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P7 STATE

LG LAYS FOUNDATION OF TAWI RIVERFRONT PROJECT IN JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday laid the foundation of the Tawi riverfront development project here and said it would generate employment

THINK

BOLLYWOOD'S COMPLICITY IN ISLAMOPHOBIA

For the most part of its history, Hindi cinema and Muslim relationship has revolved in intricate orbits. Their deportment and the nature of the filmic world are increasingly getting intertwined with each other.



P8 SPORTS

I KNEW 10 YEARS AGO I WILL REPRESENT INDIA IN WINTER OLYMPICS: ARIF KHAN

Kashmiri skier Arif Khan, who will create history on Sunday when he takes part in the men's giant slalom event of the Beijing Winter Olympics, says he knew 10



Quote!

Your eyes show the strength of your soul

– Paulo Coelho

NEWS DIGEST

Two-Way Traffic On Highway Today

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for both way traffic on Sunday, officials said. "On 13-02-2022, subject to fair weather and **More on P6**

4 Poachers Held For Killing Protected Animal

JAMMU: Four poachers, including a village defence committee (VDC) member, were arrested on Saturday for allegedly shooting dead a 'Sambar deer' in a forest area in Reasi district of **More on P6**

Labourer Dies While Cutting Down Tree

GANDERBAL: A man died during the process of cutting down a poplar tree in Kangan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday. Reports said that a labourer was cutting down a poplar tree at Najwan Kangan **More on P6**

Man Found Dead In Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: An unknown man was found dead on Saturday in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. An official said that body of a man, believed to be non-local, was found at Syed Kadal area of Fethapora, Ganderbal on Saturday morning. "Locals spotted the body lying in a nallah and **More on P6**

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Ishrad Ahmad: 7006276927

Mercury Settles At Minus 3 Deg Celsius In Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Mercury dropped to minus 3.0°C in Srinagar even as other places recorded a slight increase on Saturday, officials said.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar, the summer capital of the J&K, recorded a fall of nearly 0.8°C against last night's minus 2.2°C.

Qazigund witnessed a low of minus 3.2°C against minus 3.2°C on the previous night, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had a low of minus 3.5°C against minus 3.6°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 8.1°C against minus 9.4°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 7.8°C against minus 10.2°C on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 1.6°C below normal for this **More on P6**

Alert for Health Dept Employees

No Salary For 'Unsatisfactory' Work



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has decided that no salary will be given to all those employees of DHKS whose monthly work will be found unsatisfactory.

According to an order, DHKS has asked all concerned authorities to forward the monthly work done statement

of the employees working under their control to concerned disbursing officers that their monthly work done is satisfactory for the drawl of salary.

They have also asked the concerned DDOs that no salary is drawn in favour of such employees whose work done is found unsatisfactory.

"Instructions have been conveyed by **More on P6**

Drug Abuse Bigger Challenge Than Militancy: DGP

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh said on Saturday that drug abuse is a bigger challenge than militancy in the Union Territory as it not only provides oxygen to the militancy but also targets the younger generation.

Singh made these remarks during the stone laying foundation of Police drug-de-addiction at Channi Himmat, here, by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday, a police spokesperson said. Singh, he said, expressed his



happiness over the creation of much needed facility here.

"He said that drug abuse is a bigger challenge than terrorism in J&K as it not only provides oxygen to the terrorism by means of

Respect Religious Sentiments, Constitution: LG On Hijab Row

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Amid the ongoing controversy over hijab in Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said every citizen of the country should respect the religious sentiments of others and hold the Constitution supreme.

He also dispelled any apprehensions about the Delimitation Commission report and said he is confident that there will

be no mistake as the Election Commission of India is a constitutional body and works in a transparent and scientific manner.

I have to talk about two things respect of religious sentiments and holding Indian Constitution supreme. Every citizen of the country should keep these two things in mind, Sinha said, responding to a question about Karnataka hijab row during a press conference here.

He said the issue is sub-judice and, therefore, **More on P6**

India Faces Significant Challenges From China: US

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: India faces "very significant challenges", in particular from China and its behaviour in the Line of Actual Control, the White House has said, as it unveiled the Biden administration's first region-specific report on the strategic Indo-Pacific.

The report on US's Indo-Pacific Strategy, released on Friday, outlines President Joe Biden's vision to firmly anchor the country's position in the Indo-Pacific, strengthen the region and support India's rise and regional leadership.

"We will continue to build a strategic partnership in which the United States and India work together and through regional groupings to promote stability in South Asia; collaborate in new domains such as health, space, and cyberspace; deepen our economic and technology cooperation; and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific," the White House said.

"We recognise that India is a like-minded partner and leader in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, active in and connected to Southeast Asia,



a driving force of the Quad and other regional fora, and an engine for regional growth and development," the White House statement added.

At a White House background briefing, a senior administration official, on condition of anonymity, pointed out that India was facing "significant challenges".

India, the senior official said, is in a very different place, in many ways than Australia and other countries.

"But India faces very significant challenges. China's behaviour on the Line of Actual Control has had a galvanising impact on India. From our standpoint, we see tremendous opportunities

in working with another democracy - with a country that has a maritime tradition that understands the importance of the global commons - to advance critical issues in the region, the senior administration official said.

The border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

"There is tremendous appreciation of the importance and the challenges of strengthening the engagement with India and a recognition that India is a critical strategic partner, and a desire to continue building on the very good work **More on P6**

Police Told To Complete Character Verifications Within 7 Days

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Rakesh Balwal Saturday directed all Station House Officers to complete the verification process within a stipulated time of seven (7) days in normal circumstances. The move is likely to give relief to those who wait endlessly for verification certificates from various police agencies.

A police spokesman said, in cases of emergent nature wherein much faster action is required, the verification process will be expedited further.

It is strictly enjoined upon all the SHO's to finalise and submit all the routine verifications within seven days, because delay in verification process leads to defeating of the very purpose of the verification exercise, the police statement said.

Delimitation Panel's Proposals NC Submits Memorandums To DCs Across Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The National Conference on Saturday submitted memorandums against the delimitation commission draft report to deputy commissioners across Jammu province, a party spokesperson said.

The memorandums were submitted as part of a stepped up mass campaign against the delimitation commission draft with regard to "illogical restructuring" of the assembly constituencies across Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

The party highlighted the "grave anomalies" in the recommendations like clubbing of Poonch and Rajouri districts with the Anantnag Parliamentary Constituency, he said.

In Jammu district, a protest led by NC provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta was

held before handing over the memorandum to the concerned deputy commissioner, the spokesperson said.

According to reports received at party headquarters 'Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan', the spokesperson said, memorandums were also submitted to the deputy commissioners at Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda, Reasi and Kishtwar districts.

"The memorandum, inter alia, expressed concern over ignoring topography, internal dimension, population and linkages with the administrative while restructuring the constituencies," he said.

"The party viewed seriously wiping of Suchetgarh, Raipur Domana and Gool Arnas from the legislative map of the province, saying that fiddling with these **More on P6**

Cases Dip Further, 458 Test Covid Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The daily Coronavirus cases dipped further in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday as 458 more people tested positive for virus, the lowest tally in over a month, while three others succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, Kashmir Valley reported 206 fresh cases of Covid-19 while the remaining 252 were registered from various districts of Jammu division on Saturday, taking the number of people infected by virus since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 450331.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 80 new cases of Coronavirus, Kupwara 45, Budgam 20, Baramulla and Kulgam 13 each, nine each in Pulwama and Anantnag, Ganderbal 8, Bandipora 5 and Shopian 4.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu detected a maximum of 88 fresh cases of virus, Doda 65, Udhampur 26, Ramban 21, Kishtwar 17, Reasi 14, Kathua 7, Poonch 6, Rajouri 5 and Samba 3.

"Moreover, 1624 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 574 from Jammu Division and 1050 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials **More on P6**

Al-Badr Module Busted In Sopore, 7 Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have busted a module of Al-Badr by arresting four hybrid militants and three of their associates in Sopore town of Baramulla district.

Based on specific inputs that Al-Badr is planning to carry out attacks on government forces at several places in Sopore, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by police, army's 32RR & 92Bn CRPF in Rawochoa Rafiabad, a police spokesperson said Saturday.

During the search operation, he said, 3 hybrid militants of Al-Badr were arrested. He identified them as Waris Tantriy of Rawochoa Rafiabad, Amir Sultan Wani of Nowpora Sopore and Tariq Ahmad Bhat of Chontipora Handwara.

During preliminary questioning, the police **More on P6**



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What To Avoid When Taking A Rapid Antigen Test

Many of us have taken a rapid antigen test (RAT) or have administered them to our school-aged children.

But how many of us are using them correctly?

Here are 15 pitfalls to avoid if you want to get the most out of your RAT.

1. Storing at the wrong temperature

RATs should be kept at 2-30 degree Celsius for them to work as intended. Storing at higher temperatures means proteins in the tests can be denatured – permanent changes to protein structure, just like when you cook an egg. Don't let the kit freeze. This can also damage the kit components.

2. Using straight from the fridge

The reagents (essential test kit ingredients) will not work properly at cold temperatures. Let the kit sit out of the fridge for about 30 minutes before using it.

3. Using an out-of-date test

Always check the use-by date before using, which you'll find on the carton. Expired tests can contain biological or chemical reagents that have gone off or are denatured.

4. Opening too early

Do NOT open the test items until you are ready to start. Storing the test open can lead to false positives (you can test positive without really having COVID).

5. Taking the test too soon or too late after exposure

A study, which has yet to be reviewed by experts, suggests RATs cannot detect SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) until at least day two after exposure. It



RATs also cannot detect the virus later than about seven or eight days after exposure. So don't wait too long to get tested.

takes a median of three days to test positive.

RATs also cannot detect the virus later than about seven or eight days after exposure. So don't wait too long to get tested. RAT sensitivity (ability to detect a positive case) improves if you take a daily test, over several days.

6. Assuming all tests work the same

Some RATs need nasal swabs, others use saliva. The way virus is extracted from the sample, the number of drops to add to the testing device, and the timeframe to read the results differ between brands. Familiarise yourself with the instructions, especially if it's a new brand, or it's been some time since your last RAT.

7. Contaminating the test

Do NOT touch the tip of the swab (the soft bit that goes in your nose) with your fingers or allow it to come into contact with other surfaces.

8. Sampling snot

Blow your nose before doing a nasal swab as you don't want to sample snot. You want to swab the tissue that lines the nasal passages, using the technique below.

9. Swabbing at the wrong angle and depth

When inserting the nasal swab, you are not trying to swab the inside of your nostril but the tissue further back in the nasal passages. So rather than going directly upwards with the swab, try to go horizontally and about 2-3 centi-

metres back. Then rotate the swab gently against the walls of the nasal passage the exact number of times your test recommends. Repeat on the other side. Because it's easy to get the angle/depth wrong, it's best for parents or caregivers to take children's samples. Most RATs shouldn't be used on children under two years old, so check the instructions if you're not sure.

10. Continuing with a bloody swab

Blood on the nasal swab will give you an inaccurate result. Discard the test and do another when bleeding has stopped, or swab only on the side that is not bleeding. Don't use a test that requires nasal swabbing if you are prone to nose bleeds. Use a saliva test instead.

11. Eating, drinking, chewing gum, brushing your teeth or smoking before a saliva test

These can give an inaccurate result. So wait 30 minutes before taking a saliva sample.

12. Adding too many or too few drops to the indicator device

Adding the right number of drops will ensure the liquid moves across the test surface in a specific time. If you add extra drops, or too few, you will mess up the timeline and the test will not work properly.

13. Reading the result too early or too late

Read the result at the time listed in the instructions. Read the test too early and it is likely to give you a false negative result (the test reads negative but you are really positive). Too late and it might indicate you are positive when you are not.

14. Misreading the result

When you read your results (at the correct time):

- two lines means you have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2
- a line at C (for control) ONLY means the test has worked and you have tested negative
- a line at T (for test) (or A for antigen, depending on the kit) but NOT C means your test is faulty. Do another one
- no lines also means your test is faulty and you need to repeat it.

15. Disposing of the kit incorrectly

Seal any components of the kit that have come into contact with your nasal or saliva sample (swab, containers, reagents, test device etc) in the plastic bag provided and dispose in the garbage. Only place the cardboard carton and paper instructions in recycling.

(The Conversation)

از نیابت ربیر پورہ با اجلاس غلامی الدین بیٹ صاحب
درخواست منجانب :- مسکان ولسو دختر زار احمد بیٹ ساکنہ ربیر پورہ تحصیل مٹن
بغرض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سالانہ ایک درخواست سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پورٹ جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پتواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالانہ کیچنگل پندرہ سالوں سے وہ بذمیں سکونت پذیر ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	عمر	پیش	آمدنی
1	ولسو زار احمد ولسو دختر زار احمد	50 سال	مزدوری	5000/=
2	محمودہ زوجہ ولسو زار احمد	47 سال	گھر بی کام	
3	مسکان ولسو دختر زار احمد	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	حازنہ ولسو دختر زار احمد	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	حازنہ ولسو دختر زار احمد	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طرح سالانہ کا کینہ 05 افراد پیش ہے۔ اور سالانہ کے کینہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔ سالانہ کے کینہ کے پاس دھڑ میں دو کنال آراضی موجود ہے۔ جسکی ماہانہ آمدنی 60,000/=: روپیہ تنگ ہے۔ سالانہ کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زراعی سے تقریباً 120,000/= روپیہ تنگ ہے۔ اسطور سالانہ RBA سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد سات دن کے اندر اندر آ پنا اعتراض دفتر بذمیں پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے عید عادی کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار۔
ma

Public Notice

I have a Pnb Metlife policy under policy no 2114678. In the name of UMER GULZAR BHAT but my correct name is OMER GULZAR S/O GULZAR AHMAD BHAT now I want to correct it if anybody have objection may contact Pnb Metlife office Anantnag within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained. OMER GULZAR R/O VESSU DOORU ANANTNAG JAMMU AND KASHMIR ma

Public Notice.

I intend to apply for fertilizers license. If anybody having any objection in this regard He / She may file the same in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag within the period of seven (07) days no objection will be entertained after stipulated time. Afroza Akhter W/o/- Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o/- Check Imoh Anantnag. ma

Public Notice.

I intend to apply for Pesticides license. If anybody having any objection in this regard He / She may file the same in the office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the period of seven (07) days no objection will be entertained after stipulated time. Afroza Akhter W/o/- Bashir Ahmad Bhat R/o/- Check Imoh Anantnag. ma

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Mrs : Mushtaq Sakeena W/o: Mohammad Sabdar Magray R/o: Najab Abad Bemina owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 8548 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J & K Bank Ltd B/u Ompora Budgam Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5732 Dated 12/02/2022 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Bilal Ahmad Khuja S/o: Mohi ud Din Khuja R/o: Dawlatpora Budgam (Transferor) of Scooty. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D - 0836. Chasis number 25622 Engine no. 26195 Model 2015. in favour of Shri. Raise Farooq S/o. Farooq Ahmad Wani R/o Aramwari Zero Bridge Srinagar (Tranferree) 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. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5733 Dated 12/02/2022 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

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Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme 2021-22

Description: Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme 2021-22 is for the dependent wards of ex-servicemen/ex-coast guard personnel and their widows.

Eligibility: Open for Indian candidates who hold a 10+2/Diploma/Graduation degree with a minimum of 60% marks in the qualifying examination and have taken admission in first year (except lateral entry and integrated courses) of a professional degree course.

Prizes & Rewards: Variable awards Last Date to Apply: 28-02-2022 Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/PMF1

Scholarship Name 2: IIT Gandhinagar Physics Discipline Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) 2022

Description: IIT Gandhinagar Physics Discipline Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) 2022 is a research opportunity offered to Ph.D. degree holders.

Eligibility: Open for candidates who hold a Ph.D. degree in Physics or any related branch of Science/Engineering with training in Soft-condensed Matter Physics.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 50,000 per month plus HRA Last Date to Apply: 28-02-2022 Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GPP3

Scholarship Name 3: JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship 2022-23

Description: The J N Tata Endowment invites loan scholarship applications from Indians who wish to pursue higher studies abroad. Candidates who are selected for the loan scholarship may be recommended for a partial 'Travel Grant' and a 'Gift Award' - which is linked to their academic performance in their overseas studies for which they have received the J N Tata Endowment loan scholarship.

Eligibility: Candidates should be Indians, not older than 45 years as on 30th June, 2022 and have completed at least one undergraduate

degree OR who are in the final year of any undergraduate programme at a recognised university/college/institution in India.

Candidates who are at the end of the 1st year and entering into the second year of their overseas studies (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023) are also eligible to apply. This is applicable only if the minimum duration of the course is 2 years and there is at least one full academic year remaining to complete at the time of award of the loan scholarship, normally by July of any calendar year.

Candidates must have scored at least 60% marks on average in their undergraduate or post-graduate studies.

The course to which candidates are admitted must be recognised as a Graduate Program (post-graduate in Indian terminology).

Prizes & Rewards: Loan scholarship up to INR 10 lakh Last Date to Apply: 21-03-2022 Application mode: Online applications only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/JNT1

Union Territory Of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Jal Shakti Department Mechanical irrigation Division Anantnag HQ Awantipora

E-Mail: xnmidanantnag@gmail.com Tel/Fax: 01933-247951

Sub: E Nit No 38 Serial No 8 Dated : 01.02.2022

CORRIGENDUM

Please read; Measuring Range 0-300 A

Instead of; Measuring Range 0-500 V (Phase to phase) 300 V (Phase to N)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in original E NIT

No MIDA/3575-79 sd/= Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag HQ Awantipora Date: 11.02.2022

DIPK-18001/21

District Employment & Counselling Centre Ganderbal

(Khun Harran, Ganderbal Pin: 191201)

Email ID: empxgbl@gmail.com

Subject:- Customized Livelihood Generation Scheme for Dental Professionals.

Public Notice

Through the medium of this notice, the unemployed Dental Professionals of District Ganderbal between the age of 18 to 40 years are informed that a Customized Livelihood Generation Scheme for Dental Professionals has been launched to address the issue of these unemployed Dental Surgeons. The scheme aims to address unemployment in Dental sector by providing customized financial support to professions for setting up dental clinics. The maximum amount of Rs. 08.00 lakhs shall be provided as financial assistance under this scheme for setting up of a dental clinic. Mission Youth, J&K shall provide a grant in aid/ capital amount of Rs. 02.00 Lakhs for each dental clinic to be set up under the scheme and it will be given as a special grant to unemployed dental professions for setting up of their own clinics. Rest amount of Rs. 06.00 Lakhs shall be financed by the Bank as Start up loan which shall be repayable.

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a domicile of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The financial assistance would be given only to registered dentists between the ages of 18 to 40 years.
- The beneficiary must be unemployed and registered with concerned District Employment & Counselling centre Ganderbal.
- The total family income of the every beneficiary dentist Doctor shall not exceed Rs. 08.00 Lakhs per year.
- Any person or any Existing units which have already availed any incentive/ subsidy under any Govt. Scheme of India or State shall not be eligible for assistance under the Scheme.

How to Apply:-

The desirous and eligible applicants of District Ganderbal are informed to submit their application alongwith requisite documents like:

1. Degree certificate
2. Copy of Registration issued by JK Dental Council
3. Age proof
4. Domicile Certificate
5. Income Proof
6. Any other documents as may be prescribed by Mission Youth

S. No	Date of Start submitting applications	Last date submitting application	Last date scrutiny applications DLTF/ DLIC	Last date for submitting cases to Mission Youth	Date of issuance formal sanction
1	10.02.2022	18.02.2022	22.02.2022	24.02.2022	26.02.2022

For Further Details Contact:- Assistant Director, District Employment & Counselling Centre, Ganderbal. Contact No: 9697739000

No: DE&CC/Gbl/2021-22/ Assistant Director Employment DE&CC, Ganderbal. Dated: .02.2022.

DIPK-18056/21

Border Bn aspirants demand conduct of written exam

Observer News Service

Srinagar:-- Job aspirants from border areas staged a protest against the Government for failing to provide jobs to jobless people.

The aspirants who had applied for their recruitment in Border Battalion in Kashmir Valley held a protest against the failure of concerned authorities to hold the written examination till date though their physical tests were conducted several months back.

The protesters were carrying placards denouncing the policies towards unemployed youth.

Protesters, mostly females, assembled at Press Enclave Srinagar and appealed to the government to conduct a written examination as soon as possible.

The protestors said that applications were sought from the male and female candidates by the Central Government to form a Border Battalion, in which many people from border areas had applied and appeared in physical examination, but even after several months, their written examination has not been conducted.

One of the lady aspirants told the news agency, that Defense Minister Rajnath Singh had visited border areas of the Valley and had promised that unemployed males and ladies will be adjusted in different border battalions. She demanded that written examinations should be conducted without any delay. She said that the Central Government has been misleading and doing nothing to mitigate the sufferings of unemployed young men and women of Jammu and Kashmir.

Minor Girl Kidnaped, Sexually Assaulted, 3 Arrested: Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested three accused persons for their involvement in kidnapping and sexually assaulting a minor girl. The car used in commission of crime has also been seized.

According to a statement, the police said "On 11/02/2022, Police Station Bemina received a complaint from a resident of Mansoor Colony Bemina that his minor daughter had been abducted by unknown persons."

The police said, accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 02/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Bemina and investigation was initiated.

"Subsequently, a special team was constituted immediately which acted swiftly and recovered the missing girl promptly from TRC Srinagar," reads the statement.

It further said that during the course of investigation, it surfaced that the minor girl was kidnapped by three persons & was assaulted sexually.

"Raids were conducted at several locations and all the three accused involved in commission of crime were arrested," the police said.

The police identified the accused as Basit Ali son of Ali Mohd Dar, Irfan Ahmad Najar son of Abdul Rashid both residents of Fruit Mandi, Parimpora and Firdous Ahmad Angher son of Gulzar Ahmad resident of Beerwah, Budgam.

As a part of investigation, necessary



Burglars loot eatable items from Srinagar shop

Observer News Service

Srinagar:-- Police have taken cognizance after a theft incident occurred at Mominabad area of Batamaloo Srinagar.

Reports said that burglars looted edible items including mustard oil, tea, rice, flour from a shop.

The proprietor of the shop 'Gh-

ulam Rasool Dar & Sons' appealed to the police to nab the miscreants and take the issue seriously.

He said that some of the CCTV cameras have been damaged by the burglars. "Incidents of theft are on rise in the area. It's high time police take action and nab the culprits," he said.

Police visited the shop and registered a case. (KNT)

medico-legal formalities were carried out and the girl was handed over to her legal heirs. Besides the car used in com-

mission of this heinous crime has also been seized. Further investigation in this case is in progress, the police said.

Govt felicitates class 12th Topper

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:-- As an encouragement to the meritorious students and to boost their morale, the District Administration Srinagar, Saturday felicitated Aroosa Parvaiz of Ellahibagh, Srinagar, who has bagged first position in Science stream in recently declared results of 12th class Board examination by securing 499 or 99.80% marks.

Aroosa Parvaiz was felicitated by the Deputy Com-

missioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad during a felicitation ceremony held in his Office chamber wherein she was honoured with certificate of excellence, Trophy and a cheque of Rs 10000 as a mark of encouragement for her future endeavours.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Syed Hanief Balkhi, besides father of the student Parvaiz Ahmad was also present on the occasion.

While interacting with the meritorious student, the DC congratulated her for a

brilliant performance which resulted in her remarkable success. The DC hoped that she would inspire other students also to work hard to excel in their studies and academic careers.

Further, the role of the teachers, parents and guardians in her achievement was also appreciated.

The DC also advised her to stay focused in the resolve towards excellence and continue to be an inspiration for other girl students leading to women empowerment in the society.

Govt provides immediate assistance to Elahibagh fire victims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the District Administration today provided an immediate ex-gratia relief/assistance to the fire victims of City Colony Elahibagh and Mam Khan Bachi-Darwaza areas of Srinagar.

At City Colony, Ellahibagh two residential houses comprising 5 families were damaged in a fire incident on Friday evening. While one more

house was gutted in a fire incident at Mam Khan, Bachi Darwaza.

The District Administration today provided essential assistance in the form of 35 blankets, 18 mattresses, 18 bed sheets and 06 kitchen sets, besides Rs 30000 to all 06 affected families out of Red Cross as an interim relief.

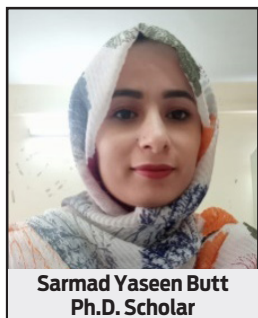
Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner has also sanctioned Rs 3.0 lakh under SDRF (@ Rs 1.0 lakh per family) in favour of all three houses damaged in separate fire incidents.

BE CAUTIOUS: YOU CAN BE A VICTIM OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media refers to a computer based technology which expedite and promotes the sharing of ideas, thoughts, information through the medium of virtual networks and communities. It has become the most influential and important virtual space where the platform is used for social networking and connecting people. Social media power is laudable as we can reach larger number of people within seconds. We can also say that it is the meeting point of today's internet savvy audience. There are more than 4.5 billion social media users around the world. Major portion of younger generation, particularly teenagers, and middle aged persons are major percentage of the total social media user population. The largest social media networks include Facebook, Instagram, twitter, you tube etc. As time is changing and society is modernizing, Social media is changing and developing accordingly. New apps such as Tik tok, clubhouse, many English speaking apps are coming out seemingly every year, joining the ranks of more established social networks.

Social media platforms are universal in the present times and have connected us with the people around the globe in many ways. We share information and updates in a flash with the networks of connections we have built. While sharing information, in this manner is favourable and privileged for many reasons, but it also brings many risks along with it. Social media is slowly killing real life and replacing with fakeness. People post their best things. We believe that they are happy every time. But the reality is very different. Actually the thing is that these people are being influenced. They are being fed with the concept that they need to show the world that they are rich, beautiful, living a luxurious life and everything is nice with them. We should not make any opinion about a person based on their profiles on social media.

Trusting people online is just like buying stuff for home without checking it or buying medicines without checking expiry date. The trust is es-



Sarmad Yaseen Butt
Ph.D. Scholar

established through mutual understanding and dedication, between two or more people, the persons we meet in real life are much more veritable. We can know them better by being with them, by understanding their nature and how they react in particular situation. But this is not the case with online meeting. We are bound to believe what he/she shows us. How they will pretend, we believe that. They can be either fake or they can cheat us easily because we don't know their backgrounds or how actually they are. So be careful when you trust people online. Remember one thing that no matter how long you have talked to them or how much you have talked but in reality they are still strangers to you. When you are chatting and posting things online, make sure that you keep your personal information private. So that they can't harm you. Stalking, identity thefts, personal attacks, mis use of information are among the major issues which social media users face. In most of the situations the users themselves are to be blame for this, because they share the private information in the public. Unfortunately, by the time the private content is deleted, it's usually too late. It can cause problems both in their personal and professional lives. So make sure that the content which you are sharing online with anyone, if it will be public, are you ok with it. If yes, then you should proceed.

One of the biggest threats to online security is overconfidence. Many users believe that they don't have anything worth hacking or why will

anyone hack them, or who will hack them, so they believe that there is no need to worry about security and safety. But they are wrong. With today's technology we are connected with each other than ever before. When you neglect security, you are putting not only you but others at risk as well. To keep yourself and your information at a safe zone, pay careful attention to your online activity including travel plans, bank account information, your full address, location information, daily schedule. Posting and sharing your travel photos when you are still on vacation is just like sending an open invitation for someone to come and rob your possessions at home. Thieves troll social media all the time looking for opportunity. Lamentably, home burglary isn't the only reason criminals monitor social media. They know that when you are travelling, or on a vacation. You will not pay attention to your accounts and finances, so it becomes an easy opportunity for financial theft and fraud. Wait till you get home to post your travel pictures. So privacy and safety is in your hands.

When we spend time with our friends or family, we care more about how other people think of us being at that moment. We spend more time taking photos for others, than being in the moment. Instead of experiencing something in real time, we are more interested in watching it through the filter of screen. We should value the persons we are with, by talking with them rather than being on phone. You can use social networks for all they were meant to effectuate, but you need to take extra care and precautions to make sure that your personal information doesn't go into the wrong hands. Use a stronger password; the longer it is the more secure it will be. If possible use a different password for each of your social media accounts. Be selective with friend requests. If you don't know the person, don't accept the friend request. It could be a fake account. And most important thing that be careful about what you share.

rna

Public Notice

I shahid Motors (Honda) kulgam has applied for trade certificate of two wheelers at ARTO office kulgam. If anyone has any kind of objection kindly report at our office within one week. Address opposite hp gas godown Shurat Kulgam. If failed to report within one week after that objection will not be accepted.

Regards
Shahid Rashid

RNA

Public Notice

I have made name correction in my Aadhaar Card in which it was wrongly entered as Gulam Hassan Koli S/o Gulam Mohammad Koli while the correct Name is Gulam Hassan Koli S/o Ismaiel Coolie. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the J&K DK Marg Damhal Hanjipora Kulgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gulam Hassan Koli
S/o Ismaiel Coolie
R/o Dodkuchan Dano Kandi Marag, Kulgam

rna

Public Notice.

I intend to apply for fertilizers license. If anybody having any objection in this regard He / She may file the same in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Anantnag within the period of seven (07) days no objection will be entertained after stipulated time.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Teli
S/o:- Mohd Abdullah Teli
R/o:-Krangsoo Mattan Anantnag.

rna

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

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

Name : Yaseen Murtaza Mir
S/o Nissar Hussain Mir
R/o Magam (193401)
Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2404206 Session /Year Annual-Regular 2018



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
bmg
Sub Office Magam

DIAL-EMMA

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
11 - Rajab
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 54
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4:33
Magrib	6:15
ISHA	7: 37

This Day In History

- 1916 - Germany and Austria-Hungary notify the US that they will sink any armed merchant ships starting on 1 March
- 1922 - US intervention army leaves Honduras
- 1943 - US General Eisenhower selected to command the allied armies in Europe; British General Montgomery not best pleased.
- 1944 - German troops reconquer Aprilia, Italy
- 1945 - 1st gas turbine propeller-driven airplane flight tested, Downey, CA.
- 1945 - Yalta agreement signed by FDR, Churchill & Stalin
- 1946 - World War II: Operation Deadlight ends after scuttling 116 of 156 captured U-boats.
- 1953 - USSR breaks diplomatic relations with Israel
- 1956 - British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean deny working as spies for Soviet Russia after reappearing in the Soviet Union after going missing 5 years earlier
- 1964 - Greek & Turks begin fighting in Limassol, Cyprus
- 1964 - Taiwan drops diplomatic relations with France
- 1968 - Israeli-Jordan border fight
- 1970 - Japan becomes 4th nation to put a satellite (Os-umi) in orbit.
- 1971 - US, UK, USSR, others sign Seabed Treaty outlawing nuclear weapons
- 1973 - 1st one-day international for Pakistan & NZ
- 1974 - Titan-Centaur rocket test launch fails.
- 1974 - Henry Kissinger unveils Nixon Administration's seven-point "Project Independence" plan to make the U.S. energy independent
- 1974 - Libya nationalizes three US oil companies that had not agreed to 51 percent nationalization in September
- 1975 - Margaret Thatcher defeats Edward Heath for leadership of the British Conservative Party
- 1978 - China lifts a ban on Aristotle, Shakespeare, & Dickens
- 1979 - Iran's premier Bakhtiar resigns, Ayatollah Khomeini seizes power
- 1984 - 10th space shuttle mission (41-B)-Challenger 4-returns to Earth
- 1985 - King Hussein of Jordan & PLO leader Arafat sign accord
- 1990 - Nelson Mandela released after 27 years imprisonment in South Africa.
- 1991 - UNPO, Unrepresented Nations & People Org forms in Hague Neth.
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-60 (Discovery 18), lands
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-63 (Discovery 19), lands
- 2008 - In East Timor, assassination attempts were made on Xanana Gusmao and Jose Ramos-Horta. Both failed.
- 2011 - Egyptian Revolution culminates in the resignation of Hosni Mubarak and the transfer of power to the Supreme Military Council after 18 days of protests.

From KO Archives

Shabir Shah Ready To Join Electoral Fray

DFP Supremo Says No Int'l Supervision Necessary

NEW DELHI - In a significant climb down from his earlier stand senior Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah on Saturday advanced a new proposal for holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of some non-governmental organisations (NGO) of the country and intellectuals.

"If the government is really interested in finding the true representatives of people of Kashmir, then elections should be held under the supervision of some Indian NGOs and in-tellectuals," Shah announced this at a press conference.

Shah made it clear that he was not seeking supervision by any international organisation or the United Nations as he had complete faith in Indian NGOs and intellectuals.

Shah, one of the founder members of militant movement in the state, said simultaneously polls under such supervision should also be held in Pa-kistan-controlled-Kashmir to choose the representatives who could talk on behalf of the people in that part of Kashmir

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, he said "If he claims to be the genuine representative, he should prove his majority again by stepping down and facing the elections under such supervision."

He blamed Abdullah for recent killings of Sikhs in Srinagar and sought a judicial probe into it so that culprit: were brought to book

Shah said he was not opposed to talks with prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the Kashmir issue.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 13 February, 2001)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks

“ #knifecrime at Batamaloo saw swift police action. But it shouldn't hike sale of cctv or entry face sensors. It shud heighten #Police alertness. More patrols, more police posts in expanded colonies. @JmUKmrPolice has to gear up social policing #CrimeNews”
@riyaz_masroor

“ A photo contest was held by Tourism Department few months back. Result was declared on Dec 12th 2021. Cash reward of Rs 25K 15K , 10 K was to be given to first three winners. Till date the Winners are waiting for the Cash ?”
@rtimuzaffar

“The major reason why people look at the West and find it "enlightened" and "civilized" is because that's how the West demands to be known and imagined. It's not an effect of ethics and morals, but an effect of their power”
@Eszedayy

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Resemblance Ghost

It was not for the first time that the Jammu and Kashmir government had taken up with its counterparts in various Indian states the issue of harassment and detention of innocent citizens of the state. This time it might have been the director-general of state police who addressed a communication to the chiefs of Anti-Terrorist Squads in about a dozen states. On earlier occasions it used to be no less a person than the state chief minister requesting his counterparts to take the state police on board before detaining any Kashmiri citizen in connection with any subversive link or activity.

Indeed, the present chief minister, Omar Abdullah, had availed himself of a much bigger forum, the National Integration Council, during its recent session presided over by no less a person than the Indian prime minister, to voice his concern over frequent incidents of harassment and arrest of Kashmiri people. He had gone to the extent of urging his counterparts from all other states to keep students and traders of Kashmir traveling through any Indian state in connection with education or business activity above any suspicion, “giving them due respect.”

Presumably, the appeal was prompted by the report that two youth from south Kashmir, who had been arrested in Rajasthan for their suspected involvement in the recent Delhi high court blast, had during their interrogation, turned out to be innocent. That even after being found to be innocent, the two had to wait for their release is beside the point.

“Every credential given by them was true. There is nothing suspicious about them. Still we have to keep them so that if an investigating agency wants, they can interrogate them,” superintendent of police, Alwar, Rajasthan, Mahesh Goyal, reportedly said. Obviously, by shooting out a communication to the ATS chiefs, an embarrassed state government, of which the ruling Congress at the centre happens to be a coalition partner, tried to control the damage caused by the arrest of not only the south Kashmir duo but of several others. It may be a matter of conjecture whether the exercise will yield the desired results although all the indicators point to the contrary as the Alwar police chief's statement would unmistakably suggest.

Going by the reports, the south Kashmir duo had been detained for the only sin of their resemblance with the sketches of two people released by the investigators following the high court blast. One is reminded of several classic cases of innocent Kashmiri civilians being hounded and harassed for reasons of resemblance.

Not long ago, a Kashmiri, who hailed from the little known Shalkot, a village in the central Kashmir's Budgam district, was (mis)taken as a national from Sialkot (Pakistan) and put behind bars. Bashir Ahmad Chaupani did not know that his travel down south to Kerala to sell shawls to provide for the treatment of his blind father would land him in jail for the most unlikely reason that the name of his village was similar to that of a Pakistani city. Like their counterparts in Delhi or elsewhere, the Kerala police didn't feel the need to consult anyone, even from Jammu and Kashmir police, to ascertain whether there was at all any Shalkot village in the state, before subjecting the poor Kashmiri to illegal detention.

Likewise, the young engineer from a north Kashmir village who was jailed in Punjab due to resemblance of his name, Muhammad Yasin Malik, with that of noted separatist leader and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chairman. Having knocked at the doors of the president, the prime minister, the National and State Human Rights Commissions, the state governor and the chief minister, and licking his wounds, Malik is already a celebrity. One really doesn't know when, if at all, the resemblance ghost will stop hounding the Kashmiris across various Indian states. It is time for New Delhi to visualize the disastrous fallout of anti-Kashmiri mindset that has become the second nature of law enforcing agencies throughout the country.

Enough is enough. By heaping indignities and atrocities on the state people on one pretext or other can only deepen their sense of alienation.

The author is KO's editorial from archives and was originally published on 16 October, 2011

Trolling Of Topper How Class 12 Results Ended On A Sour Note In Kashmir



Zaid Bin Shabir

TRoubled by the 'toxic trolling' that followed after she was declared topper of Class 12 exams in Kashmir, Aroosa Parvaiz says the vicious online attack has unsettled her family.

“These comments don't matter to me but they've taken a toll on my parents,” Aroosa told Kashmir Observer.

“Wearing or not wearing Hijab doesn't define one's belief in their religion. Maybe, I love Allah more than they (trolls) do. I'm a Muslim by heart not by hijab.”

The online attack started on February 8, when the Jammu & Kashmir State Board of School Education (JK-BOSE) announced its annual results for Class 12.

Like past several years, this year too, girls outperformed boys with a 78 percent success rate.

However, immediately after the results were declared and journalists published the topper's photos and videos, a trolling reared its ugly head in Kashmir's virtual world.

Amid all the congratulatory messages for Aroosa, several trolls shamed the student for not covering her head with a Hijab besides

contrasting her with religious statements.

“This sudden yet brutal trolling against a young female student is something that Kashmir has never witnessed before,” says Iqbal Khan, a teacher from Srinagar.

“This spiteful behavior is a comment on our community. By ruining

dents fighting for their hijab rights in the state government run schools.

“Hijab is a part of a Muslim woman's journey of piety but it doesn't start or end with it,” believes Tooba Punjabi, a doctorate candidate with specialization in Islamic and Gender Studies.

“As Muslims, you must realize that

“TROLLING OF KASHMIRI women, notably, has become a pastime in the online world where anonymity and physical distance has allowed people especially men to harass, abuse, and threaten others with a strong sense of impunity along with death threats flying thick and wild

such a happy moment for this bright girl with their sadistic and nasty comments, these trolls are only weaponizing religion. Which religion teaches them this venomous behavior? Who're they to judge people? Kashmiris should learn to rise above this habitual moral policing. And those resorting to this cruel conduct, time and again, should be called off.”

Many of these online harassers have also tried to establish an unwarranted link between the Kashmiri topper and the Karnataka girl stu-

hijab is an empowering practice for women but one that women must be able to reach through faith, education, freedom and not coercion. No one owes us piety. It is everyone's own journey. If we've any stake in the matter, it's through enlightenment and inspiration.”

Trolling of Kashmiri women, notably, has become a pastime in the online world where anonymity and physical distance has allowed people especially men to harass, abuse, and threaten others with a strong sense

of impunity along with death threats flying thick and wild.

Perhaps, that's why, one of the trolls was so emboldened with the impunity that he had openly called for the beheading of the girl: “Begairat...Pardah nai kia...Eski gardan katt do (Shameless, hasn't covered... She should be beheaded.”

Driven by this violent script of shutting and silencing women, Aroosa's case also saw trolls targeting her family members and questioning her upbringing.

“The problem is,” says Sana Hamid, a psychologist based out of Srinagar, “most of these trolls are delusional who tend to impose an ideological supremacy in the society. They tend to pick up soft-targets and make them victims of their toxic views. Those issuing these groundless online fatwas should be strictly dealt with in accordance with the law.”

Clarifying these “groundless online fatwas,” Mufti Azmatullah of Darul Uloom Rahimia, Bandipora told Kashmir Observer that Islam doesn't allow trolling or issuing fatwa on social media to anyone.

“People have no right to give violent moral lessons to anyone,” Mufti Azmatullah said.

“Islam teaches us to educate others through Dawah. By trolling or criticizing them or their families, you commit a bigger crime.”

But while trolls of all ages including minors questioned the topper's dress code and family beliefs, Muzeen Ahmad, a sociology researcher from Kashmir University, argues that anything that is forced onto someone is wrong.

“The men who trolled the girl student for not observing hijab are wrong the same way,” he said, “as the men stopping women from observing it in Karnataka.”

However, the latest trolling case of misogynistic nature was ably countered by Kashmir's conscious citizenry.

“We'll not have it if our women are discouraged or judged for the choices they make,” argues a netizen. “We must be our women's loudest cheerleaders!”

Meanwhile, Aroosa says she's graceful enough to take everything on her chin and move on with her life.

“I know amid all the darkness, there's still a silver lining,” she says. “And that's the outpouring support I received. I'm happy that there're people celebrating my humble feat out there.”

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

The author is a Reporter with Kashmir Observer

The World Is Sliding Toward Authoritarianism. So Are The Olympics.

JULES BOYKOFF

“It is clear that the staging of the Olympic Games will do a lot for the improvement of human rights and social relations in China,” stated Jacques Rogge, then-president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2001, when Beijing was vying to host the 2008 Summer Olympics. He echoed Beijing's deputy mayor who claimed, “By applying for the Olympics, we want to promote not just the city's development, but the development of society, including democracy and human rights.” Even neutral observers hoped that despite China's questionable track record, awarding it the Olympics could be a small step toward “open doors, open windows, open Internet, open discussion.”

What a difference two decades makes. With the 2022 Beijing Olympics underway, no one is making grand promises about the Games jumpstarting democracy in China. Beyond a diplomatic boycott by the U.S. and some allies, and demands for a full boycott that didn't gain much traction, no major protests are expected, at least not within China itself. And the IOC, which in 2001 touted the Olympics' ability to push China toward reform, now sings from a different hymnal. In the face of criticism of its decision to choose Beijing as host, IOC president Thomas Bach emphasized “the political neutrality of the IOC and the Games” and deflected responsibility by insisting, “The Olympics cannot solve problems that generations of politicians have not solved.”

“THE AUTHORITARIAN CHALLENGE TO democracy and human rights is arguably the defining geopolitical story of our time. Rather than oppose this trend, the IOC seems to be participating in it

Of course, the IOC isn't alone in being unwilling to take on China. In the years between the two Beijing Olympics, China has become significantly more authoritarian, repressive and powerful. Countries and corporations have financial incentives not to make too much noise.

But the difference between Beijing 2008 and Beijing 2022 says something else about the modern-day Olympics. For decades, the Games have been a venue for progressive activism, both against the political practices of the host country and against the IOC. The IOC has long been critiqued as a cabal of elites who have failed to address the cost overruns, environmental damage, forced eviction and police militarization that frequently accompany the Olympics. Instead of responding to the calls for reform, the IOC has in recent years become less responsive, less democratic and more opaque — making more decisions behind closed doors, closing ranks around an unusually powerful leader, fending off allegations that its members engaged in bribery and corruption, and — most recently — turning a blind eye to political repression. Indeed, the committee has started to resemble the authoritarian governments it's unwilling to criticize.

The authoritarian challenge to democracy and human rights is arguably the defining geopolitical story of our time. Rather than

oppose this trend, the IOC seems to be participating in it. Bach says his group's primary “responsibility is to run the Games in accordance with the Olympic Charter.” But that charter speaks of “promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity” — goals that feel impossible to square with the IOC's unwillingness to engage with critics and call out human rights violations. Faced with an opportunity to align their sentiments and actions, the overlords of the Olympics have instead accelerated the Games' years-long shift into an economic juggernaut and ideological black hole with sport appended to its flank.

Though host countries have long used the Olympics to push national goals, grassroots activism and the Olympics have also long gone hand in hand. Ahead of the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, staged amid the Great Depression, activists chanted “Groceries not Games! Olympics are outrageous!” In the 1970s, dissidents in Denver — a coalition of fiscal conservatives concerned with the misuse of public funds and liberal environmentalists alarmed by potential ecological damage — forced the IOC to move the Olympics to Innsbruck. The three most recent Olympics, in Tokyo, Pyeongchang and Rio de Janeiro, all saw significant protests over issues like cost overruns and displacement.

The 2008 Beijing Games generated activ-

ist pushback, too, with global human-rights voices using the event to point a finger at China's growing authoritarianism. Archbishop Desmond Tutu urged a global boycott of the opening ceremony. Celebrities like Mia Farrow and Richard Gere advocated boycotting as well, and Steven Spielberg eventually withdrew as an artistic adviser to the Games because of China's policy on the Darfur conflict. When the Olympic torch relay zigzagged across the globe, protesters in London, Paris, and San Francisco bellowed pro-Tibet chants and wielded signs excoriating China for its human-rights abuses.

The human-rights opening that Beijing and the IOC pledged never arrived. In fact, Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch, asserts that the opposite happened. Hosting the Olympics in Beijing, she writes, was “a catalyst for abuses, leading to massive forced evictions, a surge in the arrest, detention, and harassment of critics, repeated violations of media freedom, and increased political repression.” China used the Olympics not only to intensify domestic surveillance of targeted groups, but also to market new-fangled surveillance systems to the world.

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

Jules Boykoff is the author of five books on the Olympic Games, including “Power Games: A Political History of the Olympics.” He teaches political science at Pacific University in Oregon. The article was originally published by Politico

BOLLYWOOD MUST STOP ROMANCING
Islamophobia and focus on other problems in its society rather than acting as a propaganda machine in the 21st century

Bollywood's Complicity In Islamophobia



Asif Khan and Arbeena Shah

For the most part of its history, Hindi cinema and Muslim relationship has revolved in intricate orbits. Their deportment and the nature of the filmic world are increasingly getting intertwined with each other. Bollywood inclines to engender content pertaining to Muslims that tells them how they are supposed to live placidly in the country. Their religion is optically perceived as maniacal, which is assumed to have the effect of fueling bellicose tendencies in them against their country.

The only trustworthy Muslims in Bollywood movies are those who place India first, while others are optically viewed as miscreants or threats. And in the spirit of this, radical symbolism and negative personification of Muslims is done.

A year ago, Indian filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan noted in The Quint's show 'Film and Politics Roundtable'

THE ONLY TRUSTWORTHY MUSLIMS IN BOLLYWOOD MOVIES
are those who place India first, while others are optically viewed as miscreants or threats. And in the spirit of this, radical symbolism and negative personification of Muslims is done.

how Islamophobia is personified in films. "You look at the color palette, or how the production design is done, while portraying Muslims. It's mostly black, it's mostly dimly lit, and it's shot at low level to have a demonizing effect. But as you show the other side, it's all flowery and bright lights and shot at an eye level," he had said.

This deliberate and relentless attack on the spirit of Islam has been a defining characteristic in Bollywood's content over the years. A plethora of movies by Bollywood ever since partition have banked on this theme and made gold at the expense of persecution of Muslim community. While Bollywood films Amar, Akbar, and Anthony in 1970's avowed the secular nature of the country others like Phan-

tom or the recently relinquished Sooryavanshi juggled a good and lamentable Muslim portrayal.

This repetition and propagation of selective conceptions to influence the masses is perilous because this adds fuel to the already rising levels of Islamophobia in India. And, it's high time that this trend ceases because the grand prosperity of Sooryavanshi is an ocular perceiver opener and tears apart the gasconade secular nature of India.

The repeated display of an Indian Muslim as a threat to the society has landed the minority vulnerable to mob attacks which have now been rampant in India. One may say that Bollywood has to its impeccability put these lines to practice, "Repeat a prevarication often enough and it becomes the

truth", is a law of propaganda commonly attributed to the Nazi Joseph Goebbels. Psychologists refer to something like this as the "Illusory veracity effect."

Muslims have been demonized to an extent that it will take a life of Bollywood to rehabilitate their damaged image. When asked about his movie Rohit Shetty, the director of highest grossing movie of 2021 Sooryavanshi which has taken Islamophobia levels to a new level, he replied in an interview with the Quint, "I ken there is an audience for such films." And it's mammoth success just translates to that.

Sooryavanshi which contains everything that a typical Bollywood drama is kenneled for, a more immensely colossal than life protagonist, objectification of women, Islamophobia, and Pakistan don't only fail Muslims. They reveal much more about Bollywood.

Tip Tip Barsa Pani, a musical of Sooryavanshi visually perceived the camera moving impeccably to capture Katrina's body on an immensely colossal screen for her fans. 30 years ago, it was Raveena Tondon (another Bollywood actress) today it is Katrina Kaif while the male lead remains unchanged. An exasperating reminder of how Bollywood treats its elements differently. But it's a run-of-the-mill for Bollywood, over time Indian audiences have accepted this as mundane and much homogeneous to Islamophobia.

As Sooryavanshi film shows Muslims praying before doing anything evil then by their logic their prayer must be evil too. So isn't barring Muslims from performing their prayers as we see in the modern day India replica of what Bollywood has fed Indian people?

Another worrying aspect of the film is that it tries to strengthen the conspiracy of love Jihaad, which has been argued to be an act of abducting and converting Hindu women to Islam.

Rajasthan's chief minister Ashok Gehlot had earlier in 2020 slammed the far right wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), saying the party had manufactured the term "love jihad" to "divide the nation and disturb communal harmony."

Sooryavanshi became a top grocer post Covid lockdown at a time other films failed to make a big mark even after good reviews by film critics. Its success speaks volumes about the current atmosphere of hatred and animosity for Muslims fed by dirty politics. Also, it goes on to show the minimal level of media literacy present in Indian audiences. Under such circumstances, Bollywood becomes even more dangerous because it can trigger anyone among its Indian audiences to wage an attack on its Muslim counter parts. Bollywood must stop romancing Islamophobia and focus on other problems in its society rather than acting as a propaganda machine in the 21st century.

The authors are freelance journalists and movie critics based in Kashmir

What Caught The Web Valentine's Earthquake



KO Web Desk

Even though this week may have ended on a sour note in Kashmir, what grappled our eyes and made rounds on Kashmir's virtual world was RJ Vijdan's satirical content on the recent earthquake that sent literal shockwaves across the region.

Vijdan's comic as well as topical timing has been a hit on social media recently.

"Hai kim bunil chim kaermit heartas titli"/ "And what should I say of the earth-

quakes that my beloved Titli has made me feel on account of my heart's misery", he complains as he connects the event with the commencement of the Valentine's week.

What made Vijdan's earthquake video popular was how he yet again managed to bring a little bit of humour into the horrid. Earlier, during the third wave, Vijdan had created content around his tryst with Covid and given the infectious nature of the Omicron Variant, his videos too proved infectiously relatable.

KODAK MOMENT



KIDS GOING FOR TUTIONS on a chilly winter morning on a wooden bridge in the interiors of Dal Lake Srinagar. Photo by: Ahsaan Ali. Instagram: @ahsaan_alii

Want to get your photos featured? Send them to us at editpage.ko@gmail.com

Major Drug Haul Off Gujarat Coast, About 800 Kg Of Narcotics Seized By NCB-Navy

Agenceis

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday said it had seized about 800 kg of drugs, with a street value of about Rs 2,000 crore, from a vessel in the Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast in a joint operation with the Navy, the largest such haul.

The seizure includes over 529 kg of "very high-quality hashish (charas)", more than 234 kg of the "finest quality of crystal methamphetamine" and about 15 kgs of heroin.

While the drugs are suspected to have been loaded from Pakistan, the NCB is investigating its delivery contacts.

The seized narcotics, packed in large jute bags, have been brought to the Porbandar port in Gujarat and the agency is conducting further formalities and probe, he added.

The unprecedented and first-of-its kind seizure of almost 800 kgs of contraband drugs came about after a four-day operation that the agency conducted in collaboration with the Navy in the high seas, NCB director general (DG) S N Pradhan told PTI.

The NCB team was stationed for all the four days on a Navy ship that patrols India's maritime borders.

Official sources said the contraband was seized from the "edge of the territorial waters of India" and the drugs consignment was retrieved from a vessel that was sinking as few boats and people accompanying it abandoned the drugs-laden boat after seeing the approaching Indian team comprising Naval commandos.

The NCB said in a statement said that the "input regarding trafficking of drugs in high seas was developed by

NCB and shared with Naval intelligence unit, leading to a joint operation."

"I can tell you that this joint action by the Indian agencies and the NCB will continue. The NCB is committed to fighting for a drug-free India," DG Pradhan said.

The estimated value of the seized drugs is Rs 2,000 crore, the NCB statement said.

In September last year, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had seized 2,988.2 kg of heroin at Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district. The drugs were allegedly sent from

Afghanistan via Bandar-Abbas, Iran, concealed with talcum powder and imported in the name of a company in India.

Anti-narcotics experts say that for the last 2-3 years India is witnessing that the maritime route is being preferred by international traffickers to push drugs into the country for use within or for transit, with almost 60-70 percent of the total drugs being sent via the sea.

"The present seizure has dealt a telling blow to drug syndicates based out of our neighbouring country and

using the maritime route for the proliferation of drugs in India and other countries," the federal anti-narcotics agency added.

The Navy tweeted a picture of the officials along with the seized contraband saying "In a well-coordinated multi-agency operation at sea, the Narcotics Control Bureau #NCB, with the active support of #IndianNavy, successfully seized 800 kgs of #narcotics substances. Catch is estimated worth Rs 2,000 cr. #IndianNavy remains committed to tackling the scourge of narcotics proliferation." PTI

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

No One Can

of Jammu and Kashmir or the Centre goes to a person linked with terrorism. We are working on it and have a lot of success in this regard. If there is still some leakage, the work is on to cover that and we will be successful in it.

Sinha said the goal is to provide a peaceful atmosphere to the people like in other parts of the country where people live peacefully.

"The day people here start living like their counterparts in Haryana and Bhubaneswar, the goal will be achieved...the goal is big but we are moving forward in that direction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are monitoring the situation and reviewing it on a monthly basis, he said.

Comparing the prevailing situation with the past, the Lt Governor said, "There is a magical change in Jammu and Kashmir. Stone pelting has become history and shopkeepers are no longer forced to close their shops under fear.

Shopkeepers are telling me that they have not witnessed such golden days. The progress is good and we will achieve our goal."

Referring to his latest review of the COVID-19 situation on Friday, he said all schools and colleges will reopen within the next two weeks.

"Time has come for the opening of schools and colleges... We are opening classes from 9 to 12 from Monday, and the rest of the classes from next week (February 21). All the schools and colleges will become functional (within two weeks), he said.

Sinha said his administration would work with all stakeholders to make up for the learning losses due to the pandemic to ensure that children have a better future.

He said he had empowered the deputy commissioners, educational department and divisional commissioners of both the regions to take a decision on this.

Paying rich tributes to the seven army personnel who recently lost their lives in an avalanche during patrolling in Arunachal Pradesh, he said some of the soldiers belonged to Jammu and Kashmir and their mortal remains have been brought to their hometowns for the last rites.

"Jammu and Kashmir jawans who achieve martyrdom outside the Union Territory used to get Rs 4 or 5 lakh. We have now decided to enhance the relief to Rs 25 lakh, he said, adding he had received representation from different quarters for enhancement of the relief.

"The file was in process and was supposed to take a few more days. I directed the chief secretary to begin providing Rs 25 lakh relief with the two soldiers whose bodies reached here from Arunachal Pradesh, he said.

While speaking on the issue of withdrawal of posts referred to PSC/SSB before 31.10.2019, the LG said that only the posts where selections have not been made and results have not been declared were withdrawn.

"In some cases, there are referred posts which have remained stuck since 2004. Now, recruitment rules, reservation laws have been changed. Some posts were also transferred to the Union Territory of Ladakh. Hence withdrawal of these posts was essential to ensure transparent and merit based recruitments," he said.

The LG assured that these posts shall be put to fresh advertisement within two months for recruitment on fast track basis.

He also announced one-time relaxation to the aspirants who had already applied for the withdrawn posts. This will ensure equal opportunity to all.

"We have ensured free, fair, and merit based selections in the recruitment process. The pending 3000 Class-IV posts will be filled within two months on merit basis," he said.

Asking the aspirants to not get misled, Sinha said that his administration is sensitive to the concerns of people, especially youth.

"They can reach out to my office, or the office of any senior officers and their issues will be redressed on merit," he said.

Replying to a question of JDA's action in Roopnagar area to remove encroachments, the LG said that the action has been taken as per the Rule of Law and as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court.

"We are responsible for safeguarding the rights of rightful and legal allottees of any piece of land, but at the same time, the government also has a sympathetic view on those evicted and is considering every aspect for their

settlement as well," he said.

Sinha warned against miscreants who tried to give a different colour to the anti- encroachment drive and reiterated UT Government's commitment to protect the interests of the tribal communities.

"The government is dedicatedly working for the welfare of tribal communities, which were neglected for the last seven decades. Implementation of Forest Rights Act, individual and community rights certificates, Transit accommodations, scholarships to tribal students etc have brought new dawn in their lives and we are making every effort to bring the tribal community into the mainstream. We are extending the best education and medical facilities, besides offering sustainable employment opportunities to the youth from tribal communities," he said.

He further said that Rs 73 crore has been allocated for Cluster Tribal Model Village.

"The salary of seasonal teachers has been increased from Rs 4000 to Rs 10000. Further, 500 tribal youth have been selected for specialized skill development programmes and more such youth will be acquainted with the know-how of the skills required for the modern day industries," the LG said.

"Moreover, 100 smart schools have already been initiated and 100 more will be dedicated to the students of the tribal community soon," he added.

On the Government's endeavours to promote industries and business sectors in the UT, the LG said that the global investors are eager to invest in J&K.

"Since Independence, J&K had received a meager Rs 14,000 cr investment, and now the New Industrial Development Scheme aims to bring more than Rs 70,000 cr worth investment in the UT," he said.

The LG also stated that e- tendering and transparency have expedited the project implementation in the UT.

"Now, we are eyeing to complete around 45,000 projects in 2021-22 which is three-times more than the ones completed in previous years," he said.

"Land Pass Book will be available in three languages- Hindi, Urdu and English so that people can easily get the required information. We have also changed the Land use policy to empower farmers," he added.

Speaking on the tourism sector and other recent initiatives of the government, the LG said that the J&K UT has emerged as a leader in the tourism sector over the last two and a half years.

He said that rural home stays with OYO group which were started recently at Pahalgam will help in building a tourist infrastructure of world standards in rural J&K.

The LG lauded doctors, health workers, para medics, health department, District administration and the people of J&K for their efforts in the fight against covid pandemic.

Appreciating the hard work and dedication of ASHA workers during covid pandemic and vaccination drive, the Lt Governor announced Rs 1000 per month incentive for 3 months for all 12,789 ASHA workers.

Answering a query on the Delimitation process, the Lt Governor expressed his full faith in the Election Commission and said that the Commission will do the right thing. (With PTI inputs)

Trend Of Substance

unleashed by neighbouring country," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson, said that his administration has identified some high-risk districts which are being provided special attention to enhance community participation, public cooperation, and youth-led awareness campaign to counter the menace of drug abuse.

Sinha, he said, lauded the security forces, J&K Police, Anti-Narcotics Task Force, Government departments and volunteers for working with commitment and determination to eliminate drug addiction from society.

"I urge the stakeholders, youth, educational institutions and NGOs to work as a team. We should be able to transform the drug de-addiction efforts of various stakeholders into a Jan-Andolan," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG suggested the involvement of youth clubs and women in campaigns to supplement the efforts against drug abuse.

Dilbag Singh, DGP J&K, while speaking on the occasion, said that the drug de-addiction centre will be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 4.27 cr under

Jammu Smart City through J&K Police, which will play a greater role in rehabilitation of drug addicts in the region.

"Every year, more than 6000 addicts are being treated in police Drug De-addiction centres," Singh said, as per the spokesperson.

Drug Abuse

funding terrorist networks but also targets our younger generation," the spokesperson said.

Singh, he said, also stated that militancy targets civilians and security forces individually but the drugs target the society as a whole and takes people particularly youth on the path of destruction.

According to the spokesperson, the DGP said that Police was putting massive efforts against drug trade and has seized huge quantity of drugs and huge amount of narco trade-cash.

"He said that the menace has increased during past few years and JK Police besides its intensified war on drugs is putting best of the efforts to aware the people about the magnitude of the problem to fight the menace collectively," he added.

The DGP, as per the spokesperson said that 10 drug de-addictions centres including two major centres one each in Jammu and Srinagar are being run by J&K Police to curb the alarming rise of drug addiction.

Singh, he said, also stated that a well equipped drug de-addiction centre has been constructed in Srinagar recently and is functional at present.

"He informed that more than 6000 affected persons are being treated at police drug de-addiction centres during a year. We have qualified doctors, counsellors and staff posted at these centre," the DGP said.

Singh, according to the spokesperson said that police was shouldering this responsibility under JKP's Civic Action Programme and added that now with assistance from the local administration and the civil society we would be able fight the menace more effectively and help the affected population.

He said that the proposed double story centre will be built by the Police Construction Division, J&K and is expected to be completed in a years' period.

The total area of the centre would be of 11232 Sq ft and will have two wards, emergency room, doctor's cabins, counseling rooms, reception centre/ waiting halls, doctor's lounge with pantry, rest rooms for nursing, a store, administrative officer's room and necessary facilities for the patients and staff.

Respect Religious

this thing is enough for me to say on the issue .

He referred to an acid attack on a woman in Srinagar and said, We have made all arrangements for her treatment.

The girl is in Chennai (hospital) and one of our senior officials is also there. I am getting daily update about her health, Sinha said, adding strict action as per the law will be taken against the guilty persons.

Asked about widespread protests over the draft report of the delimitation commission which was shared by it with associate members, the Lt Governor said the Election Commission is a constitutional and respectable body and for me and it is not good to comment on any of its decisions.

I worked with election commission as associate member in 2009. The process there is very transparent and scientific. The delimitation commission has submitted a draft to its associate members to seek their opinion. It will come into public domain and even an ordinary person can also raise an objection if he feels the need.

As far as I am concerned, I am satisfied and confident and there will be no mistake on part of the election commission, he said.

Sinha said the Union Home minister had already made it clear time and again that the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir would be held after the completion of the delimitation of constituencies. It will be followed by government formation and restoration of the statehood.

The Lt Governor rued that politics is being dragged into every issue in Jammu and Kashmir. Those who have never worked for their upliftment over the past seven decades are issuing statements, but I do not want to comment on them.

He said his administration had taken a lot of welfare measures for the

scheduled tribes over the past one and a half years.

What we had done for the scheduled tribes was not done for over 70 years, the Lt Governor said.

He said the rule of law should be implemented fully.

There are some things which we got in inheritance and there is so much fixed deposit which we are trying to spend I do not want to go into the past, he said.

On frequent protests by unemployed youths, he said, Protest is not a solution to any problem when the government is ready to listen to anyone and everyone to address their grievances.

He referred to the new sports policy and expressed hope that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir will get benefited by it.

If you compare sports infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, it is better than Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Out of 4,290 panchayats, 4,000 panchayats have playing fields, while we have good standard stadiums and even international stadiums, he said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has seen the highest tourist footfall in the whole country last year.

We have set up new records for project implementation, Sinha said, announcing completion of 45,000 projects in the current financial year compared to 9,229 in 2018-19.

He also talked about the new industrial policy and said the government is expecting an investment of Rs 70,000 crore by 2024.

J&K is giving much more incentives than in any part of the country. We are giving 100 per cent more incentives for setting up an industry than Punjab, he said.

The Lt Governor said if sports industry from outside wants to come to Jammu and Kashmir, his administration will welcome and take necessary measures for the same.

He said the administration will also think over a cultural policy for the upliftment of artists. Policy is not made in a day or two and when an appropriate time will come, we will announce such a policy. (PTI)

India Faces

of previous administrations to significantly broaden and deepen that relationship, the senior official said.

The senior official said the new Indo-Pacific strategy builds on the work of previous administrations and the broader consensus that has emerged on the importance of the Indo-Pacific region.

The senior official said the previous US administrations, including the previous one led by President Donald Trump, had done a great job in the Indo-Pacific region.

The strategic report on the Indo-Pacific was released on a day when a Quad Ministerial was held in Melbourne, Australia where the foreign ministers from Australia, India, Japan and the US on Friday expressed concern over the malign Chinese role in the region.

China, the report said, is combining its economic, diplomatic, military, and technological might as it pursues a sphere of influence in the Indo-Pacific and seeks to become the world's most influential power.

The Chinese coercion and aggression spans the globe, but it is most acute in the Indo-Pacific, it said.

From the economic coercion of Australia to the conflict along the Line of Actual Control with India to the growing pressure on Taiwan and bullying of neighbours in the East and South China Seas, our allies and partners in the region bear much of the cost of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) harmful behaviour, it said.

In the process, China is also undermining human rights and international law, including freedom of navigation, as well as other principles that have brought stability and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific, the strategy said.

"We will strengthen the international system, keep it grounded in shared values, and update it to meet 21st-century challenges. Our objective is not to change China but to shape the strategic environment in which it operates, building a balance of influence in the world that is maximally favourable to the United States, our allies and partners, and the interests and values we share," it added.

Responding to a question, the senior official told reporters that the last four administrations have played a significant role in improving relations with India.

"With regard to India, we very

explicitly highlight the importance of - the importance of what the last four administrations have all played a very important role in advancing, which is the much greater US engagement, much improved US relations with and much closer US partnership with India, the official said.

Obviously, India's role in the QUAD I think is a very significant element of that, including the ability to speak frankly, about issues in the region, to work together to deliver essentially public goods that address the challenges in the region, and to enhance ways in which we can coordinate, the senior official said.

There are two key elements to the new approach.

First, the goal of this strategy is to strengthen the US role in the region, which the senior official said was very important to the region but obviously very important to America.

Second, the US seek to build the collective capacity to rise to 21st century challenges and seize opportunities, whether that has to do with climate, with PRC behaviour, or preparing for the next pandemic and recovering from the current one.

Cases Dip Further

said that three more people, two in Jammu division and one in Kashmir, died of Covid-19 related complications during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4744 in J&K—2322 in Jammu and 2422 in Kashmir.

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

Mercury Settles

time of the year in the famous resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 4.0°C against minus 3.9°C on the previous night, the official said.

While the 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day long harshest period of winter ended on January 30, Kashmir is under the grip of the 20-day long 'Chillai Khurd' which would be followed by 10-day-long 'Chilla Bachha'.

Jammu recorded a low of 6.0°C against previous night's 5.3°C, the official said. The temperature was 4.1°C below normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 3.4°C, Batote had a minimum of 3.6°C while Baderwah recorded a low of minus 0.6°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 15.4°C against last night minus 15.8°C while mercury at automatic station in Kargil settled at minus 18.6°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 25.2°C, same as on the previous night, official said. The weatherman has forecast dry weather for next couple of days.

No Salary For

the higher authorities that no salary bills should be processed by the Drawing and Disbursing officers (DDO's) of such employees, whose monthly work done is found unsatisfactory by the Heads of the department," reads the order.

It reads that it is enjoined upon all the Section Heads of Directorate of Health Services Kashmir to forward monthly work done statement of the employees (Regular/Contractual/Outsourced) working under their control/ supervision to the concerned drawing and Disbursing officers certifying that his/her work done/performance is satisfactory for drawl of salary—(KNO)

NC Submits

constituencies have large scale political, physical and psychological repercussions for the respective segments," the spokesperson added.

He said the memorandums also sought immediate rollback of the recommendations, as these are "anti-people" and against the "democratic ethos" of the country.

The spokesperson said the party delegations headed by district presidents protested peacefully against the report.

Al-Badr Module

spokesperson said that the arrested trio confessed that they are in close contact with the "terror handlers" of Al-Badr from last two years.

"They further disclosed that Pak based terror handlers namely Yousuf Balousi R/o Pakistan and Khursheed R/o Anantnag A/P Pakistan directed them

to revive the terror folds in Rafiabad Sopore by recruiting youth into terror folds of Al-Badr outfit, providing logistic support to active terrorists, procurement/arranging weapons for new recruits etc," he said.

Moreover, the police spokesperson said that on their disclosure another hybrid militant identified as Ashraf Nazir Bhat of Arin Bandipora was arrested in a joint operation by Sopore Police and 21 RR.

Besides, he said, 3 militant associates identified as Mohd Ashraf Malik of Drungsoo, Mohd Afzal Thokar and Shabir Ahmed Shah of Mawar Handwara were also arrested.

"Incriminating materials, war like stores including huge cache of arms & ammunition and huge amount of cash meant for carrying out terror activities were also recovered from their possession," the police spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case vide FIR number 14/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Dangiwa.

"Further investigation into the matter is in progress," he added.

Two-Way Traffic

better road conditions LMVs(passenger)/private cars shall be allowed from both sides at Jammu-Srinagar highway via Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa , " a traffic department official here said, adding, "TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."

He said cut off for LMVs/private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) will be at 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)"

He said no vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings.

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

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

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

4 Poachers Held

Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

VDC Special Police Officer (SPO) Krishan Singh, who was involved in the crime, was arrested and his weapon, a .303 rifle, was confiscated and seized, a police spokesman said.

He identified the other arrested accused as Daler Singh, his brother Sher Singh and Bittu Singh, all residents of Lamsora village of Bhomag tehsil. Their licensed weapons used in the crime were also seized, he added.

The action followed receipt of reliable information about some persons having hunted the protected wild animal in Lamsora forest, the spokesman said, adding as the case was of special nature, Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Shailender Singh constituted a special team which immediately rushed to the area to explore facts and made the arrests.

He said Krishan Singh was disengaged as VDC SPO and his services have been discontinued. (PTI)

Labourer Dies

when during the process, the tree came crashing down over him leaving him critically injured, according to news agency KNT.

The labourer identified as Jalaluddin son of Muhammad Yaqoob of Wusan Kangan was declared dead on arrival by doctors at Sub District Hospital Kangan.

Police in this registered a case under relevant sections.

Man Found Dead

subsequently informed the concerned police station," officials said.

SHO Saddar Gulzar Hussain said that a police party rushed to the spot and took it into their possession.

He said that the identification is being ascertained.

URI: Probe Underway Into Woman's Death After Delivery

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Sub-Divisional Magistrate Uri has started a probe into the death of a woman after delivery at PHC Boniyar here.

SDM Uri Harvinder Singh said that he personally visited the PHC Boniyar and seized records regarding the woman, who according to her husband died due to the negligence by the medical staff at the health facility.

"The matter is under investigation and facts regarding the death of the woman are being ascertained", he said, adding, "If negligence was established, all those responsible will be dealt

as per law."

The SDM said that a team of Chief Medical Officer Baramulla will also visit PHC Boniyar as part of investigation process.

Notably, Bashir Ahmad Sheikh of Kasi Boniyar, the husband of the woman, said that his wife was admitted at PHC Boniyar and on February 9 she delivered a baby. Subsequently she developed complications and doctors referred her to GMC Baramulla where she was declared as brought dead on arrival, he said.

Accusing the doctors of negligence, Sheikh said had she been referred on time, she could have survived. (GNS)

Reasi Road Named After Slain Policeman



Observer News Service

REASI: The district authorities on Saturday renamed Kanthan to Sawlakote road here after a Head Constable who died in the line of duty.

The Road has been renamed as Saheed Gulab Singh Road in pursuance to the directions of the Government which has taken a unique initiative of paying tributes to the Martyrs by naming the Government Schools, Colleges, Roads etc. in their names, an official spokesperson said.

Besides the parents of the killed policeman, the ceremony was attended by Chairman DDC Reasi Saraf Singh Nag, DC Reasi Charandeep Singh, SSP Reasi Shalindra Singh, ADC Abdul Star, DDC Member, Sarpanches and Panches paid rich tribute to the martyr during the function.

The formal ceremony started with unveiling of Signages followed by floral tribute to the fallen cop.

On this occasion, the alumni along with local students pre-

sented an emotional tribute to the martyr by presenting an enthralling theatrical performance which filled the ambience with national pride.

The Chairman, DDC narrated his association with the martyr. He stated that the Martyr was a true gentleman who was always ready to sacrifice his life for the dignity and integrity of the nation.

He also assured them regarding the commitment of District Administration Reasi towards their well being and future endeavors and endowments.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Reasi reiterated that martyrs are the pride and inspiration for the future generations and they will remain immortal for their act of immense sacrifice, valour and service to the motherland. He emphasized that we owe our freedom to the martyrs who ensured that every citizen lives peacefully.

Moreover, DC also expressed his gratitude to the family members of Gulab Singh for their strength and courage.

5 Missing Persons, Including Minor Girl, Reunited With Family

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Five missing persons, including a minor girl, were reunited with their family in Jammu district, officials said Saturday.

The minor girl's father Aftab Lone on Thursday told Jammu Police that his daughter was missing since Thursday evening from Pirmitha area.

Police constituted special teams and scanned CCTV footage and traced the girl to a nearby Bus Stand on Friday.

The girl was produced before the Child Welfare Committee

and was medically examined. Thereafter the girl was handed over to her family. Officials said the other missing cases included two women and two men.

Both women went missing from Arnia area, while the men, Deepak Kumar and Suram Chand, went missing from Rajpura Mangotrian and Nai Basti areas respectively, they said.

CCTV footage was scanned and other investigation was done to find them, officials said, adding that all legal formalities were completed before they were reunited with family.

LG Lays Foundation Of Tawi Riverfront Project In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday laid the foundation of the Tawi riverfront development project here and said it would generate employment opportunities for local communities.

The Lt Governor said planned urbanisation while respecting and restoring the delicate balance of nature can influence inclusive development.

"Tawi riverfront will ensure proper infrastructure planning, unique business opportunities and enhance the quality of life of the citizens," he said.

The Lt Governor said social and cultural infrastructure, state-of-the-art amenities along the waterfront, and projects to improve the water quality will create a world-class model of urban excellence in Jammu.

"Our aim is to create a vibrant riverfront that will become one of the most popular bucket list destinations for people, he said.

In the first phase, embankments, interceptor drains, sewerage treatment plants, cycling track, jogging track, walkways, green spaces and other wayside amenities would be developed.

The complete project is prepared on the lines of the Sabar-



mati riverfront in Gujarat.

The infrastructure would also include river plazas, promenades, parks, gardens, sports and entertainment venues, commercial and residential spaces that will transform Tawi as the center of economic engine of Jammu, an official spokesman said.

The Lt Governor said 109 projects which were pending for years have been completed in Jammu division at a cost of Rs 455 crore, including 14 new bridges which have made connectivity easier.

"Infrastructure projects like Metro, Delhi-Katra-Amritsar Expressway, four-lane green

field Jammu Ring Road, flyovers, industrial estates, strengthening of power sector and many others would bring prosperity to all, he said.

The Lt Governor termed urban development a requisite for prosperity and growth of any region and called for active public participation in the development process.

"People's participation should decide how we want to drive the engine of economic growth, how we want to develop infrastructure, how we want to improve the basic facilities and improve the standard of living of the common people", he added.

Pole Reviews Development Of Jhelum River Front, Water Transport

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandering K Pole on Saturday chaired a meeting to review development of Jhelum River Front and Water Transport under Srinagar Smart City Limited Project, here.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Commissioner SMC & CEO, SSCL; Director Archives, Archeology & Museums; Dir Handicrafts & Handloom; Director Tourism Kashmir; CEs of PWD, R&B, KPDC, I&FC; SP CID SB Kashmir; Chief Post Manager, GPO; DFO Urban Forestry Srinagar; DFO, Social Forestry; GM, BSNL, Kashmir; GM, State Bank of India, Residency Road; District Floriculture Officer, Srinagar; Team Leader TASU along with relevant experts.

During the meeting, Div Com stressed on the completion of projects in a time bound manner and cooperation between different departments in utilities shifting.

He stressed on the development of ghats on both sides of River banks for water transport and River cruise transport.

The Div Com directed for inclusion of development of mechanical veer at Chattabal in DPR to maintain the water level for River transport.

Besides, he also directed for creating utilities and amenities at the ghats and encouraging locals to start commercial activities. He also directed for making ghats universal accessible



and integration of craft and folk art with those places.

Pole further directed concerned officers to share colour codes for infrastructure along River sides, streets and roads with locals besides motivate them to use uniform sized display boards on commercial establishments.

The Div Com also reviewed the plan for Nishat Bagh Project re-development, Shalimar Bagh frontage area development, road and footpath amenities, illumination of bridges and buildings under Srinagar Smart City Limited.

In a separate meeting regarding Shahar-e-Khaas developmental projects, the Div Com reviewed plan for upgradation of markets and streets, Nalamar Road, Brarinambal besides re-

alignment of utilities, improvements in Shrines, development of Yarikand Sarai, retrofitting and conservation of Amar Niwas as museum, and city illumination.

On the occasion, Div Com directed SSCL officers to consult Metrolite and NHAI before developing the Road besides directed for integration of religious, heritage sites, craft and folk art for which Srinagar City got a UNESCO tag.

The Div Com directed for restoration of water channels of Shahar-e-Khas to make them navigable and development of ghats on their banks and integration with tourism.

The meeting also deliberated over the restoration plan of Doodh Ganga to restore its erstwhile glory.

DC Ramban Reviews Arrangements For Amarnath Yatra



RAMBAN: To discuss the arrangements for upcoming Amarnath Ji Yatra- 2022, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Musarat Islam on Saturday chaired a preliminary meeting to work out plans for smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage in the district.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Harbans Lal, visited Chanderkote to review the pace of work on the Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) Yatri Niwas, which is nearing completion.

The meeting was attended by ADC Ramban, Harbans Lal; ADC, Zameer Reshu; ACR, Dharendra Sharma, Executive Engineers of JSD, PWD & JPDCL, Designated Officer, Food, DFOs and other officers connected to the Holy Yatra, apart from representatives of NHAI.

The NHAI was also directed to expedite work on Chanderkote Bypass so that the existing stretch can be reserved for parking of vehicles transporting yattris from Jammu.

During the meeting, the langar sites and shelter locations between Nashri & Banihal were discussed and shortlisted. The concerned officers gave a firsthand appraisal about the arrangements being made for the SANJY-2022, with special focus on power, water and road connectivity. The CMO Ramban was also directed to make adequate arrangements for providing healthcare facilities with special focus on implementation of Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

Executive Officers, MC, Banihal & Batote as well as Municipal Council Ramban were directed to ensure maintenance of hygiene and provisioning mobile lavatories to facilitate the Yattris.

Directions were also issued to NHAI to ensure that the Mini Nests at Nashri, Karol, Seri, Anokhee Fall & Chamalwas were made functional well before the Holy Yatra begins.

Directions were also issued to the District Panchayat Officer to ensure that his 05 Community Sanitary Complexes at Peerah, Digdole and other locations en route Jammu-Srinagar National Highway between Nashri And Banihal are also functional.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was also held on arrangements of essential services at all locations proposed for SANJY-2022 from Nashri tunnel to Navayuga tunnel at Banihal. Arrangements for the Langers and parking areas were also discussed in detail and directions were handed out to draw up plans.

The officers were directed to prepare plans on required infrastructure pertaining to their respective departments for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Specific directions were given to Motor Vehicles Department Ramban to prepare a transportation-cum-parking plan so that the movement of Yatra vehicles on NH-44 is unhindered.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the officers of NHAI to prepare a road maintenance plan to ensure smooth traffic movement on NH-44 especially during the Holy Yatra.

Meanwhile, during the visit of ADC to Chanderkote, directions were passed to the executing agency to complete all works of Yatri Niwas within the stipulated timelines so that pilgrims have a hassle-free stay before they embark on the Holy Darshan of Shri Amarnath Ji.

Passport Adalat To Be Held From Feb 15 To Clear 2020 Files

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The passport office Srinagar is organizing a Passport Adalat from February 15 to clear the pendency of files pertaining to the year 2020 for the applicants of Kashmir and Ladakh, officials said Saturday.

They said that applicants whose passport applications are pending should visit the passport office Srinagar from February 15 to February 17 during 2:00pm to 5:00 pm. "Applicants are requested to

bring all the original documents while visiting Passport Adalat," the officials said.

They further said that passport applications which are pending for the year 2020 will be cleared during these days.

"After the said Adalat, file closure will be initiated for files pertaining to 2020," they added.

The officials also said that the applicants can reach out for any clarification on Passport Adalat on the numbers 0194-2500374, 0194-2500375

Woman Rescued Within 24 Hours Of Abduction In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A young woman was rescued within 24 hours of her abduction in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

A man lodged a complaint at Mendhar police station, stating that his daughter was allegedly

kidnapped by a youth from Danote village of Balakote, a police spokesperson said.

He said police lodged an FIR and a special team was constituted which arrested the accused, Mohd Sajid and rescued the woman.

Further investigation is in progress, the spokesperson said.

MoS Singh Reviews Implementation Of Central Schemes In Kathua

Observer News Service

KATHUA: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh, on Saturday chaired District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting to review progress on centrally sponsored schemes (CSS's) being implemented in Kathua district.

District Development Council Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Mahan Singh and Raghunandan Singh respectively, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Yadav, President MC, Naresh Sharma, MC Lakhanpur, Ravinder Sharma, MC Nagri Parole, Anil Singh, MC Hiranagar, Advocate Vijay Kumar Sharma, MC Basohli Sumesh Sapolia, MC Billawar, Uma Kant Basotra, BDC Chairpersons, DDC members and nominated members of DISHA committee besides district officers of different de-



partments attended the meeting.

Addressing the officers, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the aim of holding DISHA meeting is to identify any impediments in smooth implementation of welfare schemes so that effective solutions can be worked out.

He asked the officers to ensure that benefit of all government schemes reaches the genuine beneficiaries in a time bound manner besides disseminating information about these schemes. He emphasized complete involvement of PRIs in effective implementation of schemes by the

district administration in their respective areas.

Union Minister had a detailed review of physical and financial achievements recorded under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the district being implemented by PWD, PDD, Jal Shakti Department, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Social Welfare, Labor Department, Urban Development Department and other departments. He enjoined upon the concerned officers to ensure 100% coverage of beneficiaries under various schemes.

Dr Singh informed that 04 new

Highway Villages are coming up in and around National Highway in Kathua district including Taraf Manjali, Taraf Bhajwal, Gurha Baildara and Gurha Mundian. He also revealed that NHAI is developing the area around the gateway to J&K with various amenities which will add aesthetic value to the landscape besides opening avenues of employment for locals.

He also reviewed progress on ongoing mega projects like Ujj, Shahpur Kandi Barrages and Biotech Park and emphasized timely completion of these projects of extreme significance for the public

in general and locals in particular.

DC gave a Powerpoint Presentation on the achievements and progress made under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes besides status of various development projects being executed by different departments and other agencies in the district.

It was informed that the district has achieved 100% geo-tagging under SBM, 70% works completed under PMAY-U and 55% of the population has been covered under AB-PMJAY. Besides, set targets have been achieved for the current year besides ensuring 86% timely payments under MGNREGA.

Union Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner to take on board the elected representatives for achieving 100% saturation of AB-PMJAY in low performing areas. He also asked PRIs to come forward for identification and projection of eligible beneficiaries for prosthetic aids.

IPL Auction 2022: All Sold, Unsold On Day 1

Agencies

BENGALURU: India wicket-keeper batter Ishan Kishan became the most expensive player in the IPL 2022 auction after Mumbai Indians secured his service for Rs 15.25 crore. Earlier, it was Shreyas Iyer, who also predictably, became one of the highest-paid player among the marquee set with Kolkata Knight Riders making a whopping bid of Rs 12.25 crore after an intense price war at the auctions.



IPL 2022 Auction Players Sold List With Price (₹):

Shikhar Dhawan – Punjab Kings – Rs 8.25 Crore
Ravichandran Ashwin – Rajasthan Royals – Rs 5 Crore
Pat Cummins – Kolkata Knight Riders – Rs 7.25 Crore
Kagiso Rabada – Punjab Kings – Rs 9.25 Crore
Trent Boult – Rajasthan Royals – Rs 8 Crore
Shreyas Iyer – Kolkata Knight Riders – Rs 12.25 Crore
Mohammed Shami – Gujarat Titans – Rs. 6.25 Crore
Faf du Plessis – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 7 Crore
Quinton de Kock – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 6.75 Crore
David Warner – Delhi Capitals – Rs 6.25 Crore
Manish Pandey – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 4.60 Crore
Shimron Hetmyer – Rajasthan Royals – Rs 8.50 Crore
Robin Uthappa – Chennai Super Kings – Rs 2 Crore
Jason Roy – Gujarat Titans – Rs 2 Crore
Devdutt Padikkal – Rajasthan Royals – Rs 7.75 Crore
Dwayne Bravo – Chennai Super Kings – Rs 4.40 Crore
Nitish Rana – Kolkata Knight Riders – Rs 8 Crore
Jason Holder – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 8.75 Crore
Harshal Patel – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 10.75 Crore
Deepak Hooda – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 5.75 Crore
Wanindu Hasaranga – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 10.75 Crore
Washington Sundar – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 8.75 Crore
Krunal Pandya – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 8.25 Crore
Mitchell Marsh – Delhi Capitals – Rs 6.50 Crore
Ambati Rayudu – Chennai Super Kings – Rs 6.75 Crore
Ishan Kishan – Mumbai Indians – Rs 15.25 Crore
Jonny Bairstow – Punjab Kings – Rs 6.75 Crore
Dinesh Karthik – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 5.50 Crore
Nicholas Pooran – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 10.75 Crore
T Natarajan – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 4 Crore
Deepak Chahar – Chennai Super Kings – Rs 14 Crore
Prasidh Krishna – Rajasthan Royals – Rs 10 Crore
Lockie Ferguson – Gujarat Titans – Rs 10 Crore
Josh Hazlewood – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 7.75 Crore
Mark Wood – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 7.50 Crore
Bhuvneshwar Kumar – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 4.20 Crore
Shardul Thakur – Delhi Capitals – Rs 10.75 Crore
Mustafizur Rahman – Delhi Capitals – Rs 2 Crore
Kuldeep Yadav – Delhi Capitals – Rs 2 Crore
Yuzvendra Chahal – Rajasthan Royals – 6.50 crore
Priyam Garg – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 20 Lakh
Abhinav Sadarangani – Gujarat Titans – Rs 2.60 Crore
Dewald Brevis – Mumbai Indians – Rs 3 Crore
Ashwin Hebbur – Delhi Capitals – Rs 20 Lakh
Rahul Tripathi – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 8.50 crore
Riyan Parag – Rajasthan Royals – Rs 3.80 Crore
Abhishek Sharma – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 6.50 Crore
Sarfaraz Khan – Delhi Capitals – Rs 20 Lakh
Shahrukh Khan – Punjab Kings – Rs 9 Crore
Shivam Mavi – Kolkata Knight Riders – Rs 7.25 Crore
Rahul Tewatia – Gujarat Titans – Rs 9 Crore
Kamlesh Nagarkoti – Delhi Capitals – Rs 1.1 Crore
Harpreet Brar – Punjab Kings – Rs 3.8 Crore
Shahbaz Ahmed – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 2.4 Crore
KS Bharat – Delhi Capitals – Rs 2 Crore
Anuj Rawat – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 3.4 Crore
Prabhsimran Singh – Punjab Kings – Rs 60 Lakhs
Sheldon Jackson – Kolkata Knight Riders – Rs 60 Lakhs
Jitesh Sharma – Punjab Sharma – Rs 20 Lakh
Basil Thampi – Mumbai Indians – Rs 30 Lakh
Kartik Tyagi – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 4 Crore
Akashdeep – Royal Challengers Bangalore – Rs 20 Lakh
KM Asif – Chennai Super Kings – Rs 20 Lakh
Avesh Khan – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 10 Crore
Ishan Porel – Punjab Kings – Rs 25 Lakh
Tushar Deshpande – Chennai Super Kings – Rs 20 Lakh
Ankit Rajpoot – Lucknow Super Giants – Rs 50 Lakh
Noor Ahmad – Gujarat Titans – Rs 30 Lakh
Murugan Ashwin – Mumbai Indians – Rs 1.60 Crore
KC Cariappa – Rajasthan Royals – Rs 30 Lakh
Shreyas Gopal – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 75 Lakh
Jagadeesha Suchith – Sunrisers Hyderabad – Rs 20 Lakh

IPL 2022 Auction Players

Unsold List:

David Miller
Suresh Raina
Steve Smith
Shakib Al Hasan
Mohammad Nabi
Matthew Wade
Wriddhiman Saha
Sam Billings
Umesh Yadav
Adil Rashid

Mujeeb Zadran
Imran Tahir
Adam Zampa
Amit Mishra
Rajat Patidar
C Hari Nishanth
Anmolpreet Singh
Mohammed Azharuddeen
Vishnu Vinod
Vishnu Solanki
N Jagadeesan
M Siddharth

IPL Auctioneer Hugh Edmeades Collapses Mid-Auction

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Veteran auctioneer Hugh Edmeades collapsed while conducting the first session of the Indian Premier League auction here on Saturday but was found to be "doing fine" after a medical check-up.

Veteran sports presenter Charu Sharma was handed the auction duties for the remainder of the event as Edmeades received medical care following the fall that was blamed on low blood pressure.

The 60-year-old's collapse midway into proceedings led to an early lunch amid commotion inside the auction room.

"He has been attended to by a doctor. He is doing fine, his blood pressure dropped suddenly and that was the reason for his sudden collapse. We will know more once he has a thorough check-up," a BCCI source told PTI.

"He is stable and we will give



further updates later," a BCCI spokesperson later said.

Edmeades, who has conducted over 2700 auctions across the globe, primarily of cars including an Aston Martin used in a James Bond film, had Sri Lankan leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga's name under the hammer when he fell from his auction pedestal.

"Charu has arrived as back up plan and will conduct the rest of the auction," a BCCI source said.

Sharma was the CEO of the Royal Challengers Bangalore during the IPL's first season.

I Knew 10 Years Ago I Will Represent India in Winter Olympics: Arif Khan

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Kashmiri skier Arif Khan, who will create history on Sunday when he takes part in the men's giant slalom event of the Beijing Winter Olympics, says he knew 10 years ago that he would one day represent the country in the global showpiece.

Hailing from a village in Kashmir's Baramulla district, one of the most-frequented tourist spots of the valley, Khan will become the first Indian to compete in two events in a Winter Olympics -- in men's slalom and giant slalom. His slalom event will be held on February 16.

Taking to skiing seemed natural to Khan as his father Yasin owns a ski equipment shop at Gulmarg which is near his village. He was introduced to skiing at the age of four by his father who had made a small ski slope just outside the shop.

Khan began competitive skiing when he was 10 years old and at 12, he won a gold medal in the slalom at the national championship.

In 2011, Khan won two gold medals -- in the slalom and giant slalom -- at the South Asian Winter Games in Dehradun and Auli.

"So, I was the fastest skier in India by then. After the gold medals, I knew that I will one day represent the country in Winter Olympics, it was going to be only a matter of time," Khan told PTI from the Games Village in Beijing.

"I should have qualified (for Winter Olympics) earlier but it did not happen due to certain reasons. So, it will be a dream come true moment (on Sunday). I am proud to represent 1.4 billion Indians and to put my region in Olympics map," said the 31-year-old.

India had declared a diplomatic boycott of the Games after China fielded the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army, who was in-



jured during the 2020 military face-off with Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, as a torchbearer for the event's Torch Relay.

"It was the country's decision and the call from the government and I have no issues with that. You cannot go against the decision of the government of your country. I was happy with whatever I was doing," Khan said.

"I was feeling great for my people back home. A lot of people sent me messages for this great moment. I knew that entire India would see me holding the (national) flag during the opening ceremony (on February 4) and they must be proud of me."

Khan has taken part in four FIS World Ski Championships so far, starting from 2013. His best result has been 45th in the giant slalom at the 2021 edition in Italy.

Just before leaving for Beijing, Khan had said that he would be happy if he can make it to the top-30 in his events.

"It's a difficult and complicated event, you never know what will happen on a day. You have to be conscious about your movement, balance of your body, of your skis, the speed till the last gate.

"I am hoping for a good performance but under such conditions it is difficult to predict anything. I am trying to keep my balance on the ice. I need to carry with my balance till the

last gate if I want to finish in top numbers. I am doing fine in that regard.

"I am not feeling any pressure. The conditions are superb here -- food, training, accommodation etc. We are allowed to go only within the close loop, so there is no COVID fears also. We are being tested everyday and it's not a hassle."

He said the skii course in Beijing -- or for that matter in other top class events -- is much different from the ones he had trained and so adjustment is not easy.

"The ice is different here, it is injected ice. These are used in this kind of top global events. These are costly to maintain and you don't get it during training. I have done training for the past few days after arriving here and getting used to it. But you never know, you can't predict how you will fare."

Before the Beijing Games, Khan had trained at Innsbruck in Austria.

Slalom and giant slalom are two of the five events in Alpine skiing. The athletes are required to ski down a vertical slope through 'gates', which consist of two plastic poles.

A skier will run two races and the competitor with the lowest combined time across the two courses is deemed the winner.

Slalom is more difficult technically than giant slalom as the former has the shortest course and fastest turns with the least spacing between the 'gates'.

Winter Carnival Kulgam To Kick Start From Aharbal On Feb 14

- Trekking expeditions, Snow sports, Adventure camps part of event
- DC visits Aharbal, takes stock of arrangements

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The "Winter Carnival" in Kulgam district is set to begin from Monday, February 14 with the opening event to kick start at Aharbal tourism destination.

Trekking expeditions, multi-farious Snow sports activities, adventure camps will be the main attraction and part of this Winter Carnival.

Meanwhile, to oversee the

arrangements for smooth conduct of this event, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Saturday visited Aharbal, venue of inauguration of this event and took stock of arrangements put in place by authorities for its smooth conduct.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that Kulgam has huge tourism potential and is embroidered by scenic beauty and mighty water fall at Aha-

rbal and the initiative of organising this winter carnival is to promote winter tourism activities in unexplored scenic places, destinations of the district to boost the tourism sector in Kulgam.

During the visit, Dr Bial met several delegations and listened to their issues and grievances for timely redressal.

The DC was accompanied by ADC, SDM, ACR, Tehsildar and other officers.

Roundup Of Olympic Gold Medals From Saturday, Feb 12

Agencies

BEIJING: A roundup of gold medals from Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Beijing Games:

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

WOMEN'S 4x5KM RELAY

The Russian cross-country skiing team started strong and finished strong Saturday in the women's four-person relay, winning another Olympic gold medal.

Yulia Stupak broke away early with nine women chasing. On the next leg, Natalia Nepryaeva was chased down by Katharina Hennig of Germany.

The Germans briefly took the lead on the last lap, with Russian skier Veronika Stepanova just behind Sofie Krehl. But Stepanova pulled away on the final climb and won in 53 minutes, 41 seconds. Germany took silver, 18.2 seconds behind. Sweden edged Finland for bronze.

SKELETON

WOMEN'S

Germany has a new sliding champion. Hannah Neise has never won a World Cup medal. Or a medal at the world championships. Or a medal from the European championships. But she has the Olympic gold medal now.

Neise is the Olympic skeleton women's champion, a bit of a



surprise winner. The 21-year-old who won the junior world title last year became the first German woman to capture the gold medal in Olympic skeleton by rallying in the final two heats at the Beijing Games on Saturday night.

Jaclyn Narracott of Australia was second, Kimberley Bos of the Netherlands was third.

SKI JUMPING

MEN'S LARGE HILL

Marius Lindvik of Norway has won Olympic gold in ski jumping on the large hill by holding off Ryoyu Kobayashi of Japan.

Lindvik jumped 140 meters Saturday on his final jump and earned 296.1 points overall to become the first Norwegian to win the event since Toralf Engan in 1964.

Kobayashi earned silver after

winning on the normal hill on Sunday. Karl Geiger of Germany finished third.

SNOWBOARD

MIXED TEAM SNOWBOARDCROSS

Lindsey Jacobellis won her second gold medal of the Beijing Olympics, teaming with 40-year-old Nick Baumgartner for the title in the new event of mixed snowboardcross.

The 36-year-old Jacobellis took gold earlier this week in the women's event; it came 16 years after a late showboat move as she was cruising in for an apparent win cost her the title at the Turin Games.

The Italian team of Omar Visintin and Michela Moioli won silver and the Canadian duo of Eliot Grondin and Meryeta O'Dine won gold.

Russian Skater's Doping Case To Be Heard Sunday At Olympics



Agencies

BEIJING: Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva will find out Monday if she can compete at the Olympics in the women's competition, which starts a day later.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said Saturday the expedited hearing on Valieva's doping case will be held Sunday night in Beijing, with a ruling by Monday afternoon.

The 15-year-old skater, the favorite to win the gold medal, broke down in tears after an emotional practice session Saturday.

At the court's closed-door hearing, which will be held by video link, lawyers for the Russian Olympic team and Valieva can ask the three judges to listen to a personal statement from her.

"If she attends I assume it will be by video conference," CAS director general Matthieu Reeb said at the court's hotel base. "It will be a long night. It could be four or five hours."

Valieva's status at the Olympics became unclear after she tested positive for the banned heart medication trimetazidine in Russia in December. She won a gold medal in the team event five days ago, before the test result was known, and is scheduled to compete as an individual Tuesday.

On Saturday, Valieva fell during practice on a triple axel -- a jump she typically executes without a problem -- while doing a run-through of her short program. She later landed two combos, a triple flip-triple toe loop and a triple lutz-triple toe loop before skating to the boards and giving her coach, Eteri Tutberidze, an emotional hug.

Earlier Saturday, CAS confirmed it has received appeals from both the International Olympic Committee and the World Anti-Doping Agency challenging Valieva's right to compete.

The Russian Anti-Doping Agency gave her an automatic

ban after testing positive. A day later, RUSADA lifted the provisional ban. The IOC filed an urgent appeal, which the Court of Arbitration of Sport will hear Sunday.

"It was sending a signal that we want this solved as quickly as it can be," IOC spokesman Mark Adams.

The legal process is unusually complex because of Valieva's status as a minor, which gives her protections in the anti-doping rule book.

Because Valieva is only 15, her ultimate penalty could be as little as a reprimand. Her entourage of coaches and doctors face more scrutiny because the World Anti-Doping Code mandates they are automatically put under investigation.

Valieva tested positive in a sample given on Dec. 25, when she won the Russian national championships.

That sample was the responsibility of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency, known as RUSADA. It was sent to a WADA-approved laboratory in Stockholm, Sweden, for analysis.

On Monday -- hours after Valieva's skating helped the Russians win the Olympic team event -- the Stockholm lab notified RUSADA the test was positive.

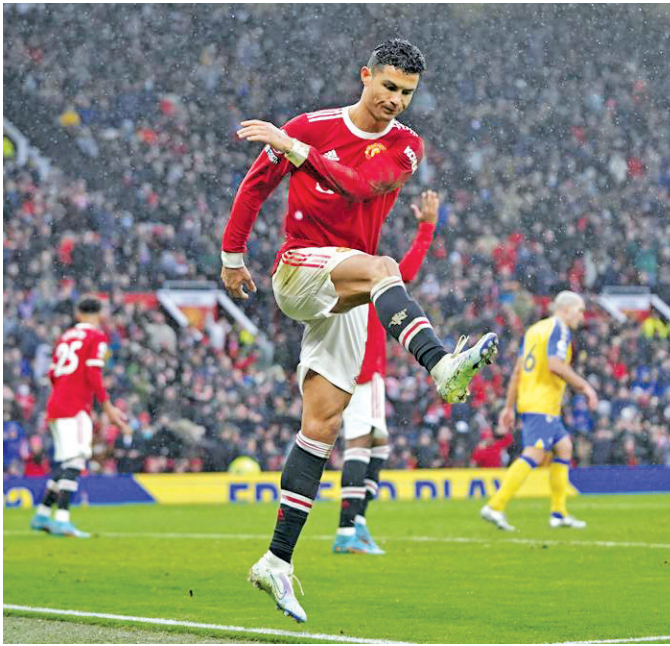
The three CAS judges, from Italy, the United States and Slovenia, will consider only the request to re-impose the interim ban on Valieva. It will be chaired by Milan-based lawyer Fabio Iudica.

The American judge, Jeffrey Benz, is a former national-level figure skater and one of the most in-demand arbitrators for CAS cases. Vesna Bergant Rakočević is a high court judge in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana.

Whether the Russian team keeps the gold medal in the team event is a separate issue that will be decided later.

The full investigation of the doping case is for RUSADA to handle and could take months. That could also be appealed to CAS.

Man United's Lean Spell Continues With 1-1 Draw



Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United's lean spell continued with a 1-1 draw at home to Southampton in the Premier League on Saturday as Cristiano Ronaldo's run without a goal extended to six games.

Che Adams grabbed Southampton's equalizer in the 48th minute to cancel out the opener in the 21st by Jadon Sancho, who scored at Old Trafford for the first time since joining United in the offseason.

The latest setback for United came four days after a 1-1 draw at last-place Burnley and a week after getting eliminated from the FA Cup at the hands of second-tier Middlesbrough at home following a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw. On all three occasions, United has led 1-0 at halftime.

United moved onto the same number of points as fourth-

place West Ham but remained outside the Champions League positions.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, hasn't scored in 2022 -- his last goal was against Burnley on Dec. 30 -- though he did have a goal ruled out for offside in the second half and had a shot cleared away from near the goal-line after rounding the goalkeeper early in the first half.

Sancho's goal was a tap-in at the far post from a cross by Marcus Rashford, who had been released by a fine pass from deep by Bruno Fernandes.

Inspired by Paul Pogba, United was much the better team in the first half but faded after the break -- like against Middlesbrough and Burnley.

And Adams made the hosts pay by stroking in a low finish off the far post after finding himself free on the left and played inside by Luke Shaw.