



P3 CITY

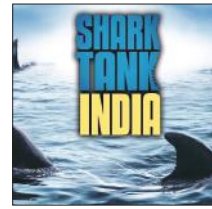
DC SGR REVIEWS RESTORATION OF WETLANDS

In order to review the progress and follow up action regarding wetlands outside the forest and protected areas, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at

P5

SHARK TANK INDIA: NEW ERA OF INVESTING & ENTREPRENEURSHIP?

The ever growing Indian middle-class is known for being a conservative and risk-averse investor. Financial investments in volatile markets like stocks, bonds and cryptocurrencies have been erroneously labelled as 'taking a gamble' on



P7 STATE

AMIT SHAH ATTENDS CRPF'S 83RD RAISING DAY PARADE IN JAMMU

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) conducted its Raising Day parade outside its Delhi headquarters for the first time on Saturday with Union Home Minister



Quote!
Happy is the man who can make a living by his hobby
-George Bernard Shaw

NEWS DIGEST

Youth Drowns To Death In Shopian

SRINAGAR: A youth drowned to death in Nallah Romshi at Gandawali area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday. Official sources said that a youth while crossing nallah Romshi slipped and drowned into the nallah. They said the rescue operation was launched and he was removed to **More on P6**

Electric Shock Injures PDD Worker

SRINAGAR: A casual labourer of Power Development Department (PDD) was admitted to hospital after he suffered injuries while repairing a HT-wire at Batpora area of Kunzar in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Waseem Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Muhammad Mir **More on P6**

Newborn's Body Found In Rajouri

RAJOURI: The body of a newborn baby boy was on Saturday evening found lying at a garbage dumping site near a river in Gujjar Mandi area of Rajouri town. As per police, some people spotted the body of a new-born baby, lying in garbage on the bank of Darhali river under Abdullah bridge of **More on P6**

5 New Covid Cases In Ladakh

LEH: Ladakh reported five new Covid cases on Saturday as the infection tally rose to 28,200, officials said. The number of active cases stands at 47 -- 45 in Leh and two in Kargil, they said. According to officials, there was no Covid-related death in the Union Territory, which has so far recorded 228 fatalities linked to the pandemic since **More on P6**

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Ishad Ahmad: 7006276927

Central Forces Have 'Decisive Control' Over Militancy: Amit Shah Says Article-370 Revocation Led To Inclusive Development In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have taken "decisive control" of the fight against militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday and asserted that abrogation of Article 370 has resulted in inclusive development.

He also lauded the efforts of the local administration in its crusade against corruption and taking developmental activities to new heights in the Union Territory.

The abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 resulted in inclusive development of all sections of society, including the deprived. Democracy has also been successfully taken to the village level, he said.

The article, which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and



Kashmir, was revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019, and the state was bifurcated into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Addressing the 83rd raising day parade of the Central

Reserve Police Force (CRPF) here, Shah said after Narendra Modi became prime minister, Jammu and Kashmir has seen a sea of changes as democracy was strengthened and taken to the village level.

"Today, over 30,000 people are elected members of panchayats. There is panch and sarpanch in every village and they are guiding the developmental activities in their villages. Tehsil **More on P6**

TODAY, OVER 30,000 PEOPLE ARE ELECTED MEMBERS of panchayats. There is panch and sarpanch in every village and they are guiding the developmental activities in their villages. Tehsil and district panchayats were formed and the Modi-led government has been successful in taking the Panchayati Raj system to the ground level."

17 Districts In J&K Corona Free

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In what seems to be an end to the third wave of Coronavirus, Jammu and Kashmir registered on Saturday just three new cases of infection while no fresh fatality was reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, two fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were reported from Kashmir Valley and a single case from Jammu division, the lowest ever daily count since the third wave of Covid-19 engulfed the Union Territory.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar was the only district to detected two new cases of Coronavirus. The remaining nine districts of Budgam, Kupwara, Baramulla, Pulwama, Kulgam, Anantnag, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Shopian reported no fresh cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu district reported a single case of virus while no fresh cases were detected in the remaining nine districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch, Samba, Doda, Reasi and Ramban.

"Moreover, 29 more COVID-19 patients **More on P6**

NIA Court Frames Charges Under UAPA Against Yasin Malik Others

Agencies

NEW DELHI: A National Investigation Agency (NIA) court has framed charges against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and others under various sections of UAPA in connection with a militant funding case.

Charges have also been framed against Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Shah, Masarat Alam, former MLA Engineer Rashid, Nayeem Khan, Farooq Ahmad alias Bitta Karate businessman Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali Aftab Ahmad Shah, Avatar Ahmad Shah and Bashir Ahmed Bhat, alias Peer Saifullah and several others for "criminal conspiracy, waging war against the country" and other unlawful activities.

In the order dated March 16, the NIA special judge Praveen Singh said: "The above analysis reflects that the statements of witnesses



and documentary evidence have connected almost all the accused with each other and to a common object of secession, to the commonality of means they were to use, their close association to terrorist/terrorist organisations under the guiding hand and funding of Pakistani establishment."

Notably, the court has discharged three namely Kamran Yusuf, Javed Ahmad Bhatt and Syedah Aasiya Firdous Andrabi. The case related to the various militant outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM), Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Jaish-e-Mohammed

(JeM) were perpetrating militancy and secessionist activities that disturbed the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The court had noted that, during arguments, none of the accused has argued that individually they do not have a secessionist ideology or agenda or that they have not worked for secession or advocated for the secession of the erstwhile state of Jammu Kashmir from the Government of India.

Witnesses after witnesses have deposed that APHC, its factions after division and JRL had only one object and that was the secession of Jammu Kashmir **More on P6**

BESIDES YASIN MALIK, SHABBIR SHAH, MASARAT ALAM, Engineer Rashid, businessman Zahoor Watali, Bitta Karate, Aftab Ahmad Shah & Naem Khan have been booked under UAPA

Calls For Proactive Anti-Militancy Ops

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and laid emphasis on proactive operations against militants and choking their logistical and financial support systems. Shah said the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero cross-border infiltration and to eliminate militancy completely in order to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. Shah, who is on a two-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir, reviewed the security situation here with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and senior officers of the central government and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, an official spokesman said. He appreciated the improvement in **More on P6**

J&K Witnessing Rail, Road Infra Development: Minister

Press Trust Of India

Jabalpur: Rapid rail and road infrastructure development has brought about positive socio-economic changes in Jammu and Kashmir, including rise in tourist footfalls, Union Minister Prahlaad Patel said here on Saturday.

Queried about the recently-released film 'Kashmir Files', he said he understood the pain of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits as he had earlier visited some of their camps.

"Rail and road infrastructure

has been expanded and strengthened in Kashmir. A record number of tourists from different parts of the country have visited Kashmir after the lifting of coronavirus lockdown curbs," Patel told reporters on the sidelines of a Holi Milan programme here.

The Union Jal Shakti Minister said plans were afoot to enhance tap water schemes in J-K, while houses were being built at a fast pace under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana there.

Speaking on 'The Kashmir Files', Patel said **More on P6**

'Shab-E-Bar'at' Observed Across Kashmir Valley

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: 'Shab-e-Barat' was observed across the Kashmir valley with night-long prayers at major mosques and shrines even as no congregation was allowed at the historic Jamia Masjid here, officials said on Saturday.

Devotees thronged mosques and shrines on Friday night to pray and participate in the recitation

of the Holy Quran, while preachers and religious scholars highlighted the importance of the night and the teachings of Islam.

'Shab-e-Barat' is observed by Muslims on the intervening night of 14th and 15th Sha'ban the eighth month of the Islamic calendar.

However, no prayers were allowed at the Jamia Masjid in the Nowhatta area of the city, the officials said. **More on P6**

Din, Dearth, Disorder —How Firefighting Is Getting Tough In Srinagar

Auqib Javeed

Following the Barzulla blaze cinderling the sole bone and joint hospital of Kashmir, Srinagar has witnessed back to back fire incidents making people wonder about the growing spark.

While the concerned citizenry is blaming the lack of firefighting infrastructure, the firemen are decrying street bravado and bottlenecks for the failed rescue operations.

"We know how to deal with these fire incidents but we lack a permanent water source in the city," says Bashir Ahmed Shah, Deputy Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Kashmir.

"Recently, a fire broke out in

the Batamallu area of the city and we didn't have enough water to doze off the flames. There wasn't any source nearby. The Jhelum was far away from these houses. We used 16 fire tenders but it didn't work. Then we arranged water from Jhelum by connecting three pumps with other fire tenders."

But in the congested city mostly devoid of fire gaps, Jhelum is not always the savior. The practical hitches and scarcity of water points make the whole process a tough task for the firefighters.

In a freewheeling interview with Kashmir Observer, top fireman Bashir A. Shah talks about the factors sparking frequent

fire incidents in the city.

Why's Srinagar suddenly rising up in flames?

Well, as compared to other major cities of the country, Srinagar witnesses more fire incidents in all seasons. And the main reason remains our choice of construction.

Kashmiris live in combustible-type houses with wooden ceilings and panelling. This composition makes our shelters prone to fire.

The presence of LPG cylinders, electric heaters, kerosene stoves and electronic blankets during winter makes the situation even more flammable. Any leak or spark



is enough to burn the whole house. Throughout my 35 years of fireman experience, I've seen how the combustible nature of

infrastructure sparks the fire. But how is the Fire and Emergency Department dealing with this frequent fire situation

in the summer capital?

See, we know how to deal with these fire incidents but we lack a permanent water source in the city.

When flames recently erupted from Batamallu area of Srinagar, we didn't have enough water to doze off the situation.

After 16 fire tenders didn't help, we looked for other water source nearby. There was none—before we arranged water from faraway Jhelum by joining three pumps to fire tenders.

But people often complain about the late arrival of fire tenders.

See, the main problem is the pin-point location, which

people fail to give us at the right time. Especially during the night, we've to seek directions to reach on time. The distress callers need to be very specific about locations.

Barring that, the traffic jams can be a problem at times. But we've a rule that within a minute after receiving a call, we've to leave that station along with that fire tender.

But even if the fire tender reaches the spot on time, why aren't they able to save the properties?

That's not true. If we don't reach on time, the fire can turn the whole congested **More on P6**



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Climate Change May Cause Longer, More Intense Allergy Seasons

IAN S

Increasing temperatures caused by human made climate change and rise in carbon dioxide levels are likely to drive trees, grasses, weeds to produce more pollen, resulting in longer and more intense allergy seasons, according to a study. The research from the University of Michigan showed that by the end of this century, pollen emissions could begin 40 days earlier in the spring than we saw between 1995 and 2014. Allergy sufferers could see that season last an additional 19 days before high pollen counts may subside. In addition, thanks to rising temperatures and increasing CO2 levels, the annual amount of pollen emitted each year could increase up to 200 per cent. "Pollen-induced respiratory allergies are getting worse with climate change," said Yingxiao Zhang, graduate student research assistant from the varsity. "Our findings can be a starting point for



further investigations into the consequence of climate change on pollen and corresponding health effects," Zhang added, in the paper published in the journal Nature Communications.

The team developed a predictive model that examines 15 of the most common pollen types and how their production will be impacted by projected changes in temperatures and precipitation.

They combined climate data along with socioeconomic scenarios, correlating their modeling with the data from 1995 through 2014. They then used their model to predict pollen emissions for the last two decades of the 21st century. Allergies symptoms run the gamut from the mildly irritating, such as watery eyes, sneezing or rashes, to more serious conditions, such as difficulty breathing or anaphylaxis. The grasses, weeds and trees that produce pollen are affected by climate change. Increased temperatures cause them to activate earlier than their historical norms. Hotter temperatures can also increase the amount of pollen produced. The modelling developed by the team could eventually allow for allergy season predictions targeted to different geographical regions, said Allison Steiner, Professor of climate and space sciences and engineering, at the varsity. "We're hoping to include our pollen

emissions model within a national air quality forecasting system to provide improved and climate-sensitive forecasts to the public," she said.

The team developed a predictive model that examines 15 of the most common pollen types and how their production will be impacted by projected changes in temperatures and precipitation.

SCHOLARSHIPS THIS WEEK

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



Scholarship Name 1: L&T Build India Scholarship 2022

Description: L&T Build India Scholarship 2022 is an initiative of L&T Construction for final year engineering students. This scholarship aims to support the study of meritorious students from the core Civil/Electrical engineering stream.

Eligibility: Open for candidates pursuing final year B.E./B.Tech. degree from core Civil Engineering & Core Electrical Engineering.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 13,400 per month and other benefits.
Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LAB7

Scholarship Name 2: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology 2022

Description: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology 2022 is a prize that will be awarded for research contributions made by citizens of India during the last 5 years.
Eligibility: Open for Indian citizens who are below 45 years of age as of 31 December of the year preceding the year of the Prize and be engaged in research in any field of Science and Technology.
Prizes & Rewards: INR 5 lakh
Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SBP2

Scholarship Name 3: Kotak Shiksha Nidhi
Description: Kotak Shiksha Nidhi invites applications from school and college students who have lost a primary earning member of their family due to COVID-19, for continuity of their education from Class 1st to diploma and graduation level courses.
Eligibility: Loss of both parents
Loss of one of the parents
Loss of primary earning member of the family (other than parents)
Applicants must be school or college going students aged between age 6 to 22 years i.e., class 1 to diploma or graduation course
Prizes & Rewards: Terms and Conditions Apply. Selection and the quantum of assistance under Kotak Shiksha Nidhi will be based on fulfilment of the eligibility criteria and will be at the discretion of Kotak Education Foundation.
Last Date to Apply: 31-03-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KSFA1

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and Sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved family member Nefar W/o Riyaz Ahmad Sheikh R/o Zaindar Mohalla Habbakadal. May Almighty accord peace to departed Soul. Her Fateh Khawani will be held on Monday 21 March at 10:30 am at her ancestral graveyard Zainadar Mohalla Habbakada; Sgr

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVILWORKS

SINGLECOVERSYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender NIT No. 384 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No.25205-14 Dated.18.03.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv.	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contractor
2	Development of Cluster Tribal Village Hariganwan Ganiwan-A, Ganiwan-B, Mammer-B b.w.o Upgradation of road b.w.o Earth Cutting from PMGSY road Kachapatri end point to Jamia Masjid Sharief Kachapatri at mammer Kangan.	3	Rs. 28.64 Lacs	Rs.1100/=	5	20-Days	CSS BEE/AAV

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18/03/2022 from 6.00PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	18/03/2022 from 6.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	24/03/2022 upto 4.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	25/03/2022 at 10.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal. Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal within 07 (seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.
- The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.
- Note:- All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through email message on their email address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- (A). Instruction to bidders regarding tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bidders with submission process.
- Top participants in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per times scheduled in the tender notice.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Bid Security Declaration, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

No.25205-14

Dated:18-03-22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

From The office of Abid Rasool & Ashiq Hussain Bhat Advocates and Associates at District court Anantnag.

- Mohd Yaqoob Shah
S/o Mukhta Shah
- Aijaz Ahmad Shah V/S PUBLIC AT LARGE (Non Caveators)
S/o Mohd Yaqoob Shah
Resident of Nambal Mattan Anantnag (Caveators)

Caveators are having apprehension that Non Caveators may file any case against the Caveators before the Hon'ble Court, In case the do so, The Caveators may be given opportunity of being heard before passing any order.

Date :- 19/03/2022

rna

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office of the Assistant Director Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Anantnag.

Email: Capdang121@gmail.comPhone/ Fax: 0193222951

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public of District Anantnag that the PDS-Kerosene Oil will be distributed to AAY/PHH ration cards as per the SRO 285@ 3.00 liters/per ration card for the month of March 2022.

In case of any complaint regarding K Oil distribution and to know the Quota of kerosene oil that has been allotted to the dealer of your area please contact office of the Assistant Director personally or call on 01932222951, 7006463655, and 7889949219.

Assistant Director,
FCS & CA Anantnag

rna

Public Notice

I have lost my driving license bearing DL No: 41992k. 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 to the RTO Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Abdul Majeed Mangnoo
S/o Gh Qadir Mangnoo R/o Bongam Shopain

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URBAN MISERIES

Foreshore Shalimar Link Road In Shambles

PEOPLE SPEAK

The link road between Foreshore and Shalimar is in shambles. The road connects Foreshore road with the city outskirts. Commuters have long complained of bumpy rides yet authorities have failed to get the road blacktopped.

Srinagar is a city with natural beauty. This city has a lot to offer. Dal Lake, beautiful mountains and the mighty Chinars. Roads in Srinagar should complement the beauty in our city. But to our disappointment, city roads are in shambles. The Shalimar-Foreshore link route is just stigmatizing the beauty and giving back aches.

Sheikh Arsh
Journalist

The road is full of potholes and travelling on this road in winter months has been very difficult. This road has not been macadamized in the last few years. The authorities are developing a park in the nearby area but neglecting this vital road for reasons better known to them. I am a university student and have to commute daily. For travelling a distance of few minutes we have to spend half an hour.

IfrahMushtaq
Student

The road holds a special significance from a touristic perspective. The locality hosts Shalimar garden which attracts a large number of tourists. Apart from causing problems for local commuters, it is maligning the image of Kashmir as a top tourist destination. The road is in the dilapidated condition since many years. Instead of making it an Asphalt road, government should consider making it a cement concrete road.

Shadab Abbas
Businessman



Development of the Shalimar canal connecting Shalimar garden and Foreshore road has been taken under Srinagar Smart city as one of the key Tourism Development Projects. In addition to macadamization, the entire canal will be developed on modern

lines with bridges and pathways to beautify the entire stretch. It is a big project and tenders have been floated in this regard.

Athar Aamir Khan
Commissioner SMC

Pedestrian Crushed To Death At Lal Bazar

Agencies

Srinagar: A pedestrian was killed after he was hit by an unknown vehicle at Lalbazar area of Srinagar on Saturday evening.

Official sources said that a pedestrian identified as Syed Rafiq Rizvi of Srinagar was hit by an unknown vehicle at Lal bazar this evening.

He was rushed to SKIMS Soura in critical condition, where he succumbed to his injuries, they said.

Meanwhile, Police has taken cognizance of the incident and a case under FIR number 9/2022 has been registered and further investigations are going on.(KNO)

People Voluntarily Demolish Encroachments Around Gilsar & Khushalsar Lakes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Days after the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad AijazAsad visited historical water bodies of the City including Gilsar and Khushalsar during which he urged the local residents for voluntary demolition of encroachments, an anti-encroachment drive was carried out around Gilsar and Khushalsar Lakes.

During the voluntary demolition several encroachments were removed by the people on their own in presence of Tehsildar Eidgah, Ishfaq Ahmad Khan, as they witnessed that the water bodies have been cleaned and made navigable again after several decades which will revive the tourism to boost the local economy.



While appreciating this step DC said community participation is making the Mission Jal sustainable and augurs well for unleashing tourism potential around the water bodies.

It is pertinent to mention that the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar in his last visit to the area met a number of locals and had appealed to

them to extend their full cooperation in restoration, conservation and preservation of historical water bodies of Srinagar including Gilsar and Khushalsar. He had called for a devoted community participation for complete sustainability of the restored glory of the water bodies.

Meanwhile, the District

Administration launched a massive anti-encroachment drive in the Guptganga area in Nishat and on the first day over 50 kanals of Kahchhari land was retrieved. The drive has been launched on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner by the Revenue team headed by Tehsildar North, Mohammad Altaf.

DC Sgr Reviews Restoration Of Wetlands

Agencies

Srinagar: In order to review the progress and follow up action regarding wetlands outside the forest and protected areas, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad here at Meeting Hall of DC office Complex.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, FazlulHaseeb, the meeting was attended by Regional Wildlife Warden, Executive Engineer, I&FC, DFO Urban, Officers of Environment & Ecology and Pollution Control Board, Tehsildars of Eidgah, Shalteng, North and Khanayar and other Districts.

The meeting held a detailed discussion on the action plan and progress of work undertaken with regard to protection of environment, besides preservation, conservation and restoration of



File Pic

various water bodies in the District including Hokersar, Khushalsar, Gilsar, Sarband, Babademb and Anchaar.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that the Conservation Management Plan has been finalized and various works are being carried out for rejuvenation & preservation of water bodies.

The Deputy commissioner stressed on proper coordination among the line departments to achieve the target in a set timeline.

With regard to solid

waste management, the DC asked the SMC authorities to prepare DPRs for proposed 40 STPs within 15 days and ensure all other works are completed in a time bound manner so as to abide by the directions of NGT.

The DC also directed the concerned to expedite the process of erecting entry and exit gates at Hokersar. He assured the officers of Hokersar conservation that additional funds shall be provided to meet out the expenses for purchasing of new boats.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my school records as Uzair Majeed A/o Abdul Majeed Ahanger while the correct spelling is Uzair Majid S/o Abdul Majid Ahanger which need immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office to the Al Noor Model Public School Dobiwan within a period of seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Uzair Majid S/o Abdul Majid Ahanger

bmj

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, BUDGAM CONVENER DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY, BUDGAM

Beti Bachao ---- Beti Padhao

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to Notice for Quotation for Flex Banners & Other Items issued by this office & published in Rising Kashmir on 17/03/2022 Kindly ready at point no. 09 of terms & conditions as under

The sealed cover shall be submitted to “Chief Medical Officer”. The last date and time of submission of tenders shall be 31-03/2022, 4:00 pm. The tenders shall be sent by registered post or by courier or dropped in a box specifically kept in Chief Medical's Office. The said tender shall be opened on 04/04/2022 at 11:30 Hrs in presence of the suppliers/ dealers or their representatives, who wish to be present. at that time.

Chief Medical
Officer Budgam

DIPK-19814/21

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
 CALENDAR**
 16 Shaban
 1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 12
ZUHR	12:40
ASR	4:58
Magrib	6:45
ISHA	8: 05

This Day In History

- 1942 - General Douglas MacArthur vows "I came through and I shall return" after escaping Japanese-occupied Philippines
- 1942 - Major German assault on Malta
- 1943 - German U-384 bombed & sinks
- 1944 - Mount Vesuvius in Italy erupts
- 1945 - US 70th Infantry division and 7th Armour division attack Saar
- 1951 - Indonesian army offensive against Darul Islam on Java
- 1952 - Final ratification of peace treaty restoring sovereignty to Japan by US Senate
- 1956 - Tunisia gains independence from France
- 1956 - USSR performs nuclear test
- 1957 - Britain accepts NATO offer to mediate in Cyprus, but Greece rejects it
- 1964 - ESR0 established, European Space Research Organization
- 1968 - Military intervene in South-Yemen (leftist ministers resign)
- 1977 - Communists and socialists win French municipal elections
- 1979 - Columbia flies on Shuttle carrier aircraft to Kennedy Space Center
- 1987 - NASA launches Palapa B2P.

From KO Archives

Govt nod for Mughal Road

Srinagar: The residents of Kashmir have expressed their happiness over the government's go ahead for the repair of the old Mughal Road that once linked Poonch district of Jammu with the Kashmir Valley.

The government has decided to resume work on the afore-said alternative road project that will link the Kashmir Valley with Jammu -the state's winter capital. The road is called as Mughal road as it was the route toed by the Mughal's to visit India during the 17th and the 18th century. Asarai (resting place) at Shadimarag is still witness to the grandeur of Mughal carvans passing through this road.

By now, the lone. 300-kilometre national highway was the only link between Jammu and Srinagar, which often gets blocked due to frequent snowfall and landslides.

More than 350 people died this year when the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the main lifeline, was cut off from the rest of the country due to the worst snowfalls in several decades.

The government has now given go ahead to the Mughal Road, which once completed will link Poonch district of Jammu with the Kashmir Valley.

"This road should be constructed. It will greatly help us. It takes us two-three days for us to reach Srinagar. We can reach Srinagar the same day once this road is completed. I am very thankful to the government," said Abdul Rashid at Thanamandi.

Mukhtar Ahmed, another local, said, "Once the road is completed, business activity will also pick up. Roadside hotels will come up as more passengers will come here. Moreover, it will take much less time to reach Kashmir Valley."

Work on the road was stopped due to security concerns, as the army feared that the road may enhance the mobility of the militants in the militancy infested Poonch district.

The 89-kilometre stretch was first taken up for execution in 1979 when there was no sign of militancy in the state. The construction of the road was simultaneously started from two sides- Shopian on the Kashmir side and Bafliaz on the Poonch side. However, the construction was not completed.

Five hundred years ago, Mughal emperor Akbar's legions marched down this road to defeat King Yousuf Shah Chak and integrate Kashmir with the rest of his empire. Now the state is looking again to the 84-km-long Mughal Road for much the same reasons.

The urgency of the Mughal road comes because of the unpredictability of the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

"Unpredictability" is actually a mild term for the vulnerability of the Jammu-Srinagar highway. Scanty rain or heavy snowfall, the sole roadlink between Kashmir and the rest of the country is known to collapse at the least provocation But the death of more than 200 villager in settlement barely two hours away from the snowed-up highway has perhaps driven home the urgency of the situation like little else could have.

Running past fields of maize, pine groves, lush meadows and gushing streams. 84 km of the Mughal Road will reconnect Shopian in Kashmir to Bafliaz in the Poonch district of Jammu, cutting travel time considerably. At present the road, which cuts through the Pir Panjal mountain range, is motorable upto Sarbal. 20 km from the apple-rich belt of Shopian. While the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway is 300 km long, the Mughal Road between Jammu and Srinagar stretches 190 km.

The Mughal Road apart from shortening the distance of journey between Jammu & Srinagar would also create an environment, which would help in, greater Inter Regional Culture and Economic exchanges. The geographical isolation of the specific areas, which discouraged people to people contacts, will end and greater economic activity between the regions would follow

(Kashmir Observer, 20 March, 2005)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



“Kashmir is the best product to sell in this part of the world, its people as well. No one has spared the opportunity to do so”
@Samkaul
“All Biden is doing is selling US weapons to Ukraine - killing more civilians.
1. Putin win is a foregone conclusion.
2. US credibility as reliable partner has nosedived
3. NATO has been deterred by Russia. It lacks funds, new techs, war concepts, training to fight modern war!”
@PravinSawhney
“The Congress will literally lose election after election instead of going to therapy”
@asmitabee

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

EU’s Praise And Practice

Effusive praise for the chief minister, Omar Abdullah, from European Union delegates visiting the state presently may have been well deserved, but Jammu and Kashmir is loaded with troubles far outweighing the comfort of having a personable, savvy and articulate chief executive.
The EU’s ritual sorties into Kashmir, mainly aimed at updating itself on the latest lie of the land and taking the political pulse of the region, are more an intelligence gathering exercise disguised as a diplomatic mission rather than a concrete effort to untangle the badly snarled strands of sub-continental discourse. The concern, legitimate from their own point of view, is not to be caught on the wrong foot when framing the next statement on the subject. True to their calling, the visiting diplomats are at pains to offend no side – therefore the mandatory interaction with the pro-freedom camp. Curiously though, the delegations, originating from an ongoing and profitable experiment in dismantling barriers between peoples and nations, seem wary of sharing the virtues of this enterprise with their interlocutors here. But that is another subject. Of immediate concern here are the more material expectations the European Union raises in Kashmir given its level of development, expertise and economic prowess. Some of them were voiced by the chief minister when he called for institutional European help in tackling unemployment, mainly by way of capacity building and developing small and medium entrepreneurship, which according to Mr. Abdullah, has the potential of generating over 4 lakh jobs if expanded by 25 per cent.
Though this can take time to fructify should the EU feel so generously inclined, the issue on which it could take prompt action, as again pointed out by the chief minister, is to ask member nations to withdraw the adverse travel advisories

The new tourist season is round the corner, and the European Union could be of immense help in taking a realistic view on these advisories soon, which could encourage other nations to follow suit

responded in kind by taking Kashmir off its list of forbidden regions.
The European Union would like itself to be seen as a stabilizing influence for the trouble spots of world, and Kashmir is perhaps the most amenable and receptive to its alleviating ministrations. The shadowy interlinking of long-standing conflicts leave no part of the world immune to their harmful fallout, direct or indirect, and as such, the EU has a security stake in calming the strategically important Himalayan territory down. True, New Delhi brooks no interference in what it calls its internal affairs, but the international community has played a definite role in the recent past in nudging it to engage with its neighbour in a productive peace process. Hopefully, the EU will sustain that role.
Since it is not burdened with the abrasive, high-handed and overweening image of the US, the European Union is viewed with far less suspicion on the streets of Kashmir. Its cautiously worded pronouncements do not ruffle feathers in New Delhi, and therefore its interest in Kashmir is less likely to evoke resentment from any quarter. Backed by skillful diplomacy, it could well act as an engine for change in Kashmir in spheres as varied as industry and environment, having an enviable record on both.
The article is an Editorial from KO Archives and was originally published on June 12,2010



Has Vladimir Putin killed the European Union?

Wajahat Qazi

Vladimir Putin, by forcing a war on Ukraine, may or may not succeed in his war aims but the Russian president has rejigged and reordered world politics and international relations. The most poignant impact of the invasion might be on the European Union (EU) – an ambitious union forged out of ideals the need and desire to prevent recrudescence of or banish war from the subcontinent, supersede nationalism and balance of power politics. All these aims were interrelated. By forging a super-state predicated on a normative consensus, it was believed that the EU, by the theoretical grid of functionalism, then ne-functionalism and later by a network effect, would ‘widen’ and ‘deepen’. While it was or is a different matter that Europe, as an entity, had inherent limits that the EU forged ahead, albeit on a ‘multi-speed basis ultimately reaching a union of 27 states.
That there was some recidivism – the backsliding of Hungary and to some extent Poland, plus issues of a financial and economic nature, it did not detract from the overall momentum of the Union. The EU’s ‘creed’(if there was any) was a focus and emphasis on multilateralism, disavowal of force in international relation, a minimalism defence budget of its constituent states ,

premised , it would appear on non-offensive defence allied to a foreign policy that eluded consensus. In essence, it can be boldly stated that the EU was a free trade area at large (maddening regulations notwithstanding). While there may have been the notion of equality of all states comprising the Union (a convenient fiction), the prosaic reality was and is that at the heart of the EU lay core Europe- France and Germany, nations whose perennial rivalry in the history of Europe was a bane for the region.(It may be that to tie the two great nations together into a crosscutting grid and framework was the real agenda of the architects of the EU).
Semantically, the EU was the real and actual United Nations of the world, where states or nation states voluntarily abdicated or pooled their sovereignty toward a common purpose; as opposed to the real UN where nation states, notionally paid lip service to the organization but actually was a venue for power plays and power politics thereof. As the EU ‘widened’ and ‘deepened’, structural issues emerged but the entity’s real test in terms of foreign policy and clout in the rough and tumble of international relations was the second Gulf War where it was left helpless and even clueless. The post-modern experiment in international relations was left brutally exposed. Within, economically, the EU de-

These are among the obvious issues, challenges and questions that the EU faces. No easy solutions present themselves. But whatever course of action the EU will or will have to adopt, will alter not only the complexion but the very nature of the European Union

veloped a ‘fortress Europe’ mentality, a paradigm to protect its social bargain but one that left immigrants to the entity generally as wards of the constituent states, neither functionally nor emotionally integrated. But, the EU meandered on.
Fast forward to the third decade of the 21st century. Vladimir Putin, or more accurately Putinism, a kind of a quasi-esoteric movement that seeks to reclaim and reconstitute Russia’s past glory, has forced a reckoning on the EU. The questions

that the entity faces are: can it, on its own, stand up to Putin’s Russia? Should it be part of a Western conglomerate that includes the US and which stands up to Putin? What would the former and the latter entail? Either way, if it is a confrontational dynamic, how to decouple from the gas markets? But more importantly, if again it is to be an escalatory and confrontational dynamic, should the EU be the junior partner of the US or strike on its own with a loose coupling with the US? Against the potential of a shadow alliance between China and Russia, what trade orientation should the EU adopt vis a vis China?
These are among the obvious issues, challenges and questions that the EU faces. No easy solutions present themselves. But whatever course of action the EU will or will have to adopt, will alter not only the complexion but the very nature of the European Union.
Consider a factual. Germany and its ‘rainbow coalition’ post the Ukrainian invasion has increased its defence spending and made a decision to arm Ukrainians in their struggle against Russia. Obviously, this won’t be taken kindly by Russia and there is, as per game theory and the prisoner’s dilemma, going to be an escalatory spiral. The percentages that Germany has devoted to its defence spending by a logic and momentum of their own will only go up. Germany might find itself in a position where there might not be any cap on its defence spending. And, taking recourse to speculation, if its exports to China dry up and supply chains get scuttled, its major recourse to prop up employment and substitute for these losses in the national income would be to reorient some of its industry to armaments production. In a classic replay of the security dilemma, Germany may, at some point in time, forego dependence on extended nuclear dependence and opt to go nuclear. Admittedly, these are scenarios but if these come to pass, they will undercut and undermine the very nature of project EU.
The region will once again become militarized, out of necessity and maybe even split. But to prevent the EU from being a militarized zone and splitting, some degree of militarization of the region might have to be countenanced. This is the paradox that Vladimir Putin has forced on the EU. How it all pans out will or might be one of the most interesting aspects and features of 21st century world politics.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a writer and columnist based in Srinagar

The Unbearable Lightness Of Being Ukraine

Darryl Accone

Among many conflicting ideas about the relationship between Ukraine and Russia, two stand out. Propagated by Western leaders and media, one is that Russia is smashing the architecture of global security by attacking Ukraine. The other, laid out by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is that Nato and the West have already redesigned that architecture by expanding the former despite guarantees to the contrary from the latter to Russia.
Reality makes for uncomfortable consideration because the undertaking not to expand includes Nato not entertaining Ukraine’s bid for membership. Russia has been so involved with the Nato problem that at one point it even raised the possibility of becoming a member itself, only to be ignored. In a different world, or if the past had played out another way, the Russian attack need not have happened.
But the security of Russia has always been uppermost in the minds of its rulers. Ukraine provided a highway to the Russian heartland for the invading Nazi armies in 1941, who were further aided by pro-Nazi factions in Ukraine, the primitive ancestors to today’s Ukrainian neo-Nazis. Given that, Putin’s strategic sensitivity to Ukraine joining the other side, and holding a knife at the Russian heartland, is easy to understand.
Acting as though that potential had become actual is a different matter. Geography and history explain Russia’s actions but cannot pardon them. But the intransigence of the other side – and its intent to



Observers of a more neutral mind may well see a neglected bear, teased with possible kindness and friendship, then ignored, then set upon by a pack of dogs, then teased beguilingly, then spurned

enlarge Nato by letting in Ukraine – was revealed by the bellicose reaction of Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg, who declared that “an attack on one of us is an attack on all”. That “one of us” has an odd ring, given that Ukraine formally is not (but in practice now will be). This merely adds weight to Russia’s prior misgivings about Nato and Ukraine.
Bears and dogs
Tragically, there is one sure loser in all of this: Ukraine and its people. The winners are as easy to

discern: the global arms industry, main offspring of the military-industrial complex; United States President Joe Biden, whose popularity has plummeted and whose Democratic Party faces midterm elections in November; and United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson, for whom British diplomacy during the Ukraine crisis has been twisted to forge him a get-out-of-jail ticket in the Partygate affair. Wars are always good for incumbent presidents and the business of America, and for sycophantic lim-

pets in 10 Downing Street.
And Putin? If the Ukrainian army somehow repels the attack, his power will ebb away and historians will trace it to this moment. If the Russian forces win and reduce Ukraine to a client state and buffer zone against Nato, Putin will come to be regarded in his homeland as in that line of pre-eminent Russian leaders that begins with Ivan the Terrible, continues through Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, and leads to Vladimir Ilich Lenin and Mikhail Gorbachev.

George Orwell is watching you
Although history makes things more distinct it is another discipline, the circus, that shows what is happening. Observers of a more neutral mind may well see a neglected bear, teased with possible kindness and friendship, then ignored, then set upon by a pack of dogs, then teased beguilingly, then spurned...
The bear’s own overtures of accommodation are snubbed and rejected. Its foes want to rip out its claws, muzzle it and tie it to a pole so that the dogs can get at it easily and without injury. And yet the bear asks only to be able to hibernate safely. Denied that, it grows morose, restive and very grumpy. Its implacable antagonist sets more packs of propagandising media dogs on it. Finally, the bear has had enough. The dogs bark, but the caravan of history is moving on apace, steered by a very angry bear.
Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The article was first published by New Frame

SHARK TANK INDIA

New Era of Investing & Entrepreneurship?

“
Entrepreneurship and high risk-to-reward investment mustn't be frowned upon in our society as they are the cradle of innovation and economic growth. The addictive and engaging nature of Shark Tank despite being fairly technical for people of all backgrounds is the testament of the country's readiness to secure its position in the ever-changing global village



Ahmad Pathan

The ever growing Indian middle-class is known for being a conservative and risk-averse investor. Financial investments in volatile markets like stocks, bonds and cryptocurrencies have been erroneously labelled as 'taking a gamble' on unpredictable outcomes by a large chunk of the older generation, who prefer to stick to the time-tested fixed deposits and tangible assets like gold. However, as the pandemic ravaged the world for the last 2 years or so, more than a crore stock trading accounts were opened in 2020 alone, double than the numbers of the preceding three years. The market saw an unprecedented bull run during the same year, with returns skyrocketing and above-average profits being reaped even by newbie investors. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum witnessed a cycle of rising and subsequent falling of prices, with roughly 7% of the Indian population owning some amount of decentralised currencies.

Although the stock market has gone into a freefall in the past few bearish weeks and the digital asset

space is gripped by uncertainty and fear, esoteric financial terms like equity, IPO, D2C, branding, scalability, etc. have finally found their way to our dinner table and living room conversations due to a reality based television show, Shark Tank India.

The Indian version of the globally popular show, Shark Tank, its 7 week long first season was aired at the 9 pm timeslot and soon found acceptance and admiration by all members of the typical Indian family, right from 70 year old grandparents to 16 year old teenagers.

The format of the show is quite simple: Young entrepreneurs from all across India present their innovative ideas and businesses to a panel of judges, known as Sharks, who themselves are the magnates of their respective industries. The entrepreneurs 'pitch' the solutions that they have developed in response to any particular problem faced by the society to the Sharks, highlight the present achievements and sales figures of their companies and shed light on their future goals in terms of profitability and sustainability. In order to 'scale' their businesses, they ask for funding, i.e. financial support, from

the Sharks in exchange for a percentage of stake in their company, known as equity. The Sharks, depending on their expertise, interest and trust in the founders of the company, then decide whether to invest their money or not.

Like any other Indian show, Shark Tank India too has some forms of emotional appeasement and melodrama. But in my opinion, our emotionally driven society needs an occasional dose of sentimental content in order to consume such a new concept of reality TV.

Such a nuisance therefore must be excused for the greater good. In a country where 261 million people are in their 20s, a massive workforce of this kind can only be effectively utilized through greater participation of the youth in the private sector of the Indian economy and the bustling start-up ecosystem.

Shark Tank has sparked the conservation in Indian families needed to bring a large-scale reform in the mentality of the common masses. The stigmatized entrepreneurial ventures are expected to gain more acceptance and support through such shows, when similar efforts are made

to familiarize the society with the concept of gaining meaningful employment in newly found companies as opposed to deeming government jobs as the pinnacle of success in one's profession.

As entrepreneurship is increasingly being talked about in mainstream discussions, entrepreneurship as an academic subject will gain more and more importance in all fields of higher education and will become an integral part of school and college curriculum.

India, historically a 'prestige' driven country, not only should encourage its youngsters to look beyond seeking salaried employment, but also should invest its money in the businesses that it truly understands. Money deposited in banks depreciates in value due to inflation and hence capital should be put to work in the economy by investing in established public companies through the stock market, as well as by financing small ventures, with the potential of solving real problems of the society, through angel investing. It is the only way to minimise the divide between the haves and have nots, as the benefits of capitalism can reach the

common man only when he himself focuses on his finances, constantly educating himself about the market and investing his money for profitability and inflation beating returns. Only when India abandons its love for prestige and societal admiration, and instead dives deep into the realms of 'wealth creation' with a considerable risk appetite, can it truly become an economic giant in the international financial community. Investment decisions of today can decide the future of the coming generations.

Shark Tank USA has been televised for 13 straight years now. Its Indian adaptation has been a great success in its very first season. I do not claim that a TV show can transform an entire country, but the fact of the matter is that the Indian Sharks have become a household name; they are being portrayed as celebrities in the media; their middle class background is being romanticised by their fanbase, and people now find the once alien world of dark-suited businessmen to be within their reach, because the suited men seem to be like them, the only difference being that the men had the courage to dream big and to take the risk of being different from the crowd.

Being the founders of billion dollar companies like Lenskart, BharatPe, Mamaearth, Sugar, BoAt and Shaadi.com, their 'self-made' fortune of millions of dollars shatters the widely held perception of businesses being a monopoly of a few established elites and 'outsiders' being unwelcome in the market. However, such common perceptions are fairly untrue. What could be built in 50 years can now be done in 5 years. Technological awareness and problem-solving skills empowers the youth of today to be the disruptors and revolutionaries in various sectors and replace existing monopolies with new players in the market. Shark Tank and its Sharks teach us just that.

Entrepreneurship and high risk-to-reward investment mustn't be frowned upon in our society as they are the cradle of innovation and economic growth. The addictive and engaging nature of Shark Tank despite being fairly technical for people of all backgrounds is the testament of the country's readiness to secure its position in the ever-changing global village.

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WHAT CAUGHT THE WEB

Blown Away by Bahaar



Stills from Iqbal Farooz's (Wandering_Lenses_) latest reel

KO Web Desk

This year, spring has made an unabashed arrival — bold and beautiful. Although the temperatures are a little too much for Kashmiris still cosy in their pherans, the almond blossoms have managed to take everyone's breath away.

This week, the internet saw everyone posting their clicks of blossoming flowers. Some from their gardens, some from their office lawns and some from a tree that's managed to peek out of the neighbors walls. Still others have taken it upon themselves to venture to places where spring has put on a show.

One particular photography aficionado, Iqbal Farooz

who runs the instagram blog wandering_lenses_, managed to pleasantly add subtle glamour to the Bahaar that's blown us away already.

His video, which has been posted as a reel on his insta handle, shows a man in Pheran/Kashmiri loose garment, stationed between rows of blossoms and blooming trees in the backdrop. He is seen pouring noon chai/Kashmiri pink tea from a traditional Kashmiri Samovar into a beautiful cup.

The reel is a welcome change of scenes from Badam Waer in Srinagar to Iqbal's Village in Bandipora, Chadoora.

Although spring is skipped to summers this year, Kashmiris are still stealing moments of springs fresh glory — work from photographers like Iqbal on the web, have made sure that we miss none of it.



KODAK MOMENTS



A trekker on the way to Harmukh mountain in Bandipora district.

Picture credit: Abdul Basit / @thebasupunk

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

Nagaland Assembly Becomes First In Country To Implement NeVA



Agenceis

Kohima: The Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) on Saturday became the first in the country to have operationalised the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme for conducting a session in paperless mode.

The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book each on the tables of the 60 members as the Budget session for fiscal 2022-23 which commenced this morning.

This is the medium through which we will be using this NeVA application in the Assembly as part of the pursuit to have a paperless House, Speaker Sharingain Longkumer said while making a statement on the new application.

A similar system outside the framework of NeVA has been in operation in Himachal Pradesh while many other state Assemblies are moving in this direction, Longkumer said.

Paperless Assembly of e-Assembly is a concept involving electronic means to facilitate all the works of the legislature. It is being done under the supervision of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

The Assembly Secretariat has already conducted preliminary familiarisation training for the members and it will be continuing with the training programme for the benefit of all the members.

In the coming days, it will be scaled up to the full advantage of the e-Vidhan system and achieve one of its targets of making the

functioning of the state legislature paperless, he said.

Once all other assemblies implement it, Parliament and all state legislatures will be networked together effectively, the Speaker said.

The expenses for implementing NeVA is funded by the Centre and the state government on a 90:10 sharing basis.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has complimented the Nagaland Assembly for being the first in the country to operationalise it, the Speaker informed the House.

NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform, thereby creating a massive data depository, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs had earlier said.

China reports first COVID-19 deaths in more than a year; to stick to zero case policy

Agenceis

BEIJING: China on Saturday reported two COVID-19 deaths, the first since January 2021, amid a spike in the coronavirus cases prompting authorities to rule out relaxing the much-criticised "dynamic zero-COVID" policy of restricting international travel to control the latest outbreak.

The latest surge in cases in the last few weeks was a two year high in the country, denting official claims of China being one of the best performers in curbing COVID-19 pandemic.

China's National Health Commission on Saturday reported two deaths due to coronavirus, the first since January 2021, taking the death toll since the COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan in December 2019 to 4,638 people.

The Commission reported about 4,000 new cases, including 1,823 asymptomatic cases, on Friday. In all 18,586 people are undergoing treatment, it said in its daily report.

The virus was prevalent in 15 provincial-level regions, while cases continue to remain high in Jilin province which reported 1,674 cases on Saturday.

Vice Premier Sun Chunlan has asked the health officials to step up measures to contain the virus.

Sun stressed that all those that need to be hospitalised or isolated should be done so to completely stamp out all community infections, and work



must be done to optimize the process of detection, diagnosis, review and information reporting.

She also urged efforts to balance nucleic acid testing resources across the regions and improve emergency response capacity, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Meanwhile, amid the spike in cases, China has ruled out relaxing its much-criticised "dynamic zero-COVID" policy of restricting international travel and minimising contacts with the outside world.

China will adhere to its "dynamic zero-COVID" policy to

contain its current outbreak, Wang Hesheng, vice-minister of the National Health Commission and administrator of the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration, told the media on Friday.

The goal of the 'Zero case policy' approach is to bring the epidemic under control in the shortest possible time with minimum cost to society, official media here quoted him as saying.

The essence of the approach is swift response and targeted prevention and control, he said.

China has pledged rigorous and targeted COVID-19

prevention and control measures to contain the latest wave of infections caused by the Omicron variant, Wang said.

"The 'dynamic zero' policy does have some impact on life and work," Wang admitted. "But considering people's safety and health, the sacrifices will be worth it."

Under this policy, China has drastically cut international travel which has affected lakhs of foreign students, including over 23,000 Indians mostly studying medicine, who are stuck in India following the cancellation of visas and flights.

CBSE Has Communicated Term-1 Examination Results For Class 12 Schools: Official

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has communicated the performance report of the Term-1 exams for Class 12 to schools, according to an official.

Last year, the CBSE had announced that the board examinations for 2022 will be conducted in two terms. The Term-1 exams for major subjects were held between November 30 and December 11 last year.

"The performance of the Term-1 exams for Class 12 has been communicated to the schools by the CBSE. Only the scores in theory have been communicated as internal assessment or practical scores are already available with the schools," the official said.

The board released the date-sheet for the Term-2 exams on Friday. The exams will commence from April 26. The board had communicated the first term results for class 10 to schools on March 12.

Afghanistan world's unhappiest country, even before Taliban

Agenceis

KABUL: Afghanistan is the unhappiest country in the world even before the Taliban swept to power last August. That's according to a so-called World Happiness report released ahead of the UN-designated International Day of Happiness on Sunday.

The annual report ranked Afghanistan as last among 149 countries surveyed, with a happiness rate of just 2.5. Lebanon was the world's second saddest country, with Botswana, Rwanda and Zimbabwe rounding out the bottom five. Finland ranked first for the fourth year running with a 7.8 score,

followed by Denmark and Switzerland, with Iceland and the Netherlands also in the top five.

Researchers ranked the countries after analyzing data over three years. They looked at several categories including gross domestic product per capita, social safety nets, life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity of the population, and perceptions of internal and external corruption levels.

Afghanistan stacked up poorly in all six categories, a confounding result coming as it does before the Taliban's arrival and despite 20 years of US and international investment. The US alone spent 145



billion on development in Afghanistan since 2002, according to reports by the US special inspector general for Afghanistan.

Still, there were signs of increasing hopelessness.

Gallup did a polling in 2018 and found few Afghans they surveyed had much hope for the future. In fact the majority said they had no hope for the future.

Years of runaway corruption, increased poverty, lack of jobs, a steady increase in people forced below the poverty line, and erratic development all combined into a crushing malaise, said analyst Nasratullah Haqpal. Most Afghans had high hopes after 2001, when the Taliban were ousted and the US-led coalition declared victory. Unfortunately the only

focus was on the war, the warlords and the corrupt politicians, said Haqpal.

People just became poorer and poorer and more disappointed and more unhappy... that is why these 20 years of investment in Afghanistan collapsed in just 11 days," he said referring to the Taliban's lightning blitz through the country before sweeping into Kabul in mid August.

When Masoud Ahmadi, a carpenter returned to Afghanistan from neighboring Pakistan after the 2001 collapse of the Taliban, his hopes for the future were bright. He dreamed of opening a small furniture-making shop, maybe employing as many as 10

people. Instead, sitting in his dusty 6-foot by 10-foot workshop on Saturday, he said he opens just twice a week for lack of work.

When the money came to this country the leadership of the government took the money and counted it as their personal money, and the people were not helped to change their life for the better, said Ahmadi.

The report warns that Afghanistan's numbers might drop even further next year when it measures Afghans' happiness level after the arrival of the Taliban. The economy is currently in free fall as the group struggles to transition from fighting to governing. (AP)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Central Forces

and district panchayats were formed and the Modi-led government has been successful in raising the Panchayati Raj system to the ground level," the Union home minister said.

He said the abrogation of Article 370 paved the way for inclusive development of all sections of society.

"Dalits, backward classes, women and pahari-speaking people were deprived of benefits of development in the past but under new laws which were implemented in J&K (after August 2019), everyone is getting benefited," Shah said.

The home minister said the biggest work done in Jammu and Kashmir is that the CAPFs have taken "decisive control" of the fight against Pakistan-sponsored militancy and in the next few years, "I am sure that we will be able to restore peace (in J&K and in naxal and extremism affected areas of the country, including in the northeast), and if it happens, the credit will go to CRPF jawans.

The Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Reserve Police Force, the Central Industrial Security Force, the Sashastra Seema Bal are among the CAPFs. Of them, the CRPF is the country largest paramilitary force.

Praising the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha-led Jammu and Kashmir administration, he said it was successful in bringing industrial investment worth Rs 33,000 crore on the ground, implementing all components of the Prime Ministers Development Package and launching a crusade against corruption by taking action against officials and also improving the system.

He also hailed the administration for achieving 100 per cent saturation in various projects including Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal' and Har Ghar Bijli' and said the roads constructed over the past five years to provide connectivity to villages and laying of new highways have set a new record.

Seven new medical colleges, two All India Institute of Medical sciences, 21 water supply schemes and above all the impartiality in every sphere are

some of the achievements of the government, he said while congratulating Sinha and his administration.

Calls For Proactive

the security situation, reduction in militancy-related incidents from 417 in 2018 to 229 in 2021 and decrease in the number of slain security forces personnel from 91 in 2018 to 42 in 2021.

Shah emphasised on proactive operations against militants and denying them safe haven or financial support.

He directed the security forces and the police to ensure real-time coordination for effective counter-militancy operations and monitoring activities of militants from jails.

The minister ordered further strengthening of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Jammu and Kashmir to counter narco-militancy, the spokesman said.

Praising the CRPF for playing a key role in the fight against militancy in Kashmir, naxalism, and extremist forces in the northeast, Shah asked the paramilitary force to prepare a roadmap for meeting future challenges.

CRPF is not only a central armed police force but every child of the country loves it for its bravery and courage. Whenever riots happen anywhere in the country, the deployment of the CRPF gives satisfaction to the people," said Shah at the CRPF day parade.

The love and respect earned by the CRPF, the country's largest paramilitary force, is due to the sacrifices, dedication and devotion of its personnel, Shah said.

"Whether it is naxal-infested regions of central India, Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir or extremist forces in the northeast, the CRPF has played a key role in the elimination of such groups and restoring peace in all the three regions, Shah said.

Shah said the CRPF has played an appreciable role across the country and asserted that there will be no need for redeployment of CRPF in the three regions in the next few years.

"I am sure that we will be able to restore peace and if it happens, the credit

will go to the CRPF jawans. I am saying it with confidence that ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over, the work done by CRPF is self-explanatory," he said.

"There was a time in the 1990s when extremism in the northeast and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir was at its peak and everyone in the country was concerned.

Within two decades, the CRPF with its dedication, devotion and determination fought the battle against the anti-national forces who are now on the verge of extinction," he said.

"As home minister, I congratulate the bravery shown by you in the violence-hit areas of the three regions. It is because of your professional handling of the situation that the countrymen are breathing in a peaceful atmosphere, he said.

The prime minister has set a target of making India a USD 5 trillion economy and it will be achievable when the internal security is strong, Shah said, adding We are satisfied of the role of the CRPF.

I ask the Director General of CRPF Kuldiep Singh to prepare a roadmap to meet upcoming challenges by modernising the force and procuring the latest equipment," Shah said, adding that the CRPF has to be made a modernised, capable and effective force.

"We have to work in this direction and I am sure the CRPF under the leadership of Kuldiep Singh will take it forward," he said.

He lauded the CRPF for its contribution in ensuring free and fair elections in the country, saying "Whether it is Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, the force has the biggest role to play. Free and fair elections are the soul of democracy.

The home minister also praised the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and said its handling of riots by using minimum force is a reflection of its training.

If we analyse the riot situation before and after the setting up of the RAF, you will see RAF has emerged as a successful force to deal with the situation. They are now training reserve police

battalions in states and they are working together which are providing good results, he said.

UP Resident,

after the grenade attack," he said. Khan also denied media reports claiming another attack on a CRPF camp in Tral

"There was a blast inside our camp in Tral. It was not an attack. Searches are being conducted to ascertain the nature of blast," he said.

17 Districts

have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 15 from Jammu Division and 14 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to pandemic remained unchanged at 4750 in J&K, 2327 in Jammu and 2423 in the Valley, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

NIA Court Frames

from the Government of India.

However, the court clarified that whatever has been expressed in this order is a prima facie opinion although a detailed discussion of the evidence had to be done because the arguments were advanced by both sides in much detail.

J&K Witnessing

I had got an opportunity to visit the camps of displaced Kashmiris. I understand the pain the displaced Kashmiris underwent. I had participated in various movements to support displaced Kashmiris."

He said now if a displaced Kashmiri Pandit sends an email to the Union government to get back possession of his property in Kashmir, the officials there get his land vacated in a short time and ensure he gets possession.

This is the change that is being seen in J-K now, he added.

'Shab-E-Barat' Observed

The Anjumam Auqaf Jama Masjid, managing committee of the mosque,

said the magistrate and police officials dropped by on Friday evening and informed that evening and night prayers and 'Shab-e-Barat' prayers cannot be held at the mosque.

The mosque was then closed for the public, the committee said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said the Centre was "deliberately shutting" the doors to religion to instil a sense of "crushing disempowerment and despondency".

"After besieging & tormenting Kashmiris in every possible way, the only solace for people here is religion. GOI is deliberately shutting the doors to that too to instil a sense of crushing disempowerment & despondency. Criminally cruel to say the least," Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

Din, Dearth, Disorder

city into ashes within no time. And that's why our men try to save the surrounding areas first.

But then people still question us, like why we couldn't save a huge building at B&J Hospital from fire lately.

The reason was people had themselves played firemen before calling us. They tried to doze off the fire with fire-extinguishers. It aggravated the situation.

Is the city congestion also fanning this frequent fire situation?

Yes, the lanes are narrow and the houses are constructed in a haphazard manner. There're no fire gaps and as a result the fire damages more houses.

When the fire erupts from a house, it engulfs other houses within no time, especially in old Srinagar.

Plus, people park their vehicles on roads and make the whole firefighting process a difficult mission to accomplish.

But then is the firefighting infrastructure up to the mark in Srinagar?

Well, our existing infrastructure is not poor.

In the last two years, we've replaced the old fire-fleet with 50 new tenders

— each containing 7500 or 12000 liters of water that lasts till five minutes.

And then we've a good infrastructure in the form of fire pumps—throwing 1800 liters of water per minute—and other firefighting equipment.

We've added 700 more firemen to our response team equipped with the best suits. But unfortunately, people still hamper our work by playing with the fire.

- Transcripts by Farzana Bashir Youth Drowns To

the nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival, reported the news agency KNO.

They identified the youth as Showket Ahmad Deedad, son of Mohammad Hussain Deedad of Zampathri Keller area of Shopian.

Meanwhile, a police team has reached the spot and started an investigation in this regard.

Electric Shock

of Devbhug Kunzar was critically injured while rectifying the electric supply at Batpora, an official said

He said that the injured was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment where from he was shifted to SMHS hospital for further treatment

Newborn's Body

Rajouri town.

"A team of police was rushed to the spot and the body was taken into the possession and was shifted to Government Medical College Rajouri," officials said.

They added that the medico-legal formalities into the matter are going on and investigation has been set into motion—(KNO)

5 New Covid

its outbreak. Of the total fatalities, Leh accounts for the highest 168 deaths followed by 60 in Kargil, they said. All the five fresh cases were recorded from Leh.

Twelve people recovered from the disease, taking the overall recoveries to 27,925, they added.

Need To Identify Internal, External Enemies Of J&K: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday stressed on the need to identify the internal and external enemies of Jammu and Kashmir and said the unity of people will not let "nefarious plans" of such forces work.

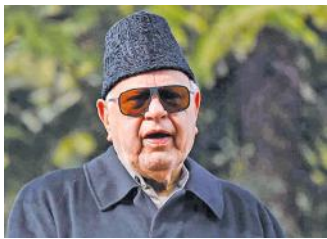
Addressing a public gathering at Harinara Singhpora in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, Abdullah also said the incumbent regime's normalcy, peace and development narrative is hardly "visible on the ground."

"People are yearning for their democratic, constitutional and human rights, which have incessantly been abridged since 2019," he said referring to the abrogation of Article 370 in that year.

Cautioning people against "divisive forces" contriving to divide the people of Jammu and Kashmir on religious, regional and sectarian lines, the MP from Srinagar said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are confronting a two-front battle -- one with those "peddling divisive agenda" nationally and the other one locally.

He also stressed on the need to identify the internal and external enemies of Jammu and Kashmir

NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah always maintained that a day will come



when there will be a leader in every street and corner of Kashmir. The prevailing circumstances have attested to his forewarning, Abdullah said.

"Today, we see mushrooming of political parties and leaders in every nook and corner of Kashmir. The risky political vacuum created by the decisions of August 2019 cannot be filled by such airdropped leaders. It is a genuine popular representative government that will meet the challenge of instilling faith in the hearts of people," he said.

Abdullah said in spite of their failures to make inroads into Kashmir even with the help of their A and B teams, the "communal forces" are now up to creating leaders in every mohalla, street and village.

"It is a warning sign for us. The people of Kashmir must remain cautious of such forces who want to divide our society on regional, religious, communal, and sectarian lines," he said.

Counter False Narrative With Facts: Omar

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday said forces inimical to peace and brotherhood in Jammu and Kashmir were peddling a false narrative, and there was a need to counter it with facts.

Abdullah made these remarks while addressing party functionaries at Nawa-e-Subha where the newly-appointed NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq assumed office.

The NC last week revamped the party media cell, appointing Sadiq, political secretary to Abdullah, as its chief spokesperson.

The party also made some other appointments in its media cell giving key positions to young faces, including Imran Nabi Dar, who has been appointed as the state spokesperson.

They were also felicitated on the occasion.

Omar asked the asked the party's communications team to continue countering the false narrative being peddled by forces inimical to peace and brotherhood with facts.

He said media has assumed immense importance, but truth has become the first casualty in this manifest shift in public opinion and perception building techniques.

How much factual information is reported and how much of it is being manufactured is open to question. Here what is important is not what people see, but what they aren't allowed to see. Reporting from J&K has been at the receiving end of this bias," he said.

"It is here that our media team has a role to play to put a real picture of what is happening in front of the people. It is upon your shoulders to counter the lies being churned out day in and day out," he added.

In the present times, the NC leader said, it is very hard to have an open debate on the issues that people are confronting.

"During our stint in power, a number of columns and articles critical of our policies used to sur-



face in local dailies. Pens which used to tell us off have become silent these days. Hardly ever do we see any column or articles exhibiting contrarian views being carried in local dailies. We always took criticism positively, but that cannot be said today, he said.

Even a single critical word is being loathed by the powers that be. There is no way a contrarian view can make it to local dailies these days. The new media policy has obliquely stifled the press. Fear and intimidation have further choked the freedom of press, he added.

At this juncture, Abdullah said, the NC's media team has to come in to fill in the void.

On one hand you have to show a mirror to the government and on the other hand put people of the country in general, J&K in particular, in the picture about the ground realities of J&K, he said.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said all the ruling dispensation wants is to portray a false reality and cautioned the functionaries that with each passing day, the shoddy and bogus propaganda machinery will go into overdrive to polarise the atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir.

There is no way they can answer people on unavailability of jobs, lack of development and economic backsliding. Their face saving theatrics have fallen flat. We have to remain vigilant and not allow them to thrive on societal, regional and religious fault lines," he said.

It is a big challenge before us, and I believe our new media team headed by Sadiq will engage with such devious elements at all platforms with facts and reality checks, he added.

Amit Shah Attends CRPF's 83rd Raising Day Parade In Jammu



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) conducted its Raising Day parade outside its Delhi headquarters for the first time on Saturday with Union Home Minister Amit Shah taking salute at the march past in Jammu.

Flanked by CRPF Director General Kuldeip Singh, the home minister handed over gallantry medals to the force personnel and trophies for best establishments in different categories at the event held at the Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of Jammu city.

Several dignitaries, including Union minister Jitendra Singh, J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, J&K High Court Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Director General of BSF Pankaj Singh and Director General of J&K Police Dilbag Singh, attended the 83rd Raising Day parade.

This was for the first time that the CRPF Day parade was held outside its headquarters in Delhi-NCR in accordance with the central government's decision.

A large number of CRPF personnel and their family members and school children witnessed the splendid parade which was followed by various traditional sports demonstrations and motorcycle stunts by the force's women contingent.

"Today this force of 3.25 lakh jawans should rededicate itself to internal security and the secu-

rity of the nation and resolve to carry forward the great history of the CRPF," Shah, who was wearing an orange turban, said in his address during the parade.

He said the government has decided that annual parades of all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will be held in different parts of the country.

"...all the CAPF organisations engaged in the country's borders and internal security should go to different parts of the country and build good relations with the people and mix with the culture of various regions of the country and as always dedicate themselves to duty," he said.

He said it was from Jammu and Kashmir that Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and Syama Prasad Mookerjee had protested saying that Kashmir is an integral part of India -- two chiefs, two insignias and two legislations cannot exist in the country.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dream of one chief, one insignia and one legislation, both of which were dreams of Mookerjee and Dogra, have been fulfilled, he said.

Since the raising of the CRPF, he said till date 2,340 of its personnel have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation.

"I would like to pay humble tributes on behalf of the entire nation to the CRPF jawans who have made sacrifices, first while protecting the country's borders

and later the country's internal security, fighting naxalism and terrorism and dealing with riots. Whenever India's history is written, the supreme sacrifice of these 2,340 personnel will be written in golden letters, he said.

He assured the families of those who have received posthumous honours that their sacrifice will never go in vain.

"CRPF has established the tradition of considering the security of the country and its countrymen above itself. I am sure that the jawans of the force will carry forward this tradition with the same dedication, he said.

On this day in 1950, he said, the country's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel gave CRPF its colours. Today, the CRPF is the country's largest armed force with 246 battalions and 3.25 lakh soldiers and whose credibility is recognised not only in the country but by all armed forces in the world," he said.

Shah remembered the CRPF heroes who faced the Chinese army attack in Hot Springs on October 21, 1959 bravely despite being in very small numbers for every inch of the country's land and sacrificed their lives.

"That is why by celebrating October 21 as Police Day, all police forces in the country re-dedicate themselves to the internal security of our nation, by taking inspiration from the valour and sacrifice shown by CRPF personnel at Hot Springs," he said.

'No Construction Zone In 500 Meters On Both Sides Of Semi-Ring Road: Div Com

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner, (Div Com) Kashmir Pandurang K Pole on Saturday chaired a meeting regarding Town Planning Schemes (TPSs) along the upcoming Semi Ring Road, Construction of Western Foreshore Road of Dal Lake and Town Planning Scheme in Budgam.

The meeting was attended by DC Srinagar; Commissioner, SMC; VC, LCMA; VC, SDA; ADC Budgam, Chief Town Planner, Town Planning Organization; Chief Engineers of R&B, PHE, I&C, KPDCI & KPCTCL; Project Director NHAI, Director, School of Planning and Architecture; Chief Town Planner, Gujarat besides other members and officers.

The meeting deliberated over the Town Planning Scheme on a community driven land management approach, viable alternative to land acquisition for planned and sustainable development, financial and land implications of Ring Road on proposed TPS, potential nodes along the Ring Road in all districts.

Besides, the meeting also dis-



cussed over development of Western Foreshore Road and its connection with Northern Foreshore Road and Boulevard for providing hassle free alternative access to NIT, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal and Mughal Gardens.

Town Plan Scheme proposed at Budgam Railway Station was also discussed.

Earlier, the Town Planner gave a detailed presentation regarding formulation, implementation of TPS, notification of TP areas, Constitution and Development of Board under TP act etc.

On the occasion, Div Com directed the concerned to collected the details of revenue villages connected by Ring Road in six districts and draft a notification regarding proposed Town Planning within the area on both sides of Ring Road.

To prepare Town Plan Schemes, Div Com directed for creating no construction Zone in 500 meters on both sides of Semi-Ring road.

He also directed ADC Budgam to depute patwaris of concerned halqas for verification of revenue records as requested by the TP officer for Town Plan near Railway Station, Budgam. Besides, Div Com directed him that the latest settlement records of the proposed TP area should be provided to concerned officers.

He also issued directions for deputation of municipality council officers for identification of municipal limits for TP at Budgam.

He also instructed for revising the already issued Expression of Interest for Western Foreshore Road by J&K LCMA after some changes were requested by the Chief Town Planner.

Strategic Srinagar-Leh Highway Re-Opens



© Abid Bhat/NO

Press Trust Of India

ZOJILA: The strategic 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway was re-opened for vehicular traffic on Saturday in record time of 73 days after its closure in January this year following heavy snowfall, officials said.

A trial movement was conducted successfully, and the decision to open the road for civil traffic will be taken after a joint inspection by the civil administration.

The highway was thrown open for traffic at the Zojila Pass, situated at an altitude of 11,650 feet metres, by Director General of BRO Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary, the officials said.

Zojila is a strategic pass that provides a vital link between the Kashmir valley and Ladakh, and it is key to operational preparedness of the armed forces. It remains closed mostly for about six months due to heavy snowfall. This year, it was cleared off in record time, they said.

"This pass remains closed mostly for about six months. But last year, we decided to keep it closed for a minimum period of time. We kept it closed for about 110 days only last year and there were many benefits. This year, we re-opened the road in 73 days," Lt Gen Chaudhary told reporters here.

He said the highway was kept open till January 4 this year, after which it was closed for traf-

fic following heavy snowfall.

"It has now been re-opened in record time. This is a huge achievement and both Project Beacon, which manages the highway in J-K, and Project Vijayak, which manages it in Ladakh UT, have done it," he said.

The BRO DG said re-opening the highway sooner has many advantages strategically as well as from the socio-economic angle.

"From the strategic point of view, maintenance, including ammunition, logistics or anything else, for our troops deployed in Ladakh will reach in time now. It will also expedite the transportation of fresh vegetables, medicines etc to the people of Ladakh. This will increase trade and commerce there, and people are very happy," he said.

Lt Gen Chaudhary said a study found that the government can save around Rs 7 crore per day by opening the road sooner.

"We saved about Rs 400 crore -- the money spent on air transportation -- by reopening the road sooner," he added.

A defence spokesperson said snow clearance operations on the highway recommenced on February 15 by projects Beacon and Vijayak of the BRO.

After sustained efforts, the connectivity across Zojila Pass was initially established on March 3, and after that, improvement of road surface was carried out for safe passage of vehicles, he said.

Shiv Sena Activists Protest, Seek Restoration Of Statehood

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A group of Shiv Sena activists held a protest here on Saturday in support of their demand for restoration of statehood and special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The protest by Shiv Sena activists at Bari Brahmana area on the outskirts of the city was led by party's J&K unit president Manish Sahni and coincided with the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"We staged this peaceful protest to press for restoration of statehood and special status to Jammu and Kashmir. By special status, we mean reservation to local youth in government jobs and in admission to educational institutions," Sahni

told reporters.

He said since Home Minister is on a two-day tour of Jammu, the Shiv Sena wants to remind him of his promise made on the floor of Parliament on August 5, 2019 when the Centre abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the erstwhile state into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah had made a promise to the people about restoration of statehood. Already 28 months have passed but the promise was not fulfilled," he said, and asked how long the people of Jammu and Kashmir had to wait for the restoration of the statehood and a democratically elected government.

Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Reconstituted, 8 More Members Named

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has reconstituted the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and nominated eight personalities, from various walks of life, as members for three years.

A notification approving the reorganization of the board was issued by Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, on March 15.

The eight members include AIMIL Pharmaceuticals Chairman K K Sharma, Mahamandalashwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj of Mumbai, retired IPS officer Ashok Bhan, retired IAS officer Baleshwar Rai and retired judge Suresh Kumar Sharma of Jammu. Sharma has had a long association with the shrine board and has been

contributing to the floral decoration of Maa Vaishno Devi on various occasions for more than two decades.

On being nominated as a member, Sharma said he would try to facilitate a seamless journey for the devotees of Mata Vaishno Devi and a proposal would be moved in the Board meeting in this regard.

"A proposal about the construction of ropeway from Katra to Ardhkumari and from Ardhkumari to Bhawan would be submitted. Building an alternate route for the devotees to return after visiting the shrine would be emphasised," he said.

Sharma also stressed exploring options to manage the crowd on the lines of Tirupati Balaji where arrangements have been made for the devotees to wait for their turn for darshan in waiting halls.

Transforming J&K

AB PMJAY SEHAT: Proving Miraculous Towards Ensuring Free Medicare To Numerous Hapless Poor, Needy Of UT

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PM-JAY) scheme has emerged as a ray of hope for numerous poor families who cannot afford health treatment at prestigious and premier medical institutes of the country.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration, in its endeavor to provide optimum benefit of this miraculous healthcare scheme to people of Jammu and Kashmir, launched the SEHAT scheme in convergence with AB-PM-JAY by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

J&K government's efforts supported by central government have done a commendable job in providing succour to all sections of the society through a network of innovative and people friendly programmes

launched in the UT.

Jammu and Kashmir being demographically disadvantages and inaccessible location received focused attention of both the governments in welfare and development of people here.

Pankaj Kumar, a 26 year old youth, who since his childhood had been working in the fields of his fellow villagers to feed his family, feels privileged to narrate his tale of struggle in getting his leg surgery done free of cost through AB PMJAY Sehat scheme.

Narrating his ordeals, Kumar recalled that how distressed and hapless he was when he got his leg broken while working in his house to repair the wall of his courtyard.

"I was extremely shattered after this accident and was more than worried about my old parents; who will

look after them now," Kumar said.

"Doctors asked my family to arrange money for surgery of my leg. I knew we had no savings and it was beyond my reach to meet the expenses for my treatment," Kumar added.

Then, I came to know about Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) scheme through one of my neighbors which came as a ray of hope for the whole family making an end to our woes.

After completing all the requisite formalities, a golden card was issued in my favour and I had my surgery under PMJAY SEHAT card free of cost. "It was not less than a miracle, SEHAT card helped us a lot, as our financial condition was not good and my treatment was almost impossible without this scheme," he maintained while expressing gratitude to Center and

UT government for launching this poor friendly scheme.

As per official figures around 29 Lakh beneficiaries have been registered so far in Jammu division. The Health Department has expedited the registration process as the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha has set the deadline for March 31, 2022 for completing the registration process.

It is pertinent to mention here that Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of the Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlying commitment, which is to "leave no one behind." The main

aim behind the scheme is to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

The SEHAT scheme provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers medical procedures including oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc and covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

In yet another pro-people initiative, the State Health Agency (SHA) started an initiative 'Gaoon Ayushman' to reach out to even last mile villages which remain cut from the rest of the world due to adverse weather conditions so as to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to every beneficiary.

ان خیانت سبیل
درخواست مخائب
ہلال احمد راقہ ولد غلام رسول راقہ رسا کے متبع سرائے ڈاگر پورہ
تحقیق سبیل حصول اجراءے لیگل ہیر سرٹیفیکٹ
بیجو فنیکی زوجہ سائل محمودہ بیگم زوجہ
ہلال احمد

اشہدار بمراء ڈاگہی ہر خام و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت
پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہد ہوتا
ہے کہ سائل سائلہ سرائے ڈاگر پورہ کا سکونت دار ہے اور سائل کی زوجہ محمودہ
بیگم مورخہ 22-02-28 کو فوت ہو چکی ہے۔ کتبہ سائل بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔
نام پیشہ مزدوری عمر
ہلال احمد راقہ ولد غلام رسول راقہ شوہر متوفی
اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہیں تھلا یا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء
کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ
یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
تابع تحصیلدار

Inter-College Badminton Rolling Trophy (Women) Ends



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The third edition of Inter-college Badminton Rolling Trophy (Women) 2022 organised by Govt. College for Women, M. A. Road, Srinagar concluded on Friday.

The tournament was organised by the college's Physical Education Department from March 10 to 19, 2022. Fifteen matches are being played at the college's Multi-Purpose Hall with 16 teams from different colleges competing for the coveted trophy.

The final matches were played between Govt. College for Women, M. A. Road and GDC Sumbal. The singles match was won by GCW M.A. Road while the doubles and mixed-doubles match was won by GDC Sumbal. With the score-line reading 2-1 in its favour, GDC Sumbal lifted the trophy.

Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum Husain was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Others

guests present on the occasion included Nodal Principal (S.P. College), Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Khan; Principal, GDC Sumbal, Prof. M. S. Khan and Principal, GDC Bemina, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Lone. Deans of various faculties of Cluster University Srinagar viz., Dean Social Sciences, Dr. Mujahid Ahmad; Dean Engineering & Technology, Dr. Shah Jahan Wani; Dean Humanities & Liberal Arts, Dr. Deebea Sarma and Sports Secretary, Prof. Tariq Ashai were also present at the valedictory function.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Qayyum Husain congratulated the winning team and hailed their stamina and tactics during the match. He also appreciated the efforts of the college in organising various sports events.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Nasreen Aman presented welcome address while Masood Ahmed Malik presented vote of thanks.

Cricket Match Under BBBP Held At Anantnag

Female players participate with enthusiasm



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: As part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Campaign, a 10 over girls' cricket match was organised by the District Programme Office ICDS Anantnag in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag, ICDS Projects of the district and Mahila Shakti Kendra Anantnag at Sports Stadium Anantnag on Friday, here.

Geetanjali Singla, wife of District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla presided over the event as Chief Guest. District Programme Officer ICDS Projects Anantnag, Peerzada Zahoor Ahmad, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Mushtaq Ahmad, District Education Planning Officer, Yousuf Jan, CDPOs besides ICDS Supervisors, officials of YSS Dept and MSK (DCWE) Anantnag officials and students from GHSS Ranibagh attended the event.

Played between a local female cricket club team, Anantnag XI and Girls Higher Secondary School Ranibagh, the fixture/match witnessed showcasing of talent with great competitive spirit and enthusiasm by the girl

players. Batting first, Anantnag XI put up 104 runs on the board in their allotted ten overs. Hina put scored with 45 runs while as Mahina chipped in with 16 runs.

Chasing the target, GHSS Ranibagh scored 63 runs in their ten overs and thus fell short of the target by 41 runs.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest Geetanjali Singla briefly touched different aspects and dimensions of the BBBP Campaign. She expressed her pleasure for witnessing the girls perform and excel in different fields including sports.

DPO ICDS, Peerzada Zahoor Ahmad said that as Nodal Agency for implementation of the GoI's Flagship Programme BBBP, the ICDS department in collaboration with all stakeholders, is committed for taking its mandate forward so that its objectives are realised. He informed the gathering that different programmes and activities under the banner of this programme are being conducted across all projects of the district.

At the end, a presentation ceremony was held wherein the winners, runner ups and best performers were awarded mementoes and trophies.

Inter-Block Sports Activities Held At Bandipora



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Youth Services and Sports Department Bandipora in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora on Saturday organised inter-block Panchayat level competition at HSS Nadihal.

District Youth Service and Sports Officer Bandipora Sheikh Shafat Iqbal said the competition of various sports activities including Volleyball, Kabaddi and kho kho were held during the day.

He said the tournament commenced in 2021 but due to pan-

demic it was stopped. He said the department has resumed now outdoor activities and district administration has assured every kind of support in carrying out activities smoothly.

It was informed that Kho-Kho was won by block Bandipora while Volley Ball tournament was won by Block Aloosa and Kabaddi by Block Bandipora.

The officials informed that the winning teams of inter block competition will participate in inter district level at Jammu on 28th of this month.

Sri Lanka To Host Asia Cup T20 Tournament From Aug 27

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup T20 tournament from August 27 to September 11, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced on Saturday after its annual general meeting here.

All five Test teams of the continent -- India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and hosts Sri Lanka -- will feature in the tournament, along with one more Asian side that will be decided after a qualifier tournament which will be held from August 20.

"The Asia Cup 2022 (T20 Format) will be held in Sri Lanka from 27 August - 11 September later this year. The Qualifiers for the same will be played 20 August 2022 onwards," the ACC tweeted after its AGM.



The tournament, that usually alternates between ODI and T20I formats, was last played in 2018 and won by India. The COVID-19 pandemic had forced the postponement of the 2020 edition.

Sri Lanka were supposed to host the 2020 edition, but the pandemic first pushed the event to 2021 before finally being moved to 2022. Pakistan, who were originally supposed to host the 2022 Asia Cup, now have the hosting rights for 2023.

The sixth team to join the tournament will be one of UAE, Kuwait, Singapore and Hong Kong. UAE and Kuwait had made it to the qualifiers after finishing first and second in the ACC Western region event in 2020 while Singapore and Hong Kong did the same from the eastern region.

Jay Shah's Term As ACC President Extended By One Year

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: BCCI secretary Jay Shah's tenure as president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was on Saturday unanimously extended by a year at its annual general meeting here.

Shah had taken over the reins of the ACC in January last year from Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan, making him the youngest administrator to be re-appointed as ACC president.

Addressing the AGM, Shah said the ACC's key focus would be to carry forward the development of the sport in the region.

"We remain committed towards ensuring the all-round development of cricket in the region, especially carrying forward the pioneering work in women's cricket and the multiple grassroots tournaments the ACC conducts in the region



around the year," Shah said.

"The pandemic hopefully is behind us and I am keen that we adapt, innovate and help the ACC grow from strength to strength from hereon," he added.

Shah's extension was proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) president Shammi Silva and the nomination was backed unanimously by all the members of the ACC.

"I would like to thank all of my esteemed colleagues at the ACC for reposing their faith in me and considering me worthy to carry on all the work we had begun," Shah said.

"I humbly accept this honour and I am committed to working hard with a view to organise, develop and promote our beloved sport of cricket in the region, aiding the ACC to steadily grow in stature," he added.

ISL Final: First Time Winners Guaranteed As Kerala Take On Hyderabad

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: The Indian Super League will have a new winner after Kerala Blasters go up against a resurgent Hyderabad FC in the final on Sunday.

While it would be Hyderabad's maiden final appearance, Kerala Blasters will be competing in the final for the third time.

In 2014 and 2016, Kerala Blasters had made it to the finals, but on both occasions, they had lost to erstwhile ATK, and thus their dream of winning the coveted ISL Trophy remained unfulfilled.

Hyderabad FC qualified after a 3-2 win on aggregate over ATK Mohun Bagan despite losing the second leg of the semi-final 0-1. Hyderabad had won the first leg 3-1 through goals from Bartholomew Ogbeche, Yasir Mohammad and Javier Siverio.

On the other hand, Kerala



Blasters entered the ISL final for the first time since 2016 after playing out a 1-1 draw with Jamshedpur FC and pipped the League Shield winners 2-1 on aggregate over double leg semi-finals. In the first leg, Sahal Abdul Samad scored the only goal in a 1-0 win for Kerala.

Also, this would be the first occasion since the outbreak of

COVID-19 that the fans would be in the stands cheering for their favourite teams and a 100 per cent crowd has been allowed, so a 'sea of yellow' is expected to turn up at the venue.

Also, Indian football legend IM Vijayan and chief national coach Igor Stimac would be in attendance for the summit clash.

Match starts at 7.30 PM IST.

Pankaj Advani Bags Asian Billiards Title For 8th Time

Press Trust of India

DOHA: Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani defeated compatriot Dhruv Sitwala by six frames to win his eighth title at the 19th Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022 here on Saturday.

This is Advani's 24th international title and 8th Asian crown. Against Sitwala, a two-time Asian Billiards champion, Advani won the first frame before following it up with a smooth century break to extend the lead to 2-0.

In the third frame, Advani opened up a 84-14 lead and went up three frames to nil and resorted to white pot at 87 and positioned it well for a red in-off the spot.

Sitwala fought back and pulled one back when his famed opponent missed a red early in the frame. He came up with a 82 break to reduce the lead.

Advani won the fifth frame to establish a 4-1 lead and stormed ahead to take the sixth too.



Sitwala capitalised on a miss by his countryman to take the seventh frame before Advani re-focused to capture the eighth frame despite an impressive break by his opponent for a 6-2 triumph.

Earlier, Advani had held off the stiff challenge of Pauk Sa of Myanmar to secure a spot in the final. He managed a 5-4 win after his opponent fought back strongly to level the match at four frames each.

Director Sports Inaugurates UT Level KhoKho Competitions



Observer News Service

KATHUA: Director Youth Services and Sports (YS&S) Department Gazanfar Ali on Friday kick started Inter District UT Level Kho-Kho competitions at Shivalik Resort Dayalachack here.

"Sports enhance social and cultural life by bringing together individuals and communities. Sports helps to break down prejudice, intolerance and discrimination," he said while throwing open the tournament.

The Director Sports interacted with the participating girl players and showered his blessings and words of encouragement on them. He insisted on parents

for providing equal opportunities to their daughters as they will make them proud with their dedication and commitment. He expressed joy on the huge participation of girls in different games and sporting activities. Director YS&S was accompanied by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Kathua Sunil Kumar and other senior officers of the Department.

The tournament is being organised for the Under-19 girls. Teams from different J&K districts are taking part in the competition.

All the ZEPOs of the district Kathua and the members of field staff were also present in the opening ceremony.

Steve Smith Hopes To Score Big In 3rd Test Against Pakistan



Agencies

LAHORE: Australia vice-captain Steve Smith says he's disappointed to have not capitalised on two good starts against Pakistan and get his first away test century in over two years.

Smith scored 78 in Australia's first test in Pakistan since 1998 which ended in a draw at Rawalpindi before making 72 in the epic drawn game at Karachi.

"Look, I've been pretty disappointed when I've got out, that's for sure," Smith said via video conference on Saturday as Australia prepared for the third and final test starting Monday.

"I haven't got out (in the 70s) many times in my career and I think I've got to get the bigger scores, particularly on those wickets."

Smith looked set to score his first away test century on a lifeless Pindi Cricket Stadium wicket before top-edging a wild sweep against legspinner Numan Ali and getting caught at short fine leg.

He batted for four hours and 40 minutes at Karachi for his 72 in Australia's mammoth first-innings score of 556-9 declared but edged a low catch in the second slip to Faheem Ashraf off fast bowler Hasan Ali.

In a batter-dominated series

so far, Smith hopes he can get his first away test century in Lahore since making 211 in the Ashes test at Manchester in 2019.

Another slow wicket is likely to welcome both teams at the Gaddafi Stadium where there's hardly any grass left on the wicket.

"Hopefully (I) can get into the similar position in this test and go on and convert," Smith said.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam led Pakistan to the second-test draw with his historic knock of 196 in over 10 hours at Karachi.

"Pakistan batted exceptionally well to stay out there for 172 overs, Smith said. It's not too often you see a team last that long in the fourth inning, (but) obviously we weren't quite good enough to get all 10 (wickets) in the end."

Smith said the slow nature of the wicket has encouraged Australia to put fielders in the slips a bit closer to the wicket.

"It's been a real challenge, I've never stood as close to the bat in my life in any conditions, Smith said. There's just been no bounce in the wicket, so part of our plan is to ensure that the ball carries as much as possible."

"The reaction time isn't great. It's been difficult to adjust, but we're working on that at training," (AP)

Braithwaite & Blackwood Frustrate England In Barbados



Agencies

BRIDGETOWN: Centuries by captain Kraigg Braithwaite and Jermaine Blackwood delivered a brilliant West Indies reply to England's declaration as their series looked headed for another test draw on Friday.

After three days of the second test, only 13 wickets have tumbled on the flat pitch at Kensington Oval.

Braithwaite and Blackwood showed acute patience to frustrate England in a stand of 183 that started before lunch and ended only five overs from stumps.

They led West Indies' resistance to 288-4 at the close in reply to England's 507-9 declared. They trail by 219 runs.

Braithwaite was 109 not out after batting the whole day, and night-watchman Alzarri Joseph on 4. Blackwood made a chancy 102, coming in after England prised out

a couple of wickets in the morning. Shamrah Brooks, resuming with Braithwaite, was edgy against England spinner Jack Leach and beat himself with a poor shot off Leach straight to point. Brooks added only eight runs and was out for 39 off 105 balls.

Nkrumah Bonner, the centurion in the first test in Antigua, was trapped by Ben Stokes on 9 and wasted a review, and the West Indies was 101-3.

Blackwood was almost the fourth wicket for an England attack with two new bowlers and the confirmed loss of spearhead Mark Wood. He was returning home with a right elbow injured in the first test.

Stokes trapped Blackwood before he scored but agreed with the umpire that it was not an out. Video, however, showed the ball hitting leg stump. Blackwood survived an actual review on 4, then cruised to lunch. (AP)