



P7 STATE

PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO LOSE REGISTRATION FOR VIOLATING TRANSPORTATION NORMS

The School Education Department on Monday said that it will cancel the registration of those private schools that flouts the transportation guidelines or were disallowing

THINK

P5 DIGITAL LITERACY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

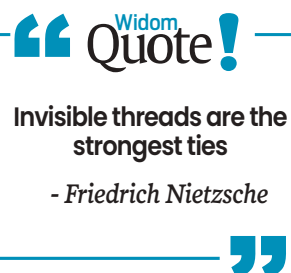
At present, digital technologies have invaded all aspects of our life, schools are getting transformed into smart schools and online, on-demand, learner-centered learning is a universal reality, hence Digital literacy is the fundamental



P8 SPORTS

SHREYAS IYER NAMED ICC 'PLAYER OF THE MONTH'

Fast-rising India batter Shreyas Iyer was on Monday voted the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for February, while New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr bagged the



FM Sitharaman Presents Rs 1.42 Lakh Crore J&K Budget In LS

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday presented a Rs 1.42 lakh crore budget for the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2022-23 in the Lok Sabha, amid demands from the opposition that it be given adequate time for studying the proposals.

Sitharaman also presented the supplementary demands for the year 2021-22 totalling Rs 18,860.32 crore for the



Union Territory and moved a motion seeking suspension of certain rules to allow the House to take up **More on P6**

Education, Police Get Higher Allocations

- **Rs 11,832.77 Cr** for Education
- **10,831.18 Cr** for Police

The education department has been allocated the highest Rs 11,832.77 crore followed by Rs 10,831.18 crore for the home department, which controls police, in the Rs 1.42 lakh crore budget for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for 2022-23 presented by Union finance minister in Lok Sabha on Monday. Sitharaman also presented the

supplementary demands for the year 2021-22 totalling Rs 18,860.32 crore for the UT. According to the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill 2022, Rs 797.34 crore has been allocated for the general administration department and Rs 10,831.18 crore for the home department. The higher allocation for the home department, under which the Jammu and Kashmir Police comes, indicated the government's priority in maintaining peace in the **More on P6**

4 Charred To Death In Jammu Inferno

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Four people, including a child, were killed and 15 others injured after a massive fire broke out in a building, police said. The death toll may increase further as the rescue operation is still underway, officials said.

The fire broke out in the evening in a scrap shop on the ground floor of the building in the Residency Road area apparently due to a short circuit. Soon the flames engulfed the entire building and some of the LPG cylinders kept inside exploded, said Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, Chandan Kohli. He said three people, including a child, were charred to death in the incident and 15 others were rescued and rushed to the hospital. Another body was recovered later. Residents of the building were mostly workers from Assam, the officials said. **More on P6**

NEWS DIGEST

Two IAS Officers Get Additional Charge

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday assigned additional charges to two senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, in the interest of the civil administration. In an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the **More on P6**

4 Cops Injured In LPG Cylinder Blast

Srinagar: At least four policemen were injured on Monday after a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder exploded inside a jail in Baderwah town of Doda district. According to officials, an LPG cylinder caught fire and exploded inside a barrack in Baderwah jail **More on P6**

3 Poachers Arrested In Budgam

Srinagar: Police on Monday arrested three alleged poachers and recovered single bore guns from their possession in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Ali Mohammad Najjar, Umar Majeed Bhat and Ishfaq Majeed Bhat were arrested a police team from Humhama **More on P6**

Youth Found Dead In Bijbehara

Srinagar: A youth was found dead on Monday in River Jhelum in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. According to reports, the villagers of Zirpara in Bijbehara spotted a body inside Jhelum River on Monday morning and instantly informed the police about it. A police team reached the spot and took **More on P6**



Situated on the foothills of Kohi-Maran, Badamwari or the almond alcove is drawing huge crowds as the almond trees have started blooming with the onset of spring season. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Metro Rail In Srinagar By 2026: GOI

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a major announcement, the Government of India on Monday said that elevated light metro rail in Jammu & Srinagar cities is expected to be rolled out in 2022-23.

In her budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

BJP Dares Cong To Say It Would Restore Art 370

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday dared the Congress to announce in Lok Sabha that it would restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir if it comes to power.

Intervening in the debate on budget for Jammu and Kashmir in the Lower House, Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh said that the Modi government was allocating 63 per cent of the budget to the Union

Territory to deal with the legacy of the Congress regime.

"Does the Congress party have the courage to say that it will restore Article 370 after coming to power...You don't say that. You want to beat about the bush and want to have it both ways," he said.

The minister said that Article 370, which was abrogated by the Modi government, had prevented the implementation of welfare measures like the prohibition of child marriages,

prevention of corruption, anti-dowry legislation, right to information and SC/ST reservation.

He wanted to know if the Congress had left 'Ram Raj' in Kashmir that the opposition party was accusing the Modi government of "attempting to destroy". Singh asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created a new political culture by honouring Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Subhas Chandra Bose and B R Ambedkar and **More on P6**

Delimitation Panel Makes Proposals Public

Objections Invited Till Mar 21, Commission To Visit UT For Public Hearing

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The draft report of the Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir, which has agreed to restore two assembly seats but ignored objections on other issues from political parties, was placed in the public domain on Monday for suggestions till March 21 following which the panel will visit the union territory for public hearing.

The report published in the gazettes of India appeared in local newspapers on Monday and showed that Habba Kadal seat in Kashmir division and Suchetgarh seat in Jammu province had been restored.

The BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit had objected to the first draft report, presented to Associate members in December, that had proposed

scrapping of the seats.

The panel's report had come for sharp criticism, especially from the valley-based political parties including those who are friendly to the BJP, after it had recommended an increase of six seats in Jammu province and one in Kashmir besides annexing Rajouri and Poonch areas in Jammu province with South Kashmir's Anantnag parliamentary seat.

Though the dissent report from Associate members from the BJP does not mention this, it may be mentioned here that all

Suchetgarh office bearers including council members had resigned en masse after the report was leaked. They were assured by party leaders that it would be taken up with the panel.

Similarly, there was disquiet about the proposed merging of Habba Kadal seat in Srinagar district with three different assembly seats. This seat has a considerable number of Kashmiri Pandit voters, who had migrated to Jammu **More on P6**

6 MAY BE WITHOUT A PARALLEL IN THE HISTORY. Nowhere in such an exercise, two geographically different regions separated by one of the highest mountain ranges inaccessible for most of the year must have been ever joined to form one constituency ignoring fundamental principles of contiguity, connectivity, convenience and compact area as required under law."

Kashmir Reports Lowest 3 New Corona Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 12 fresh cases of Coronavirus, the lowest ever single day count since the third wave of infection engulfed the Union Territory, while fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir reported the lowest three new cases of virus while the remaining nine were registered in Jammu division, taking the number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 453460.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar detected two new cases of Covid-19

Not Urbanization But Piggyback Thrusting Mainly Behind Jhelum's Flood Situation: Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: A recently published abstract of an expert report on the context of Floods in Kashmir has surprisingly revealed that the Flood hazards in the Jhelum river are mainly Controlled by the "Piggyback Thrusting" of the Kashmir Basin and has a relatively less impact of factors like Climate change and Urbanization.

Authored by four geology experts comprising A. A. Shah, Navakanesh M. Batmanathan, Asiya Qadir and Rajesh Kumar—the report suggested that the flood hazards in the Kashmir basin, located in the Indian portion of the NW Himalaya, are not new, "and some of the major



flood hazards have turned into disasters in the past, which questions the studies that exclusively relate the flood hazards in the Kashmir basin to factors like urbanization and climate change," reads the abstract of

the report, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The expert panel report has further noted that the past studies conducted on the Flood Hazards in Kashmir valley has suggested that **More on P6**

MP Cops To Get Leave To Watch Film On 'KP Exodus'

Agencies

BHOPAL: The Madhya Pradesh government today announced that policemen in the state will be granted leave to watch the recently-released film "The Kashmir Files".

State Home Minister Narottam Mishra told reporters that Madhya Pradesh policemen will be given leave to watch the movie 'The Kashmir Files'. He said that instructions for this have been issued to Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena.

"I have just told the DGP to grant a leave whenever any policeman in the state wants to go watch 'The Kashmir

Files' with their family," Mishra told reporters.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had on Sunday exempted 'The Kashmir Files' from entertainment tax in Madhya Pradesh. He said that the government decided to make it tax-free as the movie deserves to be watched by maximum people.

The movie, directed and written by Vivek Agnihotri, depicts the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from the state after killings of people from the community by militants.

The film stars Anupam Kher, Darshan Kumar, Mithun Chakraborty, and Pallavi Joshi among others. **More on P6**

4 Held Over Soldier, Sarpanch's Killings

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have made a breakthrough into the recent killings of a soldier and a Sarpanch in the twin districts of Budgam and Kulgam by arresting four alleged militant associates.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that it has cracked the case of abduction and killing of army man Sameer Ahmad Malla, by arresting a militant associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Giving further details, he said, police station Khag on March 7 received information about the disappearance of **More on P6**

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How Will Covid End? Experts Look To Past Epidemics For Clues

Associated Press

Two years into the Covid-19 pandemic, most of the world has seen a dramatic improvement in infections, hospitalizations and death rates in recent weeks, signaling the crisis appears to be winding down. But how will it end? Past epidemics may provide clues.

The ends of epidemics are not as thoroughly researched as their beginnings. But there are recurring themes that could offer lessons for the months ahead, said Erica Charters of the University of Oxford, who studies the issue.

"One thing we have learned is it's a long, drawn-out process" that includes different types of endings that may not all occur at the same time, she said. That includes a "medical end," when disease recedes, the "political end," when government prevention measures cease, and the "social end," when people move on.

The Covid-19 global pandemic has waxed and waned differently in different parts of the world. But in the United States, at least, there is reason to believe the end is near.

About 65 percent of Americans are fully vaccinated, and about 29 percent are both vaccinated and boosted. Cases have been falling for nearly two months, with the US daily average dropping about 40 percent in the last week alone. Hospitalizations also have plummeted, down nearly 30 percent. Mask mandates are vanishing—even federal health officials have stopped wearing them—and President Joe Biden has said it's time for people to return to offices and many aspects of pre-pandemic life.

But this pandemic has been full of surprises, lasting more than two years and causing nearly 1 million deaths in the US and more than 6 million around the world. Its severity has been surprising, in part because many people drew the wrong lesson from a 2009-2010 flu pandemic that turned out to be nowhere as deadly as initially feared.

"We got all worried but then nothing happened (in 2009), and I think that was what the expectation was" when Covid-19 first emerged, said Kristin Heitman, a Maryland-based researcher who collaborated with Charters. That said, some experts offered takeaways from past epidemics that may inform how the end of the Covid-19 pandemic may play out.

FLU

Before Covid-19, influenza was considered the most deadly pandemic agent. A 1918-1919 flu pandemic killed 50 million people around the world, including 675,000 in the US, historians estimate. Another flu pandemic in 1957-1958 killed an estimated 116,000 Americans, and another in 1968 killed 100,000 more.

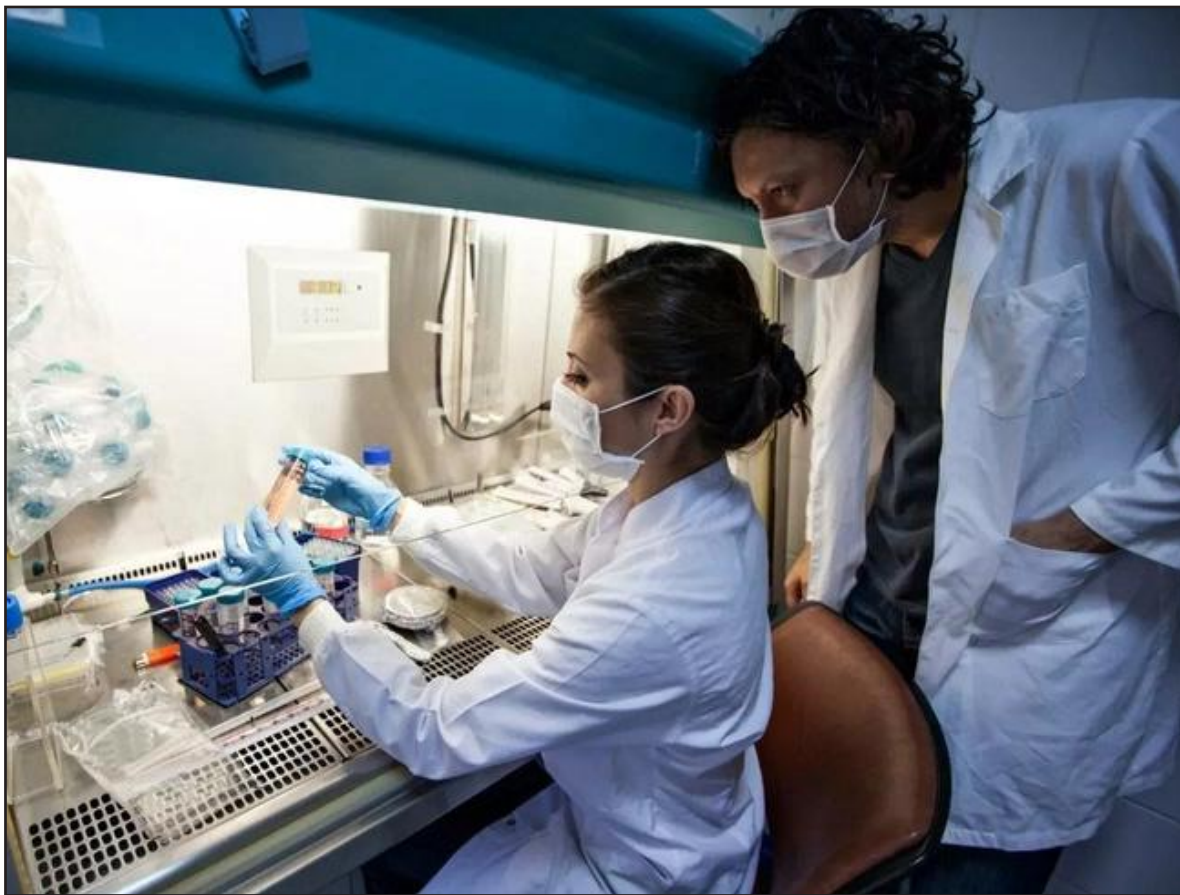
A new flu in 2009 caused another pandemic, but one that turned out not to be particularly dangerous to the elderly — the group that tends to die the most from flu and its complications. Ultimately, fewer than 13,000 US deaths were attributed to that pandemic. The World Health Organization in August 2010 declared the flu had moved into a post-pandemic period, with cases and outbreaks moving into customary seasonal patterns.

In each case, the pandemics waned as time passed and the general population built immunity. They became the seasonal flu of subsequent years. That kind of pattern is probably what will happen with the coronavirus, too, experts say.

"It becomes normal," said Matthew Ferrari, director of Penn State's Center for Infectious Disease Dynamics. "There's a regular, undulating pattern when there's a time of year when there's more cases, a time of year when there's less cases. Something that's going to look a lot like seasonal flu or the common cold."

HIV

In 1981, US health officials reported a cluster of cases of cancerous lesions and pneumonia in previously healthy gay men in California and New York.



More and more cases began to appear, and by the next year officials were calling the disease AIDS, for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Researchers later determined it was caused by HIV—human immunodeficiency virus — which weakens a person's immune system by destroying cells that fight disease and infection. For years, AIDS was considered a terrifying death sentence, and in 1994 it became the leading cause of death for Americans ages 25 to 44.

But treatments that became available in the 1990s turned it into a manageable chronic condition for most Americans. Attention shifted to Africa and

other parts of the world, where it was not controlled and is still considered an ongoing emergency.

Pandemics don't end with a disease ebbing uniformly across the globe, Charters said. "How a pandemic ends is generally by becoming multiple (regional) epidemics," she said.

ZIKA

In 2015, Brazil suffered an outbreak of infections from Zika virus, spread by mosquitoes that tended to cause only mild illness in most adults and children. But it became a terror as it emerged that infection during pregnancy could cause a birth defect that

affected brain development, causing babies to be born with unusually small heads.

By late that year, mosquitoes were spreading it in other Latin American countries, too. In 2016, the WHO declared it an international public health emergency, and a US impact became clear. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received reports of 224 cases of Zika transmission by mosquitoes in the continental United States and more than 36,000 in US territories — the vast majority in Puerto Rico.

But the counts fell dramatically in 2017 and virtually disappeared shortly after, at least in the US Experts believe the

epidemic died as people developed immunity. "It just sort of burned out" and the pressure for making a Zika vaccine available in the US ebbed, said Dr. Denise Jamieson, a former CDC official who was a key leader in the agency's responses to Zika.

It's possible Zika will be a dormant problem for years but outbreaks could occur again if the virus mutates or if larger numbers of young people come along without immunity. With most epidemics, "there's never a hard end," said Jamieson, who is now chair of gynecology and obstetrics at Emory University's medical school.

Covid-19

The Geneva-based WHO declared Covid-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, and it will decide when enough countries have seen a sufficient decline in cases—or, at least, in hospitalizations and deaths — to say the international health emergency is over.

The WHO has not yet announced target thresholds. But officials this week responded to questions about the possible end of the pandemic by noting how much more needs to be accomplished before the world can turn the page.

Covid-19 cases are waning in the US, and dropped globally in the last week by 5 percent. But cases are rising in some places, including the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

People in many countries need vaccines and medications, said Dr. Carissa Etienne, director of the Pan American Health Organization, which is part of the WHO.

In Latin America and the Caribbean alone, more than 248 million people have not yet had their first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, Etienne said during a press briefing with reporters. Countries with low vaccination rates likely will see future increases in illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths, she said.

"We are not yet out of this pandemic," said Dr. Ciro Ugarte, PAHO's director of health emergencies. "We still need to approach this pandemic with a lot of caution."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- This office E-NIT No. 46 of 03/2022 issued vide this office No. 9519-34 Dated 10-03-2022.

Please read class of contract as CEE/DEE instead of BEE/CEE in uploaded copy of NIT.

All other terms and conditions shall remain intact as laid down in the NIT.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 Irrigation Division Ompora,
 Budgam.

No:- 9644-59 Date:-14-03-2022

DIPK-19542/21

Government of India
Department of Telecommunications
O/o the Controller of Communication Accounts, J&K Telecom Circle,
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No.9-24/CCA-JK/2021-22/Pen.Ada. Dated:- 11-03-2022

Attention DoT/BSNL Pensioners

NATIONAL PENSION ADALAT

1. National Pension Adalat through online mode is scheduled to be held through video calling at **11:00 AM on 23/03/2022** for settlement of pending pension related grievances for more than 6 months **(excluding legal and policy matters)** of all pensioners of DoT/BSNL Jammu & Kashmir Circle. All the pensioners/family pensioners are requested to kindly intimate their pending pension grievances if any along with necessary details on email ccajk@nic.in / **Landline number 0191-2479283** before **21.03.2022**.

2. Pensioners / family pensioners can appear in this National Pension Adalat through a video call from home at the given time to represent their case. All the pensioners/Family pensioners are requested to kindly **provide their e-mail id or e-mail id of any family member along with mobile number** (who will be available with pensioner/family pensioner) against their complaint as the Pension Adalat will be held **through Google Meet**.

3. Link of meeting will be intimated by this office **through E-mail**, one day before the National Pension Adalat.

Sd/- Dy. CCA
 O/O CCA J&K Circle
 Jammu-180012

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Ganderbal

Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal Tel. No. 0194-2416058

Subject:- Balance work for construction of Boundary wall at NTPHC Manigam (Balance work)
 Reference:- This Office NIT No.366 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No.23974-83 dated:08-03-2022.

CANCELLATION

The above mentioned work floated for tenders vide this Office NIT No. referred to above shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio

No:24651-59
 Dated:12-03-2022

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer,
 (R&B) Division
 Ganderbal

DIPK-19507/21

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ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO: 01 of 2022

Dated: 11-03-2022

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the post of **Director Physical Education, Finance Officer, Controller of Examinations and Deputy Librarian.**

Important dates:
 Availability of online application form: **14-03-2022**
 Last date for submission of online application form: **08-04-2022**
 Last date for submission of hard copy of application form: **15-04-2022**

NOTE: The detailed advertisement notice is available on the university website www.iust.ac.in

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INVITATION OF OFFERS FOR HIRING OF PRIVATE HOTELS / GUEST HOUSES

Subject:- Hiring of Private Hotels / Guest Houses for Government employees during summer session, 2022 at Srinagar.

Sealed offers on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K UT affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs. 10/= on the prescribed format along with requisite documents are invited from the private Hoteliers / Guest House owners who are registered with the Tourism Department and are willing to rent out their Hotels / Guest Houses to the Estates Department for summer session, 2022 at Srinagar. The hiring shall be for six months w.e.f May 2022 to October 2022 which may further be extended by the Department if required. Copies of offer document can be obtained from the office of the Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir, Partap Park, Srinagar on cash payment of Rs. 1500/- (non-refundable) from 14/03/2022 to 19/03/2022 during office hours viz. 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. The offers shall be received in the office of the undersigned on all working days upto 23/03/2022 (upto 4:30 pm). The offers shall be opened on 24/3/2022 at 11:00 am in the office of the Deputy Director Estates, Kashmir.

The Hotels / Guest Houses shall be hired only after getting necessary security clearance from concerned authorities and in accordance with suitability to be ascertained by the committee constituted for the purpose and subject to fulfillment of other terms and conditions as contained in the offer document. The Hotels / Guest houses shall be hired strictly as per actual requirement, as and when there will be need for the same in view of shortage of government accommodation if any. The Department reserves the rights to reject any offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof. There shall be no commitment on behalf of the Estates Department for hiring of hotel(s) / room(s) for any period of time to be hired which shall be on need basis only. The claim for the same shall not be entertained by the Department.

Sd/-
 Deputy Director Estates
 Kashmir, Srinagar

No. DDES/Pvt. Hotel/2021-22/724
 Dated:- 12/03/2022

DIPK-19486/21

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:- Sheikh Mohammad Isac Shadabi
S/O :-Abdul Rasheed Sheikh
R/O :- Panzath Wanpora **ma**

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 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Rabiya Aziz
 Parentage Abdul Azz Parray
 R/o Bandgam

Details of Marks Certificate lost
 Secondary School Examination (class 12th)
 Roll No 2514275 Session /Year October - 2017

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 treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
 Sub Office Magam

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B&J Hospital Resumes Emergency Surgeries

Agencies

Srinagar: Emergency surgeries resumed at Bone and Joint Hospital in Srinagar more than a week after a devastating fire damaged the hospital.

The Valley's sole orthopedic hospital was damaged in fire rendering the facility shut for surgeries and admitting new patients. The government had set up orthopedic facilities for patients in several Kashmir hospitals while only Out Patient Department (OPD) was running in the hospital.

On Monday, Medical Superintendent Bone and Joint hospital Srinagar DrMianSuhailsaid that they have resumed emergency surgeries in the hospital.

He said the work for resuming other services including admitting new patients will begin as soon as the restoration work is completed. This includes power supply which got affected as water seeped into junction boxes. (KNO)

DG Horticulture Initiates Plantation Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Director General (DG) Horticulture, Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat today visited various State Houses in Srinagar.

The DG instructed the concerned staff to maintain these guest houses and further directed them to plant the latest exotic/native varieties of fruit plants there.

Bhat on the occasion initiated the plantation drive and planted many new and exotic varieties of various fruit plants.

He also informed that the Department is going to organize a Horti-spring festival-2022 w.e.f. 21 March, 2022 at Centre of Excellence, Zawoora which will last up to 15th of April, 2022.

The festival will encompass fruit show, plant show, Horti-Machinery exhibition and plantation drive. Showcasing the flowering of Apricot, Cherry, Plum and Peach etc. will also be the main attraction of the festival.

The DG appealed to the general public to participate in the festival.

During the visit, the DG was accompanied by Chief Horticulture officer, Srinagar and other Officers of the department.



Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

Midnight Blaze Renders 21 Families Homeless in Batamaloo

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At least seven residential houses were gutted in a massive blaze in Batamaloo area of Srinagar city. The fire broke out in Hamza Colony Dandarkha area of Batamaloo from a residential house.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire broke out at around 10:45 p.m. at the residence of Shabir Ahmad Sheikh. The residence of Sheikh hosted three families at the time their abode caught fire.

As the fire engulfed the densely populated locality, locals along with police and firefighters tried hard to douse the flames. However, the intensity of the fire was too high. Till the fire was controlled, seven residential houses were gutted in the incident resulting in the massive property loss.

The blaze has left twenty one families homeless .In the incident, seven residential houses got damaged.

“The families rendered homeless will take shelter in the nearby marriage hall” said a local.

Also, three officials from fire and Emergency Services were injured when they were dousing the flames in the area. The injured have been identified as Muhammad Ahsan, son of Abdul GaniMalla of Kulgam, Akshay-

District Admin Provides Ex-Gratia Assistance To Fire Victims

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad, the officers of District Administration visited Hamza Colony in Batamaloo area of the District to provide immediate ex-gratia relief to fire victims whose residential houses were damaged in a massive fire incident on Monday.

The officers team expressed sympathy with the affected families on loss of property and provided an immediate ex-gratia relief in the form of 105 blankets, 63 mattresses, 63 bed sheets and 21 kitchen sets, in addition Rs 105000 were also provided to all affected families each Rs 5000 out of Red Cross as an in-

terim relief.

Similarly, fire also broke out at Abi Nowpora area of the District on Monday in which one house comprising three families also got gutted. The team of District Administration also visited the spot and provided an ex-gratia relief/assistance in the form of 15 blankets, 09 mattresses, 09 bed sheets and 03 kitchen sets, besides Rs 15000 were also provided to all 3 affected families each Rs 5000 out of Red Cross.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner has also sanctioned Rs 7.26 lakh in favour of the affected fire victims whose houses were damaged in separate fire incidents at Hamza Colony Batamaloo and Abi Nowpora in the District.

Seghal, son of Rajesh Kumar Seghal of Jammu and Showkat Ahmad Malik, son of Manzoor Ahmad Malik of Anantnag.

Meanwhile, locals have also started a donation drive to raise money for the families rendered homeless by the devastating blaze.

Rehabilitation Centre To Be Augmented For Victims Of Drug Abuse: DC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to formulate the action plan for Rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse and to curb/eradicate the drug menace from the District, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad Monday chaired a meeting at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here.

Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Programme Officer, ICDS, Chief Planning Officer, Deputy Director Employment, Deputy Superintendents of Police, Crime, Chief Education Officer, District Coordinator, Nehru Yuva Ken-

dra, Assistant Drug Controller, Nodal Officer Skill Development, HoD Department of Psychiatry, Incharge Drug De-addiction Centre, SMHS, Hospital and other concerned were present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed a proposed action plan in detail for Rehabilitation, Motivation, Career Counselling and Skill Development of affected drug victims by way of providing handholding under different Self-Employment Schemes. The meeting also held threadbare deliberations on the rising trend of drug abuse and measures undertaken by the District Administration to break the drug supply chain and cracking

the peddling and consumption hotspots to save youth.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that a Rehabilitation cum Skill Development & Career Counselling Centre is being augmented in Srinagar for Rehabilitation of victims of Drug Abuse. He said the centre will be equipped with all requisite facilities including Patientcare, Rehabilitation, Career Counselling, Skill Development Classrooms and sports so that youth of the District would remain far away from the consumption of narcotic substances and simultaneously they are Guided and Rehabilitated by different Self-Employment schemes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to make certain corrections in the passport of my Son issued under number T0876201 on 5-4-2019 from Passport Office Srinagar. In Place of Mohammad, the correct spelling is Muhammad as per School records while as parentage name is also to be corrected as Shoiab in place of Shoaib and mothers name as Fajar Firdous Malik in place of Fajar Firdous as per records. If any one has any objection in this regard may submit the same to the Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mohammad Shoiab Malik
Father of Muhammad Abban Malik
R/o Kahwaja Pora Nowshehra, Srinagar

ss

Public Notice

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No; JKJK03C- 7109. 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 Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAZIR AHMAD SUMJI
Prop. of : SUMJI AUTOMOBILES
R/O : BATENGGOO ANANTNAG

ma

Public Notice

My Name has been wrongly written in my Driving License Bearing Registration No JK12 20080082531 as Gh Hussain Nagar while the correct Name is Gh Hassan Najarwhich needs immediate correction. 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.

Gh Hassan Najar
S/O :-Ab Majid Najar
R/O :- Kullar Pahalgam

ma

Public Notice

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: Jk0120170000849 from Jogi Lanker To Khanyar. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Umar Dar
S/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar
R/o Jogi Lanker Rainawari

uko

ازنیات کنزور

درخواست منجانب : محمد عارف بٹ ولد عبدالرشید بٹ ساکنہ منگورہ کنزور
بمراہم حصول Dependent Certificate تحت SRO 43
اشہدار بمراہم ادائگی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سالک دفتر بذائیں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالا ت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سالک محمد عارف بٹ کا والد مرحوم عبدالرشید بٹ مورخہ 29-03-2009 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی مذکورہ محکمہ آبپاشی میں ملازمت کرتا تھا اور دورانِ سروں فوت ہوا۔ متوفی مذکورہ کے کنبہ درج ذیل ہے۔

مسمائیہ گیشن نبوہ 36 سال پنشن یافتہ
محمد عارف پسر 18 سال زیر تعلیم
طارق احمد پسر 14 سال زیر تعلیم

پس محمد عارف اور طارق احمد پسران مرحوم عبدالرشید بٹ بصورت موقع اپنی والدہ مسمائیہ گیشن کے عینیشن پر انحصار رکھتے ہے سرفنیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا غدر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحصیلدار azk

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
11 Shaban
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:19
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	4:56
Magrib	6:41
ISHA	8:01

This Day In History

- 1812 - 1st Russian settlement in California, Russian River
- 1889 - 6 US & German warships sunk bu a typhoon in harbor of Apia, Samoa, 200 die
- 1892 - 1st escalator patented by inventor Jesse W Reno (NYC)
- 1913 - 1st US presidential press conference (Woodrow Wilson)
- 1922 - France, which up until now has insisted on currency for all WWI reparation payments from Germany, now accepts raw materials as payment
- 1928 - Benito Mussolini modifies Italy electoral system (abolishes right to choose)
- 193 0 - 1st streamlined submarine of US navy, USS Nautilus, launched
- 1933 - NAACP begins coordinated attack on segregation & discrimination
- 1937 - 1st blood bank forms (Chicago IL)
- 1939 - Hitler occupies Bohemia & Moravia (Czechoslovakia); Slovakia independent
- 1943 - Allied reconnaissance flight over Java
- 1943 Red Army evacuates Kharkov
- 1946 - British Prime Minister Clement Attlee agrees with India's right to independence
- 1951 - Persia nationalizes Anglo-Iranian Oil Company
- 1955 - US Air Force unveils self-guided missile
- 1957 - Great Britain becomes the third nation to explode a nuclear bomb
- 1962 - Five research groups announce the discovery of anti-matter
- 1964 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1967 - Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT)-headquarter moves to Brunsum
- 1967 - Marshal Arturo da Costa e Silva sworn in as President of Brazil
- 1968 - Uprising in South Yemen
- 1969 - Violent Chinese-Russian border dispute leaves 100s dead
- 1972 - Danish airliner hit mountain in Sheikdom of Oman killing 112
- 1972 - NASA selects 3 part configuration for Space Shuttle
- 1976 - Failed coup in Niger
- 1977 - US House of Representatives begins 90 day test of televising its sessions
- 1977 - First official test cricket match is played between Australia and England at Melbourne
- 1978 - operation Litani: Israeli offensive in South Lebanon
- 1978 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1979 - Aparat releases Newdos + 2.1 for Radio Shack's TRS-80
- 1979 - Sarfraz takes 9-86 at MCG as Australia lose 7-5 to lose the Test
- 1984 - Tanzania adopts constitution
- 1985 - The first Internet domain name, symbolics.com is registered
- 1988 - NASA reports accelerated breakdown of ozone layer by CFK
- 1991 - Sergei Bubka pole vaults world record 6,14m (20 feet 1 3/4)
- 1991 - Territories of Amapa & Roraima become states in Brazil
- 1992 - UN officially embarks on its largest peacekeeping operation
- 1999 - Pluto again becomes outermost planet
- 2001 - The world's largest oil rig, located off Brazil and operated by Petrobras, suffers three explosions

From KO Archives

Hefty Pay Hike For MLAs

Observer News Service

JAMMU - The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to hike the emoluments of the legislators by Rs 10,000 each, fulfilling their long-pending demand for a better pay package.

This was announced by Minister for Finance and Planning Development Muzaffar Hussain Baig in the legislative assembly on Friday while replying to the debate on budget proposals 2005-06.

Justifying the hike in the emoluments of the legislators, the Minister said the government wants to encourage educated and honest people to come to the legislature and this can be done only through offering them better perks.

He said the expectations of the people with their representatives are growing everyday and it is very difficult for the legislators to reach out to the masses with limited resources at their disposal.

"Although it is a difficult decision which could evoke public criticism, the government has to take care of the lawmakers who are at present drawing a meagre salary of Rs 4000 in addition to paltry allowances," he said. (Kashmir Observer, 15 March, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Grim Economic Fallout

The ongoing war in Ukraine is hammering the global economy. The president of the World Bank David Malpass, has termed the war as an “economic catastrophe.” He said the war has come “at a bad time for the world because inflation was already rising.” Malpass rightly pointed out that the economic impact of the war stretches beyond Ukraine’s borders, and the rise in global energy prices in particular “hit the poor the most, as does inflation”. The reason for this, according to Malpass, is that both Russia and Ukraine are big food producers. Ukraine is the world’s biggest producer of sunflower oil, and Russia is number two, according to S&P Global Platts. Together they account for 60 percent of global production. The two countries also account for 28.9 percent of global wheat exports. This has caused the wheat prices to trade at their 15-year highs.

Oil has already breached \$130 a barrel. And if the west cuts off Russian crude oil as is being mulled by the Biden administration which is in talks with European leaders, this will push the oil prices further higher. Russia is the biggest source of oil and gas. This, in turn will have a spillover effect across all the commodities. Gold prices, meanwhile, hit \$2,000 an ounce. Financial markets across the world have plunged in recent days causing the cash loss of thousands of crores to the investors..

And this is happening at a time when the world economy was gradually recovering from the debilitating fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, a once-in-a-century event. The countries were slowly opening up and letting the economy function normally. International travel was also returning to pre-pandemic levels. The resumption of economic activity was important to restore the millions of jobs lost to pandemic.

In India, the union government had to lend support to the economy at a time when it was in freefall due to the pandemic. In the initial phase of the pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a stimulus package of Rs 20 lakh crore to ease the devastating fallout on the economy of the Covid-19 crisis. The package comprised a facility of Rs 3 lakh crores collateral-free automatic loans for businesses, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This made borrowers with up to Rs 25 crore outstanding and Rs 100 crore turnover eligible. Loans had 4-year tenure with a moratorium of 12 months on principal repayment. Besides, there was 100 per cent credit guarantee cover to banks and NBFCs on principal and interest. This enabled 45 lakh MSME units to resume business activity and safeguard jobs.

If the war drags on in Ukraine, India’s economy is likely to come under severe stress again. Skyrocketing oil prices will also wreck the European economy.. Therefore it is incumbent on the world to come together to resolve the crisis in Ukraine and find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the parties involved.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Unguided Missile
On A Malfunction And
Pakistan’s Probe Demand

The accidental firing of a missile by India into Pakistan could have led to serious, unintended escalation of tensions between the two nuclear-armed countries, but, fortunately, that did not happen. The Government of India has said the incident, on March 9, happened in the course of routine maintenance, due to a technical malfunction. India has ordered a high-level Court of Inquiry. The Chargé d’affaires of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was called twice by Pakistan to convey its concerns. Pakistan has alleged that the incident “indicates many loopholes and technical lapses of a serious nature in Indian handling of strategic weapons”. Islamabad, which termed the inquiry as ordered by India as insufficient, demanded a joint probe. It has also sought the involvement of the international community to promote “strategic stability in the region”. As it moved closer to India in recent years, the U.S. has suspended its fixation with the conflict between the two neighbours, but the fear of nuclear escalation in the region is very deep in Washington’s strategic thinking. India’s global image of being a responsible nuclear power has been built over decades of restrained words and thoughtful action. The security of its nuclear command and technical capabilities has never been in doubt. This incident frays that reputation and measures must be taken to restore the confidence of the international community in India.

There has been no official word from India on which missile was involved, which Pakistan has said landed 124 km inside its territory. The description by Pakistan – that the missile was travelling at three times the speed of sound, at 40,000 feet, and is a surface-to-surface missile – has led to speculation that the accident involves the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile which is now in the inventory of India’s three Services. India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, an acceptance by major powers of India’s status as a reliable defence partner that is capable of handling its strengths and contributing to global security. India is developing more missile systems, including a hypersonic variant. The handling and the launch of any such missiles are highly regulated with checks and balances to avoid accidents. This accident also has echoes of another incident in February 2019. A day after the Balakot air strike, as fighter jets of India and Pakistan were engaged in a dogfight near the LoC, an Mi-17V5 crashed in Budgam shortly after take-off from Srinagar killing its personnel onboard and a civilian on the ground. The Court of Inquiry confirmed that it was shot by an Israeli-origin Spyder surface-to-air missile system of the IAF. India must leave no scope for any doubts about its capacity to handle nuclear and other military assets. That objective can be achieved without a joint probe with Pakistan or any international involvement, but the objective must be achieved nevertheless.

The Hindu

Why Can’t Doodh Ganga Be Beautified
Under Srinagar Smart City Project?



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The recent decision of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) wherein Rs 3 Crores have been imposed as penalty on erring Government officials and polluters of Doodh Ganga river in Srinagar/Budgam areas is being hailed by people at large. While I appreciate people acknowledging my efforts of filing a petition in the National Green Tribunal (NGT), personally, the decision doesn’t sit well with me. NGT imposed a huge penalty on the erring officials but at the same time Government officials have violated all the environmental laws in the past which makes the penalty seem justified.

Unfortunately, the mistakes and blunders committed by officers 10 to 15 years back have to be rectified by the newly posted officers in Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) which is an arduous task now. Additionally, the issue of unscientific construction of thirteen pump stations on Doodh Ganga from Chanapora to Tengpora via Barzulla and Bulbul Bagh seems to be complicated as the setting up of STPs and their connection with pumping stations is a herculean task. Had this work been taken up 10 to 15 years back the things would have been altogether different today.

However, the Commissioner cannot be blamed as these blunders have been bequeathed from the past from his predecessors.

Why have laws like Water Act 1974 or institutions like NGT been constituted in the first place if they aren’t followed to the Tee. There is wisdom behind these and their violation is bound to create chaos. The Doodh Ganga is a case in point. It is now like a drain as all the sewage is pumped into it with official permission from UEED or SMC.

SMC’s world bank funded project

SMC is currently implementing a World Bank funded scheme for upgradation of 49 Pumping Stations in and around Srinagar City. Three of the envisaged works are under execution in the Barzulla area. However, of the projects, three are ill conceived and suffer from serious techni-

cal flaws. For example, in the case of Bulbul Bagh pump station, SMC is proposing to transport the drainage effluent from a far off commercial hub near Tengpora bypass bridge to the centrally located residential area against the natural gradient. This will be followed by depositing the same liquid waste in waters of Doodh Ganga.

SRINAGAR
SMART CITY
Project has been the
rage of the town
recently. The Doodh
Ganga can also
beautified under it
from Bagh-e-Mehtab
to Barzulla. Small STPs
can be installed at
multiple locations as
that is the only solution
to stop drainage of
untreated sewage into
this waterbody

Had the station been proposed in the peripheral area itself, there would have been an option of dumping the drainage waters into the Flood Spell Channel which is located less than ½ km away from the site.

SMC can create an environmental disaster by dumping output from these three closely situ-

ated Pumping Stations into a lively water stream, which at an upstream position, hosts a Water Filtration Plant and which currently do not have waters even fit for drinking. This is a clear violation of Water Prevention and Control of Pollution Act (Water Act 1974).

A Pumping Station located in the VIP area of Barzulla that was functional for the last around 40 years was incorporated in the World Bank funded scheme JTFRP for upgradation. At the time of executing the work, SMC shifted the site by 300 metres from the VIP area into a nearby Mohalla inhabited by the Children of lesser God, which was having its own ERA-managed efficient drainage lines and got no benefits from this upgradation work. It shall have only to bear with the health hazards posed by the pollutants emanating from the Pumping Station for all times to come.

Work Against Natural Gradient

This upgraded Pumping Station at Bulbul Bagh which is located in the midst of a hapless population and at a mere distance of 10 metres from a Masjid has been proposed with a capacity of 15 cusecs as against the currently existing capacity of 0.75 Cusec. This means that it will be pumping 20 times more liquid waste into Doodh Ganga after getting commissioned. This proposed pump station is supposed to have two feeding areas, one comprising Bulbul Bagh Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4. Another feeding area connected to the station is the one towards the Gangbugh- Tengpora Bypass Bridge. In this second area, drainage effluent from big commercial installations shall flow, into the heart of Bulbul Bagh, against the natural gradient as river Doodh Ganga flows in the opposite direction. SMC is again proposing to dump the drainage waste/ effluent into the Doodh Ganga river in clear violation of Water Act 1974.

The selection of construction site more judiciously, on the Bulbul Bagh Doodh ganga embankment, some 200 metres from the current working site towards the Bye-Pass Bridge would have served as solution to all associated problems.

Firstly, the drainage wastes/ effluent from such a site can be directed directly for a dumping into the Flood Channel after installing an STP. Secondly, the facility at such a location shall be functioning outside the densely populated areas. Thirdly, the associated drainage lines shall be carrying the effluent in the direction of the natural gradient and not against it, as is the case/ flaw with the current arrangement.

If the shifting of the drainage system is not possible under present circumstances, SMC may segregate the By-Pass side feeding area for a construction of a new drainage station in that particular area. At the same time, SMC can decrease the motoring capacity from 15 cusec to 5 cusec with a commensurate downward revision of the size of the Control Room Building. The pump stations at Chanapora Sluice and Pamposh colony will also be pumping huge quantities of untreated liquid waste into Doodh Ganga.

Conclusion

The NGT slashed penalty of Rs 3 cores on the Government (erring officials and polluters) is fully justified as Water Act is not a new law. This law is in operation for the last 46 years and if mistakes have been committed in the past, the previous planners who allowed drainage to go into Doodh Ganga untreated in SMC limits should also be taken to task. One is in hopeful anticipation of the new plan of action by the Govt especially the SMC, Urban Local Bodies, Rural Sanitation, UEED and Geology and Mining in the matter. Recently, the Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department too called a meeting of senior officers including DCs of Srinagar Budgam, Commissioner SMC and Chief Engineers of Irrigation & Flood Control, UEED and Director Geology & Mining.

Srinagar Smart City Project has been the rage of the town recently. The Doodh Ganga can also be beautified under it from Bagh-e-Mehtab to Barzulla. Small STPs can be installed at multiple locations as that is the only solution to stop drainage of untreated sewage into this waterbody.

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS
P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

The Traffic Mess

EVER since the lockdown has been lifted and offices have resumed functioning with sufficient attendance, traffic on the streets has also escalated. However, this time around it is just too much for everyone to tolerate.

Roads in Srinagar have serpentine blockades and diversion. It really would take one a lot of philosophy to explain these sudden inexplicable shifts and stops. While it is a random construction in the middle of the road or just a authoritarian road

block which forces you to take a different route; it is an affair that bothers and baffles!

Add to this the ever impatient nature of drivers here. It is too hard for those with two-wheelers to ever consider not getting into every breathing space – god forbid they don’t feel the triumph that comes with the convenience of having a two Wheeler in traffic.

On the other side, there are the swanky drivers who have all the pride to derive out of showing all other foolish rule followers that they’ve got it in

them to cross the line of vehicles and go ahead of many. What they do with this achievement is unknown given that this adventure of theirs ends up jeopardises the possibility of traffic opening up.

Then there are the street vendors. I have nothing against them as long as their stalls don’t keep increasing and taking up most space of the roads. Suddenly, many fruit vendors have opened up stages for their fruits instead of the smaller stalls. This creates yet another nuisance.

Yet another baffling sight are the newly installed street lights. They twinkle with so many signals that it would put an adolescent’s existential dilemma to shame! Truly, they make one wonder at the purposelessness of life with arrows going in all directions.

Hope these nuisances are reduced so every one of us can have a pleasant commute experience.

Tania Saeed
Tanias@rediffmail



UNLIKE TEACHERS, HOWEVER, TECHNOLOGIES HAVE NO PREFERENCES for the schools in which they work. The resources available for the schools in which they work. The resources available to all schools with the same internet access costs the same for all schools in the same area, regardless of the student population served. Students are now easily accessing various online resources and reservoirs which meets their special requirement in respective fields of study

Digital Literacy: Hit or Miss?



Kouseen Jahangeer

At present, digital technologies have invaded all aspects of our life, schools are getting transformed into smart schools and online, on-demand, learner-centered learning is a universal reality, hence Digital literacy is the fundamental pre-requisite to be successful as a teacher in every aspect of educational life. Digital literacy is the engine of modern civilization and the driving force of the information age.

Digitally literate teachers see technology for all of its creative potential, rather than something they are mandated to do in a step-by-step fashion. Digital literacy doesn't require that teachers become experts, but it does require that they understand the digital tools that can unlock their deeper teaching potential. The more digitally literate our teachers are, the more they'll employ these skills in the classroom, which will in turn foster a strong sense of digital citizenship in our students. In a world where technology is playing a vital role in the teaching-learning process, students need more opportunities to learn how to brainstorm and think creatively in order to succeed to achieve their goals.

Challenges

Challenges that are associated with using digital literacy tools are fully understood and addressed; their failure is almost surely guaranteed till date. The majority of online learners feel difficulty maintaining self-discipline. Their inability to

achieve self-discipline is a serious concern, as we know self-discipline is indispensable for personal and professional growth.

Online learners have been subject to be introverted individuals. They have no social exposure; no social interaction. Online learners lack social interaction which devoid them of social learning opportunities. Indeed, social interaction plays a key role in our development and learning. We learn from society, people, and circumstances, hence social interaction is mandatory for learning.

There is an abundance of academic knowledge available on the internet for online learners. It becomes a challenge for them to sift right and desired content. Information management is yet another crucial challenge for online learners.

Opportunities

The opportunities associated with digital literacy are immense. Perhaps the most significant benefit of digital literacy is the ability to personalize learning. Years ago, a teacher could only dream about having the ability to design a curriculum that would be ideally suited to the skills, deficits, and preferences of every single student in the class. Rather, teachers had to be content with teaching to the average which often meant teaching to no one in particular and leaving many students to struggle with the material. But digital edtech tools make it possible for teachers to target instructional materials to each student. LMS systems can help with organization, data analytics can help with diagnosing student performance in a fine-grained way, and the wealth of digital resources means that teachers no longer need to re-invent the wheel for each activity. Increasing speed and availability of internet access can reduce many of the geographic constraints that disadvantage poor students face. Schools serving higher resourced families are often able to recruit better teachers and administrators.

Unlike teachers, however, technologies have no preferences for the schools in which they work. The resources available for the schools in which they work. The resources available to all schools with the same internet access costs the same for all schools in the same area, regardless of the student population served. Students are now easily accessing various online resources and reservoirs which meets their special requirement in respective fields of study.

Secondly, the evolution of touch-screen technology has enabled very young children to engage in technology-aided instruction. Prior to gadgets, it was difficult for pre-school, kindergarten and even early primary grade students.

Third, advances in artificial intelligence technology now allow teachers to differentiate instruction providing extra support and developmentally-appropriate material to students whose knowledge and skill is far below or above graduate level norms. The latest "intelligent" tutoring systems are able to not only assess a student's current weaknesses, but also diagnose why students are making specific errors.

The only thing that matches the promise of digital literacy tools is their peril-educators and other stakeholders will need to tread carefully to ensure that their students have the best possible educational environment.

Research Scholar Department of Education University of Kashmir. Email Jahangeeredu@gmail.com

Privacy In Internet Of Things. Are You Safe?

Roberto Yus | Primal Pappachan

Have you ever felt a creeping sensation that someone's watching you? Then you turn around and you don't see anything out of the ordinary. Depending on where you were, though, you might not have been completely imagining it. There are billions of things sensing you every day. They are everywhere, hidden in plain sight – inside your TV, fridge, car and office. These things know more about you than you might imagine, and many of them communicate that information over the internet.

Back in 2007, it would have been hard to imagine the revolution of useful apps and services that smartphones ushered in. But they came with a cost in terms of intrusiveness and loss of privacy. As computer scientists who study data management and privacy, we find that with internet connectivity extended to devices in homes, offices and cities, privacy is in more danger than ever.

Internet of Things

Your appliances, car and home are designed to make your life easier and automate tasks you perform daily: switch lights on and off when you enter and exit a room, remind you that your tomatoes are about to go bad, personalize the temperature of the house depending on the weather and preferences of each person in the household. To do their magic, they need the internet to reach out for help and correlate data. Without internet access, your smart thermostat can collect data about you, but it doesn't know what the weather forecast is, and it isn't powerful enough to process all of the information to decide what to do.

But it's not just the things in your home that are communicating over the internet. Workplaces, malls and cities are also becoming smarter, and the smart devices in those places have similar requirements. In fact, the Internet of Things (IoT) is already widely used in transport and logistics, agriculture and farm-



ing, and industry automation. There were around 22 billion internet-connected devices in use around the world in 2018, and the number is projected to grow to over 50 billion by 2030.

What these things know about you

Smart devices collect a wide range of data about their users. Smart security cameras and smart assistants are, in the end, cameras and microphones in your home that collect video and audio information about your presence and activities. On the less obvious end of the spectrum, things like smart TVs use cameras and microphones to spy on users, smart lightbulbs track your sleep and heart rate, and smart vacuum cleaners recognize objects in your home and map every inch of it.

Sometimes, this surveillance is marketed as a feature. For example, some Wi-Fi routers can collect information about users' whereabouts in the home and even coordinate with other smart devices to sense motion.

SMART DEVICES COLLECT A WIDE range of data about their users. Smart security cameras and smart assistants are, in the end, cameras and microphones in your home that collect video and audio information about your presence and activities

Manufacturers typically promise that only automated decision-making systems and not humans see your data. But this isn't always the case. For example, Amazon workers listen to some conversations with Alexa, transcribe them and annotate them, before feeding them into automated decision-making systems.

But even limiting access to personal data to automated decision making systems can have unwanted consequences. Any private data that is shared over the internet could be vulnerable to hackers anywhere in the world, and few consumer internet-connected devices are very secure.

Understand your vulnerabilities

With some devices, like smart speakers or cameras, users can occasionally turn them off for privacy. However, even when this is an option, disconnecting the devices from the internet can severely limit their usefulness. You also don't have that option when you're in workspaces, malls or smart cities, so you could be vulnerable even if you don't own smart devices.

Therefore, as a user, it is important to make an informed decision by understanding the trade-offs between privacy and comfort when buying, installing and using an internet-connected device. This is not always

easy. Studies have shown that, for example, owners of smart home personal assistants have an incomplete understanding of what data the devices collect, where the data is stored and who can access it.

Governments all over the world have introduced laws to protect privacy and give people more control over their data. Some examples are the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). Thanks to this, for instance, you can submit a Data Subject Access Request (DSAR) to the organization that collects your data from an internet-connected device. The organizations are required to respond to requests within those jurisdictions within a month explaining what data is collected, how it is used within the organization and whether it is shared with any third parties.

Limit the privacy damage

Regulations are an important step; however, their enforcement is likely to take a while to catch up with the ever-increasing population of internet-connected devices. In the meantime, there are things you can do to take advantage of some of the benefits of internet-connected without giving away an inordinate amount of personal data.

If you own a smart device, you can take steps to secure it and minimize risks to your privacy. The Federal Trade Commission offers suggestions on how to secure your internet-connected devices. Two key steps are updating the device's firmware regularly and going through its settings and disabling any data collection that is not related to what you want the device to do. The Online Trust Alliance provides additional tips and a checklist for consumers to ensure safe and private use of consumer internet-connected devices.

If you are on the fence about purchasing an internet-connected device, find out what data it captures and what the manufacturer's data management policies are from independent sources such as Mozilla's Privacy Not Included. By using this information, you can opt for a version of the smart device you want from a manufacturer that takes the privacy of its users seriously.

The author is Assistant Professor of Computer Science, University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Postdoctoral Scholar in Computer Science, Penn State respectively. The article is being reproduced with arrangements with The Conversation

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

FM Sitharaman Presents

the discussion on the same day. Congress member Manish Tewari and RSP member N K Premachandran objected to the motion moved by Sitharaman, contending that that the Rule 205 formed part of the basic rules of procedure and cannot be waived. Some rules are beyond the amending powers of the House, Tewari, a Congress member from Anandpur Sahib, said, arguing that the members required time to study the Budget proposals made by the government for Jammu and Kashmir. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said the discussion will take place after two hours. Rajendra Agarwal, who was in the Chair, said the business for the day was approved by Speaker Om Birla during the Business Advisory Committee meeting. Tewari said the duty of the Lok Sabha gets compounded as it was assuming the responsibility of the Jammu and Kashmir legislature, which ought to have taken up the matter. The government had not circulated the budget papers, he said while suggesting that the discussion be scheduled for Tuesday which would allow members to study the proposals and make reasoned arguments. Premachandran, the member from Kollam, said the minister had also sought a discussion on the budget proposals and the supplementary demand for grants together, which would go against the rules. Trinamool member Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the issue was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and it was agreed that the discussion on the J-K Budget will be taken up two hours after the presentation.

Oppn Seeks Restoration development in the Union Territory. Opposition parties also accused the government of not doing enough for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits. Congress leader Manish Tewari, who initiated the discussion, said that the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir was a cause of concern. He said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated “extremely noble sentiments” in her budget speech for Jammu and Kashmir but “ground realities are different”. The Congress MP said that when the government abrogated Article 370 and divided Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, it put forward two arguments - that Kashmir's merging with India will be strengthened as the state will be emotionally integrated, and the development there would be speeded up. The government had abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated it into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5, 2019. “Today 33 months have passed. Has the government been successful in achieving those objectives? I would like to state that the answer is no,” he said, arguing that the situation is more sensitive than it was in 2019 while citing figures of ceasefire violations. “Since April 2020, the situation in eastern Ladakh is extremely sensitive. The Chinese army is occupying those lands which India considers its own. “The situation has become more complex now since 2020 because of factors such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Imran Khan's visit to Moscow, the agreement between Russia and China on February 4. All this impacts the border areas of India,” he said. The Congress leader urged the government to seriously consider the question that whether the steps taken in 2019 have strengthened India's position in the border areas or its concerns have increased. Tewari said it was a matter of concern that the involvement of locals in militancy is going up. He said that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have stated in the House that a decision on Jammu and Kashmir's statehood will be taken soon, it has not been done. “Now we are in March 2022, but I want to ask when the government will act on the statements of the prime minister and home minister and when will Jammu and Kashmir's statehood be restored,” he asked. Tewari also flagged concerns of political parties over the delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir. Underlining that the interest of the Sikh community should be safeguarded, Tewari said they should be given representation in the legislature. The BJP on Monday dared the Congress to announce in Lok Sabha that it would restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir if it comes to power.

Intervening in the debate, Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh dared the Congress to announce in Lok Sabha that it would restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir if it comes to power. “Does the Congress party have the courage to say that it will restore Article 370 after coming to power... You don't say that. You want to beat about the bush and want to have it both ways,” he said. The minister said that Article 370, which was abrogated by the Modi government, had prevented the implementation of welfare measures like the prohibition of child marriages, prevention of corruption, anti-dowry legislation, right to information and SC/ST reservation. BJP's Jammu MP Jugal Kishore Sharma said power was misused when Article 370 was in force. Earlier, money was not used for development but for the benefit of certain families only, he said. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, employment is being generated and funds are made available for development projects, Sharma said. He alleged that Jammu used to be discriminated against earlier but that had changed now. Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy said that Jammu and Kashmir budget was about bureaucratic expenditure and not about the development of the Union Territory. He asserted that it was wrong to abrogate Article 370 and his party continues to oppose the decision “which was in pursuance of a slogan of 'one nation, one symbol and one constitution' given by Jan Sangh leader Syama Prasad Mukherjee”. Roy demanded that elections should be held at the earliest in Jammu and Kashmir so that a popular and representative government could assume office. The law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir has not improved since the abrogation of Article 370, he said, recalling the recent killings of 'sarpanchs' by militants. Supriya Sule (NCP) alleged that the government has not done anything for the displaced Kashmiris in the Budget. “The government talks a lot about Kashmiri Pandits, but in its Budget document, there is no mention about them,” she said adding “if you feel for them, please include them... let's not live only in a bubble, please deliver”. She said that the contention of the government that nothing had happened in the last 60 years has become “boring” and now they should come up with some “new dialogue”. The government had promised thousands of jobs, but nothing has happened at that front also, Sule alleged. That dialogue of what happened in the last 60 years has become boring now. You have had seven years now. If a child is malnourished, a mother will feed a child for seven years and make him/her healthy! she said. Sule said that the Modi government should not become a “prisoner of the past”, but should live in the present and move ahead. The government should tell what they are going to do for Kashmiri Pandits and discuss their future, she said adding the BJP members should visit the union territory and find out the ground realities. Raising questions about the Budget, she said the most worrisome number is GDP and debt ratio. “Why there are so many minuses...Smart city is a failed project,” Sule said. M S Reddy (YSRCP) said the Modi government has undertaken a lot of development works in Jammu and Kashmir. Observing that tourism was thriving in Kashmir, he urged the people to visit the Union Territory. Reddy also said that it was time for Jammu and Kashmir to develop its own sources of revenue as the Centre cannot indefinitely fund development activities in the Union Territory. JD (U) member Sunil Kumar Pintu said that the Budget will help in promoting the development of the union territory. “Special package is required to promote tourism in Jammu and Kashmir,” he said, adding now both domestic and foreign investors are showing keenness to invest. He also demanded that in the next year's Budget, provisions should be there for the development of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) also. Danish Ali (BSP) also demanded the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. “I would urge the government to conduct elections....it should not be blocked by giving the excuse of delimitation,” he said, asking how many Kashmiri Pandits have been rehabilitated by the government after the abrogation of article 370. Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJD)

suggested an adequate Budget be allocated for dealing with floods in Jammu and Kashmir and the development of rural areas to promote tourism. Jamyang Tsering Namgyal (BJP) said that Budget provisions should also be there for Aksai Chin and Pakistan-controlled-Kashmir (PcK). “After the abrogation of article 370, a new era has begun in Jammu and Kashmir,” he said adding development is happening at a faster pace and projects are being implemented in different sectors. The government has taken several steps such as distribution of domicile certificates, opening up of new colleges, increasing the number of seats, and implementation of centre and state sponsored schemes, Namgyal said. He added that investments too are coming in the union territory.

Education, Police

Union Territory, which has been facing over three decades of “Pakistan-sponsored terrorism”. Rs 11,832.77 crore has been earmarked for the education department, Rs 1129.59 crore for the planning department and Rs 232.43 crore for the information department. According to the papers presented in Lok Sabha, Rs 8768.09 crore has been allocated for the power department, Rs 1002.98 crore for the industry department and Rs 2835.39 crore for the agriculture department. Rs 6296.57 crore has been earmarked for the Public Works Department, Rs 7873.34 crore for the health department and Rs 3202.71 crore for the social welfare department. Sitharaman allocated Rs 507.9 crore for the tourism department, Rs 5443.17 crore for the rural development department and Rs 646.93 crore for the horticulture department.

Metro Rail

said that Kashmir will be connected to the rest of the country through a rail network by next year. “Elevated light metro rail in Jammu & Srinagar cities is expected to be rolled out in 2022-23. The project is likely to be completed by 2026. This will reduce the traffic congestion in Srinagar & Jammu cities,” she said. She said international flights have been started between Srinagar and Sharjah. “Besides, two new Airport Terminals are coming up at Jammu and Srinagar. Cargo facility has been provided at Jammu and Srinagar Airports for the convenience of farmers and businessmen,” she said—(KNO)

Delimitation Panel

and other areas. The same has been restored in the draft proposal put in the public domain by the Commission. The commission published the proposal, maintaining the number of Lok Sabha constituencies at five but increasing the assembly seats from the present 83 to 90 (adding six in Jammu and one in Kashmir). The detailed proposal, published in leading newspapers on Monday, also carried two dissenting notes signed by four of the five associate members - three National Conference Lok Sabha MPs (Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone) and BJP MP Jugal Kishore. Union Minister Jitendra Singh is the fifth associate member of the commission. Set up on March 6, 2020, with a one-year term to redraw Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies, the commission headed by former supreme court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai has been given two extensions of one year and two months, respectively, to complete its task. However, its draft proposals had evoked a strong reaction, especially from the opposition parties including the National Conference whose dissent note pertained to different assembly constituencies besides challenging the very constitution of the panel pending the Supreme Court verdict on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act. “...the present delimitation exercise, it is painful to point out, is neither in tune with the Constitution nor in consonance with law. The criteria, be it allocation of 7 increased Assembly constituencies or delimiting the constituencies and drawing boundaries of the constituencies is arbitrarily fixed and selectively applied,” the NC had said about the panel's report. The NC had said that delimitation exercise has to be conducted in a manner that the maximum population should be represented. “However, be it the allocation of additional seats or delimiting of the Assembly constituencies these principles have been very conveniently ignored”, it claimed. Opposing the annexing of Poonch and Rajouri areas in Anantnag seat, the NC said such a proposal “may be without a parallel in the history. Nowhere in such an exercise, two geographically different regions

separated by one of the highest mountain ranges inaccessible for most of the year must have been ever joined to form one constituency ignoring fundamental principles of contiguity, connectivity, convenience and compact area as required under law.” Notwithstanding the opposition, the notification said “...the Delimitation Commission hereby publishes its proposals for the delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, together with the dissenting proposals of the Associate Members, and specifies 21st March 2022 (Monday) as the date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it.” The advertisement signed by Secretary K N Bhar said any objections or suggestions on these proposals should reach the Secretary, Delimitation Commission, New Delhi, on or before March 21 following which the Commission will visit Jammu and Kashmir on March 28 and 29 for public sittings. It said Jammu and Kashmir will have a 90-seat Assembly (43 in Jammu and 47 in Kashmir) and, of them, seven segments will be reserved for SCs and nine for STs. Nine seats reserved for STs include Rajouri, Darhal and Thanna Mandi, all in Rajouri district, Surankote and Mendhar in Poonch district and Mahore in Reasi district (Jammu region); Gurez in Bandipora district, Kangan in Ganderbal district and Kokernag in Anantnag district (Kashmir division). All seven seats reserved for SCs fall in Jammu region including Ramnagar in Udhampur district, Kathua South in Kathua district, Ramgarh in Samba district, Bishnah, Suchetgarh, Marh and Akhnoor in Jammu district. While splitting Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories through the Reorganization Act in August 2019, the Union Home Ministry had increased Assembly seats of Jammu and Kashmir by seven taking total seats to 114, 24 of which are reserved for Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir (PcJK) while the election will be held for 90 seats. The erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir had 111 seats including 24 reserved for PcJK while elections were held for 87 seats. With the creation of Ladakh as Union Territory, four seats of the region were reduced and the Assembly was left with 83 seats. Delimitation of the Assembly constituencies was last held in 1994-95 during the President's Rule when seats of the erstwhile State Assembly were raised from 76 to 87

4 Charred To A spokesperson of the Fire and Emergency Services Department said they received a call about the fire around 6.10 pm and immediately rushed fire tenders to the spot. Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh also rushed to the scene to supervise the firefighting and rescue operation. “Over a dozen families were living in the building. The fire spread very fast, many of the residents could not escape immediately,” said a building resident Anwar Hussain. Another survivor, Yasmeena Khatoun, said the building residents lost everything in the fire. “We could not retrieve anything and tried to flee the raging fire,” she said, adding that many of her relatives are either injured or missing after the incident. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has consoled the loss of lives and sanctioned an ex-gratia of Rs.5 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs1 lakh each to the seriously injured. “Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to LPG cylinder blast at a scrap shop in Jammu. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for speedy recovery of the injured. Directed the district administration to provide all the necessary assistance,” Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson. “An ex-gratia of Rs.5 Lakh each to be given to the families of the deceased in Jammu LPG Cylinder blast incident. Ex gratia of Rs.1 lakh to be given to the seriously injured and Rs.25,000 to those with minor injuries,” he added.

4 Held Over soldier Malla from his residence. Accordingly, he said, after lodging a formal missing report, the search to trace the missing army man was launched. Three days after the missing complaint was filed, the spokesperson said that on March 10, police learnt about the digging of fresh soil at a spot between village Larkipora and Labran Khag. He said the body was recovered from the spot and a proper case under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation was vigorously taken up. “During the course of investigation, specific leads were generated which led to one suspect identified as Ather Illahi Sheikh,” he said. During questioning, the spokesperson said that Sheikh confessed that on March 6, three LeT militants came to his house and stayed there for night and next day pursuant to a well knit conspiracy the soldier was called by the Sheikh to his residence where from he was kidnapped by all the four and thereafter was taken to the spot where from the body was ultimately retrieved. After killing the soldier, he said, Sheikh got the shovel from his house which was used to bury the body. “The shovel was also recovered by the investigating team. Further investigation into the case is vigorously going on,” he added. The police also claimed to have cracked the murder case of a Sarpanch by arresting three alleged Hizbul Mujahideen militant associates. Divulging details, the spokesperson said that on March 11, militants barged into the house of Sarpanch Shabir Ahmad Mir of Adoor Kulgam and killed him after firing indiscriminately upon him. “In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation was got conducted through a special investigation team,” he said. During the course of investigation, the spokesperson said that it was learnt that an active HM militant Farooq Nali alias Umer had received directions from “terror handlers” based in Pakistan to target the PRI members of Kulgam. On their directions, the spokesperson said that Umer identified the target and gave direction accordingly to active HM militant namely Mushtaq Itoo alias Faizan and Zubair Sofi alias Farhan to execute the “terror act” with the support of their associates —Danish

said that more than Rs 50,000 crore have been invested by large industrial houses in the Union Territory. Admitting that unemployment continues to be a problem, he said that the government was focusing on providing livelihood to the people as it was impossible for any dispensation to provide government employment to everyone. On the law and order situation, Singh said there was a drastic fall in the number of infiltrations attempts by terrorists in the last couple of years. Only four such attempts were reported in the current financial year as compared to 489 before the Modi government came into power in 2014. He said that the Modi government has initiated the project of building a dam in the state to prevent the flow of river water that belongs to India under the Indus water treaty to Pakistan.

Kashmir Reports

while one was registered in Baramulla district. No fresh cases of infection were reported from the remaining eight districts of Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Anantnag, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian. In the winter capital, officials said, Doda recorded five new cases of virus and two each in Jammu and Samba districts. The remaining seven districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi detected no new cases of Covid-19. “Moreover, 37 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 15 from Jammu Division and 22 from Kashmir Division,” they said. Also, the officials said that the death toll due to pandemic remained unchanged at 4750 in J&K, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

MP Cops To Get

Chouhan said that the movie is a “heart-wrenching narration of the pain, suffering, struggle, and trauma faced by Kashmiri Hindus in the 90s”. Goa caretaker Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has also said that ‘The Kashmir Files’ would be screened with maximum possible shows in the state.

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Ahmad Dar, Faisal Hameed Wagay and Nisar Rashid Bhat. “The directions included to conduct recce of the Sarpanch's presence, arrange transport and provide logistics to execute the terror act,” he said. After strenuous efforts, the spokesperson said police arrested the three militant associates involved in the crime and besides seizing the vehicles used in the commission of crime also seized arms & ammunition including 2 Pistols, 3 Pistol Magazines, 11 Pistol rounds, 2 grenades, 1 AK Magazine, and 15 AK47 rounds and other incriminating materials. “The investigation of the case is going on and based on the investigation more arrests and recoveries are also expected. Efforts are on to neutralise the terrorists involved in this heinous crime,” he added.

Not Urbanization

one of the grossly overlooked factors is the role of the geological and structural setting of the piggyback Kashmir basin in flood hazards. “Therefore, the present work was aimed to review the previous works on the structural setting of the basin with the main focus on the flood river hazards in the Jhelum River,” reads the abstract. Pertinently, the four experts have used 30-m spatial resolution shuttle radar topography, bedrock geology, drainage pattern, topographic profile, and knick point data to investigate the formation and development of the Jhelum river. “These data are related to the historical and previously published data on floods to understand the dominant factor that controls the flood hazards in the Kashmir basin,” the four authors noted. Notably, the present study has also suggested that the structurally piggyback basin development is the single-most-important cause of “drainage development, asymmetrical nature of Jhelum watershed, tilting, and formation of the Jhelum River, which are directly controlling the behavior of flooding and flood hazards in the basin”. The report further notes that although the climate and urbanization based arguments are important aspects that do contribute toward the flood hazards, however, the historical and contemporary data on the magnitude and intensity of flood hazards in the Kashmir basin in the combination with the new data suggest “that flood hazards have occurred in the past when these factors were not part of the standard scientific discourse on floods.” Notably, the final report is expected to be made public in the coming days.

Two IAS Officers Government, Abhishek Sharma, Mission Director, SBM-U 2.0 has been assigned the charge of the post of Mission Director, DAY-NULM in addition to his own duties. Similarly, Akshay Labroo, Mission Director, AMRUT 2.0 has been assigned to hold the charge of Mission Director, PMAY-U in addition to his own duties.

4 Cops Injured on Monday afternoon injuring at least four policemen. The cops who suffered burn injuries in the explosion have been identified as Mohammad Musa, Nazir Ahmed and Raju Sharma and Suraj Kumar. Initially, they were shifted to sub-district hospital Bhaderwah and later referred to GMC Doda, the officials said, adding they have suffered 30 to 40 per cent burn injuries. Kumar, a Special Police Officer (SPO) was discharged after first aid, the officials said.

3 Poachers Arrested on the basis of information provided by the Range officer Wildlife control room Srinagar that three men were poaching migratory birds at Narkarah wetland in the central Kashmir district, reports said Monday. The police team, reports said recovered 3 single bore guns, 5 cartridges, and a cell phone from the possession of the accused. According to the reports, a case FIR number 65/2022 under section 428/IPC, 51 wild life act 3/25 has been registered at the Police Station Budgam and further investigations are in progress.

Youth Found the body into their custody. According to reports, police found an identity card inside the pocket of the dead youth. It identifies him as 25-year-old Showkat Ahmed Gorsi of Ahlan Gadool. Meanwhile, the body was shifted to the Sub-District Hospital Bijbehara for carrying out medico-legal formalities.

Media In J&K Being 'Choked' Due To Local Admin Curbs: PCI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A three-member fact finding committee (FFC) of the Press Council of India on Jammu and Kashmir has said that the news media in the Union Territory, especially in the valley, is "slowly being choked" due to extensive curbs imposed by the local administration.

Six months after the PCI set up the FFC headed by Prakash Dubey (convenor) with members Suman Gupta and Gurbir Singh on a complaint by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti in September last year, it has submitted its report to the council which is yet to debate and adopt it.

The PCI is a statutory quasi-judicial body which acts as a press watchdog.

In its report last week, the FFC said news media in the Jammu and Kashmir region, and especially in the valley is slowly being choked mainly because of the extensive curbs imposed by the local administration.

Our conclusion and recommendation is very specific: those indulging in any criminal acts, are not journalists pursuing their profession. If a journalist is bearing arms or carrying grenades and other ammunition, he is not a journalist; he is a militant, and should be treated as such," the FFC said after meeting all stakeholders in its visits to twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

However, the security establishment cannot label writing against government policies, or quoting a family or civilian sources in a story about excesses of the armed forces, or tweeting a point of view as fake news' or anti-national activity' and then arresting the journalist for sedition. It is not the business of journalists to support government policies or development work, it said.

It said a journalist's job is to report the news as it happens, even if it is unpalatable to government officials.

"The tendency to see all critical reporting and opinions as anti-national' must stop. A conflict zone has many players and many aspects of events that unfold. A journalist cannot and should not ignore the government version; at the same time, he is not the spokesperson of the government, the report said.

The report noted with concern that the public relations work of various government departments has been taken over by the police.

"This should cease as it is against the letter and spirit of the functioning of the various arms of a democratic government, it said.

Journalists rely on communication networks like the Internet, and access to events and persons to gather and transmit news," the report said, seeking restoration of these normal privileges of news gathering.

A government has the power to snuff these out as we have seen in the case of J&K. Restricted internet facilities after the abrogation of Article 370 on 5th August 2019, the suspension of internet mobile connectivity whenever there is a conflict situation and denying access to journalists to scenes of an armed encounter are all methods that have developed to choke free and fair news gathering in J&K, it said.

The report said journalists have high level of stress due to constant pressure from the government agencies and police as well as militants and they are still managing to do their job in such a hostile environment which is commendable.

"At a broader level, because of the continuing conflict, the business of news media has been severely disrupted in the region and sources of advertising are slowly withering away, it said, adding print media

Journalist Fahad Shah Booked Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Journalist Fahad Shah, who was arrested by police last month for allegedly glorifying militancy among other charges, has been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), his lawyer said here on Monday.

Shah has been booked under the PSA, a day before his bail application was scheduled to come up for hearing, the journalist's lawyer, Umair Ronga said here.

Ronga said the authorities had sensed that Shah will get bail on Tuesday, so they booked him under the PSA to prolong his detention.

I am in consultation with his family and we will knock on the doors of the High Court as well as the Supreme Court to get justice, the lawyer said.

Police has said Shah is wanted in three cases in Srinagar, Shopian and Pulwama for "glorifying terrorism, spreading fake news, and inciting general public in Jammu and Kashmir for creating law and order situations.

Ronga said his client was granted bail in one case on March 5, but was arrested within hours in connection with another case.

especially, which has large overhead costs, is hardly sustainable anymore.

It said the normal lines of communication between the local government administration and journalists have been disrupted because of the former's suspicion that a large number of local journalists are sympathisers of the militants' cause.

This was admitted by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who frankly told the FFC that many journalists were of 'anti-national' persuasion. He conceded that when he was first appointed, he used to encourage open press conferences, but now had gone back to a 'selective engagement' with preferred journalists, the report said.

The report recommended stopping of intimidation, arrests and detention under draconian laws, underlining that it has recorded numerous cases of journalists being subject to interrogation, threatened and made to fill irrelevant profiling documents.

We have listed cases of journalists being summoned to the dreaded Cargo Centre' for questioning a location reserved for interrogation for armed militants. Officially, the police have conceded to the FFC that as many as 49 journalists have been arrested and charged since 2016, not a small number considering that J&K has a very small press corps, it said.

Of these, the report said eight have been arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), which makes bail almost impossible.

Demanding restoration of rights and privileges of the Kashmir Press Club, the FFC said it was a legal, representative body with a membership of over 300 journalists.

In January, the Jammu and Kashmir administration cancelled the allotment of building and land which housed Srinagar's Kashmir Press Club after it was taken over by a group of journalists flanked by police. The premises were handed back to the estates department.

There is no convincing reason on why the body was superseded and put in cold storage. In a democracy, journalist bodies not only should be allowed to flourish; but their views should be sought and respected, it said.

Private Schools To Lose Registration For Violating Transportation Norms



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department on Monday said that it will cancel the registration of those private schools that flouts the transportation guidelines or were disallowing desirous students to avail the facility.

The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) said that with the reopening of schools after the winter break 2021-22, various complaints were received that the management of various educational institutions and schools are not providing transport facilities to the students as was being provided earlier.

It has been learnt that the Senior Superintendent of Police—Traffic Srinagar has also reported that the parents are using their private vehicles to pick and drop their kids to the schools as a result of which a huge number of

such vehicles are parked outside the school premises causing congestion and obstruction to the smooth flow of traffic.

"It is also alleged that the private schools are demanding payment of advance transport fee either for full session or 50 per cent of total transport fee and the schools also seek an undertaking from the parents regarding advance payment of transport fee," DSEK said.

It also said that the Committee for Fixation and Regulation of fee of Private Schools has already issued an order to all the school managements of private schools.

"There should be an increase of 12 percent in transport fee which was being paid by the students availing the transport facility in October-2019" DSEK said.

Quoting the orders of FFRC, the DSEK said, "This hike will be operative from the date of re-

opening of schools after winter break; besides no private school shall seek any undertaking from parent or the students for advance tuition fee and transport fee. Moreover the parents are at liberty to pay the fee monthly or quarterly."

DSEK impressed upon all the administrators of private schools to adhere to the instructions in letter and spirit. "The school management shall ensure availability of transport facility to the all desirous students and the instructions issued by the FFRC shall be strictly adhered to."

DSEK also said that in ease of any deviation, strict action as warranted under provisions of law shall be initiated against the particular school which may include de-recognition of the school and suspension of affiliation with respective boards Viz JKBOSE and CBSE—(KNO)

People Can Get Fard-e-Intikhab, Mutations Online Soon: CS

Says Digital Transformation Of Revenue Administration To Bring Openness, Speed Up Decision Making

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday said that the ongoing digital transformation of revenue administration will bring openness and speed in the decision making and improve the delivery of service in next three months.

He said that the issues of land demarcation and incorporation of new entries in the land records have always been the cause of concern and the ongoing digitization of land records will fully address these concerns.

Mehta said that adoption of digital technologies in the revenue department will facilitate online provision of fard intikhab and mutations and also ensure that no transaction is done in the land records of the land owners without their knowledge.

He made these comments in the review meeting of UT Capex of the Revenue Department, which was attended, amongst others, by Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Shaleen Kabra, and Commissioner Secretary, Revenue, Vijay Kumar Biduri.

Earlier FCR, Revenue informed that all tehsildars/naib tehsildars will be provided laptops, while the officers down below will be provided tabs for automation of mutations etc. to help improve the overall working of the department at the cutting edge level.

He said switch to mobilize gov-

ernance is also being contemplated and a mobile app will be developed shortly to support the land transactions on the smartphones.

Commissioner Secretary, Revenue informed that the digital hardware for revenue governance at the leading edge level will be in place by March, 2022, and for sustained momentum, necessary financial support for the purpose will be ensured during the next year as well.

The Chief Secretary directed for ensuring that laptops/tabs are given to the identified revenue functionaries within scheduled time, while further adding that an appropriate mobile app should also be developed to facilitate mobile governance.

He directed the department to ensure that one room in patwar khanas in each patwar halqa is reserved for patwaris for public meetings for at least two hours for four days in a week.

He further directed to ensure that the names of tehsildars/naib-tehsildars/girdawars/patwaris and their mobile numbers are permanently displayed on the walls of these buildings along with helpline numbers to enable the visitor(s) to lodge their complaints on these help lines in case the revenue officials/patwaris are not available for public meetings.

Reiterating his earlier directions, Mehta asked the department to ensure that land passbooks are distributed to the land owners in

two districts, Jammu and Srinagar, by 31st, March, 2022 and to all the land owners in the remaining district by 15th August, 2022.

Saying that the mechanism of addressing the complaints of the land owners has to be strengthened within the departments, the Chief Secretary directed for setting up dedicated 24X7 revenue help lines besides designating a whatsapp number of an officer at an appropriate level in the department exclusively for receiving the complaints/suggestions/inputs from the land owners.

The Chief Secretary said that the department should re-align its spending focus on creating an enabling digital ecosystem instead of setting up physical infrastructure in the shape of buildings etc.

Mehta advised the department to ensure that the UT's own software of digitization of the revenue records is made a part of service plus and also integrated with RAS.

He said that this software application in time would need to be converged with the NIC software for digitalization of land records.

The Chief Secretary further directed the department to launch awareness campaigns for not only educating the people about the ongoing digital transformation, but also for urging them to register their Aadhaar/mobile numbers with the departments for benefitting from the e-services in the department.

After 37 Year Wait, Landowner Locks School Gate in Kangan

Agencies

GANDERBAL: A Kangan resident locked the gates of a school built on the land he had donated for it some 37 years back with a promise of a job by the authorities. The closure of the school building in Razen Gund area of Kangan township in the district has forced students to attend classes in the open, reports said.

"When I arrived at the school I found gates locked and students waiting outside", Headmaster Government Middle School Razen, Nisar Ahmed Balkhi said.

"We tried to persuade the landowner but he didn't budge and claimed that the School Education Department failed to fulfill the promise made to him 37 years ago that he will be given a government job in the Education Department," Balkhi said. We called Sarpanch (Village head) and Panchs but even they failed to persuade the land owner.

The Headmaster said they are imparting classes in the open now.

When contacted, the landowner Abdul Rahim Bhat son of Muhammad Abdullah Bhat said that he offered the land free of cost for the construction of the Middle School in 1985 with a promise that a permanent job in the Education Department will be given to him or any other member of his family.

"Earlier too, I locked the school for a few days, but then again I was assured of getting a job. I suffered a lot and now I am not going to listen to anyone," Bhat said, adding that he has been temporarily working in the school for a meager salary of Rs 275 a month.

"Now I do not want a permanent job nor any compensation. I just want my land back," he pleaded.

The Sarpanch of the area said that the matter has been taken up with SDM and hopefully the issue will be resolved.

Advisor Khan Discusses Policy For Fair Price Shops Allotment, Regulation In J&K

Says Document Will Bring Added Transparency In Existing System, Improve FPS Viability



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan on Monday emphasized the need for putting in place a comprehensive policy for allotment of Fair Price Shops (FPS) at par with other states and Union Territories to bring added transparency in the existing system besides improving FPS viability.

Advisor stated this while chairing a meeting of Food, Civil Services and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department to discuss modalities regarding formulation of policy for establishment of new Fair Price Shops (FPS) and subsequent regulations thereof in the Union Territory.

Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Zubair Ahmad; Director FCS&CA Kashmir, senior officers from FCS&CA Jammu and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through online mode.

Spelling out the broad contours of the policy, he said that the new document will also provide a sound legal mechanism to regulate and strengthen the PDS in Jammu and Kashmir keeping in view the norms of the Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2015, of Government of India.

A threadbare discussion was held over the issues with respect to allotment of Ration

Depots being envisioned in the new policy.

The meeting was held in the backdrop of receiving various inputs and suggestions from stakeholders, especially from ration dealers. It discussed the enhancing of souls and ration card holders from the existing cap to the revised one for the new FPS.

Advisor suggested that special provisions should be incorporated for the areas where no private person would be coming to open FPS in the area. He asked the concerned to examine the flexibility in certain rules for the areas where there are physical barriers like hilly terrains, rivers, etc.

While highlighting the importance of this exercise, Advisor Khan said that after the policy would be put in place, it will not only ensure smooth flow of the Public Distribution System but will also help in increasing the income of people who are or will be running these FPS.

He said the new policy will replace the age-old ration distribution with little dependency on government run ration Depots.

The meeting also discussed the provisions in the policy like issuance or renewal of licenses, wastage and guidelines to address it, advance commission to ration dealers, etc.

DC Kulgam Orders Pace On Major Projects

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Monday chaired a meeting of officers at conference hall of DC office, here to take stock of physical and financial achievements made under District Capex, Area Development Fund, NABARD and other schemes.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed status of major work projects which includes officers residential quarters at Liroo, Conference Hall, Finance complex and other work projects which are under execution by various executing agencies.

He instructed the concerned officers to complete atleast 2 Residential blocks at Liroo in all respects within few days of the current

month. He directed to scale up the pace of work on all work projects which are under execution in the district and complete them within stipulated time.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed physical and financial achievements recorded under District Capex, PRI grants and other schemes.

It was informed that out of 70 works under the execution of R&B and taken up under district capex and NABARD, Untied, NFB, 34 stands completed whereas various other works are at final stage of completion. It was further informed that in health sector out of 74 works under PRI grants 72 stands completed.

Moreover in elementary and secondary education an expenditure of Rs. 1.54 crore has been made against the releases of 2.51 crore.

PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

‘Steering JK Towards Highest Echelons Of Rural Emancipation’

Three Tiers Of Grassroots Level Democracy Established In UT For First Time Since Independence

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), through which the self-government of villages is realized, have been entrusted with task of "economic development, strengthening social justice and implementation of Central and State Government Schemes at grassroots level, an official spokesperson said Monday.

He said that the modern Panchayati Raj system was formalized and introduced in India in April 1999 as the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution.

Under this system, the spokesperson said that an institution of 'empowered local government' is established with devolution of Functions, Funds and Func-

tionaries (3Fs) to give people not only the voice but the power of choice as well.

"The essence of Panchayati Raj is participatory local governance with bottom-up inputs into development process. It is part of a broader strategy of new ways of looking at and implementing participatory development in the light of a fresh parameter of 'inclusion' in governance," he said.

The spokesperson said that Panchayati Raj has assumed importance for the democracy to ensure peoples' participation for equitable development and social empowerment in a transparent and accountable manner.

While people across India enjoyed the right to elect local representatives, he said, the same

freedom was not exercised in Jammu and Kashmir.

"It is only after the abolition of article 370, the Union Cabinet on October 21, 2020 approved adoption of Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989, paving way for local body elections in the Union Territory. It ensured establishment of all three tiers of grass root level democracy in the UT of J&K for the first time since independence," he said.

"In a fresh impetus towards strengthening grassroots democracy, free, fair and peaceful panchayat elections were held in the UT which led to the constitution of vibrant Panchayati Raj institutions here. In a significant achievement, these panchayat elections recorded a substantial

74.1 per cent voter turnout. A total of 3650 sarpanchs and 23660 panchs were elected to lay foundation for 3-tier Panchayati Raj system for the first time across J&K," he added.

After successful conduct of Panchayat elections, the spokesperson said that elections for Block Development Councils (BDCs) were conducted for the very first time in the history of J&K. He said that the BDC elections saw an overwhelming voter turnout of 98.3 per cent in which 276 chairpersons were elected in a total transparent manner.

"Finally, District Development Council elections were held in 8 phases which witnessed tremendous voter turnout of 51.7 per cent. The process elected 20

DDC Chairpersons and 20 Vice Chairpersons besides a total of 278 DDC members were also elected thus completing the implementation of 3-tier Panchayati Raj system in its total form," he added.

After amendment of Panchayati Raj Act 1989, 27 subjects were transferred as part of 73rd amendment in the constitution.

Following establishment of three tier Panchayati Raj system in J&K, Rs. 1727.50 crore have been devolved under MGNREGA, Mid Day Meal scheme and ICDS. In addition, 1889 Panchayat Accounts Assistants and 317 Panchayat Secretaries were recruited besides panchayats have been empowered to conduct social audit and grievance redressal.

DDC Srinagar Declares Sqay Championship Open

Releases Calendar of activities 2022-23

About 200 Girl Sqay players participating in the event



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday inaugurated UT level Sqay Martial Art competitions for Boys & Girls during an impressive function organized by District Youth Services & Sports Office at Youth Hostel, here.

The DDC while declaring UT level Inter district championship open, stressed upon the stakeholders to provide every possible help for the deserving and desirous youth of the UT for showcasing their talent in different fields especially sports.

Congratulating the organizers for such initiatives, Asad hoped that the department would carry forward the legacy of channelizing the sports talent of youth across J&K.

The DDC also released the Activity Calendar of DYSSO Srinagar for the year 2022-23.

Joint Director Youth Services

and Sports Kashmir, Bashir Ahmad presented a detailed report about the activities of the department during his welcome address. He stated that District Srinagar figured among the best 7 districts in terms of sports during the previous academic session at National Level.

The school girls selected from various districts of the UT are participating in the Mega Championship which is being organized under the supervision of Principal Secretary to Government Youth Services and Sports department Alok Kumar and Director of the department Ganfar Ali.

Er. Aijaz Ahmad DDC Member Srinagar, DYSSO Srinagar Balbir Singh and many other senior officers and officials of the department were also present on this occasion.

The guests also interacted with the participating players/teams that are representing different districts in the UT level tournament.

Director Tourism Unveils Medals For Upcoming Snow Shoe Championship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Tourism, Kashmir Dr GN Itoo on Monday unveiled the medals, customised T-Shirts and caps for the upcoming National Snow Shoe Championship that is going to be held at Gulmarg, Kashmir from March 18 to 21.

The championship being organised under the auspices of Snow Shoe Federation of India will witness participation of more than 100 athletes, both male and female from 14 State and Union territories.

On the occasion, the Director unveiled medals and other souvenirs for the championship.

Speaking about the event, Dr GN Itoo said that sport of Snow Shoe is getting popular all over India and the National competition is going to witness participation from almost every part of Country. He wished his best to the participants and the organizers.

Senior officers of the Department besides President Ski Mountaineering Association of India, Rauf Trambo and other officials were present on the occasion.

DYSSO Shopian Flags-Off 3 Teams To Jammu



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO), Shopian, Gurmukh Singh Dutta Monday flagged-off UT level 3 teams viz. Volleyball U-19, Boys to Rajouri, Kho-Kho U-17, Boys to Udhampur and Kabaddi U-17 Boys to Kathua from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Shopian to participate in their respective games, there.

The tour for these teams is being arranged by the DYSSO with the objective to provide a platform to that they can exhibit their talents and improve their match temperament.

Dutta said that the aim of the flag-off is to promote these games and that our students may get exposure and get benefited.

He also advised the supporting staff and the Mentor to not allow any player to visit any other place or market for any shopping etc. He advised all the players and staff for strict compliance of guidelines to tackle covid i.e. using mask at all times, washing hands regularly, avoiding handshakes with other players during match or post match ceremonies, etc.

Among others District Information Officer, Shopian, Showkat Ahmed Khan, Incharge YSS, Riyaz Ahmed Wachkoo and officers and officials of DYSS were present.

Block Level Inter Panchayat Tournament Concludes At Bhaderwah

Observer News Service

BHADERWAH: Inter Panchayat Block Level Tournament for U17 Boys and Girls, organised under the patronage of District Development Commissioner Doda Vikas Sharma, concluded on Monday at Bhaderwah.

The Sports event was held under the guidance of District Youth Sports and Services Officer Jaffar Haider Sheikh and over all supervision of ZEPO Bhaderwah Bipen Jaryal.

The matches were played in the disciplines of Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Chess, Carrom, and Athletics.

Around 250 student players & non-students drawn from 18 Panchayats and 3 wards participated in the Sansad Khel Spardha tournament.

The selected teams in this tournament would play in District Level Inter Block Sansad Khel Spardha tournament to be held at District Head Quarter Doda.

India Complete Lankan Series-Whitewash With Massive 238-Run Win



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: India extinguished whatever little spark Sri Lanka showed and wrapped up the second Test inside three days for a comprehensive 238-run win, completing a 2-0 whitewash of the Islanders, here on Monday.

A Herculean task at hand, Sri Lanka took the field on the third day with a lot of determination but it was always going to be tough to negotiate the Indian attack on a track that has been offering turn and uneven bounce from day one.

Resuming at 28 for one in pursuit of an improbable 447-run target, the Sri Lankan batters, led by skipper Dimuth Karunaratne (107), resisted the Indian attack for some time before folding for 208 in the post-tea session.

Left-handed Karunaratne, one of the most consistent performers for Sri Lanka in recent times, raised his 14th Test century with a boundary off

Jasprit Bumrah. He took some time to settle but worked the ball around swiftly, consistently placing them in the gaps.

Bumrah (3/23) eventually sent him back with slightly seaming ball that beat his bat to shatter the stumps. The lethal Indian fast bowler, who consistently made life tough for the Lankans, returned with match figures of 8 for 47, having taken a fiver at home for the first time in the first innings.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4/55), Axar Patel (2/37) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/48) did their bit in wrapping up the Lankan innings. India now have won all three pink-ball Tests at home, having beaten Bangladesh (in Kolkata, 2019) and England (in Ahmedabad, 2021) before.

Two wins against Sri Lanka fetched India 24 points but Rohit Sharma's men remain in fifth position in World Championship table due to 'low percentage points' (54.16). They have 77 points in their kitty. Mendis completed his fifty with

a single off Jadeja but was beaten by flight on an Ashwin delivery and was stumped by Rishabh Pant.

That brought about the end of their fighting 96-run stand for the second wicket.

From there on, it was a downward slide for the visitors. Jadeja cleaned up Angelo Mathews (1) and Ashwin had Dhananjaya de Silva (4) caught at forward short-leg.

Karunaratne was ruled caught behind by umpire off Jadeja but the Lankan skipper survived, using DRS with replay showing that the ball had kissed the thigh pad and the bat before reaching Pant's gloves.

He completed his fifty with a single off Axar, who replaced Ashwin from the pavilion end.

Axar broke the 55-run stand when he had Dickwella stumped and also sent back Charith Asalanka (5) by having him caught in backward short leg, where skipper Rohit Sharma took simple catch.

Like the first innings, Dickwella did not build on a start.

Shreyas Iyer Named ICC 'POTM'

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Fast-rising India batter Shreyas Iyer was on Monday voted the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' for February, while New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr bagged the honour among women.

Iyer earned the award on the back of his brilliant white-ball exploits during the home series against the West Indies and Sri Lanka respectively last month.

He pipped UAE's Vriitya Aravind and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee to claim the honour.

The right-hander struck a well-crafted, match-winning 80 in the third ODI against the West Indies in Ahmedabad and followed it up with a brisk 16-ball 25 in the closing game of the subsequent three-match T20I series.

He was even better in the T20I series against Sri Lanka, aggregating 204

runs without being dismissed across three in-

highly impressive strike-rate of 174.36.

He registered scores of 57*(28), 74*(44) and 73*(45) across three games, while striking 20 fours and seven sixes collectively in a Player of the Series performance.

"Throughout the month Shreyas showed tremendous consistency and control," remarked former Sri Lanka cricketer and voting panel member Russell Arnold.

"He totally dominated opposition bowlers and proved very hard to bowl at, scoring runs all-round the

series. What really stood out for me was his composure as he battles for a regular place in the India lineup."

The 27-year-old has carried his form in the ongoing month too, having produced an outstanding 92 in the first innings of the ongoing second Test against Sri Lanka in Bangalore.

Kerr, the 21-year-old New Zealand all-rounder, was named the Women's POTM, following her supreme consistency with both bat and ball during the home white-ball series against India.

Kerr was chosen ahead of fellow nominees, India captain Mithali Raj and all-rounder Deepti Sharma for the award. The Wellington-born is already being hailed as one of the best women cricketers of the modern era.

Punjab Kings Get Power-Hitting Coach Julian Ross Wood

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Punjab Kings have hired former England first-class cricketer Julian Ross Wood as their batting consultant, with emphasis on power-hitting, ahead of the Indian Premier League beginning March 26.

Wood is considered a pioneer in power-hitting coaching having worked with players across IPL, the Big Bash League and other T20 leagues.

He has individually worked with the likes of Ben Stokes, Prithvi Shaw, Sam Billings and Carlos Brathwaite on the science of staying still and hitting the ball out of the park.

The 53-year-old will work on the Punjab batters alongside assistant coach Jonty Rhodes, who has been given the additional responsibility this season besides the fielding department.

"We are jubilant to announce Julian Ross Wood as our new batting consultant for #TAIPL2022," the team wrote on



social media.

The franchise had a fairly successful auction as they roped in the likes of Jonny Bairstow, Shikhar Dhawan, Liam Livingstone, Kagiso Rabada and Shahrukh Khan.

Punjab had Wood on their radar for the last two years but were finally able to secure his services last week.

Wood had been approached by other IPL teams in the past but the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to his late arrival in the world's biggest T20 league.

"We wanted him earlier as well but it did not materialise.

We were tracking his work for the past two years and he teaches a must have skill to the batters," a Punjab Kings team source told PTI.

"We too have a bunch of power-hitters in the squad and they can also pick the brain of someone like Wood. It was Jonty who first spotted him and we are happy to have him on board," added the team source.

Punjab badly need a turnaround in their fortunes, having finished 6th out of 8 teams in the past three seasons. Their only final appearance came in 2014.

Women's World Cup: Bangladesh Make History With 9-Run Win Over Pakistan



Press Trust of India

HAMILTON: Opener Sidra Ameen's 104 went in vain as Pakistan committed harakiri to hand debutants Bangladesh a nine-run win, their first-ever victory in the ICC Women's ODI World Cup here on Monday.

Chasing 235 to win, Ameen gave Pakistan a flying start, forging a 91-run partnership with Nahida Khan (43) for the first wicket and then added another 64 runs with Bismah Maroof (31).

With Ameen going strong, Pakistan were well on course for a successful chase, reaching 183 for two but Fahima Khatun (3/38) turned the match on its head with three quick wickets as Pakistan inexplicably lost five of their batters for just five runs to slip to 188 for seven and were eventually restricted to 225 for nine.

Khatun picked up the wickets of Omaira Sohail (10), Aliya Riaz (0) and Fatima Sana (0), while Rumana Ahmed removed Nida Dar (0) before centurion Ameen fell for a run-out to end Pakistan's hope.

Featuring in their first women's World Cup, Bangladesh had lost their first two games against South Africa and New Zealand, while

Pakistan slumped to their fourth defeat in as many matches and 18th successive loss in the event.

Earlier, invited to bat, Bangladesh scored 234 for seven, riding on Fargana Hoque's 71 and some useful contributions from Sharmin Akhter (44) and skipper Nigar Sultana (46).

Hoque shared 96 runs for the third wicket with Sultana to lay the foundation as Bangladesh posted their highest total in ODIs.

Hoque and Sultana brought up their fifty-run partnership in 73 balls and then took Bangladesh across the 150-mark in the 37th over.

Hoque completed her fifty in 89 balls but Sultana, who had scored her only boundary off Fatima, was sent packing by just five runs to slip to 188 for seven and were eventually restricted to 225 for nine.

Sandhu then claimed three quick wickets, including two off successive balls in the 47th over, to prevent Bangladesh from accelerating in the death overs.

She first removed Rumana Ahmed in the 45th over before returning to get rid of Hoque and Fahima Khatun in two balls as Bangladesh could score only 59 for the loss of four wickets in the last 10 overs.

Pakistan Bundled Out For 148, Australia Extends Lead To 489



Agencies

KARACHI: Mitchell Starc snapped up three wickets to help Australia take complete control against a tired Pakistan side on the third day of the second test on Monday.

Pakistan, replying to Australia's huge first-innings total of 556-9 declared, was bowled out for just 148 after having spent more than two days toiling in the field.

Australia, touring Pakistan for the first time since 1998, then decided not to enforce the follow-on as it raced to 81-1 in 17 overs by the close — a lead of 489 runs.

Marnus Labuschagne was unbeaten on 37 and first-innings centurion Usman Khawaja was not out on 35.

Earlier, last-wicket pair Nauman Ali (20 not out) and Shaheen Afridi (19) shared a stand of 30, the highest of Pakistan's innings, before debutant Mitchell Swepson (2-32) trapped Afridi lbw with a full delivery.

Starc didn't take a wicket on a lifeless pitch in the drawn first test in Rawalpindi, but this time Pakistan

was undone by some superb reverse swing from the left-arm fast bowler.

Captain Babar Azam (36) top-scored before holing out at long off against leg-spinner Swepson.

Australia was brilliant in the field. Labuschagne hit the stumps to run out Hasan Ali while Swepson did likewise to remove Abdullah Shafique.

Starc removed Azhar Ali and Fawad Alam with successive deliveries, and also made a successful television referral against Sajid Khan after he edged to the wicketkeeper.

Pakistan lost six wickets between lunch and tea for just 62 runs.

Pat Cummins (34 not out) helped add a rapid 51 runs at the start of the day after Australia resumed on 505-8.

Despite losing Starc (28) to the second ball, which gave Afridi his only wicket, Cummins and Swepson (15 not out) scored freely against spinners Nauman and Sajid Khan.

Cummins lofted two sixes off left-arm Nauman, who ended up with 1-134 from 48 overs. Sajid took 2-167 from 57 overs. (AP)

UAE Authorities Order Arrests Over Rare Riot At Football Match



Agencies

DUBAI: A soccer game in the United Arab Emirates erupted into violent scuffles between angry fans of opposing teams, a rare scene of chaos that led authorities to call for the arrest of "all rioters."

Public prosecutors in the capital of Abu Dhabi issued an order Sunday to arrest those who instigated the riot at the match between the Al Ain and Al Wahda clubs, warning authorities "will respond firmly" and urging "sportsmanship among club fans to avoid endangering the lives and safety of others."

The statement on the UAE's state-run news agency WAM did not offer details on the number of arrested.

Footage posted on social media showed Emirati fans streaming onto the field in their traditional white kanduras and start attacking players as security guards rushed to restrain them.

Other video showed groups of men beating and flinging shoes at each other in the stadium stands. At least one spectator appeared to be injured lying on the ground as rival fans brawled. It wasn't clear how many people were injured in the riot.