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P3 CITY

PRETTY FLYOVER PILLARS WILL NOT SOLVE TRAFFIC MESS: OMAR ABDULLAH

The Institute of Advance Studies in Education on Tuesday held celebrations on International Women's Day. The International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th

P7

AI AND CYBERSECURITY ARMS RACE

The average business receives 10,000 alerts every day from the various software tools it uses to monitor for intruders, malware and other threats. Cybersecurity staff often find themselves inundated with data they need to



P11 SPORTS

DJOKOVIC IN DRAW AT INDIAN WELLS, STATUS STILL UP IN AIR

Novak Djokovic was placed in the men's draw for the BNP Paribas Open, although it remains to be seen whether the second-ranked player will be allowed to



Quote!

Every man desires to live long, but no man wishes to be old
- Jonathan Swift

NEWS DIGEST

Man's Body Retrieved After 2 Days

SRINAGAR: The body of a man, who drowned in a stream in Mawer area of Handwara two days earlier, was retrieved on Wednesday by a team of police assisted by locals.

37-year-old Muhammad Amin Bhat had drowned | [More on P10](#)

Porter Falls In Gorge, Injured

SRINAGAR: An army porter was injured on Wednesday after he slipped into a gorge in Mandi area of Poonch district on Wednesday. 30-year-old Atiq-ul-Rehman of Shapur lost control and slipped | [More on P10](#)

IAF Airlifts 141 Stranded People

JAMMU: The Indian Air Force and state-run helicopter service provider Pawan Hans on Wednesday airlifted 141 people stranded at various places in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, officials said. | [More on P10](#)

Ladakh Reports 9 New Corona Cases

LEH: Ladakh reported nine fresh Covid cases that took the infection tally to 28,139, officials said on Wednesday. The number of active cases stands at 98 — 96 from Leh and two from Kargil, they said. The Union Territory | [More on P10](#)

Note: We regret to inform that the distribution of KO print edition on Wednesday was affected due to a technical snag at our printing house. We hereby are reproducing the Op Ed pages for the benefit of our readers.

-Opinion Editor

Do You Get Your Copy of

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If Not

Contact Circulation Incharge:
Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

Stage Set For Counting Of Votes In 5 States

KO Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Political parties were bracing for the assembly election results on Thursday in the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and politically volatile Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, sending out feelers for possible post-poll tie-ups.

On the eve of the counting of votes, the Election Commission announced the removal of three officials, including the nodal officer for EVMs in Varanasi, after a massive controversy erupted over Samajwadi Party's allegation that electronic voting machines were being shifted in an unauthorised manner.

The poll panel also deputed Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer as a special officer in Meerut and the Bihar CEO in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary seat, to supervise the counting of votes. It is a high-stakes election in Uttar Pradesh for the BJP and the Modi government as the state sends the highest number of 80 MPs to Lok Sabha and the party's performance is expected to have a bearing on the next general election slated for 2024.

Several exit polls have forecast a clear majority for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh and for the Aam Aadmi Party in Punjab, while predicting a hung assembly in Goa and a tight race between the BJP and the Congress in Uttarakhand. Except for Punjab, all other states were under the BJP.

As the post-poll scenario



AT THE UP BJP OFFICE, there are no special preparations, but there is enthusiasm among the party workers."

could throw up surprises due to multi-cornered contests, the parties have dispatched senior leaders to the states and were also wooing other parties to ensure that they get the better of their rival claimant in case outside support is needed to form a government.

The Congress has sent Karnataka Congress chief D K Sivakumar as special observer to Goa and party general secretary Mukul Wasnik and Chhattisgarh Health Minister T S Singh Deo besides Vincent Pala to Manipur.

The party had lost the race for government formation in the two states in 2017 despite emerging as the single largest party.

Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar told reporters that AAP leaders were already in talks with Congress leaders" and claimed that the Maharashtrawadi

Gomantak Party (MGP) too will support his party.

The Congress has shifted all the candidates in the coastal state to a luxury resort in Bambolim village near Panaji ahead of the counting of votes.

Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant was in the national capital on Tuesday to discuss the evolving situation in his state with BJP leadership.

More than 50,000 officials have been deployed for the counting of votes at nearly 1,200 halls in the five states and COVID-9 guidelines will be followed during the exercise that will begin at 8 AM amid tight security, according to officials.

Uttar Pradesh, which has a maximum of 403 assembly constituencies, will have more than 750 counting halls, followed by Punjab over 200.

Over 650 | [More on P10](#)

DOODH GANGA POLLUTION NGT Slaps Rs 3 Cr Penalty On J&K

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Tuesday imposed an unprecedented penalty of Rs three crore on the Jammu and Kashmir government for its "acknowledged failure" in preventing pollution in Doodh Ganga river.

"The state is accordingly held liable to pay interim compensation of Rs. One crore each under all the three heads which may be deposited in a separate account to be utilized for restoration of the environment. The amount may be deposited with the District Magistrate, Budgam and spent as per plan approved by the Chief Secretary," reads the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.



The order was issued by NGT's Principal bench comprising Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, chairperson, Justice Sudhir Agarwal, judicial member and Professor A. Senthilvel, expert member while hearing a case titled, "Raja

Muzaffar Bhat Versus Union of India & Ors. on Tuesday".

As per the principal bench, it will be open to the State to recover the amount from the polluters or erring officers in accordance with law. "For illegal mining, | [More on P10](#)

Highway Horror: CS Directs Installation Of Crash Barriers, Parapets

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Expressing concern over the alarming figures of fatal road accidents on the national highway and other major roads in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday directed National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to prioritize installation of crash barriers and parapets throughout the accident prone areas and black spots.

Mehta passed these directions while chairing a meeting to review traffic scenarios in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the NHAI was also asked to install mesh coverings at landslide-prone areas to ensure safety of plying vehicles while the traffic police was asked to



ensure adequate deputation of traffic personnel on the congested stretches to enforce speed limits and discipline in lane driving.

Further, the spokesperson said that the Chief Secretary directed the traffic police to check over-speeding inside the Navayug and Nashri

Tunnels and ensure strict compliance to the fixed speed limits.

"Directions were also issued for expeditious procurement of gadgets to check speed limits for which NHAI has already initiated the process," he added.

While reviewing | [More on P10](#)

Snow Fury: PDD Orders Probe Into Tower Collapses

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has ordered a probe to ascertain the reasons behind the collapse of eight transmission towers during last month's heavy snowfall that plunged Valley into darkness.

Pertinently, this was for the first time that such a huge number of transmission towers got either damaged or collapsed due to snowfall prompting the department to initiate a probe.

Chief Engineer, Kashmir Power Transmission Corporation, Hashmat Qazi told Kashmir Observer that the department has taken notice of the matter and started an investigation.

"This needs to be investigated as to why the towers are buckling. These towers are old and we

will see if there is anything that needs to be done to strengthen certain points," Qazi said.

He said that a committee has been formed to ascertain the facts and reasons behind the sudden collapse of transmission towers.

"In most of the towers that got damaged, the foundations are intact so we are checking it," Qazi said.

However, sources told Kashmir Observer that the transmission towers suffered damaged because they were constructed in a jiffy and without due process being followed.

"When you are put on a deadline, you avoid the due process and complete the task quickly, as a result you see a lot of technical snags and glitches," they said.

They further said that the design of the towers | [More on P10](#)

Sarpanch Shot Dead In Srinagar Outskirts

Second Panchayat Member Killed In A Week



KO Photo Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a second killing of a Panchayat member in a week, unidentified militants on Wednesday shot dead a Sarpanch inside his home in Khonmoh area of the city outskirts.

According to a police spokesperson, militants barged into the house of Sarpanch Sameer Ahmad Bhat in Khonmoh area of Srinagar on Wednesday evening and

fired indiscriminately upon him. Bhat, he said, sustained critical gunshot injuries and was immediately shifted to nearby hospital for the treatment where he succumbed.

"The patient had received multiple gunshots in the precordial area. The doctors tried to resuscitate him with adrenaline but he didn't show much improvement. He could not be operated upon and he succumbed to injuries," | [More on P10](#)

1 Killed, 14 Injured In Udhampur IED Blast

In a suspected militant act, one person was killed and 14 were injured when a low-intensity IED exploded outside a court complex in Udhampur district of Jammu region on Wednesday, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said preliminary investigation suggests it to be "an act of terrorists but we are investigating the case". | [More on P10](#)

THE PATIENT HAD RECEIVED MULTIPLE gunshots in the precordial area. The doctors tried to resuscitate him with adrenaline but he didn't show much improvement. He could not be operated upon and he succumbed to injuries."

NIA Conducts Raids In Jama'at Funding Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Investigation Agency (NIA) with assistance of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF raided multiple locations on Wednesday in Kashmir valley in connection with a case registered against banned organization Jama'at-e-Islami.

Official sources said that multiple locations were raided by the probe agency with assistance of Jammu and Kashmir Police AND CRPF in connection with a case registered against banned organization Jama'at-e-Islami, reported

news agency KDC.

The report said that raids were carried out in Shopian at the residences of Abdul Hamid Shah, Shahzada Awarag Zeeb, Mohammad Ashraf Challa, Rayaz Ahmad Aharar and his brother Rafee Ahmad Aharar and Rayaz Ahmad, an employee at J&K Bank.

In Baramulla, raids were conducted at several places, including the house of former Jama'at district President Abdul Gani Wani.

Many other locations were being searched by the national probing agency of which sources said details were being collected.

"During the searches on Wednesday, | [More on P10](#)

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KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Thursday | 10-03-2022

2

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No. 121004271 Session: Annual Reg Year 2020 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent, my Mother's Name has been recorded with the Board as Arsheeda Begum while as actual Mother's Name is Shaheena. Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Sameena Qadir
F/N: Ghulam Qadir Wani
M/N: Shaheena
DOB: 22-09-2006
Residence: Bamurad



bmg

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars
Name: Abdul Waris War
Father's name: Riyaz Ahmad War
Mother Name: Nisara Begum
Roll No: 3143280 Year 2015 Session Annual Private



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate 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
Sub Office Sopore

fko

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL Govt. Model Higher Secondary School Chittergul Anantnag

USIDE CODE:- 01061402302

Ref No. HSS/C/10/022 Dated. 08/03/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for information that the auction of 3 roomed single story old block at H.S School held on 10/02/2022 has been cancelled with immediate effect as the local Auqaf Committee raised issues regarding the open auction.

Principal

rna

Public Notice

I have lost all the documents of my vehicle bearing Regd no: 6385. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bilal Ahmad Mir
S/o Ghulam Nabi Mir
R/o HNO 196 Near Woodland School Yatoo Shivpora Srinagar
Cell: 778092168

fko

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Zahoor Ahmad Bhat S/o: Mohammad Ramzan Bhat R/o: Har-duwail Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Ignis. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 5791. Chasis number 268027 Engine no. 62102 Model 2020. in favour of Shri.. Bashir Ahmad Magray S/o. Mohammad Rajab Magray R/o Magraypora Khanda Budgam (Transferee) As well as HPA Cancellation with State Bank of India B/u Srinagar.

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 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5976
Dated 08/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Farooq Ahmad Baba S/o: Abdul Samad Baba R/o: Dreygam Khansahib Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 2999 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K State Co-Operative Bank Ltd B/U Kremshore 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.5975
Dated 08/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Syed Mohammad Hidayatullah S/o: Syed Mohammad Attiqullah R/o: Borwah Chadoora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E 5025 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance Ltd B/U Srinagar.

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.5979
Dated 08/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Rayees Ahamd Paul S/O Mohammad Maqbool Paul R/O Trenz Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle LPT Truck - Regd. No. JK22A- 2492 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P

NO: -----
And
Mr./ Mrs Tariq Ahamd Shah S/o Mohamad Munawar Shah R/o Trenz Shopian (Parti No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank B/U Trenz Shopian and Endorsement of HPA with JK Bank B/o Trenz Shopian.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned.

No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

No : ARTO/Spn/1280
Dated 07-03-2022

FKO

S/D Asst Regional
Transport Officer Shopian

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./ Mrs Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh S/o Ab Rasheed Sheikh R/o Pheeripora Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle SCARPIO Regd. No. JK22-3114 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: -----

And
Mr./ Mrs Aiaz Ahamd Mir S/o Mohd Rafiq Mir R/O Botman Colony Bemina Srinagar (Parti No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank B/U Trenz Shopian and Endorsement of HPA with JK Bank B/o Trenz Shopian.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned.

No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

No : ARTO/Spn/---
Dated 07-03-2022

FKO

S/D Asst Regional
Transport Officer Shopian

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Sheikh Raashid Arshaid S/o: Sheikh Gh. Moh ud Din R/o: Green Avenue Colony Hyderpora (Transferor) of LMV Tata Indigo. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 4545. Chasis number DC6673 Engine no. PC4322 Model 2006. in favour of Shri.. Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh S/o. Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Nowpora Payeen (Transferee)

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 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5977
Dated 08/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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 original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars

Name: Suhail Ahmad Bhat
S/O Altaf Ahmad Bhat
R/O Shippora



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2422293 Session /Year Annual 2019

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some 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
Sub Office Magam

bmg

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 original Migration certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name: Amir Basheer Bhat
S/O Basheer Ahmad Bhat
R/O Gulab Dajji Kawarehama



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 12th)
Roll No 2408301 Session /Year Annual 2019

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Migration Certificate. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some 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
Sub Office Magam

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Press Release



To recognise the contribution and significance of women in various fields, the students of AGS, Ziran celebrated Women's day on March 08 with great passion and enthusiasm. Celebration began with a movie being shown on Women Empowerment followed by speeches given by both the students and teachers wherein both the students and the teachers recognised the role and importance of women in life's various domains, acknowledging various career options now available for women to excel in and inspired the audience to show strength and perseverance in their lives. The celebration highlighted the theme of International Women's Empowerment Day 2022 that is "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". The event culminated with a drawing competition for students of class Vth to VIIIth wherein the students actively participated and showcased their talent and creativity.

meda hub

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR,

NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub:- Extension in bidding time for this office Short Term e-NIT No. 48 OF 2021-22, Dated: 25-02-2022 for below mentioned work/s:-

Part-2:-

Electrical repairs to 75KVA voltage stabilizer at LIS Narayan bagh.

Part-3:-

Execution of various mechanical works at DWS Waskura-A of MISD Ganderbal.

Ref:- JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's:-
2022_IFC_162133_2 2022_IFC_162133_3

EXTENSION NOTICE 2

Due to **poor/ no** response to above mentioned sub-parts of this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work/s, the critical dates are extended as under:-

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	11/03/2022 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	12/03/2022 at 1400 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 5754-59
Dated:- 07-03-2022

DIPK-19168/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar

Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir

Dr Shaima Majid
W/o Dr Hilal Ahmad
R/o Sirnoo Pulwama

Subject: - Notice.

Whereas, while posted as Medical Officer at D.H. Pulwama, you applied for 03 months child care leave W.e.f 05-08-2021, before Medical Superintendent D.H. Pulwama.

Whereas, Medical Superintendent D.H. Pulwama vide letter No: - Est/Ms/1746 dated: - 24-07-2021, recommended for sanction of only 60 days child care leave in your favour to this directorate.

Whereas, accordingly 60 days child care leave W.e.f 05-08-2021 was sanctioned in your favour vide this office order No: - 815-GZ of 2021 dated: -12-10-2021.

Whereas, Medical Superintendent D.H. Pulwama vide letter No: - MS/DH/Pul/5025 dated: - 23-02-2022 has reported that after availing the leave you have failed to report back to your duties thereby resorted to un-authorized absence.

Whereas, you should note that un-authorized absence from duties tantamount loss of appointment in terms of Article 128.

Now, therefore opportunity is given to you to report back for your duties at D.H. Pulwama within seven days from the date of issuance of notice, failing which it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve the department anymore and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you for resorting to un-authorized absence.

Sd/

Director Health Services
Kashmir

DIPK-19220/21

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Pretty Flyover Pillars Will Not Solve Traffic Mess: Omar Abdullah

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Expressing his disappointment over traffic management in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said painting pretty flyover pillars will not solve the mess on roads.

No new infrastructure was being created to solve "one of the biggest" problems in the city, he pointed out.

One of the biggest problems in Srinagar city these days is traffic management. I haven't seen any meaningful steps being taken and no new infrastructure being invested in after the Rambagh flyover was completed, Omar said in a tweet.

IASE Students Rally For Gender Justice

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The students of Institute of Advance Studies in Education on Wednesday rallied against what they called the "gender bias" prevalent in Kashmiri society. The students were holding placards appreciating women and calling for an end to the misogyny.

SameenaNaaz a student, who took part in the rally said we as a society need to change our perception towards women.

"There is no doubt gender bias exists in our society and it exists in almost every sphere of life" she said.

"Some which don't let their daughters go to school, this discrimination should end" she added.

The students were flanked by the College Principal Prof Ruhu Jan Kanth and other faculty members.

DC Srinagar Visits Family Of Deceased Girl Killed In Blast

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsadalong with Senior Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Balwal Wednesday visited the family of RafiyaNazir of Saderbal Check in Hazratbal area of the district who was killed in a grenade explosion at Amira Kadal on Sunday.

The DC paid visit to the family of the deceased girl in order to provide ex-gratia relief and express solidarity with the bereaved family members.

While interacting with the family members of the deceased girl, the DC expressed sympathies with them and also expressed condolence with the bereaved family who lost their young member in the militancy related incident.

The DC assured the family that all possible support shall be provided to them from the government.

On the occasion, the DC handed over Rs 1 lakh cheque as ex-gratia relief to Nazir Ahmad Tinda,



father of the deceased girl.

He said that another relief amount of Rs 5 Lakh shall be provided under Central Assistance

Scheme.

Meanwhile SSP Srinagar assured the family of action under the law against the criminals.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

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

Name: Yawar Ashgar
Father's name: Nazir Ahamd Naikoo
Mother Name : Rafeeqa Begum
Roll No: 3208445 Year 2020 Session BI-Annual

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some 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
Sub Office Sopore

fko

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE SRINAGAR

ORDER No.167-Dev of 2022
Dated. 05-03-2022

Subject: - Permission for Change of line of Activity.

In consideration of the application dated. 19-02-2022 along with project report submitted by the unit holder which does not reflect any additional / diminished requirement of land for the proposed line of activity, in light of approval vide letter No.Di&C/Dev/48th APCC-II/2022/4737-50 dated: 31-01-2022, change in pollution category from Green to Green (ref no: JK-PCC/DO/SGR/22/45-46 dated: 22/02/2022), NOC from J&K SICOP vide No.SICOP/DM/IE-Zkt/21-22/717 dated. 24-02-2022 and given that the nature of activity is compatible with the nature of estate, sanction is hereby accorded for change of line of activity from cold storage to "Grinding of plastic scrap and compression of PVC pet bottles (small Scale) (On Provisional Basis), subject to production of, Supplementary lease deed, CTE from JK PCB, PAC/NOC from JK PDD, SFC, J&K Bank, SBI of the concerned area in favour of M/S Kahkashan Cold Storage I/E Zainakote, Srinagar provisionally registered with this office under No. 01/03/35390/Prov/MSME dt. 11.08.2015". This order however is subject to fulfillment of the conditions as stipulated above and the promoter must ensure that the new proposed line of activity be taken to production stage up to the Extended time period that is 30th June 2022.

The other contents shall remain unchanged.

No: DICS/Dev/2022/2806-09

Dated. 05-03-2022
Ishf Ko

General Manager District Industries
Centre Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PASSPORT OFFICE SRINAGAR

Hotel Lake Breeze Boulevard Road, Srinagar
Jammu & Kashmir 190001 | Email: ropsrinagar@mea.gov.in
Phone No. 0194-2500371, 374, 375 | Fax no- 0194-2500373

No. POSH/PAV/51/2005/22/Adinn

Date: 02/03/2022

TENDER NOTICE HIRING OF VEHICLE

On behalf of President of India, tenders (technical Bid & Commercial Bid) are invited from interested firms/Agencies for hiring of two Non Ac vehicles on full day basis (Toyota Innova/Mahindra Scorpio/ safari) and four wheeler Vehicle for passport office Srinagar c/o Hotel lake Breeze Boulevard Road, Srinagar 190001 for the period of two years. Quotations with separate technical and commercial bids, duly filled in the specified Performa, quoting the subject on the envelope, may be addressed to the passport office Srinagar C/o Hotel lake Breeze, Boulevard Road, Srinagar, 190001 and should reach this office within 10 days from date of publication of notice. x

Specified Performa along with all terms and conditions may be collected from the aforesaid address on any working day between 2 p.m to 4 p.m.

B,B, Nagar

Regional Passport Officer
Kashmir & Ladakh

SS

Public Notice

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. In this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name: Nisar Ahmad Mir
S/O: Abdul Gani Mir
R/O: Soaf Shalie

rna

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG



Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Ghulam Qadir Teeli S/o Abdul Samad Teeli R/o Ujroo Dooru (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle



Taveera) bearing registration No JK03B 7400 (commercial / non-commercial) covering under and Mr. Shabir Ahmad Najar S/o Bashir Ahmad Najar R/o Vessu Qazigund (party no 2nd) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Dated: 09/03/2022
RNA

Assistant regional
transport officer Anantnag

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Mohd Yusuf Dar S/o Ghulam Mpoahammad Dar R/o Nageen Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Mohd Amin Waza S/O Abdul Rehman Waza R/O Syed



Colony Zakura Sgr Srinagar (Transferee) for transfer of Auto Rickshaw carriage route Permit No 7566/STAR Covering Vehicle No JK01R- 2746.

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer.

Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S _STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain

NOJK-RTOK 2046

Dated: 09/03/2022

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

fko

Public Notice

I have lost Fitness bearing No: JK03E-1927 Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Ashiq Hussain Mir
S/O :- Gull Mohd Mir
R/o :- Ashajipora
Anantnag

rna

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL



Whereas an joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Habibullah Mir S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir R/o Prang Plung Ganderbal (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle Tip-



per) bearing registration No JK16-0614 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under and Mr. Adil Hussain S/o Mohd Hussain Wani R/o Kachpora Zodar Anantang (party no 2nd) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Dated : 09/03/2022

RNA

Assistant regional
Transport Officer Ganderbal

از نیات دا وگروہ

مضمون کاغذات درخواست منجانب: محمد یوسف شاہ ولد سیف الدین شاہ ساندہ جہانگیر پورہ برادر عطا یگی لیگل ہیرسٹر فلکیٹ اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کردی ہے اس سلسلے میں پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل مفتیج جہانگیر پورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ مطابق رپورٹ سی سیف الدین شاہ مندرجہ 2022-09-24 کوٹ ہو چکا ہے

موتانی کے وارث جائزہ ذیل ہے

محمد یوسف شاہ پرموتانی زمینداری 60 سال

حفیظہ بیگم دختر موتانی گھریلو کام 45 سال

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی ہم اندر دفتر پڑا میں پیش کرے۔ معیار کا ذکر ہے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

نائب تحصیلدار

ar inf

از نیات رہبر پورہ یا اجلاس غلام نجی الدین بٹ صاحب درخواست منجانب: صوبہ پنجاب و راجہ پورہ و ڈھران پورہ راجہ پورہ تحصیل مشن بغرض حصول: RBA- سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جس کی فوار پورٹ جو کہ زیر کارروائی ہے۔ پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل ساکان

نمبر شمار نام و ولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدنی

1 ظہور احمد خان ولد غلام نجی خان 48 سال ملازمت LPC

2 توحید مغل زوجہ ظہور احمد خان 45 سال گھریلو کام

3 صوبہ پنجاب ظہور احمد خان 18 سال زین تعلیم

4 راجہ پورہ دختر ظہور احمد خان 15 سال زین تعلیم

5 محمد سراج ولد ظہور احمد خان 10 سال زین تعلیم

اس طرح سائل کا کہہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ساکان کے کہہ میں ایک سرکاری ملازم جو ہے

۔ ساکان کے کہہ کے پاس دھواں کوئی رقم موجود نہیں ہے۔ ساکان کے کہہ کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی سے تقریباً آٹھ لاکھ روپے سے کم ہے۔ اس طرح سائل RBA- سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد رسالت دن کے اندر اندر پٹاری حلقہ میں پیش کرے۔ بعد کر سے پٹاری حلقہ میں عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

rna

از نیات دیلاگام یا اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیلاگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: شعیب احمد درزی ولد عبد السلام درزی سائل فتح پورہ تحصیل ضلع انبٹ

نائب بغرض حصول RBA- سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے۔ پٹاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کہہ ذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار نام و ولدیت عمر پیشہ سالانہ آمدنی

01 عبد السلام درزی ولد غلام نجی الدین 65 سال زین ملازمت LPC

02 ایمنہ یا نو زوجہ عبد السلام درزی 60 سال گھریلو کام

03 محمد الیاس درزی ولد عبد السلام درزی 39 سال ملازمت LPC

04 رونی جان زوجہ الیاس درزی 35 سال گھریلو کام

05 عبد الصبیب درزی ولد محمد الیاس درزی 12 سال زین تعلیم

06 عبد الصبیب درزی ولد محمد الیاس درزی 09 سال زین تعلیم

07 عبد الحمید درزی ولد محمد الیاس درزی 07 سال زین تعلیم

08 شعیب احمد درزی ولد عبد السلام درزی 33 سال زین تعلیم

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کوہ میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ اور کوہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 500952 ہے۔ سائل سرٹیفکیٹ محرومی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر پڑا میں پیش کرے۔ معیار کا ذکر ہے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

rna

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
06 Shaban
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 27
ZUHR	12: 43
ASR	4: 54
Magrib	6: 38
ISHA	7: 58

This Day In History

- 1862 - Great Britain & France recognise independence of Zanzibar
- 1862 - US issues 1st paper money (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 & \$1000)
- 1864 - Ulysses Grant is named commander of the Union armies
- 1864 - Red River campaign begun in Louisiana by Union forces
- 1865 - Battle of Monroe's Crossroads, NC
- 1874 - Purdue University (Indiana) admits its 1st student
- 1876 - First telephone call; Alexander Graham Bell says "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you" to his assistant Thomas Watson
- 1888 - Heavyweight Boxing champ John L Sullivan draws Charlie Mitchell in 30 rounds
- 1891 - Almon Strowger, an undertaker in Topeka, Kansas, patents the strowger switch, a device which led to the automation of telephone circuit switching
- 1893 - Ivory Coast becomes a French colony (Cote d'Ivoire)
- 1896 - After Bob Fitzsimmons KO's much larger Jim Corbett to win world Heavyweight championship he says, "The bigger they are, the harder they fall"
- 1900 - Battle at Driefontein, South Africa (Boers vs British army)
- 1900 - Regents for the King of Uganda and leading chiefs sign a treaty with Great Britain agreeing to the organization of the government, taxation, courts, military, and other functions of their country, which is under British protection.
- 1902 - Earthquake destroys Turkish city of Tochangri
- 1902 - A United States court of appeals rules that Thomas Edison did not invent the movie camera
- 1905 - Japanese Army captures Mukden (Shenyang)
- 1906 - Baker Street & Waterloo Railway opens, constructed by the Underground Electric Railways Company of London. The contraction Bakerloo became the official name in July 1906.
- 1910 - Republic of China officially abolishes slavery
- 1915 - British Army captures Neuve Chapelle, Belgium
- 1917 - Batangas was formally founded as one of the Philippines's earliest encomiendas
- 1922 - State of siege proclaimed during mine strike Johannesburg, South Africa

From KO Archives

Vajpayee Elected BJP Leader

'We will take every body along'

NEW DELHI- Atal Behari Vajpayee, who was unanimously elected leader of 'the BJP parliamentary party today, said there should be no apprehension among any sections about BJP and spoke of the party being at the threshold of power at the centre.

"Abhi hum ko kendra may avsar milne wala hai. Kisi kay man may BJP kay baray may ashanka nahin rahini chahaye" (We are now about to get an opportunity at the centre. There should be no apprehension about BJP in anyone's mind), he said in his address to the newly elected members of the party after he was elected at the central hall of parliament.

Recalling his resolve expressed during the debate on the motion of confidence of his short-lived government in 1996 that he would come back with adequate numbers, Vajpayee said the party has now returned with more people's support.

Of course, we don't have the requisite numbers It is not because we don't have people's support but may be due to inadequate effort on our party, he said, adding that was why the party would have to take the support of allies.

Vajpayee's name was proposed by party president L.K Advani and seconded by senior leaders Sikander Bakht and Murli Manohar Joshi.

When Advani suggested to vice president S S Bhandari to elicit if there was any other candidate, all the MPS rose in their seats with a show of hand to approve the election of Vajpayee.

While maintaining that hate was not on BJP's agenda, he said his party government would ensure security, prosperity and happiness of all sections which had been its mission right from the beginning.

Vajpayee said there had been no discrimination in the country on the basis of religion and respect for religions had been the national creed. "We don't consider deferent religions as obstacles but as symbols of our cultural richness and that which represented unity in diversity, we should take them all together. This is challenge for me," he said.

The party's prime ministerial candidate said BJP has now reached geographically and socially each and every corner of the country.

Elaborating on the apprehensions about BJP, Vajpayee said the party had dispelled them in whichever state they had governments. Now the party has got an opportunity to pass this test at the centre also and it was 'confident of succeeding, he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 10 March, 1998)

Israel's President Arrives In Turkey As Countries Heal Rift



AFP

ANKARA: Israeli President Isaac Herzog arrived in Turkey Wednesday for talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, becoming the first leader from Israel to visit in 14 years as the two countries move to turn a new page in their troubled relationship.

Escorted by a Turkish mounted color guard, Herzog arrived at the Turkish presidential palace in the capital Ankara as light snow began to fall.

He was greeted by Erdogan and a military honor guard, while a band played the Israeli anthem for the first time since 2008.

Turkey and Israel once were close allies, but the relationship frayed under Erdogan, who is an outspoken critic of Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. Israel also has been angered by Erdogan's embrace of Hamas, the militant group that controls the Gaza Strip. Israel considers Hamas a terrorist group.

The countries withdrew their respective ambassadors in 2010 after Israeli forces stormed a Gaza-bound flotilla carrying humanitarian aid for Palestinians that broke an Israeli blockade. The incident resulted in the deaths of nine Turkish activists.

Relations broke down again in 2018 when Turkey, angered by the US moving its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, once more recalled its ambassador, prompting Israel to respond in kind. The two countries have not reappointed their ambassadors.

The steps toward a rapprochement with Israel comes as Turkey, beset by economic troubles, has been trying to end its international isolation by normalizing its ties with several countries in the Mideast region.

"We will not agree on everything, and the relationship between Israel and Turkey has certainly known

ups and downs and not-so-simple moments in recent years," Herzog said before his departure. "But we shall try to restart our relations and build them in a measured and cautious manner, and with mutual respect between our states."

In Istanbul, a group of about 150 people protested Herzog's visit, chanting anti-Israeli slogans and holding up banners calling the Israeli president a "killer."

The protesters included members of the Turkish Islamic relief group IHH, which organized the Gaza-bound flotilla that broke the Israeli blockade in 2010.

In a step toward reconciliation, Erdogan called Herzog by phone after the Israeli head of state took office last year. The two have held several telephone conversations since then. Erdogan has also spoken to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett following the release of an Israeli couple who were arrested in Istanbul on suspicion of spying.

During a visit to Cyprus last week, Herzog offered reassurance that Israel's warming relation with Turkey would not come at the expense of ties with Nicosia. Herzog made similar remarks in Greece last month, insisting Israel would continue to expand its cooperation with Greece and Cyprus, which both have tense relations with Turkey.

Israel's ties with Greece and Cyprus blossomed following the discovery of sizeable natural gas deposits in eastern Mediterranean waters and the countries look for ways to build on energy-based cooperation.

Turkey has said there would be no change to Ankara's position toward the Palestinians despite the normalization efforts with Israel.

Herzog is scheduled to meet with members of Turkey's Jewish community in Istanbul on Thursday.



GROUPS OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES WALK ALONG the road between Lviv and Shehyni, in Volynetsya, Ukraine on Saturday. — AP

Ukrainians Flee Encircled Cities As Refugees Top Two Million

Agencies

KYIV: Desperate civilians fled besieged cities in Ukraine on Tuesday as fresh fighting raged between Ukrainian and Russian forces.

On the 13th day of the conflict the number of refugees flooding across Ukraine's borders to escape towns devastated by shelling and air strikes passed two million, the UN said.

Bus routes opened through an evacuation corridor from the northeastern city of Sumy — where 21 people were killed in air strikes overnight — while civilians on foot took an unofficial escape route out of the bombarded Kyiv suburb of Irpin.

But Ukraine accused Russia of attacking a corridor from the beleaguered southern port city of Mariupol, where aid workers said tens of thousands were living in "apocalyptic" conditions.

Kyiv has branded the corridors a publicity stunt as many of the exit routes lead into Russia or its ally Belarus. Both sides accuse each other of ceasefire violations.

US President Joe Biden said Ukraine would "never be a victory" for Putin, as he announced the

I DIDN'T WANT to leave, but there's nobody left in the homes around us, no water, no gas and no electricity,"

no water, no gas and no electricity," Larissa Prokopets, 43, said.

She said she was leaving after several days spent "hiding in the basement" of her home, which kept "shaking" due to bombardment nearby.

Russia had refused calls for a humanitarian corridor in Irpin and the nearby suburbs of Bucha and Gostomel "although we had everything ready for this", Ukrainian interior ministry official Anton Gerashchenko said.

Evacuations had however begun in Sumy, near the Russian border and 350km east of Kyiv, where Russia had formally declared a humanitarian corridor, officials said.

Dozens of buses had already left in the direction of Lkhvitsia, to the southwest, with the corridor designed to evacuate civilians, including Chinese, Indians and other foreigners, officials said.

Ukraine's defence ministry also accused Russia on Tuesday of violating a ceasefire to ease a days-long blockade of Mariupol, describing it as "genocide".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced what he called un-kept promises by the West to protect his country, and renewed calls for a no-fly zone that leaders have so far dismissed.

Over 50,000 Officials Deployed For Counting Of Votes In 5 States

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: More than 50,000 officials have been deployed for the counting of votes on Thursday in the five states where assembly polls were held recently.

The counting will begin at 8 am in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab, following COVID-19 guidelines.

The assembly polls in these five states were held in seven phases between February 10 and March 7.

Nearly 1,200 counting halls have been set up where results will be recorded from electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Uttar Pradesh, which has a maximum of 403 assembly constituencies, will have more than 750 counting halls, followed by Punjab over 200.

Over 650 counting observers



have been deployed in the five states to monitor the process.

In view of the pandemic, the Election Commission had issued separate guidelines for counting day.

According to the poll panel's guidelines, counting centres have to be disinfected before and after the counting process.

To ensure distancing norms, the counting halls have to be sufficiently big with proper ventilation, windows and exhaust fans.

Despite being fully vaccinated, if anyone has Covid symptoms such as fever or cold, he or she will not be allowed inside the counting hall.

Every counting official and security personnel will be provided with mask, sanitiser, face shield and hand gloves.

Not more than seven counting tables will be set up in a counting hall, the poll panel had said while announcing the election schedule on January 8.

Iran Vows Not To Back Down On Its 'Red Lines' In Nuclear Talks

Agencies

DUBAI: Iran will not back down on its 'red lines' in nuclear talks with major powers, President Ebrahim Raisi said on Tuesday, after the European Union said the time had come for Washington and Tehran to take political decisions needed to reach an accord.

Eleven months of negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal which lifted sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear programme have reached their final stages.

Iran has sought to remove all sanctions and it wants guarantees from the United States that it will not abandon the deal once more, after then-US president Donald Trump walked out of the deal in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions.

Iran's top negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, returned to Tehran on Monday for consultations.

"The government pursues nuclear negotiations in full accordance with the principles and framework set by the Supreme Leader," President Raisi said, referring to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in Tehran's decision. "It has not and will not back down on any of these red lines," the semi-official Fars news agency quoted Raisi as saying.

Talks coordinator Enrique Mora of the European Union said on Monday that the political decisions needed to conclude the negotiations successfully must be taken in the next few days.

Diplomats say several differences still need to be overcome in the



talks, which were also hit by a last-minute demand from Russia for a guarantee from the United States that Russian trade, investment and military-technical cooperation with Iran would not be hindered by sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine.

Military satellite

Iran announced on Tuesday it had successfully placed a military satellite in orbit, as talks on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and major powers reach a critical stage.

"Iran's second military satellite — named Nour-2 — has been launched into space by the Qasfed rocket of the aerospace wing of the Revolutionary Guards and successfully placed in orbit 500 kilometres above the Earth," the official IRNA news agency reported.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps described the Nour-2 as a "reconnaissance satellite" in a statement on its Sepah News website.

It said the satellite was launched from the Shahroud desert in Semnan province, some 300km east of the capital.

Daesh Suicide Bomber Of Pakistan Mosque Was Afghan: Police



AFP

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN: A Daesh suicide bomber who killed 64 people at a Shiite mosque in northwest Pakistan last week was an Afghan exile who returned home to train for the attack, police said Wednesday.

There have been warnings Afghanistan could become a recruiting ground and staging post for militants since the Taliban returned to power last year following the hasty withdrawal of US-led forces.

The Taliban have pledged they will not allow Afghan soil to be used to plot attacks on other nations, but last month the UN Security Council said "terrorist groups enjoy greater freedom there than at any time in recent history."

Two senior Pakistan police officials told AFP that the suicide bomber responsible for Friday's Peshawar blast had prepared the attack in Afghanistan.

It was claimed by Daesh, whose Daesh-Khorasan affiliate has been active for years in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, where it is in violent competition with the Taliban.

The officials said the attacker was an

Afghan national in his 30s who moved to Pakistan with his family decades ago.

"The bomber went (back) to Afghanistan, trained there and returned without informing his family," one of the senior police officials told AFP.

"Daesh-Khorasan is becoming a strong threat for us, they are operating from Afghanistan but they have sleeping cells here," he added.

Taliban officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Muhammad Amir Rana, director of the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), said there was "a lot of apprehension" in the international community over the prospect of Afghanistan becoming a haven for militancy.

While the Taliban can rein in sister groups like Al-Qaeda — which carried out the 9/11 attacks — "they cannot guarantee they will do the same about the groups which are not under their control like Daesh-Khorasan," he said.

"There are a lot of questions on the Taliban's ability to govern Afghanistan," said Rana.

Police said they had killed three "facilitators" of the Peshawar attack in an overnight operation, and arrested 20 others suspected of involvement.

Unite, Form Your Own Govt: Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik Urges Farmers



Press Trust Of India

Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik has urged farmers to unite and form a government of their own.

Addressing a Samaj Jagrati Shatabdi Mahotsav programme organised by Jaat Samaj on Tuesday in Sardarshahar town of Churu district in Rajasthan, Malik said, "Farmers should

come out as givers and not takers. They should unite and form their own government."

Launching a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Malik questioned his silence on the "death of over 700 farmers during the protest against three contentious farm laws".

"Prime Minister writes a condolence note even if there is a slight accident in Delhi. However, over 700 farmers sacrificed their lives but he did not express his condolence," Malik taunted.

Malik alleged that when he tried to apprise Prime Minister Modi of farmers' challenges, people advised him to stay silent, saying that he will never be promoted to the post of president or vice president.

"I told them that I have worked in senior positions and now want to serve farmers," he claimed.

NEWS MAKERS

'Exit Polls Should Be Banned': Akali's After Poll Prediction



AMRITSAR: Days after several exit polls predicted a clean sweep for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab Assembly elections, Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday said that he does not believe in them and further mentioned that exit polls and opinion polls should be banned. SAD expressed confidence in being voted to power in the recently held Assembly elections.

Addressing a press conference today, Shiromani Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal said, "SAD represents the voice of people. I hope God gives us the chance to do Seva of the people."

The SAD leader further highlighted that he does not have faith in the credibility of the exit polls.

"Ask any Punjabi here, nobody believes it. Last time also, it was predicted that AAP will win more than 100 seats. Such was not the case. When assembly elections happened in West Bengal, it was predicted that Mamata didi will win only by a thin margin but she won with a huge margin. I think opinion polls and exit polls should be banned."

He added, "Elections Commission is monitoring everything but the central government by using its financial power, gives paid opinion and exit polls to influence the voters. The credibility of exit and opinion polls has decreased over the years." -ANI

Rajiv Gandhi Case Convict Granted Bail By Supreme Court



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Wednesday granted bail to A G Perarivalan who has been serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, taking note of his long incarceration of over 30 years and no history of complaint when out on parole. A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai directed the convict, whose death penalty was commuted into life term in 2014, to report to local police station near Chennai in the first week of every month and ordered that the additional conditions for release would be decided by a local court there.

"There is no dispute regarding the fact that the applicant has undergone the sentence of 32 years. We are informed by the counsel for the applicant that he was released on parole thrice earlier and there was no complaint about his conduct during his release," the bench said in its order.

It also took note of the submission that the convict is on parole at present as well, and there is sufficient material produced about his conduct during his long incarceration. The bench considered the fact that Perarivalan has acquired educational qualifications and has been suffering ill health during incarceration.

"Taking into account the fact that the applicant has already spent more than 30 years in prison, we are of the considered view that he is entitled to be released on bail in spite of the vehement opposition of the ASG (additional solicitor general, who appeared for the Centre), subject to the final disposal of the SLPs (special leave petitions) here." -PTI

HC Asks Police To Respond To Sharjeel's Bail Plea



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court today sought Delhi Police's reply on the bail plea of JNU Student Sharjeel Imam, arrested in a case related to alleged inflammatory speeches made by him during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) in 2019.

A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anoop Kumar Mendiatta issued notice to Delhi Police Crime Branch and asked it to file reply within 10 days while listing the matter for further hearing on March 24.

As per the prosecution, Sharjeel Imam had allegedly made speeches at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 13, 2019, and at Aligarh Muslim University on December 16, 2019, where he threatened to cut off Assam and the rest of the Northeast from India.

Sharjeel Imam has approached the high court challenging a trial court's January 24 order denying him bail in the case.

During the hearing, the bench was of the prima facie view that the trial court has not dealt with relevant considerations for grant or denial of bail.

"He (trial court judge) has dealt with nothing. All these offences are less than seven years. We are asking you (police) why he should not be enlarged on bail? If he a flight risk? Will he tamper with evidence? Who are the witnesses?" the bench asked. -PTI

BJP Took Away J&K's Statehood Against Wishes Of People: Cong

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Congress on Wednesday accused the BJP of vitiating the atmosphere of peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir and downgrading its statehood status against the wishes of people.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir Rajni Patil said only the Congress can restore peace, harmony, progress and the lost status and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Centre had in 2019 revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into union territories.

"BJP has vitiated the atmosphere of peace, harmony and progress and downgraded the historical state against the wishes of people... Congress can only rebuild the state, the genuine aspirations of each section and regions and can do justice with all and ensure equitable development by creating harmony and peace and strengthening democracy," she told reporters here.

The Member of Parliament (MP) said the people were fed up with the BJP's poor performance and opportunistic and wrong policies, and added there is a strong wave of change in favour of her party in Jammu.

She said the Congress is the only viable alternative to the

BJP which has utterly failed on all fronts and snatched the statehood, dignity and rights, employment and trade of the people.

Addressing a gathering of Congress workers at Shakti Nagar, Patil said the power hungry BJP's divisive and opportunistic politics has destroyed and vitiated the atmosphere of peace, harmony and progress and created unrest in society.

She advised the party leaders to recognise the hard work of grassroots workers who alone can take the Congress achievements and programmes to the people and bring the party back to power to serve the people.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress president G A Mir pitched for the restoration of the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the statehood was snatched unilaterally, arbitrarily and undemocratically.

He said the ongoing delimitation exercise to redraw assembly constituencies is biased and has caused more injustice.

Mir said the BJP failed the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the sake of power but it will badly fail in its mission to grab power through unfair means.

AICC spokesperson Alka Lamba in his address accused the BJP of playing with the sentiments of people by downgrading the historical state and depriving them of democratic rights.

Women's Day Celebrations At IUST



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) celebrated International Women's Day under the themes "Gender Equity" and "Gender equality for sustainable tomorrow" and celebrations were held at both its Awantipora and Charari Sharief campuses.

The event comprised of many activities and seminars which were attended by number of academicians, students, and social activists.

At IUST, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, who was the Chief Guest while addressing the gathering, deliberated upon the issue of unavailability of data to access the gender equality situation in J&K. He said that none of the sustainable development goals identified by UN are achievable unless we achieve the goal of gender equality.

He also stressed the need to work on strategies to ensure the women enrolment in education translates into equal number in workforce.

Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Dean Academic Affairs raised the issue of huge number of women toppers in academics not translating into corresponding to the numbers in the workforce. He sensitized the women students to avail the benefits of different

Plantation Drive Organized For Green Campus

AWANTIPORA: Initiating a plantation marathon in an endeavor to develop a Green Campus at Islamic University of Science and Technology, the Landscaping section of IUST on Wednesday organized a plantation drive in collaboration with the Department of Social Forestry J&K Government, during which pine saplings were planted within the premises.

On this occasion, saplings were planted by the Vice Chancellor IUST Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo and other dignitaries including Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Registrar IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Controller Examinations Prof. Peerzada M. Amin, DFO Pulwama Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Regional Director Department of Social Forestry J&K Government, Mr. Mehraj-ud-din Malik.

policies developed by the government for women scientists.

Registrar IUST Prof Naseer Iqbal, while appreciating the selection of the theme, 'Gender Equity' ensured fair treatment of all the women staff and students in the university. He also said that we already see lot of improvement in the situation in urban areas and but there is still a need to work in far flung areas.

Political Parties Condemn Udhampur IED Attack

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Political parties on Wednesday condemned an IED attack in Udhampur district of Jammu region in which one person was killed and 15 others were injured.

The blast took place around 1 pm near the district court complex.

"Unequivocally condemn the Udhampur attack in which one person lost his life and several others were injured. May the deceased rest in peace. Prayers for speedy recovery of those injured," the National Conference (NC) wrote on its Twitter handle.

NC vice president and former chief minister Omar Abdullah said he was greatly saddened by the attack and the resultant death and injuries.

"I unreservedly condemn this attack, at the same time I send my condolences to the family of the deceased & prayers for the injured, Abdullah said in a tweet.

My deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayers for a speedy recovery of those injured, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti wrote on Twitter.

Peoples Conference general secretary Imran Reza Ansari said terror should be condemned in one voice.

Today's blast in J&K's Udhampur lead to the loss of a precious life & injuring many others. Government need to curb such attacks by heavy crackdown on culprits to prevent further loss of civilian lives, he added.

Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari also condemned the blast and

said no words were strong enough to condemn the heinous attack on innocent civilians.

"Government should firmly resolve to avenge this barbaric action by the enemies of peace and the perpetrators of the crime should be brought to justice," he said.

Eyewitnesses said the blast was so powerful that some iron grills nearby were damaged in its impact. It triggered panic in the area.

Additional Director General of Police (Jammu) Mukesh Singh told reporters that initial investigation points towards the use of an improvised explosive device (IED).

He said the nature of the explosive and further details would be known following investigation by experts.

Govt Orders Speedy Completion Of Quarters For KP Employees

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday directed the public works (PWD) department to pace up the construction work on the quarters for Kashmiri Pandit employees engaged under the Prime Minister's package.

These directions were passed Secretary, Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Nazim Zai Khan on Wednesday during his visit and inspection of construction work on quarters being raised for KP employees under PM's package in various locations of Kashmir Valley, an official spokesperson said.

The Secretary was accompanied by Chief Engineer PW(R&B), Kashmir, officers of JKPC, Relief organization and other line departments.

While reviewing progress on work at Vessu, the spokesperson said, Khan exhorted upon the officers of executing agency to expedite the pace of progress for speedy completion.

"He asked the executing agency to complete the work on 4 towers by or before 30th June so that same is taken over by DMRRR department," he said.

At Sheikhpora, he said, the Secretary asked for completion of work on remaining two blocks within a fortnight for handing over to DMRRR within

the set time line.

During his visit to Wandhama, Ganderbal and Odina, Bandipora sites, he said, the Secretary had a detailed review of all ongoing works being executed in the employees' quarters there.

According to the spokesperson, the Chief Engineer PW(R&B), Kashmir, assured that 6 towers shall be handed over to DMRRR by June, 1 in April, 2 in May and 1 tower shall be handed over to the department in June.

"Similarly, it was assured that 04 towers at Odina shall be completed and handed over by the end of June 2022," he added.

Sikh Body Demands Audit Of Gurdwara Prabhandak Committees

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A Sikh organisation in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to order an audit of Gurdwara Prabhandak Committees in the union territory and then conduct their elections.

"The All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) has impressed upon the LG administration to conduct the audit of accounts of GPCs of the different districts of J-K before going ahead with the election process," its chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina said in a statement here.

Raina said the present Gurdwara Endowment Act of Jammu and Kashmir was obsolete and needed to be replaced.

The present Act has lost its relevance with the passage of time and it needs to be replaced. The Delhi model would be quite appropriate and if it is implemented in J-K, then the present loopholes would be overcome. The present dispensation should look into this aspect, he said.

The APSCC chairman said if the government wants to engage nominated bodies instead of electing the time of elected members of GPCs, it is imperative to

audit the district gurdwara committees before relieving them.

The entire community is concerned about the recent developments after the government decided to hand over the management of Sikh shrines, historical gurdwara, and properties attached to nominated members till gurdwara elections.

The community members under the ambit of various Sikh organizations in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions demand elections under Gurdwara Endowment Act by continuing and extending the three months period of elected district gurdwara committees, he said.

Night Raids In Anantnag To Prevent Illegal Mining

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The district administration in this south Kashmir district carried out a night raid in Kokernag and seized several tractors, officials said Wednesday.

Continuing the raids on transporters involved in illegal mining, an official spokesperson said that Tehsildar Kokernag on being informed about the

illegal mining activity conducted raid during night hours on Tuesday and instantly approached the spot along with other revenue officials and seized several tractors at Gadol.

"No leniency shall be provided to those who are trying to loot the natural resources and cause irreparable damage to the ecology said Tehsildar Kokernag

As per Jammu and Kashmir Minor

Mineral Concession, Storage, Transport of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules (2016), only those transporters can transport minor minerals that have proper NOC from Irrigation/Flood Control Department or have challan duly signed by District Mineral Officer.

The raids are conducted in pursuance to the order of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag to prevent such illegal activities in the district.

Mehta Pitches For Making JK A Model In Green Initiatives

Inaugurates Workshop On Capacity Building Of JK Forest, Other Departments



JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday chaired inaugural session of two day workshop on capacity building of JK Forest and other departments being conducted under REDD-Plus Action for Jammu and Kashmir.

The REDD-plus mechanism of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aims to provide financial incentive for forestry based climate change mitigation activities like reducing carbon emissions from forest degradation and increasing carbon stock through conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The programme was jointly organized by JK Forest Department and Himalayan Forests Research Institute Shimla.

Commissioner Secretary Forests Ecology and Environment, Sanjeev Verma, was the guest of honour on the occasion.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, while addressing on the occasion, said that J&K has emerged as a leader among Indian states in recent years.

"We are the second best in e-Office initiative and have performed exceptionally well in Covid mitigation and management," he added.

It becomes pertinent that J&K would emerge as a model UT in en-

vironmental sector within a year's time, he asserted. He also called for funding such initiatives by convergence of funds.

He expressed happiness to note that as per the Government of India Report, 2021, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has the highest carbon stock per unit area which is indicative of maximum biomass and good soils in forests of J&K.

With 42 types of forests, J&K holds the most diverse forests in the country and has every reason to be a model UT as far as REDD-plus is concerned.

He said that the workshop should be utilized to enable a model project which is simple and practical involving convergence, livelihood generation and grass root level programmes. He expressed satisfaction that the Forest Department with the mandate of afforestation and conservation of forests is now actively involving grassroots level institutions like Village Panchayats and Biodiversity Management Committees. He also appreciated the new initiatives of 'One Beat Guard, One Village' programme and campaign on 'Har Gaon Hariyal' and 'Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan' undertaken by the Forest department.

Govt To Spend Rs 150 Cr On Higher Education Infra: Kansal



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Over Rs. 150 crores have been planned to be spent on various infrastructural activities in higher education in the coming year, Principal Secretary Higher Education, Rohit Kansal said Wednesday.

He said that these activities include not just upgradation of physical infrastructure but other activities also such as faculty development, research centres and innovation hubs.

Kansal made these remarks at a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review the status of various components under Rashtriya Uchchitar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor Jammu University, Prof Manoj Kumar Dhar, Mission Director RUSA, Dr Syed Sehresh Asgar, Managing Director J&K Projects and Construction Corporation, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, Director Planning HED, GM Ganai, and other concerned officials.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the different projects

undertaken under RUSA Scheme which include various projects in Jammu University, Govt College of engineering & Technology (GCET) Safapora and GCET Janglot Kathua.

While reviewing the physical and financial status of projects of Jammu University under RUSA Scheme, the Principal Secretary asked the varsity to furnish all the details of work done as well as fresh proposals under Rs 100 Crore grants, besides directing them to submit the latest physical and financial activities to MD RUSA for further submitting it to Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Regarding the status of works at GCET Safapora, he directed MD JKPC to submit a proposal of pending works or additional works for timely completion of the vital project in Higher Education map of J&K. Similarly, with regard to GCET Janglot, Kansal asked the concerned to pace up all the pending works at earliest for subsequent hand over of the project by April ending this year.

FOREST RIGHTS ACT IMPLEMENTATION

A Historic Step Towards Changing Lives Of Tribal Communities: Govt

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government scripted a historic chapter on 13th September 2021 with Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, handing over individual and community rights certificates to the beneficiaries of Gujjar, Bakarwal and Gaddi Sippi communities under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 at a momentous event in Srinagar.

The event was hailed as a significant step with a potential to transform the lives of members of tribal communities in the UT where the rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers were recognized albeit to a long delay.

"After a long struggle and efforts for more than 14 years due rights have been conferred upon the

tribal community through implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, keeping in mind the basic spirit of social equality and harmony as guided by the constitution of our country and the Parliament," Lieutenant Governor had remarked.

Giving due credit to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's guidance for conferring forest rights to tribal community, Sinha had added that the J&K administration had been vigorously pursuing the ideals of establishing an equitable and just social order in the UT. The UT government had been working sincerely to empower the tribal community which remained neglected and discriminated against for decades together.

Conferring rights over

the forest land for these forest dwellers is poised to elevate the socio-economic status of a sizeable section of 14 lakh population of tribals and nomadic communities including Gujjar, Bakarwals and Gaddi Sippis in the Union Territory.

These people have been living in the forests since centuries without any right over the forest land but implementation of FRA proved to be of great help for these forest dwellers. The Act was a step towards redressing prejudice and empowering communities to participate in the management of forest and wildlife protection. The preamble to the Act itself notes that it recognizes the historical injustice to tribals and others who have been tra-

ditionally living in forest areas.

As per provisions of Forest Rights Act (FRA), it provides the right to hold and live in the forest land for habitation or self-cultivation for livelihood by a member or members of Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD). FDSTs can be related to Gujjars and Bakarwals in J&K and OTFD can be related to Kashmiri, Dogri, Pahari or any other non ST people living near forests for the last 3 generations or 75 years or more.

The FRA will certainly help towards strengthening the democracy at grassroots level besides correcting the wrongs done in past by replicating the true spirit of the Act in Jammu and Kashmir.

VC JU Inaugurates Physiotherapy Wing Of University Health Centre

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Prof. Manoj K. Dhar, Vice Chancellor University of Jammu on Wednesday inaugurated Physiotherapy Wing of the University Health Centre in the main Campus of the University of Jammu.

The Physiotherapy building has been constructed out of RUSA grant sanctioned by the Ministry of Education, Government of India to the University of Jammu for further excellence in academics, research and infrastructure development at the cost of 38 lakhs.

The wing is fully equipped with all the latest physiotherapy modalities.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. M. K. Dhar said that this Physio-Wing of the University Health Centre is one best Physiotherapy Centres in the Jammu region having all latest and advance physiotherapy machines installed in it.

He said that the University fraternity will get immensely benefitted by having inhouse all the modern and specialised Physiotherapy modalities and the wing will definitely cater all types patients

having physio related health issues.

Prof. Dhar while lauding the efforts of the management of University Health Centre specially of Prof. Seema Langar, Convener, Health Centre, Dr. Bharat Bushan Medical Officer and Dr. Nosheen Rather Physiotherapist, Physiotherapy Wing, University of Jammu for their dedication and hard work in setting up the state of art Physiotherapy Wing within the campus to provide best physiotherapy treatment to the students, scholars, teachers officers, employees and their dependents.

Dr. Nosheen Rather, Physiotherapist of the Wing while briefing the Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries present on the occasion said that with the installation of modern physiotherapy modalities, the Wing will be able to provide specialised and advance treatments like Muscular Dystrophy, Back & Neck pain, Limited Range of Motion (ROM), Osteoporosis, Vertigo, Chronic Fatigue, Respiratory Issues, Ankle Sprain, Foot Fracture, Knee Ligament Injury, Sports Injuries and post fracture and post surgery treatments to the patients.

PNB Holds Felicitation Program For War Widows

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the commemoration of women's day, Punjab National Bank in coordination with Zila Sanik Welfare Board (ZSWB), Kashmir organised a felicitation program in which war-widows from different areas of Kashmir participated.

Neeraj Kumar Anand, Circle Head along with Sh. Gopal Krishan, Dy. Circle Head of Punjab National Bank, Srinagar Circle presented various mementos to participants in recognition of their unparalleled valour.

Speaking on the occasion, Circle Head paid glowing tributes to the sacrifices of martyrs who have displayed exemplary courage to protect the dignity of the nation and at the same time appreciated the indomitable courage and brevity of participants (war-widows). Team of Zila Sanik Welfare office, Srinagar have appreciated the CSR activity organised by Punjab National Bank to reach out to most dignified class of women on the occasion of International women's day.

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K O V I E W

Hellhole Kashmir

The life of 18-year-old Rafiya Nazir from Hazratbal was snuffed out along with that of an elderly man in a grenade attack at Amira Kadal on Sunday. Rafiya had just passed her 12th class examination with 93 percent marks and her father Nazir Ahmad Tinda dreamed of her becoming a doctor. Tragically, this was not to be. Rafiya was snatched away by the long-running violence in the Valley which has so far claimed thousands of lives and reduced them to mere statistics. She was in Lal Chowk shopping with her mother and sister when a grenade exploded close to them, killing a 79 year old man on the spot and injuring 33 others. Rafiya's mother and sister also sustained splinter injuries.

Unfortunately, the killings like these in Kashmir even struggle to become news in a world riven by unprecedented violence. On March 5, 57 worshippers were killed and over 100 wounded when a blast ripped through a mosque in Pakistan's Peshawar. And nobody would pay attention to Kashmir at a time when a full-scale war is ongoing in Ukraine with Russia on one side and the entire west led by the US on the other. And which, if no urgent measures are taken to defuse the crisis, is threatening to escalate into a third world war.

As for condemnations of the killings in Kashmir, it has become a ritual now And by Kashmir standards, if we start condemning all deaths, it will become a full-time job for any person or an organization. For then we have to do it everyday, twice a day with all the killings happening around us. The condemnations will also be selective, depending on which side of the ideological divide you are on. The issue, however, is not the condemnation, the issue is what do we do about the situation that leads to everyday killings. But nobody will talk about that.

Such a muddled situation makes opinions and positions in Kashmir an inherently fraught affair. And hypocritical too. The union government is not helping the matters by refusing to engage Kashmiris politically. The last several years have witnessed an exclusively security-centric approach towards Kashmir. The objective has been to eliminate insurgency by attempting to kill all the militants within a specific timeframe. Viewed from that perspective, the security agencies have been exceptionally successful over the last two years. It is expected that the killings of the militants at this rate could drastically reduce their number. This, in turn, is expected to alter the political dynamics in Valley and usher in peace.

But the deeper factors underpinning the current state of affairs will linger on and can be expected to create conditions for yet another phase of violence and unrest. This has been the case over the past three decades. The militancy has gone through its crests and troughs but has never been wiped out. And same has been the case with the public unrest. The future looks uncertain in Kashmir. And things are unlikely to look up unless New Delhi fundamentally changes its approach to the situation and moves away from a security-centric approach to one of empathy and engagement. And until that happens Rafiyas will continue to die a day in and day out.

OTHER OPINION

Oh Baby

Cricket – the men's version of the game – has for long defined all-rounder to mean someone who bats and bowls with proficiency. None of them have ever had to think of a baby-break in their careers, or feeding times and anxiety about who's looking after the infant while they pile wickets and runs. Pakistan women's captain Bismah Maroof had to not just factor in all that, but also consider if she could afford a travelling nanny for her eight-month-old baby Fatima, when she resumed captaincy of the team ahead of the World Cup. Since she couldn't, she wrapped up the baby, pram in tow, and went to New Zealand to do her job as the nation's captain. Things on the field might not have gone to plan, a 107-run-defeat ensued despite triggering a mini collapse, but rivals India were left weak-kneed as they gathered around Baby Fatima post-match. Selfies followed.

India and Pakistan cricketers have always maintained cordial relations on the sidelines of their face-off. Even politicians on both sides are aware that cricketers carry an aura which glows brighter than narrow nationalistic spiels. But what melted a million hearts on Sunday was the viral videos of Indians with Baby Fatima from the Bay Oval – and a shared pride that a woman from the subcontinent was going ahead and resuming her playing career, in cricket, no less, after childbirth.

Cricket dressing rooms – often associated with male cricketers punching glasses and breaking doors and flinging bats in frustration – can now be places for baby babble after a game well played. Male cricketers have flaunted their babies at retirements and at landmark games. Women's cricket has kept it authentic, bringing the baby to work in a country where the Prime Minister has pretty much taken hers to Parliament, and then putting in a hard day at play.

The Indian Express

Raj Bhavan's Probe Into
PM Ujjwala Scam

RTI Helps Complainant To Get The Matter Investigated At Highest Level



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Finally, Raj Bhavan has taken cognizance of irregularities in PM's Ujjwala Yojna in J&K particularly in district Budgam. The Lt Governor's Secretariat recently directed the Commissioner Secretary to Govt Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS & CA) to probe the matter and submit the report within 3 days. For more than a year, several complaints had been pouring in from different areas of J&K particularly in the upper reaches of Budgam district where people were looted by LPG companies. People had to pay money for Ujjwala LPG cylinders and stoves which otherwise were to be given free of cost.

Taking cognizance of a complaint filed by an RTI activist Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, a resident of Batwoddar Surasyar Chadoora in district Budgam, the LG's Secretariat directed the Commissioner Secretary FCS & CA to get the matter enquired thoroughly. He has also been asked to submit the report to LGs Secretariat by March 3rd 2022.

Background

LG Manoj Sinha in his monthly radio programme Awam ki Awaz had spoken about the PM's Ujjwala Yojna in his Awam ki Awaz programme on Nov 21st 2021.

Mushtaq had brought the matter into the notice of LG Sinha by writing to him a detailed letter. LG highlighted this issue in the Awam ki Awaz radio broadcast and assured Mushtaq a probe into the issue.

After a month, when Mushtaq didn't hear anything from Raj Bhavan, he filed an application under Right to Information Act (RTI) in LG's Secretariat to know about the status of his complaint which was discussed by Lt Governor during Awam ki Awaz programme.

Information Sought

On December 21st 2021, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone filed an application under RTI Act seeking details of action taken by LG's office on his complaint. The RTI application reads as :

During Awam ki Awaz programme dated Nov 21st Hon'ble LG Shri Manoj Sinha spoke about PM Ujjwala Yojna. I had sent a complaint to him on the issue as there is a lot of misappropriation of funds and corruption. I would like to seek following information in this regard:

- Has your office made any formal communication with LPG companies or Govt on the issue of PM's Ujjwala Yojna which is marred by large scale corruption in J&K especially District Budgam ?
- Kindly provide a copy of the letter that has gone from Raj Bhavan to concerned officers for investigating the issue.

- Has any response been received by Raj Bhavan in this case ? Please provide the certified copies of the letters received in this regard
- Has Raj Bhavan directed Govt or Deputy Commissioners to upload a list of PM's Ujjwala beneficiaries on the official websites ?

Special Secretary intervenes

When Mushtaq didn't receive any information within stipulated time from the Public Information Officer Pankaj Bagotra (Additional Secretary

THERE ARE
SEVERAL
videos on social
media which prove
that indigent people
in J&K have been
looted, especially in
Budgam district.
Local news channels
have exposed it as
well. Newspapers
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investigate this
matter

), he filed first appeal before Mr Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Special Secretary who is the designated First Appellate Authority (FAA).

The FAA called Mushtaq for an online hearing through Zoom on February 25th 2022. The PIO was also present during the hearing.

Before the appeal hearing, the Special Secretary ensured Mushtaq was given a better audience. The Raj Bhavan officials called him several times

POOR
PEOPLE ARE
being scammed by LPG
companies and their
dealers not only in J&K
but at the national
level as well

a few days before hearing to make sure he had better internet connectivity.

The FAA (Special Secretary) told Mushtaq during the hearing that he would write a letter to the General Administration Department (GAD) and Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department. The officer finally made a fresh communication with Food Department and asked the Commissioner Secretary on behalf of Lt Governor to probe into the issue. A report was sought within 3 days only.

No Probe Initiated

There are several videos on social media which prove that indigent people in J&K have been looted, especially in Budgam district. Local news channels have exposed it as well. Newspapers have been writing about it but the government is least bothered to even investigate this matter. The matter had to be taken up at the highest level (Raj Bhavan). This author has been uploading all the videos and newspaper articles about the Ujjwala scam on social media. The Deputy Commissioner of Budgam is aware of all this as his official Twitter handle was tagged by me several times about this.

However, unfortunately, he has not even asked an SHO of the area to file an FIR on the issue. Is this good governance ?

Poor people are being scammed by LPG companies and their dealers not only in J&K but at the national level as well.

In August 2019, Uttar Pradesh Police had also exposed a scam involving this scheme in the Balrampur district, and later that year the Comptroller and Auditor General of India unearthed a massive scam under this scheme as well. This needs a CBI inquiry across all states.

Earlier this year, free ration meant for the poor under the PM Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojna was looted, and it was reported by Kashmir Observer and I exposed this in my weekly programme Inkishaf as well. That matter, too, is yet to be probed by the Deputy Commissioner Budgam.

Mushtaq had filed complaints at various forums. He was assured of action but till date not even an FIR has been filed against the culprits who took money from poor people for Ujjwala LPG gas which is to be given free of cost to BPL families. The Assistant Director Food Budgam also got the matter verified after being directed by LGs grievance cell but that report was also not made public.

Conclusion

PM Ujjwala scheme is marred by large scale corruption in Jammu & Kashmir.

In Budgam district Mushtaq and his colleagues went to several villages to see whether beneficiaries have received the subsidized gas or not but on the ground they were told that people had to pay money (Rs 2000 to 4000) for it. As the matter has now been taken up by Raj Bhavan directly with administrative department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department, it is hoped that culprits will be brought to justice soon.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar based activist and columnist. He is an Anant Fellow for Climate Action

OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Education For All

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

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

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

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

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

Safoora Shafi
Safooras@gmail.com

AI and Cybersecurity Arms Race

Sagar Samtani

The average business receives 10,000 alerts every day from the various software tools it uses to monitor for intruders, malware and other threats. Cybersecurity staff often find themselves inundated with data they need to sort through to manage their cyber defenses.

The stakes are high. Cyberattacks are increasing and affect thousands of organizations and millions of people in the U.S. alone.

These challenges underscore the need for better ways to stem the tide of cyber-breaches. Artificial intelligence is particularly well suited to finding patterns in huge amounts of data. As a researcher who studies AI and cybersecurity, I find that AI is emerging as a much-needed tool in the cybersecurity toolkit.

Helping humans

There are two main ways AI is bolstering cybersecurity. First, AI can help automate many tasks that a human analyst would often handle manually. These include automatically detecting unknown workstations, servers, code repositories and other hardware and software on a network. It can also determine how best to allocate security defenses. These are data-intensive tasks, and AI has the potential to sift through terabytes of data much more efficiently and effectively than a human could ever do.

Second, AI can help detect patterns within large quantities of data that human analysts can't see. For example, AI could detect the key linguistic patterns of hackers posting emerging threats in the dark web and alert analysts.

More specifically, AI-enabled analytics can help discern the jargon and code words hackers develop to refer to their new tools, techniques and procedures. One example is using the name Mirai to mean botnet. Hackers developed the term to hide the botnet topic from law enforcement and cyberthreat intelligence professionals.

AI has already seen some early successes in cybersecurity. Increasingly, companies such as FireEye, Microsoft and Google are developing innovative AI approaches to detect malware, stymie phishing campaigns and monitor the spread of disinformation. One notable success is Microsoft's Cyber Signals program that uses AI to analyze 24 trillion security signals, 40 nation-state



AI HAS ALREADY SEEN SOME EARLY successes in cybersecurity. Increasingly, companies such as FireEye, Microsoft and Google are developing innovative AI approaches to detect malware, stymie phishing campaigns and monitor the spread of disinformation

groups and 140 hacker groups to produce cyber-threat intelligence for C-level executives.

Federal funding agencies such as the Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation recognize the potential of AI for cybersecurity and have invested tens of millions of dollars to develop advanced AI tools for extracting insights from data generated from the dark web and open-source software platforms such as GitHub, a global software development code repository where hackers, too, can share code.

Downsides of AI

Despite the significant benefits of AI for cybersecurity, cybersecurity professionals have questions and concerns about AI's role. Companies might be thinking about replacing their human analysts with AI systems, but might be worried about how much they can trust automated systems. It's also not clear whether and how the well-documented AI problems of bias, fairness, transparency and ethics will emerge in AI-based cybersecurity systems.

Also, AI is useful not only for cybersecurity professionals trying to turn the tide against cyberattacks, but also for malicious hackers. Attackers are using methods like reinforcement learning and generative adversarial networks, which generate new content or software based on limited examples, to produce new types of cyberattacks that can evade cyber defenses.

Researchers and cybersecurity professionals are still learning all the ways malicious hackers are using AI.

The road ahead

Looking forward, there is significant room for growth for AI in cybersecurity. In particular, the predictions AI systems make based on the patterns they identify will help analysts respond to emerging threats. AI is an intriguing tool that could help stem the tide of cyberattacks and, with careful cultivation, could become a required tool for the next generation of cybersecurity professionals.

The current pace of innovation in AI, however, indicates that fully automated cyber battles between AI attackers and AI defenders is likely years away.

The author is Assistant Professor of Operations and Decision Technologies, Indiana University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

When therapist Lizandra Leigertwood's friend asked to borrow a large sum of money, she immediately had an answer in mind: no. But instead, she said yes. This hurt both her and the relationship.

"Eventually, by me not having healthy boundaries, it caused the friendship to become strained," said Leigertwood, a therapist with New Frame Counselling & Psychotherapy. "Not only did I not receive back the loan, I became resentful. That wasn't just down to my friend not being a very good friend — part of the problem was down to me not communicating or asserting my boundaries."

This is one of several behaviors that can cause us to be mad at (or even hate) ourselves. Here are some other sneaky actions impeding your ability to feel self-love, as well as steps to take afterward.

Self-sabotaging

Directly disrespecting our personal boundaries is only one way in which we self-sabotage.

"For example, we might be getting over an ex and starting to feel good about ourselves, but then end up sleeping with them, leaving us once again reeling from the pain of the original breakup," said Hannah Beckett-Pratt, a psychotherapist with WellSpace Counselling. "Or, we might be close to a promotion at work, but go out the night before a big presentation and fail to impress when it counts. A very common form of self-sabotage is procrastination."

If you've had these experiences before, you know how easy it is to give in to those temptations and think it'll be fine. But then, when the results are bad, we (understandably) feel upset.

The fix: Think about what the thoughts and emotions underlying your self-sabotaging behaviors are.

"Often, sneaky behaviors hint at much deeper negative core beliefs, such as 'I'm not enough' or 'I'll never succeed in life,'" Beckett-Pratt said. "Even though these aren't nice, they are familiar and we keep them so by unconsciously confirming them through sneaky behaviors."

She suggested keeping an open mind and "experimenting" with new behaviors, "rather than criticizing and setting rules for ourselves, which we likely will rebel against, leading us back to self-sabotage." Those new behaviors are usually ones that are more helpful in the long run.

Lying by omission or commission

We may lie to others either outright (by commission) or by leaving out crucial information (by omission). This could in-



clude lying about where we're going or what we're doing, or secretly engaging in an unhealthy habit.

"It can often lead us to feeling shame and guilt, and hate for ourselves that we do them or feel the ways we feel that lead to the behaviors," said Cassandra Fallon, a therapist and regional clinic director at Thriveworks in Colorado Springs.

The fix: If you're tired of doing this, Fallon recommended seeking support.

"When we do catch ourselves, getting help is a great first step, either from those around us, self-exploration, or seeking out a personal coach, mentor or mental health professional," she said. "Some of us may even seek out time with our best friends to help us figure out what is triggering our behavior, fears [and] stressors. Feeling self-loathing or self-hate can mean that we need [to] explore the people we have in our lives [and] the ways we are living our lives."

Negative self-talk

With all the diet talk and self-help

content out there, negative self-talk can weasel its way in before we notice it. You might say cruel things to yourself about your intelligence, appearance or talents. You may feel a constant, urgent need to "better" yourself.

"We say things to ourselves that we wouldn't dream of saying aloud to another person," said Leigertwood. "Negative self-talk can be incredibly insidious and can lurk beneath everyday thoughts. People generally don't want to think that they hate themselves, but treating themselves poorly isn't an act of self-love."

The fix: Leigertwood recommended keeping a journal or mood diary to help you stay aware of this negative talk. Once you recognize the thoughts, challenge them so you have a more balanced view.

"When you actively practice self-compassion through self-care practices and self-kindness, it can help you shift your negative self-talk into more nurturing and soothing statements," she said.

Behaviors or choices that don't align

SHE SUGGESTED keeping an open mind and "experimenting" with new behaviors, "rather than criticizing and setting rules for ourselves, which we likely will rebel against, leading us back to self-sabotage." Those new behaviors are usually ones that are more helpful in the long run

with who you are

Have you ever done something and then thought, "This isn't me"? That's an incongruent behavior.

"Incongruence refers to when our behaviors are somewhat different to our internal experiences; they do not reflect our true thoughts and feelings," Beckett-Pratt said.

An example she gave is when you have a secret affair despite knowing it's unsustainable and harmful. "Such behaviors distance us from our true selves and ultimately leave us feeling lost, lonely, frustrated and unfulfilled," she added.

So if acting these ways makes us feel so bad, why do we engage in them? "Fear underlies most sneaky behaviors, whether that is fear of failing, or even a fear of succeeding in living and being how we truly want," Beckett-Pratt continued.

Additionally, we sometimes feel pressured to act a certain way because of a holiday or pop culture. "Instead of considering what health means to us and

the best way to achieve it within our current lifestyle, we just leap on the latest diet trend and then blame and shame ourselves a couple of weeks later when we can't sustain it," she said.

Leigertwood's experience saying "yes" when she meant "no" is another example. She explained why we might fall into that trap, saying, "We think that by saying 'yes' when we mean 'no' that we are being kind, but it's really being particularly unkind to ourselves. When we treat ourselves poorly, it can open the door for others to do the same."

The fix: When you notice you've engaged in this kind of behavior, be compassionate with yourself — which is easier said than done, I know! — and try to do better next time.

"If your incongruence appears as people-pleasing, experiment with putting your own needs first," Beckett-Pratt suggested. "When a friend asks where you'd like to eat, choose somewhere instead of saying you don't mind."

After, focus on how the outcome made you feel, and if that's a feeling you want to have again. This can encourage you to make healthy changes.

If not-people-pleasing is difficult for you, she recommended asking people to hold you accountable, letting them know your struggles and goals.

Leigertwood recommended listening to your body and emotions. When you feel angry or resentful, you know your behavior needs to change.

"Give yourself some time to reflect before you respond with an answer. Even if it means telling people that you'll get back to them later once you've had a chance to think," she said. "This can give you the space you need to tune into whether you're genuine about your 'yes.'"

Practicing self-love in these ways can be tricky and we'll mess up. That's OK! Just remember it's important to practice self-compassion as best you can throughout it all. As author Lori Deschene said, "We can't hate ourselves into a version of ourselves we can love."

Beckett-Pratt reminds us self-love isn't just a daily pill to take. "Real self-love requires consistent and deliberate commitment to congruence and self-awareness over a long period of time; it is the antithesis of sneaky behavior."

Ashley Broadwater is a freelance writer who focuses on relationships and health topics. The article was originally published by HuffPost

'Life May Actually Flash Before Your Eyes On Death'

Holly Honderich | BBC

New data from a scientific "accident" has suggested that life may actually flash before our eyes as we die.

A team of scientists set out to measure the brainwaves of an 87-year-old patient who had developed epilepsy. But during the neurological recording, he suffered a fatal heart attack - offering an unexpected recording of a dying brain.

It revealed that in the 30 seconds before and after, the man's brainwaves followed the same patterns as dreaming or recalling memories.

Brain activity of this sort could suggest that a final "recall of life" may occur in a person's last moments, the team wrote in their study, published in *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience* on Tuesday.

Dr Ajmal Zemmar, a co-author of the study, said that what the team, then based in Vancouver, Canada, accidentally got, was the first-ever recording of a dying brain.

He told the BBC: "This was actually to-

tally by chance, we did not plan to do this experiment or record these signals."

So will we get a glimpse back at time with loved ones and other happy memories? Dr Zemmar said it was impossible to tell.

"If I were to jump to the philosophical realm, I would speculate that if the brain did a flashback, it would probably like to remind you of good things, rather than the bad things," he said.

"But what's memorable would be different for every person."

Dr Zemmar, now a neurosurgeon at the University of Louisville, said in the 30 seconds before the patient's heart stopped supplying blood to the brain, his brainwaves followed the same patterns as when we carry out high-cognitive demanding tasks, like concentrating, dreaming or recalling memories.

It continued 30 seconds after the patient's heart stopped beating - the point at which a patient is typically declared dead.

"This could possibly be a last recall of memories that we've experienced in life, and they replay through our brain in the



last seconds before we die."

The study also raises questions about when, exactly, life ends - when the heart stops beating, or the brain stops functioning.

Dr Zemmar and his team have cau-

tioned that broad conclusions can't be drawn from a study of one. The fact that the patient was epileptic, with a bleeding and swollen brain, complicates things further.

"I never felt comfortable to report one case," Dr Zemmar said. And for years after the initial recording in 2016, he looked for similar cases to help strengthen the analysis but was unsuccessful.

But a 2013 study - carried out on healthy rats - may offer a clue.

In that analysis, US researchers reported high levels of brainwaves at the point of the death until 30 seconds after the rats' hearts stopped beating - just like the findings found in Dr Zemmar's epileptic patient.

The similarities between studies are "astonishing", Dr Zemmar said.

They now hope the publication of this one human case may open the door to other studies on the final moments of life.

"I think there's something mystical and spiritual about this whole near-death experience," Dr Zemmar said. "And findings like this - it's a moment that scientists lives for."

Government of
Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory

Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Tel: 0194-2497056Email: xenmds@gmail.com

Cancellation Notice

Sub: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 500 Kg/Hr Animal Carcass Incinerator plant complete in all respects, for Srinagar Municipal Corporation Under Srinagar Smart City.

Reference: - 1. This office eNIT No: MDS/TS/2021-22/150 dated: 18.01.2022 read with corrigenda issued.

2. The Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Circle, MED, Srinagar's letter No. SEMK/TS-15/3559-60; Dt:05.03.2022.

As directed by the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Circle, MED, Srinagar, vide above referred letter, the above referred NIT issued for the subject work is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
(Er. Rajesh Sharma)
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Division, Srinagar

DIPK-19264/21

No: MDS /TS- 11166-69 / Date: 09 .03.2022

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION VAILOO

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No. 211/ 9112-21 of R&B/Vailoo /2021-2022/e-tendering/ DATED:- 05.03.2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.in form of Treasury challen / Receipt (In Rs)	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Compound walling around left over portion of land of sagam Co-operative marketing society ltd. Bindoo (Balance work)	1.47	200	10 days	16.03. 2022 11.00 AM	DEE class	UT& District Capex
2	Up gradation of Kulgarh Dangerpora Road by way of Construction of R wall , P/L WBM G-II (Donipawa Inner Links)	4.04	200	15 days	16.03. 2022 11.00 AM	DEE Class	State Sector

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of T.S : Accorded

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

S.No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05.03.2022
2.	Period of Downloading of bidder documents.	From 08.03.2022 To 15.03. 2022 11.00 am 4.00 pm
3.	Bid submission Start Date	From 08.03.2022 To 15.03.2022 11.00 am 4.00 pm
4.	Bid Submission End Date	To 15.03.2022 4.00 pm
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16.03.2022 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/ challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (tender inviting authority) (Name of work to be mentioned on the Treasury receipt/ challan)(Refer Govt. order No. A/ 24(2017)-65 DT: 07.06.2018 (The date of Treasury receipt / Challan should be between the date of start of bid end Bid submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Vailoo (Tendering receiving Authority) Minimum of Two bids are necessary to decide L-1 bidder in case of Contractors.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration form instead of Earnest Money as per the Circular issued of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

3. The 1st Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 03 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo (tender receiving authority).

Executive Engineer

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

d. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7. 1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.int to acquaint bid submission process.

7. 2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

7. 3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest Money and tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid

The Earnest money in favour of unsuccessful / Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of Tender document Fee in original.

15. The tender document issued this FY makes establishment of a mobile quality control lab by the contactor compulsory.

16. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

SD/-
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division
Vailoo/zulfkar

DIPK-19243/21

No:-
Dated: -

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that My name has been Wrongly spelled in my passport bearing No: -J7206845 asRouf Jan Rather instead of Rouff Jan Rather Now I want to rectify it. If anybody has any objection in this regard, He/she may contact Regional PassportOffice Srinagar within Seven days from the date of publication shall be entertained after that.

NAME:- ROUFF JAN RATHER
S/O:- MOHAMMAD AMIN RATHER
R/O:- KRAL CHECK AWNERA SHUPIYAN


rna

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE
BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
SUB-OFFICE ANANTNAG

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have Lost his /her Original Marks Certificate of Class 10th& 12THissued by BOSE under Registration No 3311-iHB -ix-1993 with following particulars.

Name	Kafeel Ahmad Dar
Parentage	Ab Gani Dar
Residence	Zirpora Bijbehara
Roll No 10th Class	156023
Session	Oct –Nov.1994
Roll No 12TH Class	116313
Session	Nov. Dec.- 1996



Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate. Anybody (if) having any objections in this regard may this regard may please file the same before the undersigned within (07) Days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides the above referred Marks Certificate treated as cancelled.


Sd/=

Assistant Secretary
Sub-Office Anantnag

rna

Office of The Regional
Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Abdul Ahad Sofi S/o Abdul Rehman Sofi R/o Choterhama Hazratbal Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Shahid Mattoo S/o Mehraj Ud Din Mattoo R/o Gonkhan Near Masjid (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 3766/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01F- 8312.



Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S __STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain NOJK-RTOK 2051

Sd/-

Dated: 09/03/2022
Regional Transport Office,
fko Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport
Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Ali Mohammad Mir S/o Gh Mohi-u-din Mir R/o Arampora Ganderbal (Transferor) and Shri Mansoor Ahmad Khan S/o Manzoor Ahmad Khan R/o Rambagh Balla Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Tata Sumo carriage route Permit No 2492/mc Covering Vehicle No jk01g-0710.



Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S __STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain NOJK-RTOK 2060

Sd/-

Dated: 09/03/2022
Regional Transport Office,
fko Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME:- Ishrat Ashraf Khanday
S/O :- Mohd Ashraf Khanday
R/O:- Nipora.

rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my wallet from Lal Chowk To Sarnal Which Contains, Aadhar Card Atm Card Election Card, Pan Card, School Card, E-sharm Card, And Other Personal Documents. If anybody has found he/she is requested to return the same otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same documents. In this regard anybody having any objection may contact concerned offices within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

IKHLAQ DAR
S/O MOHD KHALIL DAR
R/O KHANABAL PUSHWARA ANANTANG

rna

Public Notice

My Father's Name and Address has been wrongly written in my Driving License Bearing DL No JK18-20180001501 as Abdul Salam Bhat and Akhal Devsar while the correct is Name and Address Mohmad Yaqoob Bhat and Zungalpora Pahu which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantang within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mehran Ahmad Bhat
S/O Mohmad Yaqoob Bhat
R/O Zungalpora Pahu

rna

Public Notice

I have lost the fitness of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK22A- 6091 Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aqib Amin Thoker
S/o Mohd Amin Thoker
R/o Chakoora Shopian

(ast)

انٹرنیٹ پر درج شدہ اجلاس ارٹاڈا جموں و کشمیر

مستوفی درخواست منسوب :- مختار احمد قریب ولد محمد ناصر ساکنہ نزد سیدہ پوروہ

بزنس حصول RBA مندرجہ ذیل تحت اس آڈیٹ 126

اشیاء ہمارا گائیڈ برائے بزنس و کام

مطالعہ مندرجہ عنوان انصاف میں سہولت ایک درخواست بزنس حصول

RBA مندرجہ ذیل دفتر بزنس میں ہے اس بارے میں عملہ قریب سے پورے طلب کیا گیا جس سے معاملہ بے کسر کیا گیا کہ یہ دفعہ اشیاں کو فروخت ہندو سوانہ سے رہا جس پڑے ہے اس کی مہانتا دینی 56175 ہے اور سائز کا کدہ بزنس ہے۔

نمبر	نام انٹر آکس	معر	بیش	آدنی
01	غلام محمد داقریہ غلام محمد	55	سان	ملازم
02	داقریہ غلام محمد ناصر	60	سان	گھریلو کام
	خالد داقریہ ناصر	28	سان	گھریلو کام
04	مختار احمد قریب	21	زیر تعلیم	
05	محمد شعیب ناصر	85	عمر رسیدہ	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی انٹر آکس نہیں بتایا گیا ہے ۔ بعد از یہ ریٹ مندرجہ ذیل اجراء کرتے ہیں اگر کسی کوئی مذکورہ اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر دائرہ اپنا اعتراض مدد و جوابت پیش کرے ۔ بعد ازاں کوئی دفعہ یا معترض اس وقت تک نہیں ہوگا ۔

نامیہ منشیادہ

msk

Iran In Talks With The Taliban To Resume Ambitious Rail Project



Al Jazeera

TEHRAN: Iran is holding talks with the Taliban to resume construction of an ambitious rail project that ultimately aims to connect at least five Central Asian countries, according to an Iranian official.

Iran is ready to make further investments and both sides are willing to finish construction on a rail line connecting Khaf in northeastern Iran with Herat in northwestern Afghanistan, according to Iranian transit official Abbas Khatibi.

Khatibi, a deputy head of the Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company of Iran, was quoted by the Tasnim news website as saying the project could boost trade and reduce transit costs.

"This rail line can also link Afghanistan with Iran's southern ports," he said, adding that when fully complete, the project could eventually carve a path linking China to Turkey.

The project is part of a proposed \$2bn Five Nations Railway Corridor (FNRC) which would run through China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Iran for an estimated 2,000km (1,242 miles).

More than half of the project is proposed for Afghanistan, running through several provinces, including Kunduz and Herat.

The first section of the four-part Khaf-Herat railway was inaugurated in December 2020 and linked Khaf with the Afghan town of Rozanak about 150km

(93 miles) away.

Delayed plans

But plans to complete the line and expand its reach to Afghanistan's third-largest city of Herat were thrown off course when the former Afghan government collapsed amid a chaotic exit by the United States and Western forces in August.

Khatibi, the Iranian official, said the Khaf-Herat project is estimated to cost 4.3 trillion rials (about \$17m), and that Iran has made proposals with "various investment methods" without further elaborating.

He also said the rail line – which runs for 225km, 77km of which is in Iran – would have the capacity to transport up to one million passengers and six million tonnes of goods each year.

Khatibi said a 657km track in Afghanistan between Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif is currently the biggest "missing link" in the overall project, and if completed, it would signal a major transformation in regional transit.

Iran has been Afghanistan's top trade partner in recent years and is a key provider of fuel to its eastern neighbour.

But Iran has yet to officially recognise the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan, with the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi saying that would hinge on the formation of an "inclusive" government in Afghanistan.

A 26-member Taliban delegation visited Iran last month. The Taliban has not commented on the proposed railway project.

US Bans Russian Oil: What Is Next For Oil And Gas Prices?

Agencies

WASHINGTON: United States President Joe Biden has imposed an immediate ban on Russian oil and other energy imports in retaliation for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while the United Kingdom said it would phase out imports by the end of 2022.

The latest sanctions are likely to push up oil prices – resulting in even higher prices at the pump.

WHAT DOES THE BAN TARGET?

The US government announced a ban on Russian oil, part of a broader prohibition that includes natural gas and coal.

"Russian oil will no longer be acceptable at US ports and the American people will deal another powerful blow to Putin's war machine," Biden said on Tuesday, adding that the decision was taken "in close consultation" with allies.

Russia is the world's top exporter of crude and oil products combined, producing about 7 million barrels per day (bpd), or 7 percent of global supply.

In 2021, the US imported an average of 209,000 bpd of crude oil and 500,000 bpd of other petroleum products from Russia, according to the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers trade association.

This represented 3 percent of US crude oil imports and 1 percent of the total crude oil processed by US refineries. For Russia, this represented 3 percent of its total exports.

According to analysts, the ban is something that the US can afford to do.

Due to the current exchange rate, "the US can afford that, [but] it would be much, much harder for continental Europe,"



Cornelia Meyer, Chief Executive Officer of Meyer Resources, told Al Jazeera.

In terms of Russia's total exports to the US, "it's also not that important," Meyer said.

"But what this shows is that there is resolve from the Western alliance, and if Europe would go with it, it would be very important," she said, adding that China and India would likely buy up Russian oil diverted from the West.

WHAT WILL THE BAN MEAN FOR OIL AND GAS PRICES?

The prospect of a ban had already sent oil prices up by 30 percent last month, with oil prices hovering at about \$130 a barrel and a gallon (4.5 litres) of regular gas selling for an average of \$4.17 on Tuesday in the US.

Energy analysts warn that prices could go as high as \$160 or even \$200 a barrel if buyers continue shunning Russian crude, leading to US gasoline prices of more than \$5 a gallon.

"Markets run on greed and fear and right now there is a lot of fear," Adam Pankratz, a professor at the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business, told Al Jazeera.

"The fear is that if we can't get oil, where's it going to come from?... [With this ban] they have made [7 percent] of the

world's production toxic... that production is essentially unbuyable in many ways, and if you do that in an already very tight market the demand [and prices] are going to go up," he said.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US CITIZENS?

The most immediate effect will be on inflation. The US is currently undergoing its highest inflation in 40 years, and data to be released on Thursday is expected to show the Consumer Price Index going up by 7.9 percent.

This could have profound consequences for Americans' standard of living.

The question is: "Is the US at risk of running out of oil or is the US way of life at stake?" Pankratz said.

"Is it demand destruction? Because people decide, well, I can't. It's too expensive to drive. So I'm going to take the bus or I'm going to walk, versus massive demand destruction through companies being unable to produce their products, prices going up across the board and people losing their jobs," he said.

"So one is sort of a bit more manageable... the other one comes with serious societal repercussions, and it's not always easy to tell which way it's going to go."

Maruti Unveils Refreshed WagonR To Shake Up The Sub-6 Lakh Car Segment

Muneeb Nageeb

SRINAGAR: Jamkash launched the new Maruti Suzuki WagonR on 7 March 2022 in Kashmir valley, betting on the tallboy to continue its undisputed reign as one of the most iconic Indian hatchbacks. This is the first major update for the WagonR since this generation was launched in 2019 and sees it get cosmetic updates as well as new engine options. This updated Maruti Suzuki WagonR is available in four trim levels across six single-tone shades and two new dual-tone color options. The 1.0-litre engine is available up to the VXi trim whereas the 1.2-litre engine is available only from the ZXi trim onwards. Both engines can be had with a five-speed manual or a five-speed automated manual in select trim levels.

The Dimensions of the new wagon R are quite comfortable, with a length of 365.5 cm's and the width of 162 cms, height of 167.5 cms, and the wheelbase is 243.5 cms the Tall boy stands different from the crowd and looks strong. The 1197cc engine guarantees a robust performance generating a maxi-

mum torque of 113 @4499RPM and the maximum power of 66KW@6000RPM. The claimed mileage is 23.56Kmpl on manual transmission and 24.43 on Auto Gear Shift and the tank capacity of 32 ltrs. All this in a price range of 5.39 lakh Rs to 7.10 lakh making it attractive for the



masses.

The cabin in the Wagon R is quite spacious, offering steering mounted controls and smartplay studio with smart-phone navigation and 4 speakers, dual tone Interiors, 2nd row 60:40 split seat, Day/Night IRVM, Tilt steering, Steering wheel garnish, 1 liter space in door handle, Driver side sunvisor with ticket holder, Front passenger side vanity mirror sun visor, Silver finish Gear Shift knob. All this makes it

loaded with features.

The 341 liter boot space ensures you of enough space for your baggage on a road trip, and the Sporty Floating Roof Design, Electrical Retractable ORVMs, Dynamic Alloy wheels, Multireflector halogen headlight, Halogen turn indicator, Chrome finish grill, Unique dual split head-lamps make sure that you look stylish on the go.

When it comes to the safety of you and your family the WagonR is loaded with 12+ safety features for a safe journey, some of the safety features that are available with Maruti Suzuki WagonR are ABS (anti lock Brake System), Front Ventilated Disc Brakes, Front and Rear Fog Lamps, which help to avoid collision like situations. On the other hand, cars come equipped with a number of passive safety features, like Dual Front SRS Airbags, Front and rear ELR Seatbelt and collapsing steering column. Maruti Suzuki WagonR comes with anti-theft features like Engine Immobilizer with Theft Deterrent System and central Locking.

McDonald's, Starbucks, Coke, Pepsi Join Exodus Out Of Russia

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK- McDonald's, Starbucks, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and General Electric -- ubiquitous global brands and symbols of US corporate might -- all have announced they were temporarily suspending their business in Russia in response to the country's invasion of Ukraine.

"Our values mean we cannot ignore the needless human suffering unfolding in Ukraine," McDonald's President and CEO Chris Kempczinski said in an open letter to employees.

The Chicago-based burger giant said it will temporarily close 850 stores but continue paying its 62,000 employees in Russia "who have poured their heart and soul into our McDonald's brand", Kempczinski said it's impossible to know when the company will be able to reopen its stores. "The situation is extraordinarily challenging for a global brand like ours, and there are many considerations," Kempczinski wrote in the letter. McDonald's works with hundreds of Russian suppliers, for example, and serves millions of customers each day.

Last Friday, Starbucks had said that it was donating profits from its 130 Russian stores -- owned and operated by Kuwait-based franchisee Alshaya Group -- to humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine. But on Tuesday, the company changed course and said it would temporarily close those stores. Alshaya Group will continue to pay Starbucks' 2,000 Russian employees, Starbucks President and CEO Kevin Johnson said in an open letter to employees.

"Through this dynamic situation, we will continue to make decisions that are true to our mission and values and communicate with transparency," Johnson wrote. Coca-Cola Co. announced it was



suspending its business in Russia, but it offered few details. Coke's partner, Switzerland-based Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Co., owns 10 bottling plants in Russia, which is its largest market. Coke has a 21 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Co.

PepsiCo and General Electric both announced partial shutdowns of their Russian business.

Pepsi, based in Purchase, New York, said it will suspend sales of beverages in Russia. It will also suspend any capital investments and promotional activities.

But the company said it will continue to produce milk, baby formula and baby food, in part to continue supporting its 20,000 Russian employees and the 40,000 Russian agricultural workers who are part of its supply chain.

"Now more than ever we must stay true to the humanitarian aspect of our business," PepsiCo CEO Ramon Laguarta said in an email to employees.

General Electric also said in a Twitter post that it was partially suspending its operations in Russia. GE said two exceptions would be essential medical equipment and support for existing power services in Russia. McDonald's is among those to take the biggest financial hit. Unlike Starbucks and other fast food companies like KFC and Pizza Hut, whose Russian locations are owned by franchisees, McDonald's owns 84 per cent of its Russian stores. McDonald's has also temporarily closed 108 restaurants it owns in Ukraine and continues to pay those employees.

Navin Discusses Modalities For Development Of Agri, Allied Sectors With IFAD



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Navin Kumar Choudhary, Wednesday discussed modalities for development of agriculture and its allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir with a team of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and NABARD here at civil secretariat.

He asked the experts from both the organizations to formulate a long term plan for increasing the production of mutton and replacement of fruit trees with high density root stocks. He asked them to also look into the possibility of interventions that could be made for promotion of fisheries and dairy sectors.

Principal Secretary told the visiting team that horticulture is the mainstay of a large chunk of J&K's population and also contributes to our economy significantly. He called it a core sector of UT's economy as it is not an industry based

one. He informed them that the UT produces about 22000 metric tons of apple against which it has CA storage of only 2000 metric tons.

He further informed them that the government wants to provide end to end solution to growers so that not only their productivity increases but the quality, storage, packaging, grading and marketing of the produce also gets boost. He urged upon the IFAD and NABARD to provide them the solution for replacement of old, senile plantation with the new high yielding varieties in a shortest possible manner besides other interventions to enhance the farmers' income exponentially.

Navin also apprised the team that J&K is the major consumer of mutton and poultry but scarcely meets its demands locally. He implored upon them to find out ways and means of enhancing its production in J&K thereby creating employment for the youth besides bolstering the local economy.

SHORT TAKES

Secy Tribal Affairs Flags Off 2 Day Farmers' Training Cum Exposure Tour

JAMMU: Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr. Shahi0d Iqbal Choudhary, on Wednesday flagged off 18 Bhains Paalan Progressive Milk farmers, belonging to tribal community of Jammu division, for 2 day training cum exposure tour to Haryana.

The training programme, which was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Advisory Board for Development of Kisans in collaboration with National Dairy Research Institute Karnal, Haryana, is commencing from 10th March, 2022. These framers shall be given hand on training on "Scientific Management of Buffaloes "with focus on "Bhains Paalan avm Nasl Sudhar".

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary asked the farmers to make optimum use of this opportunity for their overall development. He asked the concerned to conduct a post training session after the return of these 18 Bhains Paalan farmers so that the feedback about the training and the techniques which they have obtained and learnt during the training programme at NDRI Karnal, Haryana, can be ascertained.

Choudhary Chairs SLPSC Meet Of Agriculture Deptt

JAMMU- Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare department, Navin Kumar Choudhary Wednesday chaired a meeting of State Level Project Screening Committee (SLPSC) and took a detailed review of Annual Action Plan (AAP) of agriculture related Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for the year 2022-23 at Civil Secretariat here.

Speaking during the meeting, the Principal Secretary impressed upon the officers to stick to the scheme guidelines under every circumstances. He asked them to formulate their plans that would complement other plans taken under capex or other sources. He advised them to desist from seeking funds from multiple agencies for carrying out similar activities.

Navin further stressed upon the officers to make best out of these schemes as they have been fashioned to benefit the agriculture sector all over the country. He asked them to take farmers welfare only into consideration while proposing activities under CSS.

J&K Ranks First In Registration Of Unorganized Workers On E-Shram Portal

NEW DELHI- The Jammu and Kashmir ranked first in registration of unorganized workers on e-Shram portal.

Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupendra Yadav, awarded the J&K with first position prize in a function organized in Vigyan Bhavan here Wednesday to celebrate 25 crore registrations of unorganized workers. The award was received by Commissioner Secretary Labour & Employment, Sarita Chauhan, along with Labour Commissioner, A R War.

The e-Shram portal has been developed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment which was launched for creating a national level database of unorganized workers.

Pertinently, J&K has registered more than 31 lakh unorganized workers since launch of the portal thereby recording 82% out of the targeted achievement of 38 lakh.

NABARD, NRLM Felicitate 10 Successful Women Entrepreneurs

RAMBAN- The NABARD in-collaboration with NRLM Ramban on Wednesday felicitated 10 successful women entrepreneurs at a day-long-programme organized on the occasion of International Women Day here at Sangaldan.

DDM, NABARD, Arushi Sharma, District Nodal Officer NRLM and representatives from Agriculture and allied departments and members of nearly 50 SHGs also participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDM, NABARD informed the participants about the importance of women's financial freedom which they can achieve by establishing their own sustainable livelihoods.

While highlighting the efforts made by the District Administration to promote local products, the District Nodal Officer, NRLM informed that the Ramban Anardana processed by the women of Sangaldan is now available on Amazon, Flipkart for international sales.

SHD Organises FPO Workshop At B'pora

BANDIPORA: The Sheep Husbandry Department Bandipora Wednesday organized a One Day Workshop on prospects of Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) in sheep farming at District Sheep Husbandry Office Complex, Bandipora.

The workshop was attended by Deputy Director Research, Dr Maroof Ahmad Shah; Lead Bank Manager Bandipora, Abdul Rashid; KVK Scientist, Dr Hilal Ahmad; DSHO Bandipora, Dr Showkat Ahmad; SDO Bandipora, Dr Shabir; Member Advisory Board Kissan Development Board, Fayaz Ahmad Beigh and VASs besides others.

As many as 50 progressive Sheep farmers also participated in the programme.

Throwing light on prospects of FPO in sheep sector, speakers elucidated on the potential of FPO in lifting sheep sector to new heights and bringing this to organised level where role of intermediaries can be eliminated so that sheep farmers can reap the actual benefits and adopt it on commercial lines.

Ladakh Standoff: India Hopeful About Acceptable Solution In Next Meet

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: China on Wednesday hoped that during the upcoming 15th round of high-level military talks with India, the two neighbours can make a "further step forward" and reach a "proper settlement" acceptable to both sides on the remaining friction areas in eastern Ladakh.

Confirming the 15th round of high-level military talks on March 11, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here on

Wednesday that "in the last round of talks, the two sides had candid in-depth exchanges of views on resolving the remaining issues on the western sector of the boundary."

"We hope at the upcoming round of talks; the two sides can make a further step forward on the border issue. We hope we can seek proper settlement of the disputes and reach a solution that is acceptable to both sides," he said.

The talks till now have resulted in the resolution of issues

in the North and South banks of Pangong Tso, Galwan and Gogra Hot Spring areas.

There was, however, no fresh breakthrough in the 14th round of the dialogue that took place on January 12 this year.

The two sides will hold the next round at Chushul Moldo meeting point in Ladakh on Friday to end the 22-month standoff at the remaining friction areas, according to Indian officials.

Recent statements by both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution have been

encouraging and positive in nature, they noted.

India has been talking with China about a quick disengagement on remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh such as Patrolling Point 15 (Hot Springs), Depsang Bulge and Demchok.

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

Both sides gradually enhanced their deployment by rushing in tens of thousands of soldiers as

well as heavy weaponry.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday that "some setbacks" in China-India relations in recent years are not in the fundamental interests of both the countries even as he stated that differences over the vexed boundary issue and territory should not "interfere with the bigger picture of bilateral cooperation".

Wang, who is also China's Special Representative on the India-China boundary question along with National Security

Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, expressed the hope that China and India will be "partners for mutual success instead of adversaries of mutual attrition."

Asked what steps China is taking to enhance the mutual trust and resolve the setbacks, the foreign ministry spokesman said in his media briefing that Foreign Minister Wang made clear China's position on developing China-India relations.

"China and India share broad common interests and huge cooperation potential. We both

shoulder the historical mission of improving people's livelihoods and speeding up development," Zhao said.

"The two countries should be partners for mutual success rather than adversaries of mutual attrition. We always believe that China India relations are mature and multi-layered," he said.

"The boundary issue between us is not the whole of the China India relations. We need to put the issues in a proper position in the bilateral relations and properly manage it," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Stage Set for

counting observers have been deployed in the five states to monitor the process.

Video and static cameras have been installed at all the counting centres in UP, an official said in Lucknow.

A total of 250 companies of CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces) have been provided to all the districts and commissionerates of Uttar Pradesh on March 10, the police said. According to officials, a CAPF company usually has around 70-80 personnel.

If the BJP gets a majority in the 403-member Assembly, it would be the first party to get a consecutive second term in over three decades.

"At the UP BJP office, there are no special preparations, but there is enthusiasm among the party workers," UP BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi told PTI.

On Tuesday, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had alleged that EVMS were being stolen in a truck in Varanasi but the Election Commission had said the machines were for training officials on counting duty.

In Uttarakhand, BJP general secretary and strategist Kailash Vijayvargiya held meetings with former CM Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and other leaders.

Vijayvargiya had earlier been active in state politics at the time of the rebellion by Congress MLAs against the then chief minister Harish Rawat, which had led to the imposition of President's rule in the state.

The Congress camp is also keeping a close watch on the situation with central party observer Dipendra Hooda, party in-charge for Uttarakhand Devendra Yadav, poll campaign head Harish Rawat and PCC president Ganesh Godiya holding meetings.

While many exit polls have given either the BJP or Congress a majority in the 70-member Assembly, several of them have predicted a close fight between the two major players or a hung assembly - a scenario in which the role of independents and regional outfits like the AAP, SP, BSP and UKD will become significant in government formation.

The BJP and Congress are locked in straight contests on 40 to 45 seats, while the regional outfits make the fight triangular on 25-30 seats.

The major parties are also keeping an eye on rebels who entered the fray as independents against their official nominees.

Thirteen rebels from the BJP and six from the Congress contested this time.

Congress general secretary Ajay Maken and spokesperson Pawan Khera have been sent to Punjab, where it is betting on Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi to retain power after the rebellion by veteran leader Amarinder Singh.

Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Wednesday said the first meeting of the Congress legislative party will be held on Thursday itself after the results of the Punjab Assembly polls are declared.

The party is in power on its own in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and is part of the ruling coalition in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

Arvind Kejriwal's AAP is hoping to script history by coming to power in Punjab also after ruling in Delhi for seven years.

A total of 1,304 candidates, including 93 women and two transgenders, are in the fray in the 117 seats.

Though various exit polls predicted that the Congress would not be able to form the government for the second time in a row, Punjab Congress leaders have insisted that their party would secure victory.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Badal had claimed that his party, which fought elections in alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party, would win over 80 seats.

The BJP has said that it will make impressive gains while former chief minister Amarinder Singh has said that this party, the Punjab Lok Congress, and the BJP have done well in the elections.

With exit polls predicting a BJP win in Manipur, the mood is upbeat in the party's state office in the heart of Imphal with workers busy cleaning premises and erecting fresh party flags on the boundary wall.

The party has contested in all 60 seats.

However, former chief minister and Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh has also exuded confidence that his party

would come back to power.

To prevent a repeat of 2017, when the Congress was the single-largest party with 28 seats but could not form the government, Singh said the party MLAs would this time take "precautionary measures like staying together at a place".

The Congress has already announced a pre-poll alliance with CPI, CPM, Forward Bloc, RSP and JD(S).

Army Commander

and weather conditions in the region. He interacted with all ranks and appreciated the professionalism and operational response towards the evolving threat matrix," the spokesperson said.

The Army Commander, he said, commended all Ranks for their dedication and complimented the soldiers for their relentless efforts in pursuit of peace and stability along with assisting the local population.

Searches On

commander Major Leetul Gogoi and a local girl to a hotel here, officials said.

Major Gogoi, who was in the centre of the 2017 "human shield" controversy, suffered the ignominy of reduction in seniority and exit from Kashmir for "fraternising" with a local woman in 2018.

A court martial had held Gogoi and his driver Malla guilty on two counts -- "fraternising" with a local woman in spite of instructions to the contrary and "being away from the place of duty while in operational area".

The officials said Malla had last talked to his mother from his mobile phone and informed her that his phone battery was running low and in case it gets switched off, he will get in touch with her.

Malla's phone is switched off and his whereabouts are not known, the officials said, adding that his family told them that he had gone out to visit a neighbouring village and did not return.

His family suspected that he might have been abducted by militants, a claim that was not ruled out by security agencies.

Sarpanch Shot

SMHS Medical Superintendent, Dr Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer.

According to the police spokesperson, senior police officers reached the spot to assess the situation. He said that the area has been cordoned off and a search operation was underway.

"Police have registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the circumstances which lead to this terror crime," he added.

Quoting police, news agency PTI reported that Bhat had been provided with security and lodged at a hotel in Srinagar but he had ventured out discreetly on Wednesday.

Bhat's killing comes a week after Mohammad Yaqoob Dar, a Panch from Sundoo village of Kulgam district was shot dead by militants on March 2.

Dar had received multiple gunshot injuries in the attack and succumbed to his injuries even before the doctors could operate upon him.

Earlier on February 28, Sheikh Firdous, a police inspector with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) survived miraculously after being shot at and injured by militants in Batamalo area of this capital city.

Meanwhile, Bhat's killing evoked strong reactions from various political parties.

The BJP's J-K spokesperson Altaf Thakur said the killing is a gruesome act which is highly deplorable and deserves all forms of condemnation.

The militants involved in the act are enemies of humanity and peace, who by killing unarmed civilians claim bravery, but in fact they are coward who feel frustrated by the grass root democracy flourishing in Kashmir, Thakur said.

"Condemn the attack on Sarpanch Sameer Ahmad Bhat in Khonmoh in the strongest possible terms. This senseless bloodshed must come to an end.... Heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, the National Conference (NC) wrote on Twitter.

The PDP also condemned the killing and said that contrary to the tall claims of the administration, such recurring attacks highlight the deteriorating security scenario in Kashmir.

"Strongly condemn the assassination of Sarpanch Khonmoh, Sameer Ahmed Bhat. Contrary to the tall claims of the administration such recurring attacks highlight the deteriorating security scenario in Kashmir. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this hour of grief, the party said in a tweet.

In a tweet, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said, "Very tragic. The assassination of Sameer Bhat is reprehensible & I condemn it unequivocally. He joins a long list of politicians & elected representatives whose only crime was their desire to work for the greater good."

The Peoples Conference also condemned the killing.

Strongly condemn the killing of sarpanch, Sameer Ahmad Bhat in Khonmoh. Days before, a representative was also shot to create sense of fear and terror. There seems no end to this ruthless violence. Condolences to the family of Sameer. May your soul rest in peace! the party said.

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said political workers have rendered great sacrifices to uphold democratic values in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Shocking beyond words, a Sarpanch was killed in Srinagar outskirts. Highly reprehensible act of violence. Political workers have rendered great sacrifices to uphold democratic values in J&K. My heart goes out to the victims of such violence and we share the grief of the bereaved, he said.

1 Killed, 14 Injured

The improvised explosive device (IED) blast took place around 1 pm in Slathia Chowk where fruit and vegetable vendors put up their carts. DGP Singh said Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh had visited the blast site, along with other top police officials, a team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and bomb disposal experts.

"Preliminary examination suggests a low-intensity IED explosion, but a forensic and minute scrutiny will reveal more accurate facts," he said, adding that the 14 injured were now out of danger.

The DGP told PTI that militants have been planning for long to carry out an attack in Jammu region. "There have been numerous attempts in the past by various terror groups to hit Jammu city which have been foiled by Jammu and Kashmir Police," he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur Indu Kanwal Chib said the injured were moved to a hospital and were stable, she said.

ADGP Singh visited the injured at the hospital and spoke to them.

The injured included a woman, an eight-month-old infant, and a Rajasthan resident.

Security was beefed up in and around the town and searches were being conducted in some places, officials said.

In a tweet, Union minister Jitendra Singh said, "I am in touch with DC Indu Chib on minute to minute basis. Exact cause and origin of the blast being worked out...too early to draw any definite conclusion." (PTI)

J&K Clocks 24

Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered 5 new cases of the virus, Kathua 2 and one case each in Rajouri, Doda, Samba, Poonch and Reasi. The three districts of Udhampur, Kishtwar and Ramban registered no fresh cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 32 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 17 from Jammu Division and 15 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to the pandemic remained unchanged at 4749 in J&K as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

NGT Slaps Rs 3

the loss caused to the State in the form of value of minerals as well as the loss caused to the environment for undertaking such activity without requisite clearances needs to be recovered by the State PCB[Pollution Control Board]..." noted the three bench panel.

Pertinently, the applicant in this case had alleged that the administration had failed to prevent illegal mining, discharge of sewage and dumping of solid waste into river Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kull in violation of provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control

of Pollution) Act, 1974.

The applicant had also alleged that The Srinagar Municipal Corporation was continuously discharging untreated sewage in river Doodh Ganga from 13 dewatering pumping stations installed at various locations on the banks of river Doodh Ganga.

"Till date no STPs has been established by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation or any other Government Body in the entire stretch around river Doodh Ganga as a result of which all the untreated sewage from residential, commercial establishments, shopping malls, butcher houses, poultry shops, laboratories, diagnostic centers and domestic sewage are directly discharged into the river without any scientific treatment." the applicant had said.

On 14th January, a five-member Joint Committee--that was constituted by NGT--of CPCB, J&K PCC, Deputy Commissioners, Srinagar and Budgam and the Director, Urban Local Bodies, J&K had filed its report acknowledging the violations but without any meaningful remedial action.

The violations that were found by the five member joint committee included dumping of waste on the banks of the river, discharge of untreated sewage into the river, unregulated illegal mining activities and failure to protect the embankments of the river.

"Once such serious violations have been found by the State authorities, failure to take stringent action shows apathy to the obligation of the State under the Constitution, particularly the Public Trust Doctrine of ensuring clean environment by protecting rivers and other natural assets. The attitude of indefinitely waiting for funds from outside agencies is not merely ignorance of law but failure of responsibility," reads the order.

The three member bench has further noted that the report of the Additional Secretary has not given the status of Mamath Kull river.

"Though water quality is said to be meeting primary water quality criteria, the issue of dumping of solid waste on the banks of Mamath Kull remains unaddressed." the bench noted.

While mentioning the State's failure in preventing pollution in Doodh Ganga river, The NGT's three bench panel directed the Chief Secretary, J&K to take immediate remedial action to remedy the situation by "ensuring clean environment and also taking coercive measures against the erring irresponsible officers, acting in contempt of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and this Tribunal and causing detriment to the environment and public health."

The panel has also ordered the Chief Secretary to personally file an action taken report before the Tribunal after interaction with the concerned officers within three months.

"The report may specify status of facilities to treat sewage as well as fecal sludges, protection of flood plain, lifting of waste from the banks of Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kull to the identified sites and processing it as per MSW rules, cow dung management and other associated issues.

Pertinently, while referring to the Doodh Ganga violations as "large scale continuing violations", the bench has directed the Principal Secretary, Urban Development, J&K to remain present in person on the next date of hearing.

Notably, last year, Kashmir Observer, in its weekly Inkishaf program titled, "TROUBLED WATERS OF DOODHGANGA" had highlighted how Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was violating the Water (prevention & control of pollution) Act 1974; Section 24 (b), by draining untreated sewage waste into Doodh Ganga and destroying the river.

NIA Conducts

various incriminating documents and electronic devices were seized from the premises of the suspects", official sources said, adding that further investigation of the case is on.

They said the case was registered by NIA in pursuance to an order from Ministry of Home Affairs relating to "separatist and secessionist activities of Jel, an unlawful association under the UA (P) Act, even after its proscription on 28.02.2019."

NIA in its statement had claimed that the members of the organisation have been collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations particularly in the form of Zakat, Mowda and

Bait-ul-Maal purportedly to further charity and other welfare activities but these funds are instead being used for "violent and secessionist activities".

"The funds raised by Jel are also being channelised to militants such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and others through well organised networks of Jel cadres. Jel has also been motivating impressionable youth of Kashmir and recruiting new members (Rukuns) in J&K to participate in disruptive secessionist activities," the NIA had said.

Highway Horror:

the recurrent traffic jams on the National Highway due to police checking and nakas, the Chief Secretary, as per the spokesperson directed the concerned to conduct checking of vehicles in a regulated manner without causing disruption to the smooth traffic movement.

"The enforcement agencies were further asked to submit the factual reports of each checking drive with the higher authorities for ensuring suitable penal action against the delinquents," he said.

To ensure transparency and accountability during the enforcement drives, Mehta, he said, directed mandatory wearing of body cameras by the concerned officials, besides ensuring installation of traffic cameras on all traffic interceptors.

"The Transport Department was asked to organize a campaign to raise public awareness on traffic rules and reporting of traffic misconduct either by public or enforcement agencies," the spokesperson said.

With regard to the summer migration of nomadic population, he said, the Chief Secretary was informed of the Tribal Affairs Department's initiative of providing vehicular transportation to the migratory population.

"Accordingly, the traffic police was asked to make arrangements for proper traffic management in coordination with the Tribal Affairs Department. Similarly, the Traffic Police was also asked to adequately plan for the Amarnath Yatra 2022 in consultation with the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board," he said.

The spokesperson said that regarding the decongestion of city and town areas, the divisional administrations and traffic police were directed to strictly enforce no-parking norms and vacate illegal parkings within one week.

"They were asked to launch special drives against pressure horns, unauthorized headlights, and use of tinted glasses in 4-wheelers. For improving the in-city traffic movement, directions were issued for installation of traffic cameras on a mission mode, in addition to specifying 'city/town speed limits," he added.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary directed the Transport Department to ensure installation of High Security Number Plates (HSNP) in all vehicles, within one month.

Snow Fury: PDD

needs to be checked whether they are feasible for our climatic conditions or not.

"If you design the tower similar to the towers designed in other states of the country, it will fail for sure," the sources added.

It may be noted that in December 2019, the then Lieutenant Governor of J&K Girish Chander Murmu had directed the Power Department to conduct 100% audit of all the transmission line towers at 220 KV and 132 KV level before the start of next winter season to prevent damage to tower structures.

Murmu had asked the officials to put corrective measures in place so that people don't face any inconvenience during the winter. However, insiders said that the department failed to do so.

"Only once the in-house audit was done but I am not sure whether they have plugged the gaps," said an official, wishing not to be named.

He further added that the audit should have been done by a third party.

The official also said that technical audit was done and the government asked the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for investigation.

The official further said that the restoration measures were taken up by the J&K Power Transmission Corporation and temporary restoration after many days of hectic work.

He further said that the distance between tower to tower remains over 250-300 meters depending upon the terrain. If the snow accumulation is too

much on the transmission line, it can damage the towers, he added

"This was actually a heavy snowfall and accumulated on the conductors of towers for a long time, otherwise they are strong enough," the official said.

According to PDD officials, the heavy snowfall in February end damaged the three transmission towers at Balhama in Srinagar, while one tower of Budgam-Nowbugh and Chadoora Grid Station also got damaged.

They said over three electric towers carrying a transmission line of 132 KV from Mir Bazar area of south Kashmir's Kulgam also sustained damage near Bozgam village which resulted in disruption of power supply to Kulgam and adjoining areas for a week.

At Kandizal area in Pulwama, the snow damaged 132 KV transmission tower of PDD.

A retired engineer from the PDD told Kashmir Observer before constructing towers; the department needs to carry out soil testing in these areas to check the feasibility.

"There is a lot of water retention in the soil of Kashmir and it is loose. The department needs to take these things into consideration," he said.

Waseem Ahmad Shah, researcher at Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Kashmir told Kashmir Observer that the towers can't be constructed in wetlands and marshy lands.

"The civil engineer needs to take these things into consideration," Shah said.

Sources told Kashmir Observer that even if the towers got damaged, the department was able to restore the power supply in a short period of time with the help of Emergency Restoration System (ERS), a specialised temporary tower mechanism imported from Canada.

"We use ERC during the time of emergency to restore the power supply when the towers are damaged," they added.

The sources further said that the department needs to procure high snow zone towers that have been installed in Pir Panjal Range and other hilly areas.

However, Hashmat Qazi told Kashmir Observer that these towers are very expensive.

"But you need to understand that the Valley witnessed a lot of snow in very little time. But having said that, while constructing towers, we calculate load factor and take safety measures as well. But this tells us that we have to take more precautions," he added.

Man's Body

while extracting sand from a stream two days ago.

The body has been taken to Sub-District Hospital Handwara, adding that after medical and legal formalities, the body will be handed over to legal heirs for last rites--(KNO)

Porter Falls

into a deep gorge at Saral Kaian Shapur area of the Mandi, reports said. Rehman received injuries due to the fall. He was shifted to sub-district hospital (SDH) Mandi for treatment.

Rehman, according to the reports, is working as a porter with the army.

IAF Airlifts

The IAP's AN-32 aircraft, also known as the Kargil Courier, transported 110 people while Mi-172 Pawan Hans helicopter flew 31 people to their destinations. As many as 41 people were flown from Jammu to Kargil and 14 from Kargil to Jammu, they said.

Similarly, an AN-32 aircraft flew 15 people from Kargil to Srinagar and 40 from Srinagar to Kargil, they said.

The Mi-172 Pawan Hans helicopter transported 31 people from Srinagar to Kargil and three from Leh to Kargil.

The IAF has been operating C-17, C-130 and AN-32 aircraft regularly to airlift stranded passengers in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh due to the closure of the 434-km Srinagar-Leh National Highway owing to heavy snowfall in January.

Ladakh Reports

has recorded 228 Covid-related deaths -- 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil, they said, adding that no fatality was reported on Tuesday.

As many as 28 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh, taking the overall recoveries to 27,813, they said. All the new cases were reported from Leh district, they said.

A total of 626 sample reports were found negative in Ladakh, they said.

Ravindra Jadeja Is World No 1 All-Rounder In ICC Test Rankings

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India's Ravindra Jadeja climbed to the top spot in the ICC Test rankings for all-rounders on Wednesday after his match-winning performance against Sri Lanka in the opening Test in Mohali.

"Ravindra Jadeja's performance at India's recent Test win against Sri Lanka in Mohali has catapulted him to the No 1 position in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's Test Player Rankings," the ICC said in a statement.

His unbeaten 175 lifted him up 17 places from 54th to 37th with the bat and he added nine wickets to move up to 17th with the ball. His all-round contribution was enough for him to regain the top all-rounder spot from Jason Holder, who had held the position since February 2021.

Jadeja's only previous time on



top was in August 2017, when he spent a week at number one.

Jadeja was named player of the match for his show against Sri Lanka in Mohali, where India triumphed under three days by an innings and 222 runs.

Shreyas, Mithali, Deepti Nominated For ICC's 'POTM' Award



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Talented Indian men's team batter Shreyas Iyer, women's team captain Mithali Raj and star all-rounder Deepti Sharma were on Wednesday nominated for the ICC's 'Player of the Month' award for their performances in February.

The nominations in the men's category also feature UAE batter Vriitya Aravind, and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee.

In the women's category, New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr is in the list alongside Mithali and Deepti.

Iyer was in unstoppable form in the month of February and played a vital role in India's white-ball domination.

He started the month with a player of the match-winning 80 against West Indies in the final ODI and a 16-ball 25 in the last T20I.

With India opting to rest players and injury to Suryakumar Yadav, Iyer was promoted to No.3 in the T20I series against Sri Lanka.

He scored three unbeaten fifties in three games and finished with 204 runs at a blistering strike rate of 174.35 and was awarded the Player of the Series for his exploits.

Mithali was one of the few shining lights for India in the ODI series against New Zealand. She was the highest run-scorer for India and the second-highest overall with 232 runs, including three fifties, averaging 77.33 with a strike rate of 82.56.

In the final ODI, she played the role of the finisher to perfection, remaining unbeaten on 54 as India chased down 252 with four overs to spare. With that, India ensured that they finished the series with a win in their kitty.

All-rounder Deepti was brilliant with both the bat and ball in the series against New Zealand.

She took the most wickets (10) in the ODI series and was handy with the bat as well, aggregating 116 runs in five matches. She grabbed a four-for in the second ODI and followed it up with a 69 not out in the next match.

Once Disqualified For Running In Hijab, Noor Abukaram Exalts In Victory

Agencies

OHIO: Noor Abukaram's elation at completing one of her first varsity cross-country races quickly turned to disappointment when she failed to find her name among those of her high school teammates on the results list.

To Abukaram's shock, she learned she'd been disqualified for something she'd done all season as a Muslim athlete: wear a hijab.

"My worst nightmare just came true," Abukaram said this month as she recalled the October 2019 race in which her team from Sylvania Northview in suburban Toledo qualified for the Ohio regional championships.

At the time, Ohio High School Athletic Association rules banned most head coverings and caps unless competitors received religious exemption waivers in advance. Abukaram's coach acknowledged making a mistake by not obtaining a waiver but said he didn't think it was needed because it hadn't been an issue at prior races.

Abukaram's experience, and efforts to prevent similar episodes elsewhere, have garnered national attention recently. Last year, the National Federation of State High School Associations announced it will no longer require state approval to allow

soccer or volleyball players to wear religious headwear during games.

Later in the year, the association approved the same rule change for basketball, softball, track and field, field hockey, and spirit. Previously, state athletic associations had to approve all head coverings.

In Ohio, Abukaram didn't have long to wait before the world learned of her disqualification through a viral Facebook post by her cousin. And not long after that, her plight caught the attention of state Sen. Theresa Gavarone, a Bowling Green Republican outraged at the girl's treatment.

Gavarone, who is Roman Catholic, recalled the experience of her hockey and lacrosse player son who was allowed to wear a Christian cross under his pads as long as he taped it to his chest. Anger at Abukaram's situation triggered her "inner hockey mom," the senator said.

"No student athlete should ever have to choose between exercising their deeply held religious beliefs and participating in the sport they love," Gavarone said.

Gavarone's first bill protecting such beliefs died in 2020, but by then the high school athletic association had changed its rules to let referees approve use of religious head coverings if a coach asks before a competition, without a formal waiver.



MCC Amends Code To Remove Run-Out At Non-Striker's End From Unfair Play Laws



Press Trust of India

LONDON: Custodian of cricket laws, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), has decided to move the law relating to run-outs at non-striker's end from "unfair play" section besides completely banning the use of saliva to shine the ball in amendments to its 2022 code that will come into effect in October.

Run-outs at non-striker's end have often triggered heated debates on spirit of the game and several players like India's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin have advocated for it as a fair mode of dismissal.

"Law 41.16 running out the non-striker has been moved from Law 41 (Unfair play) to Law 38 (Run out). The wording of the Law remains the same," the MCC said in a media statement late on Tuesday.

The MCC also said that using saliva to shine the ball would be treated as an unfair practice. Saliva application was barred by the ICC in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and MCC said its research found that applying saliva had no impact on the ball's movement.

"When cricket resumed following the onset of Covid-19, playing conditions were written in most forms of the game stating that applying saliva to the ball was no longer permitted.

"MCC's research found that this had little or no impact on the amount of swing the bowlers were getting. Players were using sweat to polish the ball, and this was equally effective," it said.

"The new Laws will not permit the use of saliva on the ball, which also removes any grey areas of fielders eating sugary sweets to alter their saliva to apply to the ball. Using saliva will be treated the same way

as any other unfair methods of changing the condition of the ball," it asserted.

The changes in the code, which first came into existence in 2017, were suggested by MCC Laws sub-committee "which were subsequently approved at the Club's Main Committee meeting last week."

The amendments will not come into force until October.

"...the 2022 Code makes some rather bigger changes, from the way we talk about cricket to the way it's played," Fraser Stewart, MCC Laws Manager, said.

"It is important that we announce these changes now as part of the Club's global commitment to the game, giving officials from all over the world the chance to learn under the new Code ahead of the Laws coming into force in October."

THE OTHER CHANGES RECOMMENDED ARE: LAW 1 REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

The replacement players will be treated "as if they were the player they replaced, inheriting any sanctions or dismissals that player has done in that match."

LAW 18 BATTERS RETURNING WHEN CAUGHT

When a batter is out caught, the "new batter shall come in at the end the striker was at, i.e. to face the next ball (unless it is the end of an over)."

LAW 20.4.2.12 DEAD BALL

The amendment suggests that the calling of Dead ball takes into account "if either side is disadvantaged by a person, animal or other object within the field of play."

"From a pitch invader to a dog running onto the field, sometimes there is outside interference if this is the case, and it has a material impact on

the game, the umpires will call and signal Dead ball."

LAW 21.4 BOWLER THROWING AT STRIKER'S END BEFORE DELIVERY

"If a bowler throws the ball in an attempt to run out the striker before entering their delivery stride, it will now be Dead ball. This is an extremely rare scenario, which has until now been called as a No ball."

LAW 22.1 JUDGING A WIDE

The amendment takes into account movement of a batter before the ball is bowled.

"It was felt unfair that a delivery might be called 'Wide' if it passes where the batter had stood as the bowler entered his/her delivery stride.

"Therefore, Law 22.1 has been amended so that a Wide will apply to where the batter is standing, where the striker has stood at any point since the bowler began their run up, and which would also have passed wide of the striker in a normal batting position."

LAW 25.8 STRIKER'S RIGHT TO PLAY THE BALL

"If the ball should land away from the pitch, the new Law allows the striker to play the ball so long as some part of their bat or person remains within the pitch. Should they venture beyond that, the umpire will call and signal Dead ball. As recompense to the batter, any ball which would force them to leave the pitch will also be called No ball."

LAWS 27.4 AND 28.6 UNFAIR MOVEMENT BY FIELDING SIDE

"Until now, any member of the fielding side who moved unfairly, was punished only with a Dead ball...Given the action is both unfair and deliberate, it will now see the batting side awarded 5 Penalty runs."

Director Sports Inaugurates UT Level Chess Competitions

Sports bring people together: Gazanfar Ali



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Director Youth Services and Sports J&K on Thursday inaugurated inter district UT level competitions in chess at Sports Stadium here. While interacting with the participating students he advised them to prove their metal in the game and sport of their choice. He also highlighted the importance of sports for all-round development of a person and said that the indoor games like chess help players in developing strong memory skills. "That habit of sports for all-round development of a person and said that the indoor games like chess help players in developing strong memory skills. "That habit of mind careful contemplation and planning is one of the cognitive health benefits of playing chess"

he added.

He further stated that sports bring people together and help in developing problem-solving skills.

Pertinently the competitions in chess are being organised for U/17 and U/19 years age group Boys.

About 150 students selected from different districts of the UT are taking part in the game and 23 officials have been deputed to conduct the event successfully.

Prominent among others who were present on the opening ceremony of the tourney include District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Masarat Jan and Mohammad Yousf.

From 48-4 To 268-6: Jonny Bairstow Rescues England Against West Indies



Agencies

ANTIGUA: Jonny Bairstow's classy century led England's escape against the West Indies from a noose-tightening 48-4 to a breathe-easy 268-6 on the opening day Tuesday of their three-Test series.

England's new top order looked like the old top order as it was routed inside the first 16 overs.

The recovery was started by Bairstow and Ben Stokes crawling to lunch at 57-4.

They combined for 67 to take England past 100. Bairstow and Ben Foakes made 99 together to take England past 200, then Bairstow reached his eighth test century in the company of all-rounder Chris Woakes.

Those two saw out play to stumps, including six overs of the new ball, to complete a remarkable turnaround.

Bairstow finished the day 109 not out from 216 balls with 17 fours. He has a partnership of 54 going with Woakes, who was on 24, almost his test average.

Fast bowler Jason Holder was the pick of the West Indies battery. Holder conceded 15 runs from his 16 overs and took two wickets. He didn't leak a run in his first five overs and bowled nine maidens.

Jayden Seales deserved the

wickets of Stokes and Crawley for 64 runs from 19 overs.

Kemar Roach bagged the big wicket of Root and the first wicket, Alex Lees.

But their efforts came as the attack tired amid sloppy fielding at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Root chose to bat first as he saw the pitch flattening out and becoming friendlier for the batsmen. But he and the top order couldn't survive the early roasting from the West Indies quicks.

Openers Lees, on debut, and Zac Crawley were gone inside four overs. Root was bowled at 27-3, and Dan Lawrence departed on 48-4.

Bairstow and Stokes limped to lunch, but came back refreshed for a fight and started hitting boundaries regularly as West Indies became too loose.

Stokes had just hit his third and fourth boundaries when he dragged on against Seales and ended a gritty and necessary 95-ball stay for 36.

But that was England's only loss of the middle session.

Foakes punished anything slightly loose and hit eight boundaries before succumbing lbw to Holder for 42 from 87 balls.

Woakes was yet to score when he survived a difficult catching chance by Holder in the slips off Alzarri Joseph.

Ukrainian Biathlete Pulls Out Of Event After Father Captured By Russian Forces

Reuters

Ukrainian biathlete Anastasiia Laletina was forced to pull out of the middle distance sitting event at the Beijing Winter Paralympics on Tuesday after her father was captured by Russian forces, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian paralympic committee told Reuters.

Laletina's father is a soldier in the Ukrainian army. The spokesperson said they had no further details on his capture.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine last month, which Moscow describes as a "special operation" to disarm the country, prompted the International Paralympic

Committee to ban Russian and Belarusian athletes from the Games.

Belarus has been a key staging area for Russian troops.

The spokesperson said that the 19-year-old Laletina was still in Zhangjiakou — the venue for the cross-country skiing and biathlon events — and will fly out to Poland with the rest of contingent at the end of the Games.

Despite the initial uncertainty around their participation, Ukraine continued to collect medals at the Games on Wednesday by winning a silver and bronze in cross-country skiing. They are third in the table behind hosts China and Canada.

Djokovic In Draw At Indian Wells, Status Still Up In Air

Agencies

INDIAN WELLS: Novak Djokovic was placed in the men's draw for the BNP Paribas Open, although it remains to be seen whether the second-ranked player will be allowed to enter the United States.

Djokovic isn't vaccinated against COVID-19. The U.S. requires visitors to be vaccinated to enter the country. Additionally, tournament officials have said everyone at Indian Wells must be fully vaccinated to be on site.

Djokovic's name was on the entry list when the men's draw was made Tuesday, so the five-time tournament champion was included. He received a first-round bye and would play either David Goffin or Jordan Thompson in the second round.

"We are currently in communication with his team; however, it has not been determined if he will participate in the event by getting (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) approval to enter the country," tournament officials said in a statement.

Djokovic's photo was included on a "We Miss You" wall of

players who are absent from Indian Wells.

He last played at a tournament in Dubai last month, losing in the quarterfinals to Jiri Vesely.

He was deported from Australia in January after his visa was canceled on the eve of the Australian Open.

Djokovic said a previous COVID-19 infection meant he was exempt from rules stating that all arriving visitors must be fully vaccinated. He was detained in an immigration facility before being ordered to leave.

Meanwhile, Barbora Krejickova withdrew because of an elbow injury. The second-ranked Krejickova said she's been bothered by the injury since the tournament in Qatar nearly two weeks ago. She said the pain worsened overnight, a day before the Indian Wells event begins.

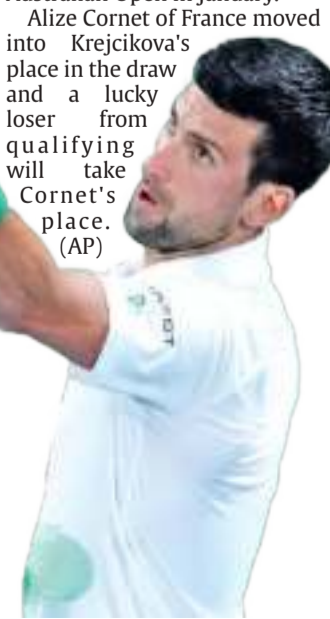
"I will focus on getting the right treatment as soon as possible and I hope I can be back on the court soonest," Krejickova

said in a statement.

The 26-year-old from the Czech Republic is the defending champion at the French Open, which begins May 22.

The desert tournament already lost top-ranked Ash Barty, who announced last week that she wouldn't play since she hasn't sufficiently recovered after her victory in the Australian Open in January.

Alize Cornet of France moved into Krejickova's place in the draw and a lucky loser from qualifying will take Cornet's place. (AP)



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