KASHNIR OF PUBLICATION

Wednesday 09 February 2022 | 07 Rajab al Murajab | 1443 Hijri | Vol:25 | Issue: 34 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

क्षम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय Ministry of Labour & Employment e-Shram

P5 STATE

BANDIPORA ACHIEVES 100% TARGET UNDER E-SHRAM SCHEME

The District Administration Bandipora has achieved 100 percent completion of e- SHRAM registrations. Joint Director planning Imtiyaz Ahmad on Tuesday briefed media about the

TROUT FISH FARMING: THE WAY FORWARD Although five species of the trout fish were tried

for cultural practices in Kashmir, most failed either at the stage of breeding e.g., Splake trout (which failed to breed after the stock maturation

eventually the whole stock perished) or at the



P11 SPORTS





After winning the first ODI convincingly, Rohit Sharmaled Team India will look to continue their domination and win the second ODI and seal the three-match



- Confucius

77-

NEWS DIGEST

12 Results: BOSE Website 'Crashes'

SRINAGAR: Following the announcement of results of annual exams (regular) of 12th class for Kashmir division. the official website of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) 'crashed' due to heavy More on P10

Two-Way Traffic Highway Today

QAZIGUND: The 270 kilometerlong stretch SrinagJammu national highway, shall remain open for both way traffic on Wednesday, traffic authorities said. Traffic authorities said that on 09-02-2022, More on P10

NIA Arrests Budgam Man In Delhi

SRINAGAR: National Investigation Agency (NIA) Tuesday said that it has arrested a resident from Budgam district of Central Kashmir in connection with a case regarding Al-Qaeda's plans of triggering an IED blast in Lucknow city. More on P10

JK Bank Q3 Net Profit 164%

SRINAGAR : J&K Bank Net Profit has witnessed a steep rise of 164%YoY in the December Ouarter of FY 2021-22. The bank stated this after its Board of Directors reviewed and approved the numbers for third quarter and nine-months ended December 31, 2021 in a meeting held today at Bank's Zonal

Delimitation Proposals To Go Public After Feb 14 Its Orders Cannot Be Questioned In Any Court, Say Officials

DELIMITATION : UT OF IAMMU & KASHMIR Delimitation Commission

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The delimitation commission's proposals are expected to be unveiled for suggestions and objections from the general public imme-diately after February 14, news reports said on Tuesday.

The commission headed by former Supreme Court judge,

PAGD to Hold Meet on Feb 23

he Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is all set to hold a meeting on February 23, to discuss the recent draft put forth by the Delimitation Commission. According to sources in PAGD the grouping will meet on Feb 23 in Srinagar at its president Dr Farooq Abdullah's Gupkar residence. Earlier, the meeting was scheduled to be held at Jammu on Feb 13. However, the sources said that the meeting has been rescheduled and will now More on PIC

WE HAVE CALLED A MEETING ON FEB 23 TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT presented by Delimitation Commission. The meeting was scheduled on Feb 13 at Jammu earlier, which has been postponed as some of the leaders were not available on the particular date, thus the meeting has now been fixed on February 23, 2022."

Govt Issues Policy for Journalists, News Portals Journalists Can Lose Accreditation If They Act Against 'National Security'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Journalists acting in a manner prejudicial to the country's "security, sovereignty and integrity" as well as "public order, decency or morality" will lose their government accreditation, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has said in its new guidelines. Central

Media The Accreditation Guidelines-2022, announced on Monday, also lays down guidelines for the accreditation of journalists working for online news platforms. News aggregators are not being considered for accreditation, the government said.

According to the new policy, accreditation is liable to be morality, or in any relation to nished false/forged More on P10



journalist acts in a manner prejudicial to the country's security, sovereignty and integrity, suspended if a journalist or friendly relations with foreign the media organisation he/she States, public order, decency or represents is found to have fur-

withdrawn or suspended if a contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence. Accreditation can also be

No Registered Body Called Kashmir Press Club: Govt

here is no registered body by the name of 'Kashmir Press Club' in Jammu and Kashmir as it has failed to register itself under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, the government said. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said in the Lok Sabha the Estates Department of the UT administration has taken over the government building where the Kashmir Press Club was operated, on January 17, in presence of the Srinagar More on P10



BABY'S DAY OUT: A man holding his little son enjoys a stroll in snow covered Tangmarg- KO Photo

16 Yr Old Injured In Poonch Mine Blast



POONCH: A 16-year-old boy was injured after an apparently old landmine exploded in Poonch district on Tuesday.

Official sources said that Mohammad Yasar (16) son of Lal Din of Noorkote Mohalla Pothi was injured due to sudden old land mine blast reports said. They said he suffered injuries in left foot and was shifted to

District hospital Poonch. A police official confirmed the incident. More on P10

According to the board, at least 23,573 students bagged

the distinction, 20,717 stu-

dents got first division, 9277

secured second division and

509 passed the exams with

The figures also reveal that

in the exams, at least 11 stu-

dents were having disputed

eligibility, 47 students were absent, nine students were dis-

qualified and an examination

was cancelled of 26 students.

third division.

justice (retd.) Ranjana Desai will publish its proposals for the delimitation of constituencies, together with the dissenting proposals, if any, of any associate member, immediately after the MPs will submit their suggestions/objections, news reports said.

"The Commission has asked the MPs to More on P10

Office in Gurgaon, New Delhi.

Do You Get Your Copy of KASHMIR OBSERVER **Regularly?**



If Not

Contact Circulation Incharge: Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

Govt Orders Transfer Of 5 Top Officers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday ordered transfer of five officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to an order issued here, Navneet Singh, IFS, DFO, Doda, has been transferred and posted as Additional Chief Executive Officer, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

Naresh Kumar, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan, Katra, has been transferred and posted as Joint Director in the Directorate of Information, J&K, vice Irshad Ahmad, JKAS, has been asked to report to the General Administration Department, for further posting. Sudhir Bali, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner More on P10

7 Die, 771 **Test Covid-19** Positive in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday reported seven deaths and another spike of 771 cases pushing the number of active cases to 12,358 in the UT.

With seven more deaths, the death toll in J&K has reached 4,728 and 771 fresh positive cases reported on Tuesday have pushed the tally of positive cases to 448,105. Of the exact number of 448,105 cases, 285,107 are from Kashmir division and 162,998 from Jammu division. Officials said that among 771 new cases, 363 belong to Kashmir division while as 408 are from Jammu division, adding More on P10

Aiming To Empower Citizen Participation: LG SMC Inks MoUs With Praja Foundation & Azim Premji Foundation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation on Tuesday singed Memoranda of Understanding with Praja Foundation and Azim Premji Foundation for making Urban Governance more effective and transforming primary school education in Srinagar city. In the presence of Lieutenant

Governor, Manoj Sinha, the MoUs were signed by Sh. Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner, Municipal Srinagar Commissioner; Sh. Bijoy Shankar Das, Leader - North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir at Azim Premji University and Sh.

Milind Mhaske, Director Praja

of urban Naxals, who are to-day controlling its thought

and ideology. That is why, the

prime minister added, the

grand old party has become

negative. "The Congress in

a way is in the grip of urban Naxals. That is why its thought

Congress for sacking over 50 state governments of several

parties during its over 50-year

rule at the Centre.



citizen

Foundation

The Lt Governor said that the MoU between SMC & Praja foundation aims to empower

TRANSPARENT & PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES in urban governance are important for tapping the vast potential, vitality of our cities and higher economic growth."

Family-Run Parties Biggest Threat To Democracy: PM

Press Trust of India

New Delhi- Family-run parties are the biggest threat to India's democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday as he launched an allout attack on the Congress and held it responsible for several ills confronting the country.

has become negative.' Modi suggested that the op-Replying to the debate on position party change its name the motion of thanks to the from Indian National Congress president's address in the Rajya to 'Federation of Congress'. Sabha, he said the people of the He said when a family is parcountry had to wait for many amount in a particular party, years to get basic facilities like the biggest casualty is talent. He also attacked the

water, power and roads because of the the Congress. As the opposition party, too, the Congress is creating hurdles in the country's development, he alleged.

Taking a jibe at the He also accused the Congress, the prime minister Congress of being in the grip said if it More on P10

Hyundai's Kashmir Post: India Summons Korean Envoy

NEW DELHI: India has summoned the South Korean ambassador over the "unacceptable" social media post by Hyundai Pakistan on the so-called Kashmir solidarity day and bluntly conveyed to him that there could be no compromise on the matter as it concerned the country's territorial integrity.

Korean Foreign South Minister Chung Eui-yong spoke to his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar this morning and the Korean side regretted the offence caused to the people and government of India by the social media post.

Sending a tough message, External Affairs Ministry Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the South Korean envoy was summoned on Monday and a "strong displeasure" of the government on the social



participation through

enhanced e-Governance system

in Srinagar & capacity building

programmes More on P10

media post was conveyed. India expected the company to take "appropriate action" to properly address the issue, he stressed.

Bagchi said the Indian ambassador in Seoul contacted the Hyundai headquarters and sought an explanation.

The MEA spokesperson said India welcomes investments by foreign companies in various sectors, but, it is also expected that such companies or their affiliates will More on P10

75 Percent Pass 12th Class **Exam, Girls Outshine Boys**

Observer News Service

rinagar Girls dominated Soverall percentage as well as top positions in all four streams as 75 percent students passed 12th class examinations, the results of which were declared by the J&K Board of School Education on Tuesday. In all 54075 out of 72180 students who appeared in the examination have been declared successful and they included 37301 boys and 34879 girls. Of these, 26971 boys (72 percent) and 27104 girls (78 percent) passed the examinations, a board official said.

The students were given a syllabi relaxation of 40 percent following the closure of schools in view of COVID-19 outbreak. More on P10 The first 10 positions in Science stream **293 Students** were shared by 248 students. In Share First **10 Positions**

Commerce, the first 10 positions were shared by 33 students. 61 students shared the first 10 positions in Arts stream. In Home Science, More on P10

Toppers Speak



Facebook, Insta Block **Handles of Chinar Corps**

Press Trust of India

In 4 Streams

SRINAGAR: Facebook and Instagram have blocked the handles of Chinar Corps, the Indian Army's strategically located formation in the Kashmir valley, for over a week now and have not responded to the official communication in this regard, officials said on Tuesday. "The pages on Facebook and Instagram were created to negate the lies and propaganda flowing from across the border and also to apprise people of the real situation in the Kashmir valley, " an official said.

A senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the matter had been taken up with the authorities concerned in Facebook, but so far there has been More on P10



O To place an advertisement CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir



Google TV Soon Likely To Have 'Restricted Mode'



Agencies

١N

DIPK-17774/21

ech giant Google is likely to be working on a "restricted mode" for Google TV that will filter out content deemed inappropriate for kids. The tech giant is developing a new feature for Google TV that will prevent adult content from automatically playing on the home screen, reports Android Central.

The new content filter feature, dubbed "restricted mode," was discovered by 9to5Google in the most recent update to the Android TV launcher. As its name implies, the feature will make hiding age-inappropriate

content from kids a breeze, the report said. However, restricted mode appears

to be effective only on ad-supported free movies and TV shows as well as their trailers. To unlock this setting, users will need to use their PIN.

Some string in the launcher's new update also mentions "Google TV Channels," which could be in reference to additional free content. Google TV already allows you to stream more than 300 live TV channels for free, courtesy of its Pluto TV alliance

NOTICE Whereas a joint application has been received from Shri Sameer Hussa Bhat S/o Gh. Mobd Bhat R/o Kanihama B.K Pora Badgam (as transferor) and Shri Adil Bashir Bhat S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o Bugam Batapora Chadoora (as transferse) for transfer of Pick Up (Jeeto) carriage route Covering Vehicle No. JK04E-0690 as well as HP cancellation with J&K State Cooperative Bank Ltd. 8/U Nowgam. Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily Newspapers Srinager News/ K. Observer No: JKRTD-5680

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

testistant Regional Transport Officer, Budget Outet: 08-02-2022

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Sajad Ali Khan 5/o: Showkat Ali Khan R/o: Waterwani Budgam (Transferor) of Baleno Delta. Vehicle bearing registration number .K04E-2987. Chasis number 211171 Engine no. 176576 Model 2018. in favour of Shri., Bashir

Ahmad Yatoo S/o. Mohammad Akber Yatoo R/o Sholipora Budgam (Tranferee)

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

mcb

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM 5686

Dated 08/02/2022

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Abdul Rashid Tantray S/o: Ghulam Qadir Tantray R/o: Rawalpora Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Feroze Ahmad Shah S/o Nazir Ahmad Shah R/o

Waniyar Noor Bagh Safa Kadal as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.686/

GC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A-4771 Now it is therefore notified for general information that objec-

tions, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

> Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM, 5688 Dated 08-02-2022

Notice(Correction In Passport)

I have to correct my mother's name in the passport which has been mistakenly stated as Ashyana Rafi instead of Ashlana Rafi Bhat as mentioned in my matriculation certificate.

Now, I have to correct same in the passport. If anybody, has objection he/she can report in the office of Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar within the period of 7 days afterwards no objection will be entertained.

Sobaan Rafi Bhat

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY

COMMISSIONER, GANDERBAL

(Mini Secretariat Complex Duderhama)

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR PITCHING OF BOARDING TENTS/

SHOP-TENTS FOR SHRI AMARNATHJI YATRA 2022 VIA BALTAL ROUTE.

NOTIFICATION No. 01-DCG- OF 2022

DATE 07/02/2022

grant of permission for pitching of BOARDING TENTS/ SHOP TENTS at various locations enroute to Holy Cave via Baital Route, viz BALTAL BASE CAMP/ BETWEEN BALTAL BASE CAMP & DOMAIL ACESS

CONTROL GATE (UPTO 300 MTRS BEFORE THE ACESS CONTROL GATE)/ RAILPATHRI/ BRARIMARG/

SANGAM for Yatra 2022. The Application Forms shall be available (free of cost) from 15th February,

2022 to 15th March 2022 (till 4:00pm) in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal and Sub

missioner Ganderbal (via Baltal Route) Through Draw of Lots in case the application received are

Applications (in duplicate) on prescribed form are invited from Individuals/ Agencies for

In case the applicant intends to apply for more than one location, he would be required to

The permission for pitching of Boarding/ Shop Tents shall be granted by the Deputy Com-

AST

Divisional Magistrate Kangan respectively.



صمون درخواست منجانب : مظفر احمد ولدغلام حسن بر بساكنه كامر بخصيل وضلع است ناگ

ازنیابت دیلگام بااجلاس نایب تحصیلداردیلگام

Public Notice

I have lost the route permit of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03C3387, PERMITNO 4439/MC/ANG from KHANABAL TO JANGLATMANDI . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantang withn a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

SANJAY KUMAR S/O PYARABAL PANDITH **R/O CHANDRIGAM ANANTNAG**

rna



Nehru YUVA Kendra Anantnag organized two days District levelsports meet of Anantnag at Govt Higher Secondary School Hakura w.e.f 02-02-2022 to 03-02-2022. A large number of Participates from various-Blocks of the District participated in the various events. Prizes were awarded to the Winners. Runners and Third PlacesTeams.



انُ کے آبائی مقبرہ باچھی دروازہ مخد وم صاحب سرینگرییں انجام دی جائیگی۔

University of Kashmir, Srinagar Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Sajad Bashir Wani Parentage: Bashir Ahamd Wani R/O: Zabeeripora (Magam) Handwara

Certificate/s Lost: Marks Certificate (MBBS) lst) Roll No/s: 58

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled No: F(Duplicate/) KU) Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of Fertilizer License under the name and Style M/S Ajay Traders Batpora Shopian. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact Chief Agriculture Office Shopian within a period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertaiend.

rna

نوٹ بمتورات سےالتماس ہےکہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کی قسم کامیوہ وغیرہ ندائیں۔ سوگواران____امتیازاحمد_ بلال احمد _ اشفاق احمد S/O Shri Chuni Lal Gupta R/o Chenani Duampur 6005238339 - 9796530024

Present Address: 07, Pine Lane No.8 Opposite Gold Gym, Rajbagh, Srinagar

as mtzr

mcb



khtiyaq Ahmad Teli 5/o Gh. Rasool Teli bearing University Registration No: 55516-Ang-2007 who pursued his Ph.B.programmeon whole-timebasis in the Department of Zoology and submitted his thesis titled "Effect of dietary branched chain amino acids on growth, enzyme activities and expression of TOR and 4E-8P genes in



rainbowtrout, Oncorhynchus mykiss fingerlings" under the joint supervision of Dr. Imitiaz Ahmed Khan (Associate Professor) Department of Zoology and Dr. Nazir Ahmad Dar (Associate Professor) Department of Biochemistry, University of Kashmir, Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D. Degree in Zoology on December 31, 2021 in the School of Biological Sciences.

Errors and Omissions Excepted.

Joint Controller of Examinations Controller of Examinations (Secretary) No.: F(Ph-D.-Zoology) Sec/KU/22 Dated: February 02, 2022.

infa

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

Contact:-0194-3550112 G-mail- yardimiciunique92@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



e . CellPhone

Contact:-9149965005/9682370979

DIPK-17755/21 District Social Welfare Officer Ganderbal No. DCG/ SANJY-2022/F-01 (Nodal Officer DRCW) NO:-D5WO/M5K/2022/764-768 Dated:-07-02-2022 Date 07/02 /2022

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT IAL WELFARE OFFICER Administrative Complex Mini Secretariat Ganderbal

Ph./Fax No.: 0194-2416364 / Email ID: dswomsgbi@gmail.com

0 R D E R NO :- 01. DSWO/MSK of 2022 DATED :- 07-02-2022

Subject:- Selection of eligible candidates on contractual basis for the post of Women Welfare Officer and District coordinator in Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) District Ganderbal.

As approved and on the basis of accumulated merit, sanction is hereby accorded to the engagement of eligible candidates on contractual basis on the post of Women Welfare Officer (one) and District coordinator (Two) in the Mahila Shakti Kendra Ganderbal with immediate effect on monthly remuneration as prescribed in the guidelines and as per the availability of funds subject to the continuation of scheme in the District. The merit wise position of candidates is given as under-

<i>m</i>	Selection status on the post of	of women wetlare	own	er.+	715 72		
S.No	Name with parentage	Residence		Final secured merit out of 100 points		Selection status	
01	Sabeeta Jan D/O Moham- mad Ismail Rather	Wanihama bala Ganderbal		74,465		Selected	
02	Seerat Un Nisa D/o Gh- ulam Mohammad Wani	Chuanduna Gan- derbal		74,455		Waiting	
03	Sumaya Ashraf D/o Sofi Mohammad Ashraf	Saloora Ganderba		74.04		Waiting	
(II) Se	lection status on the post of D	istrict Coordinator	s.				
SNO	Name with parentage			idence	Final secured ment out of 100 points		
01	Sabeeta Jan D/O Mohammad Ismail Rather			nihama Bala Iderbal	68.53		Selected
02	Sumaya Ashraf D/o Sofi Mohammad Ashraf			Saloora Ganderbal 65.866			Selected
02 03	Seerat Un Nisa D/o Ghulam Mohammad Wani			Cahuanduna 64.03 Ganderbal			Waiting
04	Requiva Showkat D/o Show	wkat Hussain	Set	ach Ganderbal	62.08		Waiting
05	Shaista Hussian D/o She mad Hussain	ikh Moham-	Nag	(bal Ganderbal	60.664		Waiting
06	Noor ul Sabha D/o Moham Dandru	mad Shafi		ipora Kangan Iderbal	60.232		Waiting

The selected candidates will submit their joining report in the office of undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of the selection order failing which their contractual appointment shall become forfeited and next eligible candidate in the waiting shall be considered for selection on the particular post. The selected candidates will submit their academic, technical and experience certificates in original at the

time of joining for verification and if any of the certificate at any movement would be found invalid or fake the engagement shall be declared null and void and legal action will follow. The engagement shall be purely on temporary basis and the selected candidate can not claim their regular-

ization on the selected posts in contravention to the norms of scheme This engagement order is issued subject to the final outcome of Court case if pending in any Hon'ble Court

of law related to the matter.

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/ CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT

The Shop/Tent permission holder will be require to pitch tents of the following size/ speci-

12' x 14' for BOARDING TENT

submit one application form in duplicate indicating the preference thereof.

8' x 12' for SHOP TENT

Specifications a)

fications only:

Size

a)

b)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

5.

more than the target fixed.

Double-Fly Untorn canvas or cotton tent.

Inner Fly -100% waterproof canvas or cotton of at least 500 GSM with lining.

Outer Fly -100% waterproof canvas or cotton.

Canvas or Cotton should be rat proof and fire retardant. Ground shell, complete with metal/wooden poles and pegs.

Weather hoods on both sides for protection against rain/snow

Good quality bedding in case of boarding tents.

No individual/family shall be issued permission to pitch more than one tent in the Yatra camp area.

Only one person (permission holder) who will be issued identity card shall be allowed to enter the Yatra area for managing the affairs of Tent.

The filled-in applications, alongwith documents (detailed in application form) shall be submitted in Office of Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal from 20.02.2022 to 20.03.2022 (till 4 pm). 8.

No application form shall be entertained after the prescribed date.

Permission shall be issued subject to the production of the agreement to abide by the 9 prescribed terms and conditions as laid down by the District Administration/ SASB and clearance from the Police Department. Sd/

Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal



Kashmir Observer Wednesday | 09-02-2022

Fine imposed on Food **Business Operators** for violation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional deputy commissioner Srinagar Dr Syed Haneef Balkhi imposed a fine of Rs. 1,25,800 on various Food Business Operators for violating different provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act.

According to a statement, those fined include refined edible oil manufacturers namely Regional Oil seed Growers Co-operative union M.I. Alwar has the brand Name "Dhara Assure"

The statement reads that these complaints were submitted by Food Safety Officers of District Srinagar after prosecution sanction from Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar.

"Moreover 9 complaints against butchers who do not adhere to the sanitary and hygienic requirements of Food Safety and Standards Act were prepared for presentation before a competent court."

It reads that commissioner Food & Drugs Administration Shakeel ur Rehman has directed all butchers not to keep parts of carcasses outside their shops exposed to dust and smoke and to put in place glass frames otherwise action under relevant provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act shall be initiated against them.

'The drive to check the quality of Food articles especially milk, meat and sanitation of butcher shops shall be intensified in coming days as per the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Shree Pandurang K Pole," it reads.

Posts in F&ES deptt Aspirants seeking job since 2013 await final selection list

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Scores of aspirants, who have applied for the posts in Fire and Emergency department on Tuesday staged a protest in Srinagar and demanded release of final selection list, which according to them is pending since 2013.

Talking to the news agency, Imtiyaz Ali, one among the protesting aspirants, said, "The authorities have so far failed to declare the final selection list since 2013 despite the fact that the racing and physical tests have been conducted three times so far.'

"Rather than a recruitment process, it seems like a scam by the Fire and Emergency department," the protesting aspirants said.

We appeal the author



SMC inks MoUs with Praja Foundation & Azim Premji Foundation

Observer News Service

Srinagar, February 08: Srinagar Municipal Corporation today singed Memoranda of Understanding with Praja Foundation and Azim Premji Foundation for making Urban Governance more effective and transforming primary school education in Srinagar city.

In the presence of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, the MoUs were signed by Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Commissioner; Bijoy Shankar Das, Leader - North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir at Azim Premji University and Milind Mhaske, **Director Praja Foundation**

The Lt Governor said that the MoU between SMC & Praja foundation aims to empower citizen participation through en hanced e-Governance system in Srinagar & capacity building programmes for municipal councilors & administration. Relentless efforts for good urban

governance and sustainability in cities to be further strengthened with cooperation of Praja Foundation, observed the Lt Governor.

Transparent and participatory processes in urban governance are important for tapping the vast potential, vitality of cities and higher economic growth. Reforms in urban governance will improve urban infrastructure, urban services to poor and help the cities to build on their inherent capacities, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor underlined the need to create smart solutions, smart platforms to form a link between the public and policies to make the process of rapid change a reflection of the needs & aspirations of the people and develop a new self-understanding

like drinking water, health care, sanitation, housing and better quality of living in the cities, the Lt Governor said.

There is going to be a massive urban transformation in the cities in the coming future, which will improve the standard of living and will also attract new capital investment, he added.

Today, we have to overcome few challenges while we are developing our cities into smart ones. We must formulate policies & programs to eliminate social inequality; extend benefits of development to all sections of the society; eliminate the role of multiple agencies; strengthen Municipal Corporations and accelerate local economic development to improve the quality of life in the cities, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor asked the of the Municipal Corporation and other stakeholders to understand these challenges and work accordingly.



This Day In History

- 1499 France & Venice sign treaty against Milan
- 1525 Albert of Prussia pledges a personal oath to Sigismund I and is invested with the duchy for himself and his heirs
- 1537 Pope Paul III routes Cardinal Pole to England
- 1540 The first recorded race meet in England (Roodee Fields, Chester) 1554 - Battle at London: Sir Thomas Wyatt defeated and his rebel-
- lion against Queen Mary crushed 1555 Bishop of Gloucester John Hooper is burned at the stake for heresy
- 1574 Louis of Nassau ends siege of Maastricht
- 1621 Alexander Ludovisi is elected Pope Gregory XV (-1623)
- 1667 Treaty of Andrussovo: Russia and Poland signs peace treaty
- 1674 English reconquer NY from Netherlands
- 1682 Thomas Otway's "Venice Preserved" premieres in London 1713 Netherlands & Britain sign accord concerning anti- French Barrier [OS=Jan 31].
- 1720 Edmund Halley appointed 2nd Astronomer Royal of England 1763 - Treaty of Paris ends French-Indian War, surrendering Can-
- ada to Britain 1801 - France & Austria sign Peace of Luneville
- 1814 Napoleonic Wars: Battle of Champaubert, the French beat the Russians
- 1846 British defeat Sikhs in battle of Sobraon, India
- 1859 Gen Horsford defeats Begum of Oude & Nana Sahib in Indian mutiny
- 1861 Jefferson Davis & Alexander Stephens elected President & VP of the Confederate States of America (US Civil War)1899 - Treaty of Paris which ended the Spanish-American War is signed by President McKinley; US acquires Philippines, Puerto Rico & Guam 1904 - Japan and Russia declare war
- 1914 In accordance with the understanding reached by General J.C. Smuts and Mahatma Gandhi, 60 passive resistance prisoners released from Pietermaritzburg Prison; 40 passive resisters released in Durban. 8 in Newcastle. 11 in Port Elizabeth 1918 - Trotsky declares that Russia is leaving the war
- 1931 New Delhi becomes capital of India
- 1933 Hitler proclaims end of Marxism

clare the final selection list of pending posts at earliest so that they could heave a sigh of relief.

Reforms introduced by the government in urban governance aim to provide much-needed human & financial resources for improving basic services

'Credible Examination Important' **KU Makes Earnest Appeal To Parents, Students**

Observer News Service

Srinagar:- The University of Kashmir on Tuesday made an earnest appeal to the civil society members in general and parents of students in particular to make their wards understand the importance of a credible examination.

The formal appeal was made by the varsity's Dean of Academic Affairs Prof Farooq Masoodi after a fraction of students started pressing the university authorities to revert to online mode of examinations.

"The world suffered heavy loss on many fronts during ongoing pandemics and the loss on academic front is undoubtedly the one that cannot be compensated. The institutions not only lost the number of working days but had to shift to online mode of teaching and examination. This shift to online mode indeed offered some advantages also but the institutions faced some serious issues in such shifts," Prof Masoodi's appeal reads.

It further says that the evaluators and examiners experienced a significant decline in the credibility of examination which compelled university authorities to reconsider conduct of examination in online mode. "Consequently the University shifted

Prof Irshad Nawchoo is KU's new Dean Research

Observer News Service

rinagar:- Professor Irshad A Nawchoo from Kashmir University's Department of Botany shall function as the varsity's Dean Research.

As order to this effect was issued by the Administration, Teaching Wing.

Prof Nawchoo has more than two decades of teaching, research, and administrative experience. Besides being the author of several books and research articles published in top journals, Prof Nawchoo has held very important administrative positions in the University of Kashmir, including Controller of Examinations, Director Admissions and Competitive Examinations, Dean School of Biological Sciences, Head Department of Botany and Director Centre for Biodiversity and

to off-line examination in October-2021 taking care of all SOPs and guidelines issued by concerned agencies from time to time," the appeal reads, "However, a small adding: fraction of students are pressing the University authorities to revert back to online examination, which the authorities feel, will not be in the academPlant Taxonomy.

Prof Nawchoo said he would work to strength the university's research linkages with top-notch institutions in the country and abroad, even as he asserted that the Office of Dean Research shall strive to ensure maximum focus on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in line with the new National Education Policy-2020.

"Our focus at the university, in accordance with the directions of the honourable Vice-Chancellor, has been to provide all facilities to our young researchers for them to be able to do research that is socially-relevant," Prof Nawchoo said, adding that the university shall also try to feed the knowledge and research generated in the institution into the policymaking in the Union Territory.

ic interest of students.'

"I hereby request the civil society in general and the parents in particular to make their wards understand the importance of a credible examination. I also appreciate the parents who have been continuously requesting the University to conduct examinations in offline mode that will stimulate their wards to prepare for examination in

a better way," Prof Masoodi said in the appeal, hoping that students will understand the genuine concerns of the University and prepare themselves for offline examination as most of the universities in the country have either started offline examinations or are preparing for the same.

"I wish good luck to all my students," he said.

KPDCL set to install 58000 smart meters in Phase-I

Agencies

Srinagar: Under the much-hyped smart metering project, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) is all set to install almost 58,000 smart meters in the first phase across Srinagar.

Reports quoting sources said that 15000 smart meters will be installed in Srinagar in the ongoing month (February).

These reports further said that over 11400 smart meters have already been installed in Srinagar, adding that 57,750 smart meters will be installed across Srinagar in the first phase.

They said that officials concerned have been directed by the department as well as the administration to speed up the pace of installation and ensure that the phase-I target is achieved at a shortest possible time.

The card erected in the smart meter will help in providing rating of the electricity load by the consumers, the officials said, adding that "the consumer will be able to identify when and how the electricity was used. It will make the consumer aware about the use of electricity and he will be able to get the details through the mobile application, which can be installed by the consumers.'

Besides, the officials said that the smart meters are set to reduce human efforts and give relief to linemen who otherwise have to climb poles to record power usage of consumers.

1934 - Stalin ends 17th CPSU-congress, says "Life becomes merrier"

- 1947 Italy cedes most of Venezia Giulia to Yugoslavia 1947 - Province of Petsamo returned to Soviet Union by Finland
- 1947 WW II peace treaties signed.
- 1961 Niagara Falls hydroelectric project begins producing power 1970 - Dry powder avalanche moving at 120 mph smashes into youth hostel at Val d'Isere, France, killing 40 Belgian, French, & German vouths
- 1974 Iran/Iragi border fight breaks out
- 1975 The Provisional Irish Republican Army agrees to a truce and ceasefire with the British government and the Northern Ireland Office; Seven "incident centres" are established in nationalist areas to monitor the ceasefire
- 1985 USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalitinsk USSR
- 1990 6th Largest wrestling crowd (63,900-Tokyo Dome)
- 1990 South African President F. W. de Klerk announces Nelson Mandela will be freed on Feburary 11th
- 1996 IBM computer Deep Blue becomes the first computer to win a game of chess against a reigning (human) chess champion, Gary Kasparov
- 1997 Comet Shoemaker-Holt 2 Closest Approach to Earth (1.9245 AU)
- 1997 Soyuz TM-25 launches to the MIR.

From KO Archives

Vehicles Attacked At _akhanpur

Curfew Bandh Continues In Jammu Areas

Observer News Service

RINAGAR - A number of Punjab-bound vehicles from Kashmir were damaged on Tuesday evening by a violent mob at Hatli Maud, a short distance from Lakhanpur in Jammu, even as a rampaging crowd stormed through a sports goods factory run by a Kashmiri in the vicinity.

Reports from Jammu said irate Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal activists attacked a convoy of goods carriers from Anantnag Kashmir, near Haiti Maud. The mob pelted stones at nearly 34 trucks and tried to hijack one (JK01D-9938). The driver, Muhammad Altaf was injured in the hijack attempt.

The Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal had called for a bandh in Jammu on Tuesday to protest against the killing of 6 members of the Sikh community in Srinagar. Scores of Gypsy borne activists of the two organisations, armed with sharp-edged weapons besides hockey sticks and canes, had earlier descended in the locality and raided a factory. Goodway Sports owned a resident of Anantnag. The mob ransacked the equipment and caused damage to the factory.

One factory worker, Bashir Ahmad Dar from Dogri Sangam, Anantnag was injured during the attack There was considerable tension in Kathua district after the violent incidents. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 09 February, 2001)

NEWS

Over 17,000 Farmers Committed Suicide In 3 Years, Lok Sabha Told



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Over 17,000 farmers in different parts of the country committed suicide between 2018 and 2020, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra said themselves in 2019. The report the National Crime Records said 5,579 farmers or cultiva-Bureau (NCRB) compiles statis- tors committed suicide in 2020.

same annually as 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI) report. According to the ADSI report, 5,763 farmers or cultivators committed suicide in 2018,

tics on accidental deaths and

suicides from states and Union

Territories and publishes the

while another 5,957 killed

India's 5G Network In Final Stages Of Development, Says Telecom Minister



Asian News International

NEW DELHI: The 5G network is in its final stages of development in India, Union Minister of Communications, Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday.

Addressing 'India Telecom 2022' business expo Mr Vaishnaw said India has emerged as a major electronics manufacturing hub.

The country has also developed its own indigenously devel- their products and capabilities oped 4G core & radio network. at the exhibition. The 5G network is also in its final stages of development. The

Initiative Scheme (MAI) of the Department of Commerce, Government of India and with the support of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of External Affairs and Indian missions in different countries. Qualified buyers from more than 45 countries are attending the event. Apart from the conference, 40+ Indian telecom companies are showcasing

and Services Export Promotion

Council (TEPC) 8-10 February

2022 under the Market Access

Delivering the special address at the event. Devusinh



Karnataka HC On Hijab **Row: World Is Watching Us**

IANS ith the Hijab row snowballing into a major controversy, the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday said the international community is observing us and it is not a good

The hearing in the matter will

have to act according to the Constitution. I have come to this posi-It also observed that the gov-

"I am getting messages from innumerable numbers. The whole WhatsApp chat is filled with this discussion. The institutions can

The government can give orders, but people can question them," the bench noted.

decisions on surmises," it said.

THE GOVERNMENT can't give a ruling against the Quran. Wearing a dress of the choice is a fundamental right. Wearing a hijab is a fundamental right, however, the government can restrict fundamental rights.

The bench stated that since the ernment at one point that why government is not agreeing to the can't they allow hijab for two petitioner's request of allowing students to wear hijab for two months, it will take up the case on the petitioner submitted that the the basis of merit. "There are progovernment can only interfere in tests and students are on roads, I the matters which are not fundaam observing all developments in mental, according to religion. The this regard," the judge noted. things which are fundamental.

"The government can't give a ruling against the Quran. Wearing a dress of the choice is a fundamental right. Wearing a hijab is a fundamental right, however, the government can restrict fundamental rights. There is no clear order on uniforms from the government. Wearing a hijab is a matter of privacy. The government order in this to be given until examinations are regard violates the boundaries of privacy," the bench observed.

BJP Poll Manifesto: 1 Lakh Fine, 10 Years Jail For 'Love Jihad'



FCRA Registration Of 5,800 **NGOs Deemed Ceased: Govt**



Press Trust Of India

About 5,8000 NGOs, which did not submit their applications for renewal of FCRA registration, deemed to have ceased to exist

in Lok Sabha that FCRA registrabeen cancelled during the last three years - from 2019 to 2021. The validity was

associations had not submitted their applications for renewal of the Foreign Contribution among others, he said. (Regulation) Act, 2010. FCRA registration of these associa-

Rai said in view of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, the government has given certain relaxations to NGOs so that welfare programmes and Covid-related relief works are not affected.

according to law. Union Minister of State for tension till December 31, 2021 Home Nityanand Rai also said the validity of registration certificate of NGOs expiring betion of a total of 1,811 NGOs have tween September 29, 2020 and

The validity was further ex-"About 5,800 FCRA registered tended with certain conditions up to March 31, 2022, while time period to file annual returns for within stipulated time in ac- year 2019-20 was extended by cordance with the provisions six month i.e. till June 30, 2021

Rai also said that since November, 2021, the FCRA certificate of tions has thus been deemed to Public Health Foundation of India have ceased as per section 12 of (PHFI), New Delhi and Missionarthe Foreign Contribution (Regu- ies of Charity (MoC), Kolkata was lation) Act, 2010," he said in a renewed by way of revision.

Canada: Protests Against Covid Curbs Go 'Out Of Control'



Agence France-Presse

OTTAWA: Canadian authorities struggled Monday to tackle a truckers' protest against Covid restrictions which has paralysed the national capital for days and threatens to snowball into a full-blown political crisis for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson

to appoint a mediator to work with protesters and find a way subject to arrest," the police to defuse the 10-day-long dem- said on Twitter. onstration which has infuriated local residents with incessant several people, seized multiple honking and diesel fumes.

dates and the restrictions lifted, restore Canadians rights and freedoms and go home."

Facing criticism for allowing the center of the capital to be blocked and many businesses to have to close, Ottawa police Sunday announced new measures to tame the protests by banning people from bringing fuel and other supplies to the rallies.

"Anyone attempting to bring urged the federal government material supports (gas, etc) to the demonstrators could be

> Officers have since arrested vehicles and issued hundreds of

development. resume after lunch. A bench headed by Justice Krishna S. Dixit said: "For me, Constitution is Bhagvad Gita. We

tion after taking oath on the Constitution. The emotions on the issue should be set aside. Wearing a hijab should not become an emotional issue.

ernment has to answer many questions on the issue.

only work as per the constitution.

"The government can't come to

country is participating today in Chauhan, Minister of State for development of 6G standards, in the thought process of 6G."

In his inaugural address at the event, the Minister said, the country by helping them to "Today, electronics manufactur- get information, education and ing in India is close to \$75 bil- opportunity to ask questions lion. It's growing at more than and make the Government of 20 per cent CAGR. Now, we the day accountable." have launched a major semiconductor programme, a very ability make our democracy comprehensive programme in vibrant and strong. It is a prime which right from silicon chip mover for socio-economic to compound semiconductors, changes. That is why, the Govdesign-led manufacturing, cre- ernment has made an ambiating a series of entrepreneurs in design and also finally to to all 6 lacs villages. We have develop 85,000 semiconductor engineers.

Communications said, "Communications is not merely a facility. It empowers citizens of "Transparency and Account-

tious plan taking optical fibre reached to 2.6 lacs villages and the Department of Telecom India Telecom 2022 is orga- plans to achieve the target by nized by Telecom Equipment 2025," Mr Chauhan said.

THE COUNTRY HAS ALSO DEVELOPED its own indigenously developed 4G core & radio network.

The 5G network is also in its final stages of development. The country is participating today in development of 6G standards, in the thought process of 6G."

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: The BJP on Tuesday assured free electricity for irrigation, a job for every household and free travel for women over 60 in its Uttar Pradesh election manifesto, which also promised a minimum 10-year sentence in cases of what it describes as "love jihad". The announcements were

made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the release of the 'Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra 2022', just two days before the first phase of polling for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

Reaching out to farmers, the irrigation, speedier payment for sugarcane and strengthening the minimum support price (MSP) system for wheat and rice. sugarcane within 14 days, the sug-

ruling party's manifesto promised. It also announced that work on the establishment of an antiterrorist commando centre in Deoband would be completed in would come up in Meerut, Rampur, Azamgarh, Kanpur and Bahraich.

the drive against criminals and If farmers are not paid for their mafias would continue. Also, a one well-equipped government ar mills will have to shell out the every police station and separate nounced that Uttar Pradesh would

and female police personnel.

The bench also asked the peti-

tioner which page of Quran says that hijab is mandatory. The judge

also asked for a copy of the Quran from the court's library. It also

asked the petitioner to read out

from the holy book to understand

ditions are fundamental practices

The bench also asked whether

they will have to be practiced at all places. It questioned the gov-

months and what is the problem?

government cannot interfere with

The petitioner submitted that,

The government should show

large-heartedness in the matter.

The matter can't be decided on

the premises of secularism. The

government should permit the

wearing of hijab of the colour of

the uniforms. The permission has

over. Then, they can take a deci-

sion on the matter."

Meanwhile, the counsel for

and what is their jurisdiction.

where it has been stated so. The bench also asked if all tra-

The Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra promised that if the BJP returns to power in Uttar Pradesh then the state's anti-conversion law would be amended bringing in a minimum imprisonment of 10 years

and a fine of Rs 1 lakh. The current version of the law against religious conversion effected for marriage or through misrepresentation, force, undue influence. coercion, allurement or other allegedly fraudulent means, which the party describes as 'love jihad', invites

a penalty of up to 10 years in jail. At the release of the manifesto, Shah, while answering Akhilesh Yadav's taunts that BJP did not fulfil party promised free electricity for the next five years. Similar centres any of its previous poll promises, said, "The party has fulfilled over 92 per cent of 212 promises made The manifesto promised that in its 2017 manifesto." In the health sector, the BIP promised to build cyber helpdesk would be set up in hospital in every district and aninterest on the amount due, the barracks would be built for male be made tuberculosis-free by 2025. On Sunday, Watson declared a traffic tickets.

state of emergency in the capital, calling the protests an "occupation" and declaring them "out of control."

The "Freedom Convoy" demonstrations began January 9 in western Canada as protests by truckers angry with vaccine requirements when crossing the US-Canadian border, but have morphed into broader protests deploying the military in situaagainst COVID-19 health restrictions and Trudeau's government.

Protest organiser Tamara Lich said Monday that activists were willing to engage with the government to find a way out of the crisis, but insisted that pandemic restrictions be eased.

federal parties so that we can arrange a sit down," Lich said during a meeting streamed on

- 'Reacted too strongly' -

Trudeau, who has been in quarantine after testing positive for CO-VID-19 a week ago, did not comment on the weekend protests.

On Thursday he ruled out the possibility of deploying the army to disperse the protesters "for now," saying that one must be "very, very cautious before tions against Canadians."

"Trudeau has nothing to gain by going to speak to the demonstrators," Genevieve Tellier, a political scientist at the University of Ottawa, told AFP.

But another political analyst, Frederic Boily of the Univer-"What we're trying to do right sity of Alberta, said the protests now is reaching out to all of the could escalate into a full-blown political crisis.

"Justin Trudeau reacted badly initially," Boily said. "He reacted YouTube. "So that we can start too strongly and too abruptly at the these talks and see how we can start of the protests when he tried move forward, have their man- to paint them as a far-right protest."

SHORT TAKES

Israeli Troops Kill 3 Palestinians



sraeli security forces have killed three Palestinians in the city of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said on Tuesday, drawing condemnation from Palestinian Authority (PA).

'Three citizens were martyred as a result of direct shooting by Israeli forces in the city of Nablus," the ministry said in a statement. It identified the victims as Ashraf Mubaslat, Adham Mabrouka, and Mohammad Dakhil, according to the Palestinian Wafa news agency. Wafa, quoting witnesses, reported Israeli soldiers opened fire at the car in the northern city. The car was riddled with bullet holes,

according to the footage shared by the agency.

Witnesses told Anadolu Agency that the incident involved a member of Israel's special forces in a civilian vehicle storming the city's al-Makhfieh neighbourhood, and opening fire at a Palestinian car.

The PA's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called for an international investigation into the killings while the PA cabinet described it as a "heinous crime".

The foreign ministry held the Israeli government and Prime Minister Neftali Bennett "fully and directly responsible for this crime".

"The silence of the international community to Israeli violations and crimes provides a cover to these criminal acts and encourages the Israeli occupier to continue in its open warfare against the Palestinians," it said in a statement. Israel, on its part, said the three men were Palestinian "militants" who were responsible for recent shooting attacks. The Shin Bet internal security agency said the three were in a vehicle and were killed in a clash with security forces. No Israelis were killed or wounded in the shooting, it added.

Palestinian and international rights groups have long condemned what they see as a policy of shoot to kill and excessive use of force.

At 94, Akali Patriarch Fights 13th Poll



CHANDIGARH/LAMBI: At 94, Shiromani Akali Dal patriarch Parkash Singh Badal can be forgiven for skipping rallies and not going door to door for votes. His people are there to handle the electioneering in his Lambi constituency. "It had been the practice earlier too that the party's local leadership takes care of the electioneering in Lambi while Badal Sahib remained busy in campaigning in the state," his close aide and party leader Tejinder Singh Middukhera said. 'Badal Sahib is in regular touch with us," he said. In the run-up to the February 20 assembly polls in Punjab, there has been help from others as well in Lambi, which

falls in Punjab's Muktsar district.

SAD leader and daughter-in-law Harsimrat Kaur Badal campaigned for him in the constituency. So did Indian National Lok Dal president Om Prakash Chautala, asking voters to return the SAD veteran to the assembly yet again.

Seeking votes for his long-time friend, the 87-year-old leader said his and Badal Senior's politics always revolved around the welfare of common people.

According to the SAD, Mr Badal stepped into the fray again when party leaders pleaded with him not to retire -- even if it meant defying age and a recent bout of Covid. His son Sukhbir Singh Badal is the party president. Mr Badal was discharged only last month from a Ludhiana hospital where he was admitted after testing positive for coronavirus.

The five-time Chief Minister has now broken former Kerala chief minister VS Achuthanandan's record of being the oldest election candidate. The CPI(M) leader was 92 when he fought the Assembly polls in 2016.-PTI

Lankan Navy Arrests 11 Indian Fishermen



RAMESWARAM: The Sri Lankan Navy on Tuesday apprehended 11 fishermen from here for alleged

violation of its maritime boundary, a senior state government official said. However, fishermen here denied their colleagues violated the maritime boundary. According to a senior Fisheries department official here, the Lankan navy apprehended 11 fishermen and three of their boats in the small hours on Tuesday. The incident drew outrage among fishermen community here. Meanwhile, Ramanathapuram Lok Sabha member K Navas Kani flagged the matter with the Centre and wanted a permanent end to the matter. -PTI



STATE

JKBOSE website 'crashes' at time of declaration of 12th results

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Following the announcement of annual regular hefty amount to develop the results of 12th for Kashmir division, the official website of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) 'crashed' due to heavy traffic-causing inconvenience to the students.

agency that they couldn't access the official website of JKBOSE.

It took me nearly 40 minutes to check my results. The JKBOSE issues, they were unable to anwebsite was overloaded and swer the calls from this reportthat caused the inconvenience er–(KNO)

to the students," a student said. He also said, "The government

on the one hand is spending a websites for the students, but on the other hand JKBOSE seems to be least interested in declaring the results in a smooth way." KNO received several such

calls from the students, who The candidates told the news couldn't check their results smoothly.

When contacted officials of JKBOSE to comment over the

3000 fine imposed on erring traders at Bandipora

Observer News Service

Deputy Commissioner Bandi- erring traders. pora, Dr Owais Ahmed, a market checking squad of Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), FSSAI, Municipal Council Bandipora, Revenue and Animal Husbandry Department conducted a joint market checking in Bandipora and realized a fine of Rs 3000 from erring shopkeepers.

Taking strong note of the complaints of violation of rules including over-pricing, the District Administration launched a massive district-wide inspection drive to curb over-pricing and take immediate action against instances of CAB violations.

The joint team conducted of CAB. inspection of various business establishments including vegetable, fruit sellers, Kiryana, Bakof Bandipora.

tablishments were booked, five and other malpractices.



the occasion, Officers On urged the traders to avoid overpricing and other illegal practices besides maintaining cleanliness and hygiene. They asked the vendors to follow the packaged commodity rules and other Metrology Acts besides following Covid SOPs strictly.

Meanwhile, the DC said that the drive shall continue on a regular basis across all district markets to keep a check on traders and shopkeepers for indulging in overcharging and other unethical activities besides directing officers to ensure strict implementation

He said he has directed all the concerned officers to ensure regular inspections of markets ery, and other business estab- and crowded areas falling withlishments at different markets in their respective jurisdiction and take strict action against During the inspection, five es- those indulging in overpricing

PAC approves major projects for J&K

JAMMU: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt of India convened the Project Approval Committee (PAC) meeting for Jammu & Kashmir to consider and approval various Research and Development projects submitted by the Tribal Research Institute, J&K.

Union Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Anil Kumar Jha chaired the meeting which was attended by Jt Secretary MoTA, Dr Navaljeet Kapoor, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department J&K and Director, Tribal Research Institute Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Director TAD, Mushir Ahmed Mirza, OSD Dr Abdul Khabir, Asstt Director Sushil Kumar Gupta, Under Secretary Mukhtar Ahmed and senior officers from Govt of India and NITI Ayog. Secretary, MoTA, Anil Kumar

Jha complemented the Jammu ment of portal for migratory and Kashmir Government for establishing a very vibrant Tribal Research Institute and record number of initiatives related to research, publications, cultural heritage, fellowships, awards, workshops and capacity building programmes organised in recent months. He assured every help to Tribal Research Institute J&K under various schemes

The PAC approved several proposals submitted by J&K Government including establishment of Centre for Research in Tribal Health (CRTH) in coordination with Govt Medical College, Srinagar, establishment of Centre for Research and Advance Planning for Tribals (CRAPT) in Jammu and up gra- reach programmes for coverdation of Tribal Research Insti- age of tribal population under tute including accommodation various schemes and initiatives. of staff, scholars and faculty. The programmes related to es-



lation and capacity building of tribal youth was also approved. Other projects and initiatives approved by the PAC include Integrated tribal Village Development planning, impact assessment programme for SCA to TSS and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes, mapping of highland pastures, developpopulation, training and capacity building programmes, tribal festivals, awards for outstanding performers, museum management, exposure visits for tribal students, seminars, workshops and seminars among other projects. Infrastructure

approved in the meeting. Earlier, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, made a detailed presentation about the projects proposed to be initiated by the J&K Tribal Research Institute. He briefed about the inter-sectoral coordination with Universities, Medical Colleges as well as research institutions for establishment of various centres as well as outscreening of Transhumant pop- ies, computer labs, scholarship was also discussed.

ulation migratory tribal popu- and fellowships, research and development projects were also discussed. He emphasised on focus being laid on Research and documentation for professional planning aimed at overall

tribal welfare. Capacity building of PRIs for implementation of Forest Rights Act, Skill Development of educated youth linked to entrepreneurship, training of Self-Help Groups to be financially supported under the Van Dhan Scheme, mission for wider coverage of scholarship scheme, Skilling and entrepreneurship of tribal women, competitive programmes for youth and several other projects proposed by for TRI headquarters was also the TRI J&K were also approved by the PAC.

The meeting also discussed about role to be played by TRI for hand-holding and capacity building of all development and welfare departments for formulation of effective Tribal Sub-Plan as mandated by the Government of India.

Deputy Advisor, NITI Ayog, M Muniraju briefed about support mechanism to be extended by the NITI Ayog for overall tribal welfare in J&K with focus on education. Plan for capacity building of teachers in Smart Schools Project related to Healthcare tablishment of Museum, librar- being developed in tribal areas

13 J&K kids make it to national level exhibition of INSPIRE awards

SRINAGAR: Around 13 students of various government schools from Jammu and Kashmir have made it to the National level exhibition of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) awards for the academic year 2020-21.

The students, who are in the in the age group of 10-15 years, competed in a state wide e-exhibition conducted by the National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF) in collaboration with the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) earlier in January. The scheme, INSPIRE, is one of the flagship programs of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, in the age group of 10-15 years studying in classes 6 to 10. The objective of the scheme. the Inspire website says, is to target one million original ideas/ innovations rooted in science ter a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children. Under this scheme, schools both government and private can nominate 5 best original ideas/ innovations of students through the official INSPIRE website. Giving details of the exhibithe J&K Coordinator of INSPIRE-9th in the series because of the conducted in the offline mode. "For Kashmir division, the



Apportionment of employees of J&K, SKIMS not feasible in Ladakh: MHA

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Kashmir and Union territory of er between J&K and Ladakh , 2019 in respect of substantive and the apportionment in terms Government employees. of section 92 of the Jammu Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in particular.

The MHA was replying to the queries raised in the ongoing session of parliament.

completed the apportionment and allocation of manpower between the UT Ladakh and UT J&K at the Sher-i-Kashmir institutes personnel between the sucof Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura Srinagar in particular, and employees of erstwhile J&K in general and steps taken to com- Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, Sriplete the process. Besides the time by which the Government Healthcare Institute. will be able to complete this apportionment and allocation of manpower to UT Ladakh.

Minister of State (MoS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Nityanand Rai responded to the queries raised in the Lok Sabha. In a written reply to the Parliament, he said the apportion-Union territory of Jammu & the Parliament.

Home Affairs (MHA) Tuesday Ladakh is governed in terms of informed the parliament that Section 89 of the Jammu and there is no equivalent manpow- Kashmir Reorganization Act,

"The apportionment of such and Kashmir Reorganization a category of employees has Act, 2019 may not be feasible been finalized where under at Sher-i-Kashmir institutes of 11189 employees have been apportioned to Union territory of Ladakh," the Union Minister informed the parliament.

He said that further, the apportionment of employees of The queries raised included autonomous bodies, public secwhether the Government has tor undertakings, agencies, etc, is governed in terms of Section 92 of the said Act, which provides for determining the among the employees working modalities for distributing the cessor Union Territories by the concerned bodies. The Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical nagar is an Autonomous Tertiary

"There is no equivalent organization in the UT of Ladakh to

accommodate the employees of the SKIMS and hence, the apportionment of manpower of the employees of the Institute, in terms of Section 92 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, may not be feament of manpower between sible," the MoS said in a reply to

KU Ast Registrar Aspirants Demand Early Exams

SRINAGAR: The aspirants who examination was scheduled to have applied for the post of as- be held on 6 January this year sistant registrar/ assistant con- but it was later postponed due troller examination in University of Kashmir have appealed to authorities to conduct their the varsity statutes, the posts main examination at an earliest. should have been filled within

Aspirants said that the university advertised seven positions of assistant registrar/assison October 24, 2019 and after around two years a notification was issued on 13-08-2021 informing about conducting of preliminary examination.

They said that the preliminary the last week of October 2021 and in the first week of December a provisional merit list was published

merit list was issued, the main now at an earliest.

two years after advertisement but that didn't happen. They requested authorities to tant controller of examination look into the matter and conduct a main examination at an earliest so that they can heave a sigh of relief.

They further added that as per

to the inclement weather.

Meanwhile an officer of the KU said that they have already issued a notification in which examination was conducted in aspirants have been asked to remain in touch with authorities and their main examination will be held soon. He said that due to Covid-19 the process got They said that soon after the delayed but it will be completed

Over 50 Unemployed Youths Detained In Jammu

Govt orders transfer, posting of 4 JKAS officers, one IFS officer report to the General Adminis-

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government of posting. Iammu and Kashmir on Tuesday ordered transfer and posting of four JKAS officers and one IFS officer with immediate effect.

According to an order, in the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bhainterest of administration trans- wan, Katra. fers and postings are hereby or-

Commissioner Revenue in the Jammu Municipal Corporation, is transferred and posted as

tration Department, for further

Sudhir Bali, JKAS, Assistant

Chander

that aims to motivate students cluding 60 from Kashmir and four experts." Communication, and societal applications to fos- of Kashmir, Dr Shabir Ahmad for Kashmir, while as Poonam tion, Sahreen Mushtaq, who is for Jammu. NIF, said the exhibition which is member at both exhibitions. Covid restrictions, could not be dents, out of 10344, had qualiconducted on 17 January and Moti, Mehvish Khaliq, Khushboo a proud moment for all of us.

dered with immediate effect.

As per the order Navneet Singh, IFS, DFO, Doda, is transferred and posted as Additional Chief Executive Officer. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Board.

Naresh Kumar, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan, Katra, is transferred and posted as Joint Director in the Direc- is recalled and posted as Deputy torate of Information, I&K, vice Director (Audio-Visual) in the Irshad Ahmad, JKAS, who shall Directorate of Information, J&K.

uty Director (Audio Visual) in the Directorate of Information, J&K, is transferred and posted as Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

Deepak Dubey, JKAS, Deputy Chier Executive officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board,

Protest in Poonch Against Delimitation Panel Proposal

decisions by the Delimita- different villages of area and tion Commission as devoid of leaders affiliated with different ground situation, topography political parties participated. and public aspirations, a protest was held at Mandi tehsil headquarter in Poonch district by limitation commission as "unthe people against the Commis- acceptable and devoid of ground sion's recommendations made realities and situation." in its second draft report.

mim Ahmed Ganai, former leg- appealed Election Commission islator SM Tantray and others to start the exercise in a fresh took part in a protest rally that level and to examine ground powas organised in Mandi town in sitions properly.

POONCH: Terming the proposed which a number of people from The protesters termed the

proposed decisions by the de-

They demanded immediate BDC Chairman Mandi, Sha- roll back of draft proposal and

for Jammu, 19 January," Sahreen Riyaz, Khushboo Jabar, Mubashir said. "A total of 116 students in- Ramzan, Mohammed Adeel Allam are from Kashmir division 56 from Jammu exhibited their while as Lata Devi, Mahsoom original ideas/innovations which Fatima, Mahima Kaur Sodhi, Iswere scrutinized by a jury of mat Kousar, Shabina Akhtar and Vansh Kumar belonged to Jam-Professor Electronics and mu division."

University The selected students, she said, would further be mentored Parra, Professor Mohammad by a team of experts from NIT Ashraf Shah, HOD Physics, Naand other institutions to have tional Institute of Technology their ideas/innovations im-(NIT) Srinagar acted as Judges proved upon.

Extremely delighted over their Sharma, HOD District Institute selection to the national level of Education and Training (DIET) exhibition, Principal Secretary, Jammu and Arsh Kour, Lecturer School Education, B K Singh, at DIET Jammu, acted as judges congratulated the students.

"It's important that our chil-Sahreen also sat as a jury dren learn to embrace the spirit of experimentation and have fun "Earlier, a total of 1123 stuwith science," Singh said.

Director SCERT, Prof Veena fied for the district level exhibi- Pandita, said the important tion out of which 116 made it milestone achieved by the stu-State Level Exhibition and Proj- to the state level," Sahreen in- dents after successfully competect Competition (SLEPC) was formed. "Danish Javid, Basit Ali ing at the district and UT level, is

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Over 50 youths were detained Tuesday after they blocked the vital Tawi bridge in the heart of the city, demanding the early conduct of written examination for the posts of Jammu and Kashmir Police Border Battalion advertised in 2019. officials said.

The protesters were also angry over the recent re-advertiserecruitment board and demanded its withdrawal, they said.

Hundreds of aspirants including women seeking recruitment in police border battalion appeared at Dogra chowk and later blocked the Tawi bridge on Jammu-Airport road for nearly two hours, causing massive traf-

charge before detaining over 50 protesters.

Earlier on January 27, the bor-Raghav Langer and apprised him vention in saving their future.

that they had applied for the post of head constable advertised by J-K Police recruitment Board in 2019 and appeared in physical and medical tests.

They expressed concern over the re-advertisement notice issued by the board for recruitment of head constables in the border battalion and demanded withdrawal of the same, besides seeking early conduct of the written examination of already ment of the posts by the police qualified candidates as per 2019 advertisement notice.

The protesting unemployed youth said they have been waiting for the last three years for the conduct of written tests but were surprised by the fresh advertisement notice.

It is a grave injustice we have been waiting for the written exfic jam in the city, the officials amination and some of us have said, adding police rushed to already crossed the age-limit the scene and used mild baton now, one of the protesters said, as he was being whisked away by police.

The protesters said they der battalion aspirants submit- would continue their protest for ted a memorandum to the di- justice, requesting Lieutenant visional commissioner, Jammu, Governor Manoj Sinha's inter-

Girl commits suicide in Ganderbal GANDERBAL: A 17-year-old girl

ш $\mathbf{\mathbf{x}}$ 4

S



Sources said that the girl (name withheld) consumed some poisonous substance at her home and was immediately rushed to nearby hospital where from she was referred to SKIMS Soura in a critical condition where she succumbed.

committed suicide by consuming

poisonous substance at her home

in Ganiwan Kangan area of Cen-

The official said that it was not known as to why she took this extreme step-(KNO)

DDC Vice Chairman Shopian tours Berthipora

SHOPIAN: The Vice Chairman, Dis- at PHC which has been a long trict Development Council (DDC) Shopian, Irfan Manhas today toured Berthipora and adjoining areas of Tehsil Keller. He also paid surprise assess the quality of health services and patient care.

the hospital and pointed out the manner. improvement areas. A few paramedical staff were found unauthorizedly absent from duty and explanation in this regard was sought from higher authorities.

cals demanded a female doctor detailed enquiry.

pending issue especially for the women of the area. He assured that all genuine demands including transformers for the hospivisit to Berthipora Health Centre to tal and systematic functioning of the health centre would be taken up with higher authorities Manhas inspected all sections of and completed in a time bound

Manhas also visited the Veterinary Center in the area and met the concerned staff. An official was found absent from duty and was attached with the office of Chief Ani-During the inspection, lo- mal Husbandry Officer Shopian till

7 injured in **Rajouri accident**

Rajouri: At least seven passengers travelling in a bus were injured after an ill-fated vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in

Ramban district on Tuesday. According to reports, the accident of bus bearing registration number IK02A-3187 took place at Thangrote in Teryath tehsil of Rajouri district.

Seven passengers were injured in the accident including Jameet Singh, Sushma Devi, Supria Devi, Jameer Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Shashi kumari and Kamal Singh.

Police said that all the injured have been shifted to Teryath hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

Govt cracks whip on unregulated sale of Acid

SRINAGAR: To prevent easy availabil- were sealed for violating the Supreme ity of sale of acid in Srinagar, the Dis- Court directions besides selling district Administration Sringar Tuesday launched a massive drive across the City and sealed over a dozen shops involved in illegal selling of the acid.

The drive was launched on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad in pursuant to the directions of Supreme Court of India in order dated 18.07.2013 in W.P(Cr.) NO. 129 of 2016, Laxmi Vs Union of India & others regarding sale of acid/corrosive substances in all Tehsils of the City including Eidgah, Shalteng, Panthachowk, South Srinagar, Chanpora and North Tehsil of the district.

tilled water/ acid without licence. Some shopkeepers had not also maintained the inventory register for its sale.

Meanwhile, in the wake of recent horrifying acid attack in Srinagar, the District Magistrate has constituted a Surveillance Task Force comprising of Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and Senior Officers of Police & Civil Administration of district to regulate the sale of acid/corrosive substances and conduct a survey regarding unauthorized/unregulated and illegal sale of acid in Srinagar district as an immediate remedial measure to fix the responsibility.

During the drive, as many as 13 shops

Kashmir Observer® 06

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 Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2106304 Editorial: (0194) 2502327 Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Revival Of Tourism

efore the third Covid wave broke out in January, Kashmir witnessed an inflow of 2.5 lakh tourists in November and December, most of them visiting Gulmarg and Srinagar. Tourist footfall was between 4,000 and 5,500 per day in the two months. According to the tourism department, the occupancy of the hotels in Gulmarg had gone up to nearly 100 percent, so was that of the houseboats in Srinagar and other places like Pahalgam. Snowfall in the Valley has always been a big draw for tourists which is a novelty for most people in mainland India. Also, with international travel continuing to be barred, Kashmir has become the preferred destination for tourists in the country. More so, in the winter when unlike most parts of mainland India, it snows in Kashmir.

The surge in the tourist rush began in October itself when around 93,000 tourists visited the Valley. Overall, six lakh tourist footfalls have been recorded in Kashmir in 2021. In 2020, 4.1 lakh tourists had visited Kashmir amid the then runaway pandemic. These are glad tidings for the sector otherwise battered by the turmoil following the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019 and the subsequent Covid-19 pandemic.

But in January, the spike in fresh Covid infections, this time triggered by a new virus mutant Omicron. The number of tourists who visited the Valley in January came down to 35000. Also, there was also some opposition in the Valley to the encouragement of the tourist arrivals in the midst of a full-blown Omicron wave.

Now with the Omicron wave winding down, tourists could be hoped to return. Tourism is one of the mainstays of the Kashmir economy. And the return of tourists to the Valley in large numbers would be a positive development. And to this end, the administration has already taken steps to protect the Valley as a safe destination. This has involved a two-pronged strategy: one, vaccination of the people associated with the tourism. Second, strict enforcement of the SOPs to ensure the safety of the tourists during their stay in the Valley. The administration has already carried out vaccination drives at tourist destinations.

Tourism has the potential to shore up our beleaguered economy. Here's hoping that things improve from hereon. The waning pandemic wave is once again creating conditions for unhindered tourism in the Valley. This is also the hope of the people associated with the tourist sector. They expect the third wave to blow over soon so that the tourists continue pouring into Kashmir and help resuscitate the economy and generate jobs.

What A Waste!

Dodge The Scientific Waste Management Laxity To Control Dog Menace



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

zan, a 10-year old boy from Gund-elbrahim village in Pattan North Kashmir was mauled to death by stray dogs recently. Local residents of Pattan and surrounding villages are protesting against the authorities as they failed to take up scientific waste management in the area which has resulted in huge increase in stray dog population. The locals allege that municipal authorities in Pattan have failed to set up a scientific waste management site with the result solid waste generated from Pattan town especially the poultry waste , food waste and other kinds butchery waste collected from the main market is dumped unscientifically in nearby villages.

Azan was attacked near Singhpora Jheel bridge on Sunday afternoon, when he was walking on the roadside and suddenly a group of stray dogs attacked him. Media reports say that the little boy was badly injured and died within no time. The residents of several villages living around Srinagar-Baramulla highway protested at Singhpora. Every protester blamed unscientific waste disposal as the main cause of increase in dog population which is threatening the lives of pedestrians.

Before this incident, some months back, another boy was mauled to death by stray dogs in Baramulla. In December 2020, a noted lawyer from Deewanbagh Baramulla Abdul Majeed Rather was also mauled to death by stray dogs. The middle aged lawyer was on a routine morning walk when stray dogs attacked him. He was badly injured and after 21 days he died at SMHS hospital Srinagar due to multiple organ failure.

Waste management not a priority of Govt

For more than 6 years. I have been writing and

drop of a High Court order wherein the then Chief Justice of J&K High Court Geeta Mittal had directed the J&K Chief Secretary to listen to our suggestions on scientific waste management in J&K. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) had been filed in the High Court by EPG for scientific waste management in J&K both in urban and rural areas. The meeting was attended by the administrative secretaries of housing and urban development department (HUDD) & the department of Environment & Forests as well.

Inhouse composting of waste

I urged upon the Chief Secretary and his administrative secretaries to enforce implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2016 in letter and spirit. When CS asked me how could the pressure on landfill sites in Srinagar and Jammu or other towns in J&K be reduced, I responded with the suggestion that all those people who have land available around their houses be directed to compost the food and other biodegradable waste within the house by making compost pits or using plastic or



G SRINAGAR CITY IS surrounded by water-bodies and wetlands. There are not even 100 kanals of wasteland available where a new landfill site could be set up

and J&K cabinet has not been implemented. It is the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) which is solely responsible for not adhering to the cabinet order of 23rd October 2017. The department is also responsible for not respecting NGT's order followed by a Govt order.

The NGT came to the conclusion of directing the J & K Government to set up waste to energy plants after several rounds of deliberations and discussions. NGT had constituted some expert committees for providing a solution to Srinagar's solid waste problem. If the government, like several waste management experts, had disagreements with the waste to energy projects, why did the J&K cabinet give a nod to the NGT's direction?

Srinagar city is sitting on a literal volcano of waste. The existing landfill site at Achan is like a man made volcano which can explode any time as methane gas is getting accumulated under huge garbage cells. This landfill has been choked completely and SMC continues to dump 400 to 450 metric tons of municipal solid waste at the site on a regular basis. This is not only unscientific but also very dangerous.

The main challenge for managing solid waste in Srinagar or even Kashmir valley is the dearth of landfill sites. Srinagar city is surrounded by water-bodies and wetlands. There are not even 100 kanals of wasteland available where a new landfill site could be set up. We are not like Bhopal or Indore city where there is huge land availability .The municipal corporations in these cities indeed manage the waste scientifically by following MSW Rules 2016 but these cities have a great benefit of having huge landfill sites as well.

Rural Waste Management

Managing solid and liquid waste is no more a privilege for the people living in urban areas. Now the rural population also has been given this facil-ity under the national flagship programme Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G). Pertinent to mention that Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin guidelines of 2014 and revised guidelines of 2017 had a provision of solid and liquid waste management programme in rural areas but as States and Union Territories (UT's) had more challenging issues like countering open defecation, the same got delayed. Finally in 2019 SBM-II was launched at national level also known as Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF Plus) programme. The ODF Plus again got a setback due to the outbreak of COVID 19 in March 2020. Finally by the end of 2020 the work on ODF-Plus was taken up and some projects on solid and liquid waste management were taken up in some states and UTs. The programme is being implemented in a phased manner across rural India. To ensure vaste is not a useless entity coined for it. Now the waste is called resource and that is the reason that under SBM-Gramin updated guidelines this programme is now called Solid Liquid Resource Management (SLRM). The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation which is the nodal Ministry for rural waste management under SBM-Gramin has already provided around Rs 100 Crores to Jammu & Kashmir for taking up waste management projects in J&K. It is now almost a year since the funding has been provided but unfortunately not even a single project on rural waste management in any part of Jammu & Kashmir has been taken up. Due to non availability of scientific waste management programmes in rural areas, the plastic and other solid waste has choked not irrigation canals, lakes , streams , rivers and even forests. Due to continuous population growth and sudden surge in use of packed food material and diapers in rural areas of Kashmir from the last 10 to 15 years, the plastic waste generation has increased manifold in rural areas of Kashmir. Even in remote villages one can see huge quantities of plastic waste most of which is not at all recyclable like packaging material, diapers, sanitary napkins, thermocol packaging material etc. This huge waste accumulation is giving rise to the stray dog population in rural areas.

OTHER OPINON

Her Right To Learn

B y backing the "ban" on wearing the hijab to colleges, the BJP government in Karnataka violates the fundamental freedoms of students – and promotes an exclusionary code of public behaviour. Instead of finding ways to defuse the confrontation between an Udupi college and its students, the state government has doubled down and invoked provisions of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, and directed colleges to ensure that "clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public law and order should not be worn". This is dubious framing – and one that does not stand the test of the Constitution, which guarantees citizens the right to equality, the right to education, and the right to practise their religion.

The potential consequence of the Karnataka action could be to force young women, who face enormous odds to reach the gates of schools and colleges, to retreat from classrooms to the confines of their homes or religious institutions. The BJP's much-vaunted commitment to girls' education (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao) and the rights of minority women that it championed in the legislation against triple talaq rings hollow when its government can so recklessly risk the hard-fought gains of educating Muslim girls. The common sense of coexistence by which millions of Indians live their lives shares nothing with the hardline secularism of, say, the French republic. Here, secular spaces like schools and colleges regularly see displays of religiosity. Wearing religion on the sleeve - from the woman on the street to the highest functionaries of the government (though the state must be held to higher standards of neutrality) - is part and parcel of daily life. Ironically, the BJP often dismisses secularism as an affectation of the ancien regime it has uprooted. That a dispute over a uniform can lead to colleges shutting out students of a community suggests that even the pretext of secularism is being weaponised to target minorities. The discriminatory logic of such a polarising campaign was evident in a Kundapura college, which allowed protesting women students inside the campus but herded them into separate classrooms. The Indian republic's success in resolving the competing claims on public spaces and resources from various communities might be up for debate, but it has never been guilty of sanctioning a segregation of spaces. Separate can never be equal in a democracy.

Courts have spoken on the rights of an individual, the rights of a community and the freedom of choice. It is up to the courts again to step in and draw the line. The anti-hijab campaign may be part of a larger agenda of polarisation in coastal Karnataka where the ruling BJP has ratcheted up anti-Muslim, anti-Christian rhetoric and the Congress has abdicated and even ceded space to hardline groups. Children at the barricades of their schools and colleges facing off over identity, being herded into separate rooms, doesn't deepen democracy, it aggravates many a risk. The hope is that the court, the custodian of rights, takes note.

The Indian Express

researching a lot on solid and liquid waste management in Jammu & Kashmir. I can say with authority that in spite of Kashmir valley or even Jammu division having been choked with plastic and other kinds of waste, the Govt officials are not taking it seriously. All civic work requires more investment and maintenance in the mountains due to harsh climatic conditions and limited land, and this is even more challenging when it comes to addressing the issue of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). In Jammu & Kashmir, this simple truth was ignored for many years.

In the 2019-20, annual budget only Rs 40 million was allocated for waste management in Jammu & Kashmir for 91 urban local bodies (municipal committees and councils). Out of the total budget allocation of Rs 4.64 billion, 80-90 % funds were kept available for civil works by the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies in Srinagar and Jammu and not even 15% of the budget is allocated for solid waste management (SWM). On the other hand, the government in its action plan on SWM issued vide Government Order No: 25-HUD of 2019 Dated 21.01.2019 said that 25% of the budget allocation to urban local bodies is spent on waste management. I have not come across a single municipal institution in J&K where scientific waste management policy is being followed as mandated under MSW Rules 2016.

On February 15, 2017, a Srinagar-based newspaper reported that there was no alternate site available for creating a new landfill in Srinagar. Former Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh, while responding to a question from local legislator of Eid Gah Srinagar Mubarak Gul, said on the floor of the J&K Assembly that a committee was constituted to look for land to create a new landfill site but the committee headed by District Development Commissioner Srinagar could not find suitable land in and around Srinagar. If drastic measures are not taken to address the issue of unscientific waste management, the Kashmir valley will turn into a trash bowl as plastic and other waste is constantly dumped into Kashmir's water bodies like lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Most of the wetlands and lakes plus deep drains have become choked and this is resulting in constant waterlogging during rain and snowfall. Civic authorities who are supposed to implement MSW Rules 2016 are themselves involved in dumping municipal waste in wetlands, water bodies and open spaces.

Meeting with Chief Secretary in 2018

On December 17th 2018, I along with senior members of Environmental Policy Group (EPG), had a detailed meeting with the then Chief Secretary B V R Subramanhyam at Civil Secretariat Jammu. The meeting was organized in the back-

disposal as the main cause of increase in dog population which is threatening the lives of pedestrians

steel drums to process that waste. I also suggested that municipal sanitation staff be given clear direction not to lift food waste from those households having 8 marlas (2178 sq feet) or more land around their house. The Chief Secretary after closing his eyes for a while told me whether the suggested model was being followed in any state or country ? I told him "let J&K be the role model for other states or countries by making in-house composting mandatory and let it become a public movement "

After more than 3 years of that meeting with CS, we have made no progress at all and the situation is going from bad to worse. I can't blame Mr B V R Subramiyam for having failed to address the issue. The situation from 2019 has not been conducive at all, but from last 1 year the Govt is not taking any steps for scientific waste management. Lots of money has also been provided by the Govt now for waste management but nobody knows what are the priorities of the Govt ?

Waste to Energy plant in Srinagar

On October 23rd 2017, Jammu & Kashmir cabinet gave a nod for setting up of a waste to energy plant in Srinagar. The plant which was to be constructed under the public private partnership (PPP) at Achan Saidapora landfill site is supposed to generate 5 megawatt of electricity on a daily basis from 5 metric tons of solid waste. The company which was allotted the project had to invest Rs 120 crores and would thus get the ownership rights of this plant for a period of 25 years. The whole project was based on the build-own-operate and transfer model (BOOT). Around 5 years back, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) passed an order directing the Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir to ensure compliance to the cabinet order dated October 23rd 2017, on setting up of the waste to energy plant. The NGT which had been hearing the petition on Achan landfill site from 2013 onwards in the matter of Dr Irfan Ahmad and others v/s Nawang Rigzin Jora the then J&K Housing and Urban Development Minister in its order had said,

"We make it clear that we will not grant any further time on any ground whatsoever as it merely an administrative compliance now"

It is now almost 5 years, yet the order of the NGT

Conclusion

Last year's observance on World Environment Day (June 5) was based on the theme of 'ecosystem restoration' and focuses on resetting our relation with nature. This marked the formal launch of the UN decade on ecosystem restoration. Big and small nations have different plans for the next 10 years on ecological restoration. An ecologically sensitive place like Jammu & Kashmir needs a special push for eco-restoration in the next 10 years. The situation is more demanding in Kashmir valley. Our rivers, lakes, glaciers, and forests are under severe threat. The stray dog population is on rise and now our people are getting killed by dog attacks. In such a situation Govt officials can't remain the mute spectators. They must come forward and take up projects on waste management in rural and urban areas of Jammu & Kashmir. Scientific waste management will not only give us respite from solid and liquid waste but this will decrease the attacks by stray dogs on the human population as well.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder and Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement





ROUT, BEING A CARNIVORE FISH, REQUIRES a high protein percentage of 40-50 percent for different age groups, and a fat percentage generally higher than 12 percent.

Trout Fish Farming The Way Forward

Haziq Qayoom Lone

lthough five species of the trout fish were tried for cultural practices in Kashmir, most failed either at the stage of breeding e.g., Splake trout (which failed to breed after the stock maturation -- eventually the whole stock perished) or at the stage of embryo formation in the egg, e.g., Sebago salmon. The Eastern brook trout did find its feet in Kashmir in sparse numbers, thanks to the low hatching success. And hence the spread of its culture was always close to zenith. Brown trout, which require better water quality conditions with higher oxygen requirements and lower temperatures proved difficult for culture in the flow through systems across Kashmir. The only species of trout that flourished left, right and center in Kashmir is the rainbow trout. Known for its relative 'hardy' nature, the fish tolerate lower oxygen levels and temperatures up to 25°C for longer periods of time. The fish received its own identity in the cold water fisheries of the Indian subcontinent, especially in the countries like India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan. Kashmir remains second to none in the production in India.

Although sufficient, the trout production in Kashmir is far less than the realized production potential. The main reason being flunked market structure and thin market channel within and outside Kashmir. The government of India must try and facilitate the marketing of trout fish into mainland India by creating a channel that can function from every district of Kashmir to the well-off neighboring UTs/states, such as Delhi, Chandigarh. This extension can later be taken directly from the trout villages as the villages exist in close proximity to each other, usually in the uplands. This will surely encourage more farmers to take up the initiative and become trout growers.

A huge cluster of Indian population is unaware about the name rainbow trout, let alone the benefits of eating it. The majority of the restaurants in Kashmir do not serve trout, let alone other



G RESTAURANT OWNERS AS WELL AS THE GROWERS must be encouraged to serve trout on the table. They could be encouraged to pin-up the posters and pamphlets stating the factual information about trout meat and its benefits. In fact, the Department of Fisheries, Jammu and Kashmir can play a big role in it, by using their extension agents

states of India. Restaurant owners as well as the growers must be encouraged to serve trout on the table. They could be encouraged to pin-up the posters and pamphlets stating the factual information about trout meat and its benefits. In fact, the Department of Fisheries, Jammu and Kashmir can play a big role in it, by using their

extension agents.

Better quality of trout feed is yet another issue that can seriously change the dynamics of trout farming in Kashmir. There should be transparency of the feed composition from the government feed mills. Many trout farmers of Kashmir complain about less growth, a culture period that extends more than 12 months. More so, there are other problems like feed spoilage during storage as well as feed wastage in the form of 'dust'.

Trout, being a carnivore fish, requires a high pro-tein percentage of 40-50 percent for different age groups, and a fat percentage generally higher than 12 percent. The pelleted floating feeds have shown promise in the experiments run by the DCFR at Uttrakhand. If these conditions are met, this can reduce the culture time period by 3-4 months. An optimum of 10 percent moisture in trout feeds will reduce the chances of spoilage and increase the longevity of the fish feed. Not only will such a standardization of feeds increase the growth rates of fish, reduce the chances of fungal attack in feeds and hence eventual loss to the farmer, but it will also reduce his dependence on private fish feed companies, that sell the feeds to them at a higher costs. The storage feed depots could also set up in far-flung areas at common meeting places that can provide feeds to the farmers from time to time, of the adjoining districts.

Other models like leaf protein concentrates can be brought up in practice as they have been successfully tested both in carp and trout diets. Water pipe partitioning into two (one at the in let, and second at the midway of the raceway) and small shady areas can be made in the trout raceways, that will let fish have more freedom for oxygen, and diurnal freedom, prevention from the solar UV. The stress lowered in fish by such little adjustments can be a pathbreaking in controlling the disease of the fish.

Its high time that the government of Jammu and Kashmir realises that Kashmir fisheries' future lies in its professional candidates that study a fouryear degree program as Bachelors of Fisheries Science (BFSc) and a two-three year degree program Masters in Fisheries Science(MFSc). The inclusion of students with Zoology background in graduation/ masters into the fisheries department, really begs a question of justice.

> The author is studied M.F.Sc from the G.B.P.U.A.T Uttrakhand

'DON'T LOOK UP': Hollywood's Primer On Climate Denial Illustrates 5 Myths That Fuel Rejection Of Science

Gale Sinatra - Barbara K. Hofer

very disaster movie seems to open with a scientist being ignored. "Don't Look Up" is no exception – in fact, people ignoring or flat out denying scientific evidence is the point.

Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence play astronomers who make a literally Earth-shattering discovery and then try to persuade the president to take action to save humanity. It's a satire that explores how individuals, scientists, the media and politicians respond when faced with scientific facts that are uncomfortable, threatening and inconvenient.

The movie is an allegory for climate change, showing how those with the power to do something about global warming willfully avoid taking action and how those with vested interests can mislead the public. But it also reflects science denial more broadly, including what the world has been seeing with COVID-19.

The most important difference between the film's premise and humanity's actual looming crisis is that while individuals may be powerless against a comet, everyone can act decisively to stop fueling climate change. Knowing the myths that feed science denial can help.

As research psychologists and the authors of "Science Denial: Why It Happens and What to Do About It", we recognize these aspects of science denial all too well.

Myth #1: We can't act unless the science is 100% certain

The first question President Orlean (Meryl Streep) asks the scientists after they explain that a comet is on a collision course with Earth is, "So how certain is this?" Learning that the certitude is 99.78%, the president's chief of staff (Jonah Hill) responds with relief: "Oh great, so it's not 100%!" Government scientist Teddy Oglethorpe (Rob Morgan) replies, "Scientists never like to say 100%."



This reluctance to claim 100% certainty is a strength of science. Even when the evidence points clearly in one direction, scientists keep exploring to learn more. At the same time, they recognize overwhelming evidence and act on it. The evidence is overwhelming that Earth's climate is changing in dangerous ways because of human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, and it has been overwhelming for many years. When politicians take a "let's wait and see"

attitude toward climate change (or "sit tight and assess," as the movie puts it), suggesting they need more evidence before taking any action, it's often a form of science denial.

Myth #2: Disturbing realities as described by scientists are too difficult for the public to accept

The title phrase, "Don't Look Up," portrays this psychological assumption and how some politicians conveniently use it as an excuse for inaction while promoting their own interests. Anxiety is a growing and understandable psychological response to climate change. Research shows there are strategies people can use to effectively cope with climate anxiety, such as becoming better informed and talking about the problem with others. This gives individuals a way to manage anxiety while at the same time taking actions to lower the risks.

A 2021 international study found that 80% of individuals are indeed willing to make changes in how they live and work to help reduce the effects of climate change.

Myth #3: Technology will save us, so we don't have to act

Often, individuals want to believe in an outcome they prefer, rather than confront reality known to be true, a response that psychologists call motivated reasoning. For example, belief that a single technological solution, such as carbon capture, will fix the climate crisis without the need for change in policies, lifestyles and practices may be more grounded in hope than reality. Technology can help reduce our impact on the climate; however, research suggests advances are unlikely to come quickly enough. Hoping for such solutions diverts attention from significant changes needed in the way we work, live and play, and is a form of science denial.

AS SCHOLARS WHO WORK TO HELP PEOPLE

make sound decisions about complex problems, we encourage people to consume news and science information from sources outside their own identity group.

Myth #4: The economy is more important than anything, including impending crises predicted by science

Taking action to slow climate change will be expensive, but not acting has extraordinary costs – in lives lost as well as property. Consider the costs of recent Western wildfires. Boulder County, Colorado, lost nearly 1,000 homes to a fire on Dec. 30, 2021, after a hot, dry summer and fall and little recent rain or snow. A study of California's fires in 2018 – another hot, dry year – when the town of Paradise burned, estimated the damage, including health costs and economic disruption, at about \$148.5 billion. When people say we can't take action because action is expensive, they are in denial of the cost of inaction.

Myth #5: Our actions should always align with our social identity group

In a politically polarized society, individuals may feel pressured to make decisions based on what their social group believes. In the case of beliefs about science, this can have dire consequences – as the world has seen with the COVID-19 pandemic. In the U.S. alone, more than 825,000 people with COVID-19 have died while powerful identity groups actively discourage people from getting vaccines or taking other precautions that could protect them.

Viruses are oblivious to political affiliation, and so is the changing climate. Rising global temperatures, worsening storms and sea level rise will affect everyone in harm's way, regardless of the person's social group.

How to combat science denial – and climate change

A comet headed for Earth might leave little for individuals to do, but this is not the case with climate change. People can change their own practices to reduce carbon emissions and, importantly, pressure leaders in government, business and industry to take actions, such as reducing fossil fuel use, converting to cleaner energy and changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions.

In our book, we discuss steps that individuals, educators, science communicators and policymakers can take to confront the science denial that prevents moving forward on this looming issue. For example:

- Individuals can check their own motivations and beliefs about climate change and remain open minded to scientific evidence.
- Educators can teach students how to source scientific information and evaluate it.
- Science communicators can explain not just what scientists know but how they know it.
- Policymakers can make decisions based on scientific evidence.

As scholars who work to help people make sound decisions about complex problems, we encourage people to consume news and science information from sources outside their own identity group. Break out of your social bubble and listen to and talk with others. Look up.

The authors are Professor of Education and Psychology, University of Southern California and Professor of Psychology Emerita respectively. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

LIFE & TIMES



Love For Nature Is Partially Heritable, Suggests Study

Agencies

Here and taking a quiet stroll there, with nothing but the sound of birds? Did our parents do the same thing when they were young? According to a large-scale study of UK twins led by Chia-chen Chang at the National University of Singapore, a person's appreciation of nature and their tendency to visit natural spaces are heritable characteristics.

It was published in the open-access journal 'PLOS Biology'.

Researchers surveyed 1153 pairs of twins on the Twins UK registry about how they experience nature, asking them to rate their familiarity with and desire to be in nature, and how frequently they visit natural spaces such as public parks and private gardens.

They found that identical (monozygotic) twins, who shared almost 100 per cent of their genes, were more similar to each other in their orientation towards nature and how frequently they visited nature compared to fraternal (dizygotic) twins, who shared around 50 per cent of their genetic material. Heritability ranged from 46 per cent for nature orientation to 34 per cent for frequency of garden visits, suggesting a moderate influence of genetics over how people experience nature.

However, environmental factors explained more than half of the differences between individuals. People living in urban environments tended to have less nature experiences, due to for example limited access to gardens, highlighting the importance of availability in shaping nature-seeking behaviours. Heritability also declined with age, suggesting that genetics may become less influential as people age and experience a unique set of environmental conditions.

Spending time in natural spaces has been found to improve mental well-being, but different people

experience and benefit from nature differently. This study provided the first evidence for a genetic component to both our predispositions towards nature and our tendency to visit natural spaces. Nature-oriented people may actively seek out nature even if it means traveling from their home, but diverse urban planning is needed to provide access to natural spaces and the benefits they offer for all, the authors said.

"Spending time in nature links to better health and wellbeing," added Chang. "A twin study shows that a person's desire to be in nature and how often they experience it are influenced by both genes and personal experiences."

Researchers Identify New Way To Amplify Trustworthy News On Social Media Without Shielding Bias

Pandemic Widens Screening Gap Among Non Covid Diseases, Including Cancer

Agencies

t is a known fact that news, be it real or fake, spreads like wildfire on social media. Social media sites amplify misinformation and conspiracy theories. To address this concern, an interdisciplinary team of computer scientists, physicists and social scientists led by the University of South Florida (USF) has found a solution to ensure social media users are exposed to more reliable news sources.

In their study published in the journal 'Nature Human Behaviour', the researchers focused on the recommendation algorithm that is used by social media platforms to prioritize content displayed to users.

Rather than measuring engagement based on the number of users and pageviews, the researchers looked at what content gets amplified on a newsfeed, focusing on a news source's reliability score and the political diversity of their audience.

"Low-quality content is engaging because it conforms to what we already know and like, regardless of whether it is accurate or not," said Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia, assistant professor of computer science and engineering at USF. "As a result, misinformation and conspiracy theories often go viral within likeminded audiences. The algorithm ends up picking the wrong signal and keeps promoting it further. To break this cycle, one should look for content that is engaging, but for a diverse audience, not for a like-minded one."

In collaboration with researchers at Indiana University and Dartmouth College, the team created a new algorithm using data on the web traffic and self-reported partisanship of 6,890 individuals who reflect the diversity of the United States in sex, race and political affiliation. The data was provided by online polling company YouGov. They also reviewed the reliability scores of 3,765 news sources based on the New Guard Reliability Index, which rates news



Low-quality content is engaging because it conforms to what we already know and like, regardless of whether it is accurate or not," said Giovanni Luca Ciampaglia, assistant professor of computer science and engineering at USF. "As a result, misinformation and conspiracy theories often go viral within like-minded audiences. The algorithm ends up picking the wrong signal and keeps promoting it further. To break this cycle, one should look for content that is engaging, but for a diverse audience, not for a like-minded one

sources on several journalistic criteria, such as editorial responsibility, accountability and financial transparency.

They found that incorporating the partisan diversity of a news audience can increase the reliability of recommended sources while still providing users with relevant recommendations. Since the algorithm isn't exclusively based on engagement or popularity, it is still able to promote reliable sources, regardless of their partisanship.

"This is especially welcome news for social media platforms, especially since they have been reluctant of introducing changes to their algorithms for fear of criticism about partisan bias," said coauthor Filippo Menczer, distinguished Luddy professor of informatics and computer science at Indiana University.

Researchers said that platforms would easily be able to include audience diversity into their own recommendation algorithms because diversity measures can be derived from engagement data, and platforms already log this type of data whenever users click "like" or share something on a newsfeed. Ciampaglia and his colleagues propose social media platforms adopt this new strategy in order to help prevent the spread of misinformation.

Agencies

he ongoing Covid pandemic has disrupted healthcare systems globally leading to widening the gap between treatment and patient care of non-Covid disease including cancer. Cancer is a major contributor to the disease burden worldwide. Several studies have projected that the global cancer burden will continue to grow for at least next two decades.

The Covid pandemic has undoubtedly delayed the cancer screenings, diagnosis, and treatment around the world. The cancer cases in India increased at an average annual rate of 1.1-2 per cent from 2010-2019, and deaths in the country also went up at an average rate of 0.1-1 per cent in the same period, according to the analysis by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington School of Medicine.

The new cancer patients registration, follow up for old patients and surgery had recorded considerable decline in India between March and May 2020, compared to the same period in 2019 as per a Lancet study of May 2021. The ambidirectional cohort study was conducted at 41 cancer centres across India that were members of the National Cancer Grid of India to compare provision of oncology services between March 1 and May 31, 2020, with the same time period in 2019.

A total of 54 per cent reduction was recorded in the new patients registration between this period. The number of new patients registered decreased from 1,12,270 to 51,760 between March 1 and May 31, 2020, as per the study. On the same line, a total of 46 per cent reduction, from 6,34,745 to 3,40,984 patients, was registered in the number of patients who had follow-up visits to the hospital.

Dr Anshuman Kumar, Delhi based cancer specialist, told IANS that in the absence of decentralised cancer care centres in India, the patients have largely been ignored in the first and second Covid wave. "Patients coming from rural areas of different states were stopped to visit for follow-up and even for first time treatment as all transport communication channels was closed. All of sudden, premier health institutions like AIIMS and others started refusing patient admissions other than Covid which impacted the cancer care in India adversely.

Highlighting the Lancet study, he said

that 54 per cent reduction in the new patients registration among 41 cancer care centers nationwide was due to the illogical decision of shutting doors of premier health institution for non Covid patients.



According to a study from AIIMS Oncology department, total 51 per cent reduction was recorded in new case registration in OPD and around one third reduction was noticed in the cancer surgeries. The Lancet study points out that the hospital admissions decreased from 88,801 to 56,885 (36 per cent reduction) and outpatient chemotherapy decreased from 1,73,634 to 1,09,107 (37 per cent reduction) in 41 cancer centres.

These reductions were even more marked between April and May, 2020. Cancer screening was stopped completely or was functioning at less than 25 per cent of usual capacity at more than 70 per cent of centres during these months, the study said.

The ongoing Covid pandemic has also impacted adversely the research and development in the cancer. "The COVID pandemic has impeded the R&D of cancer treatment in 3 ways. Firstly, patient enrolment in oncology clinical trials of chemotherapeutic drugs has gone down. Second, the trials of modes of administering these therapies also got impacted adversely. Oncotherapy medicines have to be protected from Bacterial Contamination and the health care worker (HCW) has to be protected from getting chemically contaminated by these drugs. Trials of advanced closed system transfer devices got stalled. Thirdly, R&D in Oncology also suffered as there was also a conscious effort by many cancer researchers to focus their effort on Covid," said Pavan Choudary, Chairman Medical Technology Association of India.

BUSINESS

CS Launches Integrated **Tourism Portal Of JK**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday launched the integrated web portal of the Tourism department which shall provide a one stop solution for tourists and visitors

The web portal will provide all the information related to tourism in Jammu and Kashmir including its allied agencies like Tourism Development Authorities, J & K Cable Car Corporation, J & K Tourism Development Corporation, Golf Courses etc and shall be available to the users under a single window. The web portal will have provision for online bookings and operator registration for tourists.

While launching the web portal, the Chief Secretary said that providing best services to Cable Car Corporation, Muhamthe people should be the focus of the department. He said the primary aim of launching the portal has been to facilitate tourists in their enquiries about destinations, services and products. In this regard he directed the concerned to keep checking and reporting how many users and other officers attended the are actually using the portal and meeting from Jammu.

doing booking and registration of hotels through the portal.

Through the multi facility portal, the Department intends to make people familiar with Jammu and Kashmir including the 75 lesser known destinations and also provide them with the knowledge of the shrines, heritage sites, wildlife, adventure sports and cuisine of the UT.

To make it more user friendly, the portal has an inbuilt grievredressal mechanism, ance where the tourist can lodge their complaint.

The events which the department intends to organise shall also be available on the portal. The assets of the department have also been geo mapped in the portal.

Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo; Managing Director, JK mad Akbar Wani and other officers of Tourism Department attended the launch function whileas Secretary, IT, Prerna Puri; Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez; Director, Tourism, Jammu, Vivekanad Rai; MD, JKTDC, Syed Fakhruddin; CEO, JKeGA

Observer News Service SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Net Profit has witnessed a steep rise of 164%YoY in the December Quarter of FY 2021-22. The bank stated this after its Board of Directors reviewed and approved the numbers for third quarter and nine-months ended

December 31, 2021 in a meeting held today at Bank's Zonal Office in Gurgaon, New Delhi. The profits have more than

doubled YoY to Rs 173.95 Cr from Rs 65.94 Cr recorded for the third quarter of the last financial year, while as in aggregate terms, the bank has earned Rs 389.36 Cr net profit for nine-months, which is 235%up against Rs 116.37 Cr clocked during nine-months of the last fiscal.

The bank's net interest income, or core income, has increased by 3 % for nine-months YoY to Rs 2935.73 Cr from Rs 2853.36 Cr recorded for the corresponding period last year. The Net Interest Margin (NIM) has been recorded at a comfortable level of 3.67% (annualized) for nine-months and the Cost of Deposits has come down

by 55 bps to 3.66% from 4.21% recorded last financial year. The Bank's CASA Ratio continues to remain as one of the industry best at 56.32%

Commenting upon the growth numbers, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "We have seen good growth in profits on YoY basis. Our other numbers also depict our performance during the last three quarters of CFY and building upon the steady-momentum of last many quarters we will definitely improve the numbers further as we consolidate and clock our growth numbers for the current financial year (CFY) 2021-22."

The bank's net NPA's as per-

we have put robust institutional measures in place to restrict fur-

ing early warning systems and proactive monitoring mechanisms at all operative levels with reviews on monthly basis.'

'J&K Bank Q3 Net Profit Jumps

Up 164% YoY To Rs 173.95 Cr'

Bank has devised strategic plans to enhance its performance: MD & CEO

"Besides, we have already initiated a string of measures to bring our NPAs down that include Bank's One Time Settlement (OTS)-2021 Scheme that was launched in the second week of January and is still in vogue. However, going forward, quality lending will be the key feature of our business strategy both in our core area of operations and beyond." he added.

The Bank's advances have increased from Rs 66545.32 Crto Rs 68365.94 Cr during the quarter reviewed while as the deposits have shown a steady growth of 5.3% from Rs 103804.23 Cr to Rs 109298.40Cr.However, the Bank has witnessed over10% YoY growth in advances in its core area of operations i.e. J&K & Ladakh

Regarding the business growth, the MD & CEO said, "With significant enablers like the UT Government's Industrial Policy and concerted initiatives of attracting large domestic and foreign investment proposals in sectors like real estate, horticulture, tourism and healthcare etc. amounting, as per the Government, to around Rs 60,000 Cr; we foresee higher growth prospects for us in near future."

The bank's Capital Adequacy Ratio has further improved YoY to12.38%, which is well within the BASEL III norms, as compared to 11.77 %, recorded as on December 31, 2020.

"While being comfortably cushioned currently, the Bankis expe-diting its capital augmenting plans (OIP and FPO)to further strengthen its capital position in near future." said the MD& CEO.

Govt Approves Release Of 21 New

Giving a glimpse of his vision for ther slippages in future by institut- CEO Baldev Prakash said, "I believe, a professional manner.

SK Ban

despite being market leader in J&K and Ladakh, we work in a highly competitive banking ecosystem across the country. Therefore, the only sustainable growth path forward is to enhance the trust of all our stakeholders by maximizing our value proposition. Our customers especially the preferred institutional clients must feel the comfort of banking with us quite visibly in the entire gamut of our bank ing services that have to be of top quality, efficient and consistent."

"Towards such a direction, a comprehensive review of Bank's business strategy is underway and we are in the process of reworking our business plans both for our home territory and beyond to optimize the future outcomes in line with the Bank's long term business goals. We will also focus on leveraging the digital dynamic to blend the customer convenience at large with the commercial imperatives of the Bank", he said while adding, "The Bank has devised strategic and short-term plans to enhance its performance by improving its net interest income, increasing its digital presence and offerings, adopting Business Process Re-engineering to enhance efficiency & employee productivity."

On the occasion, MD & CEO expressed his gratitude to the UT Government for its uninterrupted support and thanked the Directors on Bank's Board for their effective guidance and supervision. He appreciated the Bank's entire staff for their rich talent dedication and expressed confidence that besides meeting the business objectives of the Bank, the entire J&K Bank Family will carry forward the Government's vision of making Jammu and Kashmir a financially empowered the Bank on the occasion, the MD & and socially inclusive economy in

RBI Begins Three-Day Monetary Policy Meet To Decide On Key Rates

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel began its threeday deliberations on Tuesday to decide the next monetary policy in the backdrop of Budget 2022-23, inflationary concerns and evolving geo-political situation.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das headed six-member the policy resolution on Thursday.

The meeting was to start on Monday but it was postponed by a day in view of Maharashtra declaring public holiday on February 7 to mourn the death of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.

It is widely anticipated that the rates, coupled with the record MPC is likely to maintain the status quo on the benchmark interest rate or repo rate.

Experts, however, are of the opinion that the MPC may change the policy stance from 'accommodative' to 'neutral' and tinker with the reverse-repo rate as part of the

liquidity normalisation process. If the RBI maintains status quo in policy rate on Thursday, it would be the tenth consecutive time since the rate remains unchanged. The central bank had last revised the policy rate on May 22, 2020, in an off-policy cycle to perk up demand by cutting interest rate to a historic low.

According to Brickwork Ratings. the RBI may continue to hold the policy rates at current levels in the upcoming policy meeting.

"We expect the MPC to start increasing the policy rates beginning with normalising the policy corridor between repo and reverse repo rate. We expect the RBI to hike the reverse repo rate in its April 2022 policy meeting," it said.

growth may remain unchanged for the current fiscal, while the statement is keenly awaited for its forward guidance on inflation and the GDP for the next fiscal, it added.

The last MPC held in December 2021 had kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 per cent and decided to continue with its accommodative stance against Monetary Policy Committee the backdrop of concerns over the (MPC) is scheduled to announce emergence of the new coronavirus variant Omicron.

The MPC has been tasked by the government to keep inflation in the range of 2-6 per cent.

Citing the massive spike in credit growth during the first half and the steeper fall in deposits and the resultant rise in term money

high borrowings, an SBI report has called for a 20 bps increase in reverse repo rate outside the MPC ambit so that the central bank find buyers for the flooding new debt papers

The budget 2023 has pegged the Centre's gross borrowing at a record Rs 14.3 lakh crore and for the FY22 at Rs 10.5 lakh crore, lower than Rs 13.5 lakh crore this fiscal, while together with the states, the gross borrowing will be Rs 23.3 lakh crore and net will be Rs 17.8 lakh crore, the report said. The budget seeks to pay back Rs 3.1 lakh crore next fiscal, up from Rs 2.7 lakh crore this fiscal, it added.

While during the first half of FY22 itself, signs of credit recovery became visible, the latest data for the week to January 14, 2022, shows all banks incremental credit grew by Rs 5.46 lakh crore, more than double of Rs 2.72 lakh crore in the same period last fiscal, the report said, adding as against this, the incremental deposit growth was only Rs 8.6 lakh crore, down The outlook on inflation and from Rs 10.5 lakh crore.



NEW DELHI: Electoral bonds worth Rs 324.36 crore were encashed by various political parties in 2020-21, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed Parliament on Tuesda State Bank of India is the authorised bank to issue and encash electoral bonds. The politi- rencies like South Korean Won, cal party-wise detail of electoral bonds encashment is not collated centrally at SBI, he said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. During 2020-21, 14th and 15 tranches of electoral bonds were issued and encashed.



MSP Under Process, Says Agriculture Minister Tomar Press Trust Of India NEW DELHI: The government on

Formation Of Panel On

Tuesday told Lok Sabha that the formation of a committee to make Minimum Support Price (MSP) more effective is "under process". Agriculture Minister Narendra

Singh Tomar also said the government has no record about withdrawal of cases that were filed against farmers during the agitation across various states as well as about compensation paid to deceased farmers' families.

at Delhi and a few other places more effective and transparent as against three controversial farm well as suggest ways to promote laws which were eventually zero budget natural farming. withdrawn last yeau



sial farm laws that had triggered a massive farmer protest at Delhi borders, said the government will There were farmer protests set up a committee to make MSP

centage to net Advances ratio is at 3.02% while as the Gross NPA ratio has been recorded at 8.93%. Providing sufficiently for its bad loans for the quarter ended December, 2021, the Bank's Provision Coverage Ratio for the reviewed quarter is at 81.45%

Regarding the bank's asset-quality, the MD& CEO asserted, "While we have provided sufficiently for our bad loans in the balance sheet,

ments of the country to change the cropping pattern, to make MSP more effective and transparent, and to encourage natural farming method of agriculture, the process of setting up a committee is under process," Tomar said in a written reply.

When asked whether the government has any details regarding cases filed against farmers during the agitation that have been withdrawn in all states as assured and whether the government has any details of compensation paid to the families of farmers who died during the agitation, Tomar said the ministry "has no record in the matter".

On Friday, Tomar told Rajya Sabha that the government was committed to forming a panel on MSP and the Election Commission has said it can be done after the assembly polls are over.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on November 19, while announcing repeal of the three controver-

In reply to a separate qu "As per the changing require- Tomar on Tuesday said the budget allocation for agriculture ministry has increased nearly five-fold under the NDA government to Rs 1,32,513 crore for the next financial year.

"There is no proposal to introduce a separate budget for agriculture. However, Government of India provides top most priority to the sector which is the backbone of the Indian economy. "This is reflected in the fact that budget allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is very substantial. It has increased from Rs 27,662.67 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,32,513.62 crore in 2022-23, i.e. an absolute increase of 379 per cent," he said. To another query, the minister said Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) introduced from Kharif 2016 season in the country is voluntary for States/UTs as well

as farmers. The scheme is available for all States/UTs and all farmers for crops and areas notified by the state government concerned.

Crop Varieties Of SKUAST

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The State Seed Sub-Committee Tuesday approved release of 21 newly developed varieties of different crops produced by Sher-e- Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Jammu and Kashmir (SKUASTI/K).

The Sub Committee, which met here today under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, recommended release of 21 new crop of SKAUAT-K and 9 varieties of SKAUST-I.

Vice Chancellor SKAUST-K. Dr Nazir Ahmad Ganaie; Vice Chancellor SKAUST-J, Dr JP Sharma, Director General Horticulture Kashmir, Director Agriculture Jammu and Kashmir, Director Law Enforcement, Agriculture

Department, Director Research SKUAST, Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), Divisional Seed Certification Officer Jammu/ Kashmir and other concerned attended the meeting both in person and through virtual mode. Director Research, SKUAST-K,

gave a presentation on 12 varieties of SKUAST-J rice (SKUA-485), wheat (SKW-356), saffron (SD 1-13), maize (DMRH-1417), two varieties of Rajmash (SKAU-WB-1634 and SKAU-WB-341), (KGS-32), chickpea sarson (SKAU-WCKP-101), chilli (SKSCvarieties including 12 varieties 1162/LKC-1), brinjal (SKUTBH-1), cowpea (SKAU-WCP-149) and sovabean (SKAU-WSB-101).

Director Research, SKAUST-J gave a presentation on nine varieties of SKAUST-J viz Wheat (JAUW-672), Maize (SJPC-01), Rapeseed and Mustard-Raya (JM 13-5), Rapeseed and Mustard -Gobi Sarson(JGS 12-3), Moong of Apple Borer In Kashmir'.

Production and Farmers Welfare (JAUM-0936), Rajmash(BR-39), two varieties of Walnut (SJPW-1 & JWSP-06) and Lime (SEL-1001). The meeting had a detailed discussion on salient features of each crop like compatibility, thresh ability, maturity of crop, yield, disease resistance and other characteristics.

Speaking on the occasion. Navin Choudhary asked the Vice Chancellors of both the varsities to prepare varieties which have commercial feasibility. He asked the scientists and researchers to motivate progressive farmers for adopting these new varieties. He also exhorted upon the officers to concentrate on areas which are best for any particular crop.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary released documents compiled by SKUAST-K titled 'Planning & Management Strategies for the Eradication of Apples Leaf Blotch Miner in Kashmir and Infestation

In another reply, Chaudhary said the electoral bonds amounting to Rs 1,212.86 crore were encashed by political parties in the 19th tranche of electoral bonds. As per the guidelines, the

bond under this scheme may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India, and a person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or joint-

ly with other individuals. Accordingly, no electoral bonds are being issued to foreign entities, he said. The Indian rupee was one of

the better performing currencies amongst other Asian cur-

Philippines Peso, Thai Baht and Japanese Yen during the last few quarters, he said in a reply to another question.

The exchange rate of the rupee is determined largely by the market forces of demand and supply, he said, adding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervenes only to curb excessive volatility in the foreign exchange market and to maintain orderly conditions therein without targeting any specific level of the exchange rate.

Replying to another question, Chaudhary said the RBI in its circular dated May 2021 advised its regulated entities dealing in virtual currencies to continue to carry out customer due diligence process in line with regulations governing standards for Know Your Customer, Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Financing of Terrorism, among others.

SHORT TAKES

SC Denies Nod To Amazon To File Written Note In Case **Filed By Future Retail**

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Tuesday did not allow Amazon to file written submission in a case related to Future Retail's plea for nod to proceed with the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) permission of going ahead with Rs 24,731 crore merger deal with Reliance Retail.

A bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana, which had reserved its order on February 3, was irked over the alleged delayed request of the US-based e-commerce major to file the written note in the case and said that it appeared to be a "luxurious litigation".

You want to complicate the matters. It is fine. You want to drag on, continue these hearings... If I allow you, then I will have to allow them (FRL) also. I do not understand what this practice is. If that day (February 3) you would have asked then it would have been a different story, said the CJI. (PTI)

Rupee Weakens 5 Paise To 74.74 A Dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee edged lower by 5 paise to close at 74.74 against the US dollar on Tuesday as stronger greenback, elevated crude oil prices and foreign fund ouflows weighed on forex market sentiment.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 74.65 a dollar and later touched an intra-day high of 74.57 and a low of 74.80.

The local unit finally ended the day at 74.74, down 5 paise from the previous close.

In the previous session on Friday, the rupee had settled at 74.69 against the greenback.

The forex market was closed on Monday as Maharashtra had declared February 7 as public holiday to mourn the demise of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.25 per cent higher at 95.63. (PTI)

Gold Climbs Rs 144; Silver Declines Rs 76

NEW DELHI: Gold price in the national capital on Tuesday rallied by Rs 144 to Rs 48,167 per 10 grams, reflecting overnight gains in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal settled at Rs 48,023 per 10 grams. Silver, however, dipped by Rs 76 to Rs 61,607 per kg from Rs 61,683 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat gold at Delhi were up by Rs 144 reflecting overnight gain in COMEX gold prices," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (commodities) at HDFC Securities, said. In the international market. gold was trading marginally lower at USD 1,819 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.85 per ounce. (PTI)

Monitoring Impact Of **Challenges Of Drop In Auto** Industry Performance: TII

CHENNAI: Tube Investments of India was closely watching the impact of challenges of drop in auto industry performance which has impacted the domestic tubes and metal formed business.

The company had declared its financial performance for the quarter ending December 31, 2021 posting a consolidated net profit at Rs 390.04 crore as against Rs 107.09 crore registered same period last quarter.

Commenting on the financial performance, Tube Investments of India Ltd., Chairman M A M Arunachalam said, the results for the quarter show a steady performance by all the businesses.

"The company is closely watching the impact of challenges of drop in auto industry performance which has impacted domestic tubes and metal formed business" he said. (PTI)

Markets Snap 3-Day Losing Streak; RIL Leads Rebound

MUMBAI: Snapping their three-day losing run, market benchmarks ticked higher after a see-saw session on Tuesday on fag-end buying in energy, metal and finance counters amid a firm trend in global markets.

Covering-up of short positions by bears also supported the late recovery in stocks, traders said.

After swinging between gains and losses, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally closed 187.39 points or 0.33 per cent higher at 57,808.58. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 53.15 points or 0.31 per cent to 17,266.75.

Tata Steel topped the Sensex gainers' chart with a jump of 3.10 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, Titan, Asian Paints and Axis Bank.

In contrast, PowerGrid, TCS, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Kotak Bank, L&T and HDFC twins were among the losers, shedding as much as 1.66 per cent. (PTI)

News

Govt Plans Plantaion of 1.70 Cr Trees

Agenceis

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to review achievements registered under the Annual Plan of Operations (APOs).

At the outset, Dr. Mohit Gera. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests gave an overview of the major initiatives of the Government including Green J&K Drive, Har Gaon Haryali, creation of livelihoods from forests, eco-tourism and major achievements of department during the current year.

It was informed that during the last two years, CAMPA has increased its activities by almost three-fold. Against an average annual coverage of 5000 ha till 2019-20, the Department will be

covering rehabilitation of about 14000 ha area in the current fi-nancial year and about 18000 ha in the next financial year. Besides, each work under CAMPA has been given unique ID to ensure its execution, monitoring and maintenance for effective outcome.

It was further informed that detailed site-specific plans along with their location maps for rehabilitation of degraded forests have been prepared for the next financial year using CAMPA portal. The rehabilitation plan includes protective fencing and planting of about 1.70 crore plants, highest ever in history of J&K. The plan also includes broadcast of 25.18 lakh seed balls and sowing in 40.59 lakh patches and 10.21 lakh dibbles as low cost afforestation measures.

Furthermore, various soil conservation measures like dry rubble stone masonary, crates and water harvesting structures/

ponds have been proposed to give a fillip to eco-restoration efforts. For protection of forest lands from encroachment, 23,500 new boundary pillars are proposed to be erected during 2022-23.

The proposed plan lays special emphasis on eco-restoration of Kandi areas in Jammu as well as Kashmir region and augmentation of grass and fodder production. The Wildlife Protection Department will be working towards improvement of wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation works, maintenance of animal rescue centres, eco-development activities and development of wildlife related infrastructure. During the meeting PCCF in-

formed that 100 biggest encroachments on forest land have been removed and more than 23000 kanals of land have been recovered from the encroachers. The Chief Secretary asked the

Department to prioritize modernization through remote sensing and GIS tools for preparation of digital maps, equipment like, CCTV, Drones, Camera traps, GPS for more efficient functioning.

Dr. Mehta directed the Forest Department to take action for enhancing livelihood from forests, establish deeper connect with Panchayats, and rehabilitate degraded forests in a time bound manner, besides laying special focus on forest conservation, forest fire mitigation and plantation of 1.7 crore trees. He also emphasized on fodder production and water conservation.

On the occasion, publications on Wetlands in Forest Areas of J&K', 'Forest Trek Routes', 'Calendar highlighting Forest Recreation and Other Interventions', 'Asian Waterbird Census in Jammu & Kashmir', pamphlet on 'Pine Needles to Handicraft', and documentary on 'Van Se Jal: Jal Se leevan' were also released.

White House: Top Scientist Resigns Over Treatment Of Staff staff, but initially signalled

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's top science adviser Eric Lander resigned, hours after the White House confirmed that an internal investigation found credible evidence that he mistreated his staff, marking the first Cabinet-level departure of the Biden administration.

An internal review last year, prompted by a workplace complaint, found evidence that Lander, the director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and science adviser to Biden, bullied staffers and treated them disrespectfully. The White House rebuked Lander over his interactions with his

Nitians Career Institute Bag Top 10 Positions Agenceis

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 09.02.2022

Monday that he would be al-

lowed to remain on the job,

despite Biden's Inauguration

Day assertion that he ex-

pected honesty and decency

from all who worked for his

administration and would

fire anyone who shows dis-

respect to others on the spot.

press secretary Jen Psaki said

Biden had accepted Lander's

resignation with gratitude for his

work at OTSP on the pandemic,

the Cancer Moonshot, climate change, and other key priorities.

Lander, in his resignation

letter, said, I am devastated

that I caused hurt to past

and present colleagues by

the way in which I have spo-

ken to them.

But later Monday evening,

Srinagar: Nitians' career Institute, the leading coaching Institute of downtown Srinagar bagged top 10 positions (Science stream) in the whole Valley including state topper Arusa Parvaiz.

Student of Kashmir Harward Aroosa Parvaiz from Elahi Bagh Srinagar, secured 1st position with 99.8% in the Medical stream

All 10 positions have been bagged by girls from downtown Srinagar. Management NITIANS' career Institute congratulates all the state toppers for their outstanding performance, as well as faculty for hard work and dedication.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Delimitation Proposals

submit their suggestions/ objections by February 14," they said, adding that the panel's proposals would be published for soliciting feedback from the public immediately after the deadline.

It is worthwhile to mention that the panel had last week shared its second report with all five MPs from Jammu & Kashmir to seek their suggestions/ objections over it.

The proposals of delimitation commission have come under criticism from regional parties with MP and NC President Dr Farooq Abdullah saying the proposal "defies any and all logic" and no political, social and administrative reason can justify the recommendations.

It is worthwhile to mention that the delimitation commission's orders cannot be challenged in any court and have the force of law.

On March 06, 2020, the Government of India constituted the commission for delimitation of 90 assembly segments and five Lok Sabha seats. Its extended tenure is coming to an end in the first week of March. PAGD to Hold

be held on Feb 23.

Spokesman of PAGD, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami, confirmed the meet-

ing on Feb 23, saying that the draft presented by Delimitation Commission will be discussed threadbare in the meeting. "We have called a meeting on Feb

23 to discuss the draft presented by Delimitation Commission. The meeting was scheduled on Feb 13 at Jammu earlier, which has been postponed as some of the leaders were not available on the particular date, thus the meeting has now been fixed on February 23, 2022," Tarigami said.

Govt Issues Policy

government building has deployment

of static guard for its protection. "Presently, there is no registered body by the name of Kashmir Press Club or its elected managing body since the Kashmir Press Club, as a registered body, has ceased to exist and has failed to register itself under the Societies Registration Act, 1860," he said replying to a written question.

The Kashmir Press Club has "ceased to exist", the J&K administration said on January 17 as it took back the premises allotted to the largest journalists' body in the valley following "dissensions" between two factions, one of which had tacit support from the government. Rai said the government is committed to ensure the right to freedom of speech and expression enshrined under the Article 19 of the Constitution of India.

Replying to another question, the minister said the methodology used in the World Press Freedom Index, published by foreign NGO 'Reporters Without Borders', is questionable.

The government does not subscribe to its views and country rankings, and does not agree with the conclusions drawn by the organisation for various reasons, including very low sample size, little or no weightage to fundamentals of democracy, adoption of a methodology which is questionable and non-transparent, lack of clear definition of press freedom, he said.

Replying to yet another question, Rai said according to the report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of cases registered under anti-terror law UAPA in the country in 2020 is 796.

A total of 1,321 people were arrested under the UAPA and 116 people were acquitted. Altogether 80 people were convicted under the UAPA in the country in 2020, he said

14,312 recoveries and 146 deaths are from Udhampur, 12,717 including 12,374 recoveries and 248 deaths are from Rajouri, 10,763 including 9,717 recoveries and 144 deaths are from Doda, 11,219 including 10,815 recoveries and 164 deaths are from Kathua, 9.027 including 8,735 recoveries and 124 deaths are from Samba, 5,790 including 5,611 recoveries and 45 deaths are from Kishtwar, 7,682 including 7,408 recoveries and 109 deaths are from Poonch, 7,862 including 7,516 recoveries and 69 deaths are from Ramban and 8,629 including 8,429 recoveries and 48 deaths are from Reasi.

As per the daily information bulletin 5,895,983 persons in Jammu and Kashmir are under observation while 30,476 persons have been kept under home quarantine besides that 12,358 persons are in isolation.

According to the bulletin, 5,411,733 persons have completed the surveillance period and 436,688 persons are under home surveillance besides that so far results of 21.985.908 samples are available. Out of 21,985,908 the number of samples tested negative stands at 21,537,803 while as 448,105 have tested positive, among them 12,358 persons are active, 430,019 persons have recovered and 4,728 persons have

Aiming To Empower

died.

for municipal councilors & administration.

Relentless efforts for good urban governance and sustainability in cities to be further strengthened with cooperation of Praja Foundation, observed the Lt Governor.

Transparent and participatory processes in urban governance are important for tapping the vast potential, vitality of cities and higher economic growth.

in urban governance will Reforms

teachers,", Arusa said. She further said that the online mode of education had made it a bit tough for the students to prepare for the exams.

Arusa said, "In the aftermath of COVID-19, it has become very important to the students to focus more on their studies. Earlier, there might have been a scope of leniency in terms of self-studying, but this time the situation was entirely different as the students had to go through a very tough phase."

The topper dedicated her success to her parents and teachers. "They have unconditionally supported me.'

Likewise, another topper from Faculty of Commerce, Tabinda Jan had secured 99.4 percent marks.

She said that the hard-work and dedication let her achieve the huge success she has been dreaming of.

"I always wanted to do something extraordinary and choosing the commerce stream had always remained my priority," Jan said.

Chartered Accountant by profession, Tabinda further said that she would pursue her career in commerce only.

streams, the top position from Faculty of Arts were also bagged by the female candidates.

Muzamil, a student of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh bagged the first position in the stream by securing 99.2 per-cent marks followed by Sahila Nabi

of Faculty of Home Science from Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh. Sahila secured the first position from Faculty of Home Science by securing 99

percent marks

marks while four students-Bazlah Firdous(Green Valley HSS Ellahi Bagh Srinagar), Ridda Qadri (Govt.Girls Hr.Sec.School, Soura, Srinagar), Saddaf Farooq (Al Banat Educational Institute Baba Darya- Ud-Din Ganderbal) and Sadiqa Rehman (Green Valley HSS Ellahi Bagh Srinagar) got third position by scoring 494 (98.8%) marks.

Also 32 out of 34 students at Welfare Educational Institute (Orphanage) Bemina, Srinagar the passed examination.

Govt Orders

Revenue in the Jammu Municipal Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Bhawan, Katra.

Chander Parkash, JKAS, Deputy Director (Audio Visual) in the Directorate of Information, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

Deepak Dubey, JKAS, Deputy Chier Executive officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, has been recalled and posted as Deputy Director (Audio-Visual) in the Directorate of Information, J&K.

Meanwhile, as per a separate order, Umesh Shan, JKAS, Assistant Director, Tourism, NH, Batote, under orders of transfer as Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Reasi, in terms of Government Order No. 93-IK(GAD) of 2022 dated 27.1.2022, shall be deemed to have been relieved today on 08.02.2022 (A.N.) with the directions to join at his new place of posting, immediately.

Family-Run Parties

was not there, the country would not have seen Emergency, the massacre of Sikhs and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley.

Hyundai's Kashmir

he said. In Parliament, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said that the government has asked Hyundai Motors to be more forceful in its unequivocal apology over the matter.

Hyundai had issued a clarification after it faced calls for a boycott of its cars, but there have been demands for the company to apologise unequivocally.

Facebook, Insta

no response from their side.

"A link you followed may be broken, or the page may have been removed," read the messages on both Facebook as well as Instagram pages of the Chinar Corps, a popular name of XV Corps of the Army in Kashmir.

There was no immediate response from Facebook and Instagram, which are a part of the same company.

The two social media websites remove a page if it does not follow the rules and regulations laid by the company or if people report about it.

12 Results: BOSE

traffic-causing inconvenience to the students.

The candidates said that they couldn't access the official website of JKBOSE.

"It took me nearly 40 minutes to check my results. The JKBOSE website was overloaded and that caused the inconvenience to the students," a student said.

When contacted officials of JKBOSE to comment over the issues, they were unable to answer—KNO

Two-Way Traffic

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 "TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic." They said cut off for LMVs/private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) will be at 0700 hours to 1200 hours, from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0800 hours to 1300 hours and from Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) 0800 hours to 1300 hours "(subject to change depending on the road position then)" adding that no vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings. About 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. "Security Forces are advised/requested not to ply against advisory/ traffic plan in view of traffic congestion on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. They may ply from Jammu towards Srinagar after confirming the status of NHW," authorities said. Mughal Road, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri Road and Kishtwar-Sinthan Road closed for vehicular movement by the Administration in view of snow accumulation

Inspired by her father who is a

Besides. Science and Commerce

From the Faculty of Arts, Adeebah

information or documents.

In such an event, the journalist/media organisation shall be debarred from accreditation for up to a maximum of five years but not less than two years, as may be decided by the CMAC (Central Media Accreditation Committee), the guidelines said.

Besides, accredited media persons have been prohibited from using the words Accredited to the government of India on public/social media profile, visiting cards, letter heads or on any other form or any published work.

The ministry is forming a committee called the Central Media Accreditation Committee (CMAC) chaired by the principal director general, Press Information Bureau (PIB), and comprincipal director prising 25 members nominated by the government.

The committee will function for two vears from the date of its first meeting and will be responsible for suspending the accreditation of journalists.

A sub-committee of the CMAC consisting of five members nominated by the CMAC will take decisions on accreditation cases. The sub-committee will also be chaired by the principal DG, PIB.

In the new policy for online news platforms, digital news publishers applying for accreditation should have furnished requisite information to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under Rule 18 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code), Rules, 2021, and should not have violated the rules.

The policy states that the online platform must have existed for over a year, and needs to report the website's average monthly unique visitor count of last six months duly certified by the website's CAG-approved/ empanelled auditors.

The website should have a registered office in India and the correspondents should be based in Delhi or National Capital Region, it said.

In case the information submitted by the applicant is found to be false, he/ she shall be debarred from applying for accreditation for the next three years.

No Registered

executive magistrate and the

7 Die, 771 Test

that the total number of positive cases in Kashmir division have reached to 285,107 including 274,411 recoveries and 2,412 deaths while as total number of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 162,998 including 156,608 recoveries and 2,316 deaths.

The officials said that the total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 12,358 including 8,284 from Kashmir division and 4,074 from Jammu division.

With 3,330 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached 431,019 which is 96.19 percent of the total cases.

"Cases tested positive in J&K include 172 from Srinagar, 22 from Baramulla, 62 from Budgam, 12 from Pulwama, 20 from Kupwara, 24 from Anantnag, 04 from Bandipora, 28 from Ganderbal, 16 from Kulgam and 03 Shopian in Kashmir division while as 408 from Jammu division include 238 from Jammu district, 20 from Udhampur, 18 from Rajouri, 58 from Doda, 18 from Kathua, 05 from Samba, 04 from Kishtwar, 04 from Poonch, 36 from Ramban and 07 from Reasi," officials disclosed.

Meanwhile, authorities said that no fresh cases of Mucormycosis popularly known as black fungus was reported in the UT and the tally stands at 51.

As per officials figures, 101,335 positive cases including 904 deaths and 96,872 recoveries are from Srinagar, 37,382 including 303 deaths and 35,475 recoveries are from Baramulla, 34,575 including 33,836 recoveries and 234 deaths are from Budgam, 18,345 including 17,905 recoveries and 201 deaths are from Pulwama, 21,472 including 172 deaths and 20,709 recoveries are from Kupwara, 22,338 including 21,444 recoveries and 218 deaths are from Anantnag, 13,590 cases including 13,197 and 118 deaths are from Bandipora, 13,546 including 13,162 recoveries and 84 deaths are from Ganderbal, 16,245 including 15,762 recoveries and 118 deaths are from Kulgam and 6,279 including 6,049 recoveries and 60 deaths are from Shopian.

In Jammu division, 74,732 including 71,691 recoveries and 1,219 deaths are from Jammu district, 14,557 including improve urban infrastructure, urban services to poor and help the cities to build on their inherent capacities, the Lt Governor added.

The LG underlined the need to create smart solutions, smart platforms to form a link between the public and policies to make the process of rapid change a reflection of the needs & aspirations of the people and develop a new self-understanding.

Reforms introduced by the government in urban governance aim to provide much-needed human & financial resources for improving basic services like drinking water, health care, sanitation, housing and better quality of living in the cities, the LG said.

There is going to be a massive urban transformation in the cities in the coming future, which will improve the standard of living and will also attract new capital investment, he added.

Today, we have to overcome few challenges while we are developing our cities into smart ones. We must formulate policies & programs to eliminate social inequality; extend benefits of development to all sections of the society; eliminate the role of multiple agencies; strengthen Municipal Corporations and accelerate local economic development to improve the quality of life in the cities, observed the Lt Governor.

The LG asked the officials of the Municipal Corporation and other stakeholders to understand these challenges and work accordingly.

The partnership with Azim Premji University will strive towards improving the education scenario in all SMC's Schools and continuous professional development of teachers and administrative leadership, added the Lt Governor.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, SMC said that the collaboration of SMC with Azim Premji Foundation and Praja Foundation will transform urban governance and primary education in Srinagar.

293 Students

"I consider myself very lucky in terms of having the right guide and mentor because nothing would have been possible if I would not have been guided at the right time by my

12 students shared the first 10 positions, the officials said.

In science stream, the first positions was bagged by Arusa Parvaiz of Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute Naseem Bagh Srinagar by securing 499 (99.8 percent) marks out of 500. Simrah Hafeez of

Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Soura Srinagar got second position by securing 498 (99.6%) while five students got 497 marks (99.4%) to bag third position. They include Faiza Zahoor Tantry (Govt.Girls Hr.Sec.School, Raj Bagh, Sgr), Hadiya Rashid(Govt.Girls Hr.Sec.School, Kothibagh) Sakib Bashir Lone(st. Joseph 's hr. Sec. School, Baramulla) Shah Ribka(Dream Land Hr. Sec. Instt, Ganderbal) and Zainab Muneer(islamia Hr.Sec. School, Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar.) In commerce stream Tabinda Jan of Kashmir Harvard Edu Instt Naseem Bagh Sgr bagged first position by securing 497 marks (99.4%) while two students-Rutba Bashir (Govt Girls Hr.Sec School, Amira Kadal) and Saliq Ashraf Pushoo (Govt. Boys Hr.Sec. School, Anantnag) bagged second position by achieving (99%) and third was shared by four students-Bareen Altaf (Govt.Girls Hr.Sec.School, Nawa Kadal, Srinagar), Haliya Anees (Govt. Girls Hr.Sec.School, Budgam), Iqra Bashir Shah (Green Valley Hss Ellahi Bagh Srinagar) and Numan Javaid (Govt M. P. M.L Hr. Sec. School, Baghi Delawar Khan) by scoring 98.8 percent marks.

In Home Science, Sahila Nabi (Govt. Girls Hr.Sec.School, Kothibagh Sgr) bagged first position by scoring 495 mar (99%), Masrat Mushtaq (Govt. Girls hr. Sec. School, Baramulla) with 493 marks (98.6%) got second position while Bisma Yousuf (Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Baramulla) got third position with 492 (98.4%) marks.

In Arts Stream, three students-Adeebah Muzamil (Govt.Girls Hr.Sec. School, Kothibagh), Hafsa Yousuf (Govt. Girls hr. Sec School, Verinag) and Suhail Ahmad Dar (govt. Boys hr. Sec. School, Pulwama) got first position by achieving 496 (99.2%) marks.

Two students-Afeefah Bashir Wani (Govt.Girls Hr.Sec.School, Kothibagh) and Sheema Yousuf (Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Kadipora, Anantnag) got second position with 495 (99.0%)

refrain from "false and misleading" comments on matters of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Tweets from accounts linked to Hyundai and its affiliate Kia Corp expressing solidarity with Kashmir separatists triggered outrage in India following which the South Korean firm said it has a "zero-tolerance" policy towards insensitive communication.

"We had seen a social media post on the so-called Kashmir Solidarity Day was made by Hyundai Pakistan. Immediately after this social media post on Sunday, our Ambassador in Seoul contacted the Hyundai Headquarters and sought an explanation," Bagchi said.

"The offending post had been removed subsequently. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea was summoned by the Ministry of External Affairs yesterday. The strong displeasure of the Government on the unacceptable social media post by Hyundai Pakistan was conveyed to him," he said. The MEA spokesperson was re-

sponding to a media query on the issue.

"It was highlighted that this matter concerned India's territorial integrity on which there could be no compromise. We expected the company to take appropriate action to properly address these issues," he said.

"Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea Chung Eui-yong called External Affairs Minister this morning. While they discussed several issues, the RoK Foreign Minister also conveyed that they regretted the offence caused to the people and Government of India by the social media post," he said.

In a tweet, Jaishankar said:"Received a call from ROK FM Chung Eui-yong today. Discussed bilateral and multilateral issues as also the Hyundai matter." Bagchi also referred to a statement issued by Hyundai Motors conveying its deep regret to the people of India and making it clear that it does not comment on political or religious issues.

"India welcomes investments by foreign companies in various sectors. But, it is also expected that such companies or their affiliates will refrain from false and misleading comments on matters of sovereignty and territorial integrity,"

NIA Arrests Budgam

"NIA arrested one accused person namely Tawheed Ahmad Shah S/o Bashir Ahmad Shah, R/o Akbar Colony, Aribagh, Manchowa, PS Chadoora, District Budgam, J&K in connection with investigation of NIA Case RC-02/2021/NIA-LKW" an NIA spokesman said.

"The case was registered by ATS UP as FIR 10/2021 on 11.07.2021 in PS ATS Gomtinagar against the accused persons who had entered into a conspiracy for recruiting members for Al-Qaeda affiliate AGH (Ansaar Gajwatul Hind) and for committing terrorist acts in Lucknow. Earlier, NIA had arrested 05 accused persons in the case against whom chargesheet was filed on 05.01.2022," the statement said. "Investigation revealed that the arrested accused Tawheed was the mastermind of the conspiracy for recruitment and to commit terrorist acts in the name of AGH.

SPORTS

Inter Block District Level YSS Cup Inaugurated At Pulwama



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Dr Sheikh Abdul Aziz on Tuesday inaugurated inter block district level YSS Cup at Sports Stadium, here.

The event was organized by District Administration in collaboration with Youth Services and Sports Department Pulwama.

across the district will take part educational benefits of sport are in the games of Cricket, Volleyball, Kabaddi and Kho Kho during the course of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC appreciated the efforts of the District Youth Services and Sports department and said that our children have enormous talent and potential which they demonstrated at national and international level competitions by winning many medals.

Keeping in view the interest

of boys and girls of the district towards sports activities, the ADDC said there is a need to provide adequate and advanced infrastructure to train them at basic level.

He said Physical activity is essential to the holistic development of students which is vital to their physical, social and emotional health. The benefits of sport reach beyond the impact Large number of students of physical well-being and the extremely valuable.

Earlier, the DYSSO in his welcome address thanked the District Administration in making all sports-related events organized by the department a success.

The ADDC distributed Rs. 50,000 cash awards to Zulifkar, Ambassador of Drug De-addiction, Sports Person and Rs. 25,000 cash award to cyclist Shahid.

2nd ODI: India Aim To Seal Series Against West Indies

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: After winning the first ODI convincingly, Rohit Sharma-led Team India will look to continue their domination and win the second ODI and seal the three-match series at the Narendra Modi Stadium, here on Wednesdav.

Since India didn't have much trouble in defeating West Indies in the first match, hosts are unlikely to make any changes in their playing XI. However, the focus will be on Vice-Captain KL Rahul who has joined the team after a family engagement and was seen sweating it out in the nets ahead of the game.

Ishan Kishan, who opened with Rohit in the first ODI did a decent job with a 36-ball 28 and both Deepak Hooda and Suryakumar Yadav also did well to finish the game for India. If Rahul plays, then either of the three among Kishan, Deepak Hooda, and Suryakumar would have to sit out to accommodate him as Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant and Ro-

hit Sharma are certain to play. But the management might also choose to play the same XI and win the series and give Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, and Shahrukh Khan a go in the last game of the series.

match, middle-order batter Suryakumar also didn't reveal much about the inclusion of Rahul and Mayank Agarwal in the playing XI.

"They [Rahul and Mayank] are coming back into the squad after quarantine and it makes our unit really stronger. At the end of the day, it's all team management's call on who's gonna play. But yeah, really happy to have them back," Surya said in a

virtual press conference. Eyes will be there also on Virat Kohli, who will like to get among the runs and reach his the rest of the batters would 71st century, which has been in also have to come good. waiting for over two years.

management is unlikely to Indian batters, especially Rohit.

Speaking on the eve of the make any changes. The likes of Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Yuzvendra Chahal Prasidh Krishna, Shardul Thakur had restricted visitors to a below-par target in the first ODI. On the other hand, West In-

dies, who failed to play even 50 overs in the first ODI, will look to improve their form and get going in the series. The Kieron Pollard-led side

Brevis took the U-19 World Cup need to put a bigger prize on by storm, scoring 506 runs in six their wicket and have a better shot selection. Along with Jason innings at an average of 84.33 Holder and Fabian Allen, who while also taking seven wickets, batted well, in the first game, earning him the moniker 'Baby AB', after the legendary AB de

The Windies bowlers also In the bowling department, need to be on the mark with line India had a clinical outing in and length as well as the pace. the previous game, so the team They were taken to task by the

ICC Player of the **Month: Brevis, Petersen** & Hossain Nominated



Press Trust of India

performances in January.

Petersen helped the Proteas

against a strong Indian side, his

Villiers.

from 0-1 down to claim the se-DUBAI: Two South Africans ries 2-1. batter Keegan Petersen and re-In the Caribbean, the brilliant cord-breaking U-19 World Cup Brevis scored two hundreds and star Dewald Brevis – along with three fifties in his six appear-Ebadot Hossain of Bangladesh ances, and picked up his wickets were on Tuesday nominated at 28.57. His all-round exploits for the ICC Player of the Month helped him in claiming the Player Award following their stellar

of the Tournament Trophy as well. Bangladesh pacer Hossain While Petersen was named played two Tests against New Player of the Series for his sen-Zealand in January and claimed sational performance during the nine wickets at 29.33. home Test rubber against India,

as South Africa bounced back

He registered figures of 6/46 in the first Test and helped Bangladesh to a historic victory in New Zealand, their first in the country.

Among women candidates, Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu, West Indies' Deandra Dottin and England's Heather Knight were register a series win at home named as nominees for the ICC Women's Player of the Month for runs helping lay the foundation their strong performances.

Kerala Man 'Walks' **To Kashmir From** Kanyakumari In 118 days

he faced lot of hardships in be-

tween because of bad weather

conditions but people kept on

joining him that "boosted my

for his family but he chose to

leave his family and start his

journey on October 09, 2021.

He travelled for 118 days with a

sole motive of raising funds for

blood donations. In this journey,

Melvin said that his family sup-

"I am planning to go to Manali

by bicycle and then to Kerala

ported him a lot.

Melvin is the breadwinner

passion'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Malvin Thomas, a 26-year-old man from Kerala, who completed his journey by foot from Kanyakumari to Kashmir within 118 days. He claimed that he has walked 3500 kilometres approximately.

Talking to news agency KNO, Melvin said: "I reached Kashmir today morning by foot after 118 days of travel from Kanyakumari. I am not doing it for any record but surely for a blood donation activity."

He said despite the fact that again," he said.

India Vs Pakistan T20 WC 2022 **Tickets Sold Out In 5 Minutes**



West Ham Player Kurt Zouma

Kurt Zouma has apologised for actions," Zouma said. "There

of shoes at it and slapping its haviour was an isolated incident

ity has also lambasted Zouma, Muslim and made the pilgrim-

while West Ham said on Tues- age to Mecca in 2019.

internally.

Condemned For Kicking Cat

Was Asked To Quit & Drive Auto After Unsuccessful 2019 IPL: Siraj

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India pacer Mohammed Siraj says he was asked to "quit cricket and drive an auto" with his father after a poor 2019 IPL season, making him think that his career in the league was over.

Siraj's seven wickets in nine matches with an economy rate of nearly 10 reflected his franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore's disastrous outing that season as they lost six straight games at the start and finished at the bottom

His worst performance came against Kolkata Knight Riders when he was hit for five sixes and 36 runs in 2.2 overs, which included two beamers, forcing captain Virat Kohli to take him

off bowling. "When I bowled those two beamers against KKR, people said 'quit cricket and go back and drive autos with your father'," Siraj told nificent five-wicket haul in the

The RCB Podcast. triumphant Gabba Test. There were so



"When the IPL got over, nobody a long way and is one of the three told me dad was so seriously players retained by the franchise ill. Whenever I called or asked that is still eying its first ever title they'd say he's sleeping or he's resting, so I'd tell them 'okay don't Riding on his impressive showdisturb him'. It was only when ing in the 2020 IPL season, Siraj I reached Australia that I got to made his India debut during the know that dad was in such a crititeam's tour of Australia, where he cal condition.

"I fought with my entire family 'why didn't you tell me sooner'. They'd say we didn't want it to affect your career or your concen

Khawaja Asks Finch, Cummins To Clean The Air Over Langer



SYDNEY: Selection panel chief George Bailey has denied Justin Langer's claims that a lack of backing from senior players and support staff was responsible for the former opening batsman's departure as Australia coach.

Langer quit the post on Saturday despite leading Australia to victory at the Twenty20 World

letter to Cricket Australia Chief Executive Nick Hockley "several senior players and a couple of support staff don't support me moving forward".

Langer was appointed in 2018 in the aftermath of a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa and Bailey praised the work he had done to regain public support across all formats of the game.

Test batsman Usman Khawaja Cup before handing England a said Test captain Pat Cummins 4-0 defeat in the Ashes when and one-day skipper Aaron he was only offered a six-month Finch should come out to clear



Agencies

MELBOURNE: Excitement is building for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, with general ticket allocations for two matchdays sold out on the first day of going on sale to the public.

General ticket allocations have all been sold for India vs Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on October 23 and the double-header that features South Africa vs Bangladesh and India vs Group A runner-up at the Sydney Cricket Ground on October 27

This comes after 200,000 tickets were sold during the pre-sale period across the 45 matches being played in Australia from October 16 to November 13 later this year.

Such was the demand to see one of world cricket's biggest rivalries, the allocations for the India vs Pakistan match were bart and Perth. (ANI)

Agencies

LONDON: West Ham defender

hitting a cat and the club has

condemned him for the abuse

Zouma is seen kicking and

slapping the cat, while laugh-

ter can be heard in the back-

ground. The 27-year-old France

international then chases the

animal before throwing a pair

head in video released by The

An animal welfare char-

caught on video.

Sun newspaper.

sold within five minutes of going on sale

Over 800,000 fans are expected to attend the global showcase for men's T20 cricket when it comes to Australia for the first time, and there is still plenty of opportunity for fans to secure seats to all other fixtures in the general public sale.

The tournament's Local Organising Committee CEO Michelle Enright said: "The response from the fans has been fantastic and we're proud of the fact we were able to reward our fans who purchased tickets to the postponed event in 2020 and those who registered early

day it will deal with the player

"I want to apologize for my

are no excuses for my behavior,

which I sincerely regret. I also

am to anyone who was upset by

the video. I would like to assure

everyone that our two cats are

by our entire family, and this be-

"They are loved and cherished

Zouma joined West Ham from

perfectly fine and healthy.

that will not happen again."

want to say how deeply sorry I

with us to get priority access to tickets in the pre-sale." The T20 World Cup will be played across seven venues in Australia -- Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Geelong, Ho-

gold medal.

ed States was 0.04 seconds behind in second and World Cup super-G leader Aleksander Aamodt Kilde of Norway was 0.42 behind in third.

grip on the men's Olympic super-G title when he won in 2018. That was four years after winning the downhill in Sochi. The 31-year-old Mayer also claimed bronze in the men's downhill on Monday.

CURLING

Sweden won the bronze medal in mixed doubles curling, bouncing back from a semifinal blowout to dominate Britain 9-3 in six ends in the third-place game.

Chelsea in August. Zouma is a

na cranked out the first 1620 of her

However, he had face comments. And people don't see sonal tragedy during the same the struggle behind all this. But tour when Siraj lost his father. I remember when I first got se-With travel restrictions in place lected how Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, told me to not listen to everything Siraj couldn't see his father before the people have to say about me. taking off for the tour of Down "You do well today and they'll Under as he flew with the team

cemented his place with a mag-

in the lucrative league.

praise you and when you don't directly to Australia after the conthe same people will abuse you. clusion of the IPL in the UAE.

"Dad wasn't keeping well in So don't ever take it seriously.' And yes, the same people who 2020. So whenever I used to trolled me incessantly back then speak to him, we were always say 'you're the best bowler bhai'. crying on the call. So I didn't talk a lot with him because he'd keep So, I know. I don't want anybody's

tration and it made me angry. I told them if you would've told me earlier I would have at least met him before leaving for Australia. "When he finally spoke to me, all he asked of me was to focus on playing for the country, fulfilling my dream and making the coun-

try proud. That's all I remembered and that's the only reason I stayed back... "I thought of leaving the day he passed, but his words were the only thing that kept me back

Roundup Of Olympic Gold Medals From Tuesday, Feb 8

Nicknamed the "Snow Princess,"

ble on the landing in Round 1.

SNOWBOARDING

venia for the gold.

the bracketed field.

bronze.

Agencies

BEIJING: A roundup of gold medals from Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the Beijing Games:

ALPINE SKIING MEN'S SUPER-G

Defending champion Matthias Mayer of Austria won the men's super-G, capturing a third Olympic

Ryan Cochran-Siegle of the Unitstyle big air. Gu is a medal favorite in big air, slopestyle and halfpipe. Her first

Mayer broke Norway's 16-year

MIXED DOUBLES

FREESTYLE SKIING WOMEN'S BIG AIR

American-born Eileen Gu of Chi-

States and was granted Russian citizenship in 2012, won gold in the

event at the 2014 Sochi Games. three gold medals in women's free-WOMEN'S PARALLEL GIANT SLALOM

Ester Ledecka of the Czech Republic defended her Olympic snowboard parallel giant slalom title with a quick final run on a sunstab at gold came down to the last splashed course.

round. Ledeux is the only other Four years ago in South Korea, Ledecka became the first comwoman to ever land a 1620 -- $4\frac{1}{2}$ spins -- in competition, and she petitor to win gold in two different stomped one out with a slight wobsports at the same Winter Games. She has a chance to accomplish the Ledeux won silver and Mathilfeat once again in China. The womde Gremaud of Switzerland won en's super-G ski race is scheduled for Friday at the Yanqing Alpine Skiing Center.

In the gold-medal race, the top-**MEN'S PARALLEL GIANT SLALOM** seeded Ledecka opened an early lead on Daniela Ulbing, putting pres-Second-seeded Benjamin Karl of Austria held off Tim Mastnak of Slosure on the Austrian snowboarder along the side-by-side course at the Russian athlete Vic Wild picked Genting Snow Park. Ulbing made up the bronze as the No. 9 seed in a mistake up top and later veered off course. Gloria Kotnik of Slovenia Wild, who is from the United earned the bronze. (AP)

extension until October's Twenty20 World Cup finals.

"Absolutely no one deserves to

"Clearly he didn't get the

length of contract extension of-

fer that he was after so it hasn't

to the fact that it was individu-

als that were key to making the

Speculation over Langer's po-

tent over his coaching style.

have the saga that has been played

out as publicly as it has been.

porters on Tuesday.

decision.'

"There's obviously a lot of ex-"I feel for him," Bailey told replayers talking about the playing group," Khawaja told reporters.

"I think at some stage, one of the captains, Finchy or Patty, will probably have to stand up and answer some questions just to get rid of all the speculation that's going around and to just been ideal, but I don't subscribe put an end to it all."

Khawaja sympathised with Langer calling him a "legend of a bloke".

"He brought humility back to sition at the helm of the team the Australian team ... I know had been growing for months what we played like before he amid reports of player disconwas coach and I know what we played like when he was coach." He claimed in his resignation added Khawaja.

Kane Williamson To Miss S. Africa **Test Series Due To Elbow Injury**

Agencies

WELLINGTON: Captain Kane Williamson will miss New Zealand's two-test home cricket series against South Africa with an elbow injury.

The strain injury, which can't be corrected by surgery, also caused Williamson to miss New Zealand's recent series against Bangladesh. His most recent Test was against India in November.

The retirement of veteran Ross Taylor will leave New Zealand with one of its thinnest batting lineups in recent years, with the bowling allrounder Daryl Mitchell likely to bat as high as No. 5.

Coach Gary Stead has recalled batsman Hamish Rutherford and allrounder Colin de Grandhomme to an enlarged 15-man squad which also includes uncapped wicketkeeper Cam Fletcher and

seamer Blair Tickner. Rutherford last played a Test in 2015. New ball bowler Trent Boult will miss the first test while awaiting the birth of his third child.

Stead said Williamson was "desperate to be fit for the series Africa in a Test series. (AP)



but with the amount of loading required for test cricket, we had to make the tough call for him to sit it out and focus on returning for the white ball matches against the Netherlands in March.

'Kane loves playing for the Black Caps and especially in test cricket so it was a particularly hard call. However, the priority has to be trying to get the injury right and having him available long term."

The first test against South Africa begins on on Feb. 17 and both tests will be played at Hagley Park in Christchurch to limit travel and reduce players' exposure to COVID-19. New Zealand has never beaten South



in Australia.'

career on her final jump, stunning France's Tess Ledeux and earning the first of what she hopes will be

Wednesday | 09.02.2022





Kashmir Observer

Be healthy, be prepared!



Bajaj Allianz Family Health Care Covers



In Patient Hospitalization Expenses



Pre & Post Hospitalization Expenses



Day Care Procedures



Road Ambulance



Hospital Cash Benefit



Organ Donor Expenses



Sum Insured Reinstatement Benefit



Preventive Health Check-Up



Ayurvedic / Homeopathic Hospitalization Expenses

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd. | Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerwada, Pune – 411006. Reg.: 113 | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | UIN: IRDAI/HLT/BAGI/P-H/V.I/65/2016-17 | For more details, log on to : www.bajajallianz.com or call at : Sales - 1800 209 0144 / Service - 1800 209 5858 (Toll Free No.) | For more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale.

J&K Bank Ltd is a licensed Corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. [IRDAI registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BJAZ-O-JK-0005/17-Mar-20

