhumane and barbaric manner" for which "poetic justice" needs to be done to its perpetrators.

"The circumstantial evidence led by the prosecution is definite which unerringly points out towards the guilt of the accused. The circumstances taken cumulatively from a chain so complete that there is no escape from the conclusion that within all human probability that the crime was committed by the accused and none else.

"The circumstantial evidence is complete in itself and is incapable of explanation of any other hypothesis that the guilt of the accused and such evidence is consistent with the guilt of the accused," the judge said, adding that the circumstantial evidence led by the prosecution had to be given "due weightage in the case".

The Punjab and Haryana High court had in December last year suspended the sentence of former sub-inspector Anand Dutta and former head constable Tilak Raj and released them on bail pending an appeal. Both of them had been sentenced for five years for destruction of evidence.

Mohammed Yusuf, who had adopted the eight-year-girl, and Mohammed Akthar, biological father of the victim, had reacted to the developments saying that their plea for challenging the acquittal of Vishal and enhancement of sentence was pending with the court while the accused were getting bail.

The 15-page charge sheet filed in April 2018 said the girl was kidnapped on January 10 that year and was raped in captivity in a small village temple, exclusively manned by Ram, after keeping her sedated for four days. She was later bludgeoned to death, it had said.

Mohammed Yusuf had claimed that efforts were being made to dilute the case to the extent that all the culprits were out.

"When the accused are out on bail, I fear that one day I will be booked under some frivolous charge and thrown into jail. They are very powerful people.

"Already rumours have started doing rounds that the case was going to be re-investigated by the CBI and all the accused will be out on bail," he had said.

The case triggered a nationwide outrage when the girl was found murdered on January 17, 2018. After initial hiccups, the case was handed over to the crime branch on January 27 of the same year which unraveled the conspiracy behind the heinous crime where the little girl was kidnapped and brutally raped for four days before being killed in a barbaric manner.

The Supreme Court in 2018 directed the case

Deterrence Would Play Significant Role In Preserving Strategic Autonomy: IAF chief

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on Thursday pitched for a "whole of the nation" approach towards capability development of the armed forces and highlighted the pre-eminence of airpower as the instrument of choice to deal with any security challenges.

In an address at a seminar, he said deterrence would play a significant role in preserving strategic autonomy.

The Chief of Air Staff said that modern conflicts are likely to witness both "regular and irregular" styles of combat and that there was a need for India's armed forces to develop multi-domain capabilities.

"What we saw during the Arab Spring and what we are seeing now developing in Ukraine and Syria is how battles of tomorrow are likely to manifest," he said.

"Modern conflicts are likely to witness both regular and irregular styles of combat, sometimes, simultaneously," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said the traditional domains of land, sea and air have further expanded to include cyber and space domains which will be the battlegrounds of the future.

"In the past, the rise and fall of nations were dictated by the size and prowess of their fielded forces. However, conflicts in the last few decades have clearly established, without doubt, the pre-eminence of airpower as the instrument of choice for almost all operational contingencies," he said.

He also said that there is a need to synergise the strengths of individual services, adding that developing a tri-services data link is a combat imperative.

"A whole of nation approach towards capability development and warfighting is the need of the hour," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhary said the IAF is completely mindful of the changing nature of warfare and it has already reoriented our capability requirements for future wars.

"Agile combat employment to maximise speed and range would involve a combined force structure, optimised to take on the full spectrum of modern threats. Deterrence would play a significant role in preserving strategic autonomy," he said.

laying of Geo-synthetic bags that have resulted in extra cost being incurred by the executing Divisions, without approval of the competent authority.

"The Fact remains that excess over the allotted cost was done beyond the financial powers of the respective officers and as a result, the possibility of splitting of the estimates cannot be ruled out and thereby the necessary scrutiny at appropriate levels did not take place," reads the audit.

The audit has noted that the I&FC department had sanctioned the approval of some works without getting a sanction of approval from the Administration which had led to the execution of work being executed without following the necessary rules under Financial Code Volume I.

The CAG report had also revealed that there were several cases of misappropriation of the funds that were provided by the Government of India for dredging of Jhelum river.

As per CAG, six lakh was drawn by the Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Division, Sumbal in March 2017 without any documentary evidences/voucher passed. "On verification from the office of the Accountant General (A&E), J&K, Srinagar, it was noticed (June 2019) that a voucher worth ` 8,600 for maintenance of photocopier in place of drawn amount of ` six lakh was submitted alongwith the monthly account. The misappropriation of funds was facilitated due to lack of proper internal control and monitoring mechanism and evident negligence of the Drawing and Disbursing Officer to check correctness of bills or to get these verified in accordance with standing Financial Rules." reads the audit.

The Audit has also noticed (June 2019) that in Flood Control Division, Anantnag 0.59 lakh was drawn in favor of M/s Sky Tech, Srinagar for drafting of encroachment details twice (in January 2019 and in March 2019). "After being pointed out in audit, the Executive Engineer admitted (July 2019) irregularity and recovered (November 2019) excess amount of ` 0.59 lakh from the Firm." reads the report.

It is pertinent to mention here that the audit has also noted that the erstwhile state's executing divisions had no mechanism for carrying out tests of materials and even geo-synthetic bags which were utilized first time by the department were not tested at any stage.

Applications Invited

on Haj Committee of India official website (www.hajcommittee.gov.in)," the official spokesperson said.

SPO Dies Of

Sukhdav Singh Hospital Poonch for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead.

Minor Boy Killed

to SDH Sogam for treatment where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

A police official said that a case has been registered and investigation taken up. (GNS)

Mechanic Found

spot and investigation in this regard has been started, reports added.

Ranji Trophy First Phase From Feb 10

Knockouts from May 30, matches reduced for teams



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The first phase of Ranji Trophy will take place from February 10-March 15 and "post IPL" phase from May 30-June 26, BCCI secretary Jay Shah informed state units on Thursday.

Shah's letter made it clear that it is set to be one of the shortest first-class seasons with most teams getting to play only three matches which effectively means that increased match fees will not have an impact on most of the teams that will be ousted at the group league stage.

As PTI reported earlier, four teams each have been divided into eight elite groups while the

remaining six form the plate division.

The tournament will have 64 games in 62 days with the first phase comprising 57 matches and the second stage having seven knock-out games which comprises four quarter-finals, two semi-finals and the final.

The elite group matches will be played in Rajkot, Cuttack, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Delhi, Haryana and Guwahati. Plate league matches will be held in Kolkata.

Each team from elite group, barring one, will qualify for the quarterfinals. The lowest ranked qualified team from elite group will play plate toppers in the sole pre-quarterfinal.

Djokovic Describes His Australia Visa Ordeal As Unfortunate

Agencies

BELGRADE: Novak Djokovic described his detention and deportation from Australia that prevented him from defending his Australian Open title as an "unfortunate event" and thanked the Serbian president for his support.

An 11-day saga over Djokovic's entry visa ended with the Serb being deported for failing to meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

The top-ranked tennis star met with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Thursday and described the events in Australia as "unexpected, to say the least."

"I wanted to meet with you today because, primarily as a citizen of Serbia, I felt a great need to thank you for great support that you, as the president of Serbia, gave me, as well as all state institutions during the unfortunate events in Australia," Djokovic said.

"Although I was alone in detention, and faced with many problems and challenges, I wasn't feeling lonely. I had huge support primarily from my fam-

ily, all of the close people in my life, entire Serbian nation, many people with good intentions from the region and the world."

He did not speak about details of the events in Australia, promising to give his "version" later.

Djokovic's meeting with the increasingly autocratic Vucic drew criticism from some of his fans in the Balkan country, where he is generally considered an icon and a hero.

The critics say Vucic used the event to boost his popularity ahead of general elections scheduled for April.

The meeting happened a day after Serbia's state prosecutors rejected suggestions voiced by some Western media that Djokovic used a fake positive test for COVID-19 to try to enter Australia. (AP)



Indian Envoy To Skip Beijing Olympics After China's Galwan Reference



Press Trust of India

BEIJING: India on Thursday announced that its charge d'affaires in the Beijing embassy will not be attending the opening or closing ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics in the Chinese capital over China honouring a military commander involved in the Galwan Valley clashes as its torchbearer for the mega sporting event.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

described the Chinese action of honouring the commander as "regrettable".

India's charge d'affaires in the Beijing embassy will not be attending the opening or closing ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, Bagchi said at a media briefing.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) regiment commander involved in the June 15, 2020 clash with India in Galwan Valley was chosen by China to carry the Winter Olympic torch in Beijing.

The eastern Ladakh border row escalated after the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020. Twenty Indian Army personnel laid down their lives in the clashes that marked the most serious military conflicts between the two sides in decades.

In February last year, China officially acknowledged that five Chinese military officers and soldiers were killed in the clashes with the Indian Army though it is widely believed that the death toll was higher.

Skipper Dhull Leads India To 4th Consecutive U-19 World Cup Final

Press Trust of India

OSBOURN: Skipper Yash Dhull gave a glimpse of his rare talent with a well-paced hundred which guided powerhouse India into its fourth consecutive U-19 World Cup final with an emphatic 96-run win over Australia here.

Dhull struck a sublime 110 in as many balls and shared a game-changing 204-run stand with his deputy Shaik Rasheed (94 off 108 balls) to fire India to a formidable 290 for five after opting to bat on Wednesday.

Indian bowlers then performed their roles to perfection to bowl Australia out for 194 in 41.5 overs. Lachlan Shaw's fine 51 came too late in the day for Australia.

Pacers Rajvardhan Hangekar (0/26) and Ravi Kumar (2/37) were impressive in the first powerplay before spinners Nishant Sindhu (2/25), Vicky Ostwal (3/42) and Kaushal

Tambe (1/32) dominated the opposition in the middle overs. Record four-time champions



India face England in the final on Saturday and will be aiming to extend their dominance in the competition.

Dhull became the third Indian captain to hit a hundred in the tournament history after the illustrious Virat Kohli (2008) and the prodigious Umakant Chand (2012), who also

hails from Delhi.

"The plan from me and Rasheed was to bat till the end, and it worked. It's a proud moment (to be the third Indian captain to score a U19 WC ton)," Dhull said after the match.

"The idea was to bat steadily, not to try too many shots, and to bat past the 40th over. Myself and Rasheed bat well together, we combine well and it showed."

India, the most successful team in tournament history, were hit by COVID-19 at the start of the competition, losing the likes of Dhull and Rasheed for two games but the depth in the squad ensured that they sailed to the knock-outs.

Chasing a record target, Australia lost their in-form opener Teague Wyllie cheaply with Ravi Kumar trapping him in front off his first legitimate ball with a late inswinger into the right-hander.

India's Winter Olympic Contingent COVID-Free



Press Trust of India

BEIJING: A day after testing positive for COVID-19, the manager of India's Winter Olympics contingent, Mohammad Abbas Wani, has returned negative results in two retests conducted in the last 24 hours, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said on Thursday.

Wani was found COVID-19 positive upon his arrival at the Beijing Airport on Wednesday. IOA president Narinder Batra said the official has now returned negative in the last two tests.

"The manager of Indian team Mr Abbas Wani tested negative in the 2 tests done on him in last 24 hours. Hence, the entire Indian contingent in Beijing is Covid free," Batra said.

"Thank you Mr Harjinder Singh (Chef de Mission), the Indian Embassy in China and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for taking care of everyone."

Wani is a part of the six-member Indian delegation at the Winter Olympics where Jammu and Kashmir skier Arif Khan is the only athlete from the country to have qualified this time. Arif will be competing in Sla-

lom and Giant Slalom events during the Games to be held from February 4 to 20.

The contingent also includes alpine coach Ludar Chand Thakur, technician Puran Chand and team official Roop Chand Negi.

An asymptomatic Wani stayed in quarantine in his hotel room before the retests confirmed that he is not infected.

Singh expressed surprise over Wani testing positive after landing as he had taken two vaccine doses besides a booster and obtained a green QR Code to travel to Beijing after clearing the tests before boarding the flight.

Now that the entire contingent has been cleared, the team will take part in Friday's opening ceremony to be held at the Bird's Nest stadium here and focus on the main event, he said.

Singh who is the General Secretary of the Ice Hockey Association of India said Khan's participation in the event is a big boost for skiing in Kashmir as well as in India.

"Skiing is big generator of winter tourism as it is most popular in Europe and India looks to capitalise on the emerging sport," Singh said.

India Players Commence Training Amid COVID Outbreak

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: The Indian team's playing squad save the trio of Shikhar Dhawan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shreyas Iyer started training at the Narendra Modi Stadium after their RT-PCR tests came negative on Thursday.

While Mayank Agarwal has joined the squad, he will only be available on the match day as his mandatory three-day quarantine has started, the team management has kept wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan in the scheme of things for the ODIs.

India is set to play a three-match ODI series against West Indies in Ahmedabad, beginning February 6.

"Today is a light session where the players have been accompanied by trainers," a veteran official in know of things told PTI.

A COVID-19 outbreak had hit the Indian cricket team on Wednesday as three main players — senior opener Dhawan, reserve opener Gaikwad and middle-order batter Shreyas had tested positive for the virus during their mandatory isolation period before the start of West Indies series.

Four other persons, including net bowler Navdeep Saini, have also tested positive for COVID-19. Saini is also on the standby list.

The remaining three who tested positive for the virus are non-playing members — fielding coach T Dilip, security liaison officer B Lokesh and masseur Rajeev Kumar.

The Indian team assembled in Ahmedabad on January 31 for the upcoming white-ball series against the West Indies and were going through a three-day isolation period post their break from the South Africa series.

Olympic Spotlight Back On China For A COVID-Tinged Games

Agencies

BEIJING: Long before the global pandemic upended sports and the world in general, the 2022 Winter Olympics faced unsettling problems.

It started with the fact that hardly anybody wanted to host them.

Beijing ended up solving that problem, but only after four European cities thought about it and dropped out, mostly because of expense and lack of public support. In the end, it was a race between two authoritarian countries.

The IOC narrowly chose China's capital and its mostly bone-dry surrounding mountains over a bid from Kazakhstan.

"It really is a safe choice," IOC President Thomas Bach said after the balloting.

Some seven years after that fateful vote, the world will find out if Bach was right. Starting with Friday's opening ceremony at the lattice-ribbed Bird's Nest Stadium, the spotlight will be trained on China, a country with human-rights record that troubles many, an authoritarian government and a "zero-tolerance" policy when it comes to COVID.

It will be trained on what figures to be the most closed-off, tightly controlled, hard-to-navigate Olympics in history.

The build-up has turned the idea of "making it to the Games" into as much of a logistical and sometimes moral conundrum as a competitive one.

"This is one where you can do your absolute best but you kind of have to juggle your san-

ity and being able to perform at the Olympics, and not lose your mind beforehand," U.S. moguls skier Hannah Soar said.

To be sure, if the 2 1/2 weeks of skiing, skating and sliding turn out to be like most Olympics before it, then it will be the athletes such as Hannah Soar and snowboarder Chloe Kim, skier Mikaela Shiffrin and Norway's cross country champion Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo, to name a few that we'll remember most.

But there has been so much to process in the lead-up. And there's no pretending that the International Olympic Committee's decision to bring its biggest show to a country that is facing ever-increasing scorn from democracies in the West a country that has been on a virtual lockdown since shortly after it sprouted the world's first cases of COVID-19 more than two years ago does not bring with it some stark considerations:

Human Rights. Led by the United States, a number of Western democratic countries are staging a diplomatic boycott of the Games to protest what the U.S. and human-rights groups have called the genocide of some 1 million Uyghurs in China's far western Xinjiang province.

Dignitaries won't attend, but athletes still will. German slider Natalie Geisenberger was among those who considered not coming, but then decided to make the journey, along with some 2,900 athletes from around 90 countries.

Her conclusion: "We athletes have absolutely nothing to do with the decision to



award the Olympic Games to Beijing the (IOC) decides and we athletes are presented with a fait accompli."

Health and safety. To try to prevent the spread of COVID, China will run these Olympics in a "closed-loop" system. All participants will be tested daily. None will be allowed out of the hotels and venues that are cordoned off from the city and mountains where the Games will take place.

Participants will be placed in isolation if they test positive, and the stakes of a system that has not been clearly spelled out to everyone were on display when Belgian skeleton racer Kim Meylemans turned to social media Thursday and gave a tearful explanation of her situation.

Tennis player Peng Shuai. Her plight touches on almost all the sore points involved in bringing these games to this country:

The Chinese champion's safety has been in question since she accused a former high-ranking government official of sexually assaulting her.

Some of the few signs that she might be OK have come courtesy of the IOC, which has shown pictures of Bach in video meetings with Peng. The IOC has indicated it will meet with Peng during the Olympics, but its previous meetings have brought forth as many questions as answers.

Cybersecurity. Many countries are advising their athletes to leave their cell phones and laptops home lest they be compromised by the Chinese government. Earlier this week, the head of the FBI in the U.S. said the Chinese government's hacking operations are "more brazen" than ever before.

Russia. President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend the opening ceremony in what

some will view as an audacious bit of politicking on two fronts. With tensions escalating on the Ukraine border, this conjures memories of the 2014 Olympics in Putin's home country, during which Russia invaded and took over the Ukrainian territory of Crimea.

It is also viewed by many as a slap in the face to anti-doping regulators who tried, without great success, to sanction the country for scandals of the past decade.

The environment. The mountains hosting action sports and cross country skiing are about 150 miles from the Gobi Desert; they average less than a foot of snow a year. Though snowmaking is nothing new at Olympic venues, this is touted as the first Games to rely completely on artificial snow.

To do it, the country had to build massive irrigations sys-

tems and will use up to 800 Olympic-sized swimming pools' worth of water. It brings into question Beijing's claims that these Games will be carbon neutral.

Oh, and about the sports Norway is a decent bet to win the most medals, in part on the strength of a deep roster of biathletes and cross country skiers. Russia, officially called "Russian Olympic Committee" because of doping sanctions, could challenge.

Its men's hockey team is favoured after the NHL, with the omicron variant raging in North America, decided not to shut down its season to send players to the Olympics.

All in all, this is quite a different look for China from the last time the Olympics descended. That was in 2008, and the Summer Olympics were viewed as the world's chance to finally get to know a global behemoth.

More than attempting to put on a good face this time, China is doing things by its own rules. COVID restrictions offer a convenient justification for not letting journalists wander the country to report on what's really going on in this land of 1.4 billion.

"There are two audiences for this," said David Bachman, an expert on China who teaches at University of Washington.

"There's the international audience. And it's also going to be important to impress their own people with how efficiently the Games are run."

Where Russia spent a record 51 billion on the 2014 Sochi Winter Games, and South Ko-

rea looked comparatively frugal by only spending 13 billion, part of China's pitch was that it wouldn't drop nearly that much on what will be the third straight Olympics held in Asia.

It is repurposing the opulent Bird's Nest, built for the 2008 Games, as the stage for its opening ceremony. It reclaimed an old steel mill to build a big air jumping stadium for skiers and snowboarders. Improvements in the mountains came thanks to the Olympics, and China is banking on a burst of new skiers and snowboarders to follow.

Beijing organizers have put out a budget of around 3.9 billion, but with no watchdogs tracking the money, the real cost is anyone's guess. One estimate said the true cost could be as much as 10 times that original budget.

The money goes for what the IOC touts as a much-needed 17-day break from strife and politics a break that allows a worldwide audience to revel in the glow of athletic accomplishment. NBC, for one, pays billions to pipe the action to the United States. But this year, its big-name commentators will be back home, calling the action remotely.

It's one of hundreds of concessions made to the virus that first cropped up in China some 26 months ago, and has slapped an indelible imprint on the way the country must run these Games. Time will tell if all the trouble was worth it. The main reason American snowboarder Jamie Anderson decided to come: "At least for this one time in life," she said, "the world comes together over sports." (AP)

2 Pak Military Bases Attacked Before Imran Khan Heads To China

Agenceis

QUETTA: Separatist insurgents in the Pakistani province of Balochistan have attacked two military bases, killing one soldier while losing four of their own men, the army said, in the latest violence in the resource-rich province where China is investing.

The overnight attacks came hours before Prime Minister Imran Khan set off for Beijing for the opening of the Winter Olympic Games.

"We salute our brave security forces who repulsed terrorist attacks," Khan said in a statement on Thursday.

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLF) insurgent group claimed responsibility in a statement sent to a Reuters reporter, saying its suicide bombers had detonated explosive-laden vehicles at the entrance of the bases killing more than 50 soldiers.

Last week, the insurgents killed 10 soldiers in an attack on a post near the port of Gwadar on the

Arabian Sea, the heaviest casualty for the army in the Balochistan insurgency in years.

The army said both of the Wednesday night attacks - one in Panjgur district and the other in Naushki district - had been repulsed.

Ethnic Baloch guerrillas have been fighting the government for decades for a separate state, saying the central government unfairly exploits Balochistan's rich gas and mineral resources.

They usually attack gas projects, infrastructure and the security forces. They also attack Chinese projects, and occasionally kill Chinese workers despite Pakistani assurances that it is doing everything it can to protect the projects.

China is involved in the development of the Gwadar port and other projects in the province as part of a \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is part of Beijing's Belt and Road initiative.

Pakistan has accused India of covertly supporting the Balochistan insurgents. India denies that.

Israel Stages Biggest Military Drills With Gulf Arab States

Israel Publicly Joins Saudi Arabia In Naval Exercise For The First Time Amid Heightened Tensions With Iran



Agenceis

Israel is taking part in a huge US-led naval exercise in the Middle East, for the first time publicly joining Saudi Arabia and Oman, two countries it has no diplomatic relations with despite its normalisation of ties with some Gulf states.

The International Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMX 22) includes approximately 60 countries and comes amid heightened Gulf tensions after missile attacks on the UAE by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement, including a foiled attack aimed at a base hosting US forces.

The UAE on Monday intercepted a missile during a visit by Israel's president, the third such attack in two weeks claimed by the Houthis, who are battling a Saudi-led coalition that includes the UAE.

Israel normalised relations with Gulf states the UAE and Bahrain in 2020, brought together by

shared worries about Iran, and first held a joint naval drill with those two countries in November. But this is the first time Israel has participated in an IMX exercise, and publicly alongside Saudi Arabia with which it has no diplomatic ties.

Gulf neighbours Kuwait and Qatar, who also have no formal relations with Israel, did not participate, according to US Navy information.

Bahrain hosts the US Navy Fifth Fleet's headquarters as well as some operations for CENTCOM, a US military coordination umbrella organisation for the Middle East. Israel last year was included in CENTCOM.

A US Navy spokesperson on Wednesday said exercise planners were aware of the geopolitical context of participating countries, but cooperation had been high.

"Here in the region we have had nothing but positive results in terms of planning efforts," he said.

The Israeli military said on Monday that some units would

participate in the Red Sea exercise with the US Fifth Fleet.

"For the past few months, Israel has been exercising not only with us but other partner nations in this region," Fifth Fleet spokesperson Tim Hawkins told reporters on Wednesday.

In its seventh year, IMX 22 began on Monday from the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain and will cover the Arabian Gulf (also called the Persian Gulf), Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and North Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz arrived in Bahrain on an unannounced visit.

Announcing Gantz's trip only after his arrival in Manama, Israel's defence ministry said on Wednesday he would sign a security cooperation agreement with Bahrain.

The Israeli defence ministry made no mention of the Houthi attacks nor gave details of what a security accord with Bahrain, home to the US Navy's main base in the Gulf, would include.

US Sends Warship, Jets To UAE As Houthis Continue Missile Attacks

Agenceis

DUBAI: The US is sending a powerful warship and state-of-the-art fighter jets to help defend the UAE after a series of missile attacks by the Iran-backed Houthi militia in Yemen.

The deployment, to "assist the UAE against the current threat," follows a phone call between Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the US Embassy in Abu Dhabi said.

Austin and the crown prince "discussed the recent Houthi attacks against the UAE that caused civilian casualties and also threatened US and Emirati armed forces stationed at Al-Dhafra air base," the embassy said.

Under the new arrangements, the guided missile destroyer USS Cole will partner with the UAE Navy and make a port call in Abu

Dhabi, and the US will also deploy fifth-generation warplanes.

Other actions include "continuing to provide early warning intelligence and collaborating on air defense," the embassy said.

It said the US was a staunch ally of both the UAE and Saudi Arabia, and the deployment was intended to be "a clear signal that the US stands with the UAE as a long-standing strategic partner."

Three expatriate workers, two from India and one from Pakistan, were killed in a Houthi drone and missile attack on Abu Dhabi's oil storage facilities and airport on Jan. 17, triggering a salvo of deadly airstrikes in retaliation.

On Jan. 24, US forces stationed at Al-Dhafra air base in Abu Dhabi fired Patriot interceptors and scrambled to bunkers as two ballistic missiles were shot down

over the city. A third missile attack was thwarted on Monday, during a visit to the UAE by Israeli President Isaac Herzog. The Houthi attacks have increased tensions in the Gulf as international talks over Iran's nuclear program stall.

The attacks on the UAE began after the Houthis suffered a series of military defeats in Yemen at the hands of the Giants Brigades, loyalist fighters armed and trained by the UAE. In early January, the Houthis also seized a UAE-flagged medical supply ship in the Red Sea.

In early January, the rebels seized a UAE-flagged ship in the Red Sea, saying it was carrying weapons — a claim denied by the Emirates.

Yemen's civil war began in 2014 when the Houthis seized Sanaa, prompting forces from Saudi Arabia and other countries to intervene to prop up the government the following year.

12 Migrants Found Frozen To Death Near Turkey-Greece Border

Agenceis

Twelve migrants were found dead in a small Turkish town near the Greek border often used by migrants seeking to enter the European Union, after they apparently froze to death, igniting a war of words between the two countries.

After the bodies were found with little clothing in a freezing field near the town of Ipsala on Wednesday, Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu accused Greek guards of deliberately pushing the refugees back across the border.

Soyulu said the dead had been among a group of 22 people pushed back into Turkey, and shared blurry images of eight of the recovered bodies on Twitter, including three in just shorts and T-shirts.

Temperatures in the area can fall to between two and three degrees Celsius (35.6 – 37.4 Fahrenheit) at night in late January and early February, according to the mayor of Ipsala, Abdullah Naci Unsal.

Regional authorities said in a statement that they are still searching for the remaining 10 and that they have opened an investigation into the incident.

The Greek immigration minister, Notis Mitarachi, denied Soyulu's allegations of wrongdoing and in a statement said that "the death of 12 migrants at the Turkish border near Ipsala is a tragedy. But the truth behind this incident bears no resemblance to the false propaganda pushed out by my counterpart."

"These migrants never made it to the border," Mitarachi, who was in Lille, France, for an informal EU

summit on migration, said in a statement. "Any suggestion they did, or indeed were pushed back into Turkey, is utter nonsense."

Turkey frequently accuses neighboring Greece of illegally pushing back migrants and asylum seekers wanting to make their way into Europe across the two countries' shared borders on foot or by boat. Greece denies allegations its actions are in breach of international law, and says it is doing its duty to protect the EU's southeastern borders.

Greece is one of the main routes into the European Union for migrants and refugees from Africa, the Middle East and beyond.

For more than a year, Greece has been taking tougher measures to keep migrants out. It built a fence and policed the land border, forcing migrants who came from Turkey back across the river. Thus the number of people attempting the journey has declined, but the number arriving in Turkey has continued to rise.

The UN refugee agency estimates that more than 2,500 people died or went missing at sea as they tried to reach Europe from North Africa and Turkey last year.

Turkey hosts more than four million refugees, including more than three million Syrians, as well as some 300,000 Afghans, according to UN figures. In 2020, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced he was opening the borders for migrants to enter Europe, saying that his country could no longer handle the huge numbers of people fleeing regional wars.

Europe In A Covid "Ceasefire" That Could See End Of Pandemic: WHO

Agenceis

COPENHAGEN: Two years after the outbreak of Covid-19, Europe could soon enter a "long period of tranquility" due to high vaccination rates, the milder Omicron variant and the end of winter, the WHO said on Thursday.

"This period of higher protection should be seen as a ceasefire that could bring us enduring peace", WHO Europe director Hans Kluge told reporters.

"This context, that we have not experienced so far in this pandemic, leaves us with the possibility for a long period of tranquility," he added.

Europe would also be in a better position to fend off any resurgence in transmission, "even with a more virulent variant" than Omicron, he added.

"I believe that it is possible to respond to new variants that will inevitably emerge -- without re-installing the kind of disruptive measures we needed before", Kluge said.

However, he cautioned that the optimistic scenario would only hold true if countries continued their vac-



cination campaigns and intensified surveillance to detect new variants.

He also urged health authorities to protect risk groups and to promote individual responsibility.

With the more contagious Omicron variant in circulation, infections have surged across the WHO's European region, which comprises 53 countries, including some in central Asia.

Some 12 million new cases were registered last week in the region, according to the WHO, the highest level since the start of the pandemic.

I BELIEVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE to respond to new variants that will inevitably emerge -- without re-installing the kind of disruptive measures we needed before"



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