

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

25th year OF PUBLICATION

Sunday 27 March 2022 | 23 Shaban | 1443 Hijri | Vol:25 | Issue: 71 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹ 3

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



P3 CITY

SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL KICKS OFF AT TULIP GARDEN

Secretary Tourism & Culture, Sarmad Hafeez inaugurated seven days Spring Food Festival 2022 at Tulip Garden on Saturday. The festival is organised by Directorate of Tourism

P5

IF I WEREN'T A GIRL, HERE'S WHERE I WOULD SIT AND READ IN KASHMIR

Our society, though very encouraging to women in many spheres, still has a long way to go as far as seeing women enjoying in public places is concerned. The "if I weren't a girl" is a self-explanatory phrase of



P7 STATE

200 ELECTRIC BUSES WITH REAL-TIME TRACKING SOON IN JAMMU, SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir government is all set to launch a fleet of 200 electric buses equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including a real-time tracking system, in



Quote!

Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind
- William Shakespeare

NEWS DIGEST

15 More Test Corona Positive In J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 15 fresh Covid infections taking the case tally to 4,53,652 while no death was reported, officials said. Of the fresh cases, two were from Jammu and 13 from Kashmir divisions of the Union Territory, they said. **More on P6**

NIA Charges Arrested Pak Militant

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a charge sheet in a court here against a Pakistani militant affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET) who was arrested during an infiltration attempt in **More on P6**

Fire Damages Shrine In Uri

SRINAGAR: Shrine of a Sufi saint was gutted in a fire mishap in Nowshera area of Uri in north-Kashmir's Baramulla district. An official said that a fire engulfed the shrine of Syed Sakhi (RA) this afternoon and within a short span of time razed the structure, mainly built of wood, to ashes. "Despite **More on P6**

25 Sleepers Of Deodar Seized In Ramban

BANIHAL: Twenty-five sleepers of deodar trees were seized from a residential shed in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday. The square beams of wood, each measuring 10x10x5 ft, were said to be worth lakhs of rupees. The seizure was made on the basis of a **More on P6**

SPO Killed, Brother Injured In Militant Attack



File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Saturday shot dead a Special Police Officer (SPO) and injured his brother in an attack in Budgam district, five days after a civilian was killed in similar manner in the central Kashmir district.

According to reports, unidentified militants appeared in Chadabugh village of Soibugh on Saturday evening and opened fire upon SPO Ishfaq Ahmad and his brother Umar Ahmad, leaving them critically injured. The injured brothers were removed by their **More on P6**

Twin Blasts Cause Panic In Rajouri

Two explosions in quick succession sparked panic among the people in a busy market in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday evening, officials said. No one was injured, they said. The first blast was heard around 8.15 pm near a garbage dump in Kotranka market, the officials said. Police and other security personnel rushed to the scene and cordoned **More on P6**



SPO ISHFAQ AHMAD AND HIS BROTHER UMAR JAN (A STUDENT) were

fired upon by terrorists at their residence in village Chadabugh area of Budgam. However Ishfaq Ahmad succumbed to his injuries & attained martyrdom. Area cordoned off, search operation in progress. Further details follow."

J&K Will Have BJP CM, Says Raina

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Extending an indirect invitation to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah to join his party, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina said the saffron party will form government in the union territory and have its own chief minister.

You can't achieve anything by playing drums there. If you wish, come and play it here, he said, referring to Abdullah. Raina also reiterated that several family members of veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad have already joined the BJP and more are in queue to come into the saffron fold.

Azad's nephew Mubashir joined the BJP recently.

Addressing a public rally in the mountainous Doda district here as part of the party's outreach programme on Friday, he **More on P6**

J&K Pays Second Highest Tax On Petrol In North India

For Rs 100 Petrol, People In J&K Pay Rs 45.9 As Tax

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As the country continues to witness a steep hike in the petrol and diesel prices after over four-month hiatus in rate revision, an independent organization exploring India through data and visualizations—for every 100 rupees of petrol, people in J&K pay 45.9 rupees as tax on petrol, second highest **More on P6**

Gas's data that reveals that Jammu and Kashmir pays the second highest tax on petrol across North India.

As per Stats of India—an independent organization exploring India through data and visualizations—for every 100 rupees of petrol, people in J&K pay 45.9 rupees as tax on petrol, second highest **More on P6**

IN J&K FOR EVERY LITRE OF PETROL, the Central Government charges Rupees 32.90 per litre as a tax.

Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked Again

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by 80 paise a litre each on Saturday, the fourth increase in five days as oil firms passed on to consumers the spike in cost of raw material. Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 98.61 per litre as against Rs 97.81 previously while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 89.07 per litre to Rs 89.87, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers. All the four increases since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22, have been of 80 paise a litre. These **More on P6**

Asset Seizure If Owner 'Willfully' Harbours Militants: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Days after warning that properties of people providing shelter to militants or their associates will be attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday said action will be taken only if the house owner willfully harboured militants and there was no duress.

However, the police said, the onus of proving duress is on the house owner.

In a statement, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP)

of Srinagar Rakesh Balwal said there has been misinformation, rumours floated by certain quarters about information provided by Srinagar Police on initiation of attachment of properties used for militancy purpose. "It is clarified that Srinagar Police is well aware of the difference between wilful harbouring of terrorists and one done under duress," he said. "The attachments being done are for properties where it has been proved beyond doubt that the house owner/member had **More on P6**

'How Many KPs Relocated In 8 Years', Kejriwal Asks BJP

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday attacked the BJP for "doing politics" over Kashmiri Pandits' exodus, asking how many of them the party had been able to relocate to the valley.

He also again suggested that the film, 'The Kashmir Files', should be uploaded on YouTube and proceeds so far earned from it should be spent on the welfare of Kashmiri Pandits.

"Was a single Kashmiri Pandit family relocated to valley by BJP in last 8 yrs? Kejriwal



asked the BJP. BJP is doing politics over the issue. We demand 'The Kashmir Files' film to be uploaded on YouTube. The money earned from **More on P6**

Magician Posing As Beggar Loots Cash, Gold In Budgam

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A magician impersonating as a beggar allegedly looted cash and gold from a house on Saturday in J&K's Budgam district.

Abdul Rashid Bhat of Ichgam village in Budgam district alleged that a beggar came to his house and requested for a cup of tea and "we provided him tea".

"While having tea, he started asking different questions and asked about the well-being of our daughter

who remains unwell.

"He later started asking about gold and money, and with the help of a magical trick, managed to loot our cash and gold".

The family has sought help from district administration and police to identify the thief and take legal action against him.

Locals have also requested higher ups to investigate the matter and book the accused so that such incidents do not happen in future.



80% Qualify Annual 11th Class Exams In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With an overall pass percentage of 80 percent, Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) on Saturday declared the results of annual regular examinations of 11th standard of Kashmir division. According to reports, the girl students have yet again outshined boys.

"Girls registered a total pass percentage of 83 percent while boys registered only 78 percent," BOSE said.

BOSE also said that a total of 80,801 students were enrolled for the exams and 64,915 candidates qualified the exams.

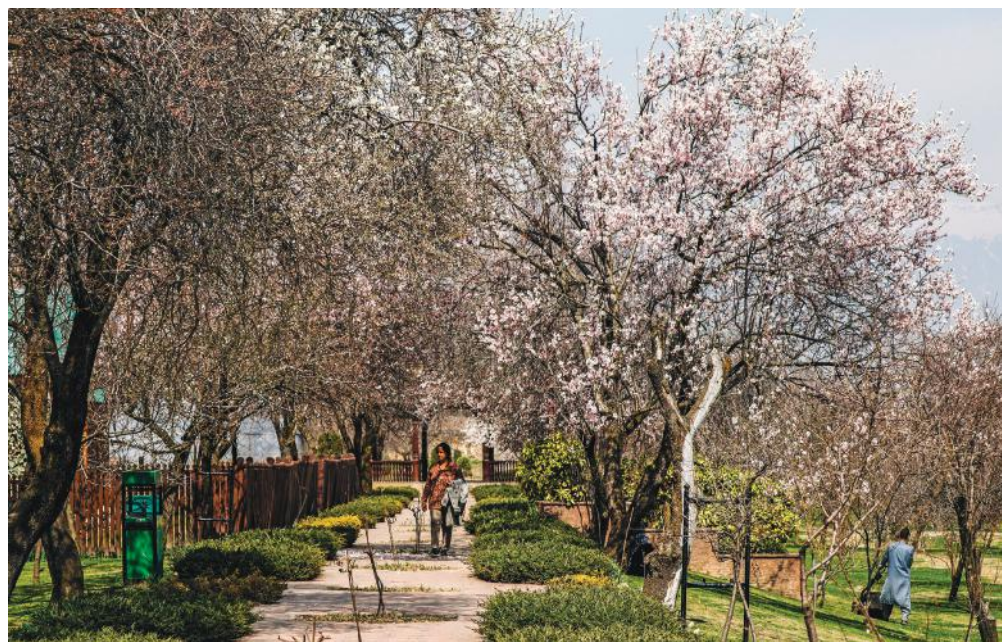
According to BOSE, at least 31,817 students bagged the distinction in the **More on P6**

Do You Get Your Copy of
KASHMIR OBSERVER
Regularly?



If Not

Contact Circulation Incharge:
Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927



A woman tourist walks through the blooming almond trees in Badamwari in Srinagar city on Saturday. KO photo, Abid Bhat

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1:

ISRO-Young Scientist Programme (YUVIKA) 2022

Description: ISRO-Young Scientist Program (YUVIKA) 2022 is an initiative of the Department of Space, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for science students to create awareness about the emerging trends in science and technology amongst the youngsters.
Eligibility: Open for candidates studying in Class 9 as on 1st March 2022 in a school located within the territory of India.

Prizes & Rewards: Variable awards
Last Date to Apply: 10-04-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/YSY7



Eligibility: Open for candidates who hold a postgraduate or PhD degree in Agricultural Extension/Agriculture Marketing/Home Science Extension/Agri-Business Management/Agricultural Economics/Animal Husbandry Extension/Fisheries Extension/Forestry/Food Technology/Agriculture

Engineering/Mass Communication & Journalism/Information Technology/Food Processing with 80% marks and good academic background.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 35,000 per month

Last Date to Apply: Round The Year
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MEP2

Scholarship Name 3

Oxford and Cambridge Society of India Scholarship (OCSI), UK 2022

Description: Oxford and Cambridge Society of India Scholarship (OCSI), UK 2022 is an initiative by the Oxford and Cambridge Society of India (OCSI) for Indian students applying for Undergraduate/second undergraduate/graduate and research studies in the US and UK.

Eligibility: Open for candidates below 30 years of age on 1 September of the year of application for the award and fulfil all the academic requirements as specified for the scheme. The candidates must be admitted to the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford through the University's normal academic procedures.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 200,000
Last Date to Apply: 15-05-2022
Application mode: via email only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/OCS7

از نیابت ہر دوشورہ
مضمون درخواست : وسیم حبیب ولد حبیب اللہ پرے ساکنہ ہردو شورہ برادر عطا یگی DOB certificate DOB certificate

دختر خدیجہ بنت وسیم
استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست بابت حصول تارخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ سائل وسیم حبیب کی دختر خدیجہ بنت وسیم کی تارخ پیدائش مورخہ 05-1-2022 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار **mks**

از نیابت ہر دوشورہ
مضمون درخواست : سجاد حبیب ولد حبیب اللہ پرے ساکنہ ہر دوشورہ برادر عطا یگی DOB certificate DOB certificate

1۔ پسر حیران سجاد ولد سجاد حبیب پرے
2۔ دختر حورین سجاد دختر سجاد حبیب پرے
استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست بابت حصول تارخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ سائل سجاد حبیب پرے کا پسر حیران سجاد کی تارخ پیدائش مورخہ 08-04-2011 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اور دختر حورین سجاد کی تارخ پیدائش مورخہ 03-05-2019 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار **mks**

از نیابت کنزرو
مضمون درخواست : محمد شفیع بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ ساکنہ دھوبی وان برادر عطا یگی DOB certificate DOB certificate

استہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں دفتر ہذا کو ایک درخواست بابت حصول تارخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ پولیس سٹیشن کنزرو چوکیدار علاقہ نے سائل کے پسر کی پیدائش اندراج نہیں کی ہے سائل محمد شفیع بٹ ولد غلام محمد بٹ بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکا پسر محمد عارف بٹ کی تارخ پیدائش 03-09-2017 کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کنزرو **az k**

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Ms : Kaneez Fatima D/o: Gh Mohi-ud-Din Sofi R/o: Rakh Shalina Budgam (Transferor) of M 800. Vehicle bearing registration number

JK04B - 4775. Chasis number 31219 Engine no. 84246 Model 2011. in favour of Shri. Shabir Ahmad Sheikh S/o, Abdul Rehman Sheikh R/o Chatlama Lalpora Pulwama (Tranferree) as well as HPA cancellation with J&K Bank B/U Ompora also required. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.7092 Dated 26/03/2022 Assistant Regional Transport officer mcb Budgam Kashmir

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

Contact:-0194-3550112
G-mail- yardimcিনিউque92@gmail.com
I.G: yardimci_multi_venture
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

ELECTRONICS

10X MOBILE STORE

All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories
Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-7889657769

TECH.WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.

Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE KASHMER
(KASHMIRI AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEALTHCARE, MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH)

Free Critical Care Ambulance Service 24*7
In Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag & Kupwara
Acute medical and surgical emergency calls will be taken by experts and triaged. Our expert team will rush to the spot. Appropriate care will be provided and patient will be shifted to the nearby hospital for further management.

For Emergency call:- 9484-100-200 0194-240-4000
Kindly cooperate and make it a Success!

ایمر جنسی طبی سروس
شہر سرینگر، بaramulla، انتننگ اور کپوارہ کے لئے فوری طبی صورت حال میں

مفت ایمر جنسی کال کٹار
انتہائی تیز اور فوری طور پر طبی امداد کے مستحق افراد کو خدمت فراہم کی جائے گی۔ امداد کے لئے موصول ہوئی فون کالوں کو کمزور کے درجے یا پانچ کے بعد ہر بار رہنمائی کی جائے گی۔ ہر سہ ماہی کی فون کالوں کے لئے طبی امداد کی سہولت فراہم کرے گی۔ سرینگر کو بھی طبی امداد کے لئے فوری طبی امداد کی سہولت فراہم کرے گی۔ کسی بھی طبی سروس کے لئے رابطہ کریں:-

9484-100-200 0194-240-4000
ہماری سہ ماہی طبی امداد کا کامیاب بنانے کے لئے مددگار بنیں۔

Please donate to Account Number: 0365040100013064, J&K Bank branch Lal Mandi
KASHMER in Collaboration with HELP Foundation

ASTHMA ATTACK BREATHING TROUBLE

- Inability to Breathe
- Difficulty Talking
- Rapid & Shallow Breathing
- Racing Heart
- Irregular Heartbeats
- Lips Turning Blue

HEART ATTACK SYMPTOMS

- Chest pain or discomfort
- Feeling weak, light headed, or faint
- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back
- Pain or discomfort in arms or shoulders
- Sweating
- Shortness of breath

STROKE SYMPTOMS

- Balance loss/Dizziness
- Eyes(Vision change)
- Facial drooping/ numbness
- Arm weakness/ numbness
- Speech slurring (confusion)
- Sudden severe headache
- Time to Call

TRAUMA/HEAD/CHEST OR ABDOMINAL INJURY OR SEVERE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

CALL CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE 24/7
9484100200 / 01942404000

سڑک کی علامتیں

- توازن کا فقدان رکھنا یا غوطہ کھینچنا
- آنکھوں سے جھلک سے نہ کھینچنا
- چہرے میں کچھ حرکت محسوس کرنا یا نہیں ہونا
- بڑبڑاتی کمری یا آواز ہونا
- برائے میں بھگانا۔ کچھ بھی ٹھیک سے نہ سمجھنا
- پاک بکھیرنا یا سر ہوننا
- بہت جلد سے یا دیر سے ہوننا

دل کا دورہ پڑنے کی علامتیں

- چھینٹنا یا دھڑکنے کا
- کمری یا آواز ہونا یا نہ ہونا
- پیشاب یا زرد، گہرا یا سفید ہونا یا نہ ہونا
- بڑبڑاتی کمری یا آواز ہونا
- بڑبڑاتی کمری یا آواز ہونا
- پیشاب یا زرد ہونا
- بڑبڑاتی کمری یا آواز ہونا

وسم اور شخص کی بیماریوں کی علامتیں:

- سائل بڑبڑاتی وقت ہونا
- بانت کرنے میں رکاوٹ
- تیز یا کمری یا آواز ہونا
- دل کا تیز سے دھڑکنا
- دل کا تیز سے دھڑکنا
- بڑبڑاتی کمری یا آواز ہونا
- بڑبڑاتی کمری یا آواز ہونا

ٹرا/اسر کی چوٹ یا سینے پر چوٹ غیر معمولی زخم یا کسی بھی حادثے کا شکار

فوری طور مدد کرنے والی ایمر جنسی کال کٹار
9484100200 / 01942404000
KASHMER in Collaboration with HELP Foundation

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal
CE/IPB/IAB/S

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
MACADAM WORKS
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs. 2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tendering NIT No.391 of 2021-22 of R&B Division Ganderbal issued under endorsement No.25938-47 Dated:25.03.2022

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

S. No	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. of In Locs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest Money	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Closs of Contractor
1.	Resurfacing of Road stretches from Nilgrath upto Y Junction b.w.o P/L 100 mm thick wet mix .50 mm thick Bituminous macdam, 25mm thick semidense(RD0-7300mtrs) in patches and stretches for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2022.	95.96	Rs. 1600/=	Bid Security Declaration as per format	15-Days	Yatra	HMPO

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	25/03/2022 from 06.55 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	25/03/2022 from 06.55 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	31/03/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01 /04/2022 at 10.00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer 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.

2.1 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.

2.2 Note-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

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

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited If:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate {DSC}' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

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

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned 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.

6.6. 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.

Sd/-
No.25938-47
Dated:25-03/2022
DIPK-20056/21
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal



Workshop On “Legal Rights Of Women” Held

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Level Centre for Women Mahila Shakti Kendra Srinagar in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar Saturday organized a day long workshop on “Legal Rights of Women” at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kothibagh.

The workshop was organised by Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) in collaboration with District Legal Services Authority Srinagar.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad, who is also the chairman District Mahila Shakti Kendra was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

While Secretary DLSA, Noor Mohammed Mir attended the function as Guest of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that women folk is a unique creature on the earth which balances rights and duties with utmost ability.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the organizers for conducting such sensitization camps to create awareness regarding legal rights among the women folk. He said the purpose of such programmes is to make women folk aware

of the laws/statutes and know their legal rights to eliminate crimes against the women. He further said the society will not develop unless the status of women improves.

Asad said women empowerment should begin at home and there should be no discrimination by the parents towards their children based on gender. The male and female child should be treated equally then only it is possible to achieve the desired results.

The DC also stressed upon effective implementation of all schemes and programs that are meant for welfare of women and children. He said that the development of society is directly related to women empowerment.

Describing recent acid attack as lack of proper gender sanitization and dearth of moral education, the DC stressed the need of incorporating issues like this in educational curriculum besides responsibility of Active parenting which starts from home.

The DC also said that women victims also have Right to Zero FIR at any police station irrespective of where the incident occurred to provide help on a fast track basis.



Spring Food Festival Kicks Off At Tulip Garden

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Secretary Tourism & Culture, SarmadHafeez inaugurated seven days Spring Food Festival 2022 at Tulip Garden on Saturday.

The festival is organised by Directorate of Tourism Kashmir to celebrate the Tulips, Folk Music, local cuisines and other cultural variety of Kashmir valley.

Speaking on the occasion, the Tourism Secretary said that cuisine, crafts and culture have been intrinsic components of J&K's tourism which the Department has decided to showcase optimally in coming events. He said the Department would soon organize multiple food festivals to promote the concept

of food tourism.

Highlighting about the overwhelming response to the food festival, SarmadHafeez said it was very good to know that even young generation of Kashmir have mastered the craft of ethnic food preparation. He added that the Department has also decided to provide a platform to creative entrepreneurs at this Spring Food Festival.

SarmadHafeez further remarked that the festival will also highlight the tourism potential of Jammu Kashmir valley across the world and enhance the experience of tourists visiting Kashmir during this season. He added that the weeklong food festival will also give chance for tourists and locals to taste different cultural cuisines and ethnic drinks.

The Tourism Secretary further said that the Srinagar city is emerging as cafe city of India and several cafes of city have also been roped into this festival to give a unique kind of experience to the visitors and tourists apart from traditional drinks and foods. He added that this festival will also give a platform to young entrepreneurs to establish themselves who are emerging as new face of vibrant Srinagar city.

Earlier, Director Tourism, Kashmir Dr. G. N Itoo, explained the features and objectives of the festival.

Pertinently, the festival is aimed at popularizing the local ethnic cuisines and foods to give the tourists a feel of local culture and ethos besides keeping alive the fast disappearing ethnic recipes.

DC Reviews Implementation Of Beneficiary Oriented CSSs

Observer News Service

Srinagar:Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad today chaired a meeting of zonal and sectoral officers of the district to review the progress in implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised in detail about the achievements made so far under Centrally Sponsored Schemes including PMAY-G, PMAY-U, PM Kisan, PMJJBY, PMGSY, PM-JAY, Soil Health Card, PM Atal Yojna, PMKKY, SVAMITVA, SEHAT Cards and National Family Benefit scheme.

The DC stressed upon the concerned departments and financial institutions to work for overall development of the district and Welfare of the target population with more dedication and sincerity, so that the 100 percent saturation is made under all mentioned centrally sponsored schemes.

In this regard, he directed Lead District Manager to monitor and follow up the work on a monthly basis in respect of departments and Banks under Government sponsored schemes for eradication of unemployment of educated youth, hassle free lending facilities for generating new income units.

The DC stressed on conducting IEC activities for mass awareness to educate the public about the Employment generation and social security schemes in the district so that maximum people are benefited.

V-Mart Opens Upgraded Store At Sara City Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: V-Mart inaugurated its upgraded store at Sara City Centre on Saturday.

The store has added wide range of branded clothes & other House hold items.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held in presence of regional manager V-Mart retail ltd. Mr.Shyam. The company thanked the guests and customers who joined the inaugural function.

Disaster Preparedness Training For Medical Staff Held

Observer News Service

Srinagar: One day Disaster Preparedness Training for Medical and Para-Medical Staff of a Non-Governmental Organization, HELP/KASHMER (Kashmiri American Society for Healthcare, Medical Education and Research) was organized by Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

The training programme was held in collaboration with SDRF and Civil Defence.

The goals of this service were to include provision of Critical Care Ambulance service facility to patients in the early golden hour of illness.

The other aim of the



training session was to create awareness among masses about importance of Pre-hospital care. Pre-hospital care is a vital component of Emergency Medical Services.

The training session was inaugurated by Aamir Ali, Nodal Officer State Emergency Opera-

tion Centre in presence of Dr Syed Riyaz Project Director of the organization. The staff were trained in Basic First Aid, Fire Fighting, Search& Rescue.

The Training was conducted by a team from SDRF and Civil Defence led by Aijaz Ahmed.

Office of the Principal Government Degree College

Frisal Homeshalibug, Kulgam 192232

No: ESTT/22/870

Date:-24-03-2022

Short Term Tender Notice

Development of College Website

The college is intending to develop College Website. In this regard, sealed tenders are invited from reputed/registered firms for participation in Tendering Process. The last date for receiving the tenders is 30th of March, 2022.

The terms and conditions can be had from the Office of the Undersigned in the office hours in working days.

Principal

Government Degree College
Frisal Homeshalibug, Kulgam

MED HUB

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of pesticides & Fertilizer License . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Name: Mohammad Lateef Bhat
S/o :Gh Rasool Bhat
R/o :Malgonipora Rafiabadda tehsil:Watergama
District:Baramulla

ir dst

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been received from owner.
Shri : Firdous Ahmad Dar S/o: Ali Mohammad Dar R/o: Dandoosa Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Showkat Ahmad Sheikh S/o Ali Mohammad Sheikh R/o Kenihama B.K Pora Srinagar.as Transferor) for transfer of Load Carrier vehicle
No. JK04E -6800.

Now It is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 7072
Dated 26-03-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one.
Shri : Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh S/o: Mohammad Akbar Sheikh R/o: Peerbagh Chanapora (Transferor) of Santro.
Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A - 6143. Chasis number 064190 Engine no. 077271 Model 2007. in favour of Shri.. Adil Hussain Naik S/o. Abdul Rehman Naik R/o Attoo Aharbal Kulgam (Transferee)
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.7070
Dated 26/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

DIAL-EMMA

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
23 Shaban
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 02
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:01
Magrib	6:50
ISHA	8: 12

This Day In History

- 1933 - Japan leaves League of Nations
- 1938 - The Battle of Taierzhuang takes place.
- 1941 - Britain leases defense bases in Trinidad to US for 99 years
- 1941 - Adolf Hitler signs Directive 27 (assault on Yugoslavia)
- 1943 - US begins assault on Fondouk Pass, Tunisia
- 1945 - General Eisenhower declares German defenses on Western Front broken
- 1945 - US 20th Army corps captures Wiesbaden
- 1945 - World War II: Operation Starvation, the aerial mining of Japan's ports and waterways begins.
- 1950 - Netherlands recognizes People's Republic of China
- 1958 - Nikita Khrushchev becomes Soviet Premier as well as First Secretary of the Communist Party
- 1961 - Failed assassination attempt on King Saif al-Islam Achmad of Yemen.
- 1964 - Great Alaska Earthquake 9.2 magnitude and resulting tsunami kills 139, largest US earthquake, 2nd largest ever recorded
- 1964 - Great Train Robbers sentenced to a total of 307 years behind bars
- 1964 - UN troops arrive in Cyprus

From KO Archives

Soze Revolts, Blast Farooq Abdullah's Decision 'Insult To Kashmir Genius'

Observer News Service

New Delhi- Senior National Conference leader and former union minister Saifu-ud-din Soze, today revolted against his party leadership's decision to support the BJP led government at the center and made an "impassioned" appeal to Farooq Abdullah to "reconsider your stand" in the interests of people of Kashmir.

"RSS will continue to guide and inspire the destiny" of the Vajpayee government" and the contention of Farooq Abdullah that he needed maximum support (funds) from the center, for the welfare of the state and had this compulsion for supporting the BJP government "is fraught with dangerous consequences", Soze said in a strongly worded statement issued here late this afternoon.

He said that "short run political and economic gains involving many awkward compromises are no substitutes for long term and enduring political assertions" adding that even after Abdullah offered his party's support to the BJP, there was "no guarantee" that the ruling alliance will support National Conference commitment to restore internal autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir".

"I don't think that Farooq is naive and does not understand that, in response to a coalition consensus, the BJP has just temporarily put the abrogation of Art. 370, uniform civil code and Ram mandir on a back burner", Soze said in his statement.

The four-time Lok Sabha member and "official spokesman" of the National Conference, Soze, is said to have tried his best in last few days to convince Abdullah against taking any "hasty decision" on extending support to Vajpayee government. Soze is learnt to have been in touch with other senior National Conference leaders on this issue and most of them, including some senior ministers of Farooq government are reported to be in unanimity with Soze's stand. Soze, sources said talked to Farooq on phone late last evening and this morning, but seems to have failed in persuading his leader to change the stand.

Soze, as already reported, attended the meetings of the United Front, even after Farooq Abdullah declared to have severed his relations with the Front, regretted that Abdullah took such a major decision without taking into confidence his senior party colleagues and also putting the issue before the party working committee, highest decision making body.

This stance of Farooq Abdullah, not convening the party working committee before taking such an important decision " is an insult to the genius" of the people of Kashmir, Soze said and asked "are the people of Jammu and Kashmir supposed to live at the mercy of a central government of the day"?

Soze also charged Farooq Abdullah with "misquoting" his father, Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah, in dealing with the center. "All the Sheikh said was that center and state should endeavor to maintain a harmonious relation within the frame work of center-state relations", Soze said and added that Farooq was "mistaken in his belief that generally people have short memories. He said that Farooq's announcement that he would be placing the issue of extending support to BJP after having taking the final decision himself, was "nothing short of adding insult to the injury".

Soze advised Farooq Abdullah, to reconsider his decision, "even at this late stage" and try to appreciate the fact that "short run political or economic gains involving many awkward promises are no substitute for long term and enduring pro-people assertions which always rest on calm reflections and cool thinking".

"My worry is that Doctor Sahib, in his hurry to drove-tail short run situations of advantage with his politics of compromise, might cripple the very goose that invariably laid the golden eggs for him", Soze said.

(Kashmir Observer, 27 March, 1998)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvserver.net

Twitter Talks



“Modernity for some is all about unclothing women. Not expansion of the thinking process, exploring new horizons but how much skin is exposed. What a standard”

@_merajhasan

“You all know that even when women have full rights, they still remain fatally downtrodden because all housework is left to them. In most cases housework is the most unproductive, the most barbarous and the most arduous work a woman can do”

@kabir_writes

“Petrol and diesel prices hiked fourth time in five days. Normalcy has returned”

@iammirzaarif

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Roots of Pay Crisis

State employees have raised the stakes in their attrition with the government to a perilous level in threatening an indefinite lock-out should their demands on the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission report and other issues not be conceded. Even as we go to press, government functioning in the state has been paralyzed by a two-day strike, with a secretariat gherao planned for Wednesday. Employee unions are in no mood to give the government more time, dismayed as they are by the recent cabinet meeting sidelining the issue totally.

Commentators have, perhaps with good reason, described the unfolding scenario as a grave crisis in the making, and indeed, the situation does show the signs of a showdown. The recently inducted National Conference-led coalition in Jammu and Kashmir would have been wishing for this particular hornet's nest not to be stirred, but couldn't have been unaware of the restive ranks of the employees who have been pursuing this issue aggressively for some time. The pay panel's recommendations have come as an additional boost to the agitation-prone employee unions who say that many of their genuine grievances have been left unaddressed for too long. What they decide on Wednesday during the secretariat gherao will determine what the Omar Abdullah government will have to face.

In any case, the state dispensation is confronted with its first major challenge where its avowedly good intentions clash with the reality of a serious resource crunch.

The state finance minister, Abdul Rahim Rathar, has already outlined the huge financial implications of implementing the 6th Pay Commission report, and tacitly admitted the state's limitations by stressing that the issue would have to be taken up with the center.

Remarkably, the demands about the Commission's recommendations took center stage when the agitation over the Shrine Board land transfer had taken on a much broader dimension. The governor, then ruling the state, himself gave audience to employees' delegations, notably to a hastily cobbled group of KAS officers who had actively begun to champion the cause.

These senior officers could not have been unaware of the shaky state of government finances and the protracted top-level wrangling it would take to make the center cough up the thousands of crores of rupees needed to meet the liability. The employees have been on the agitation path on a number of diverse issues, but the pay commission report has given their stir a cutting edge, turning the government-employee tussle into an affair of keen public interest. Bent on giving the government no further quarter by threatening an indefinite strike, attention is bound to be focused on developments concerning an estimated four-an-a-half lakh individuals. If carried out, the threat has wider ramifications, involve as it does the society in general which is heavily dependent on government functioning.

If the National Conference-led coalition government finds itself painted into a corner because of an indefinite pen-down strike by employees, the party has partly to answer to itself with respect to the weak state economy. The National Conference has been in power for long decades, and its sins of omission and commission have a direct bearing on the present state of affairs. It cannot absolve itself of responsibility of having giving the state no direction in the economic and social spheres to meet the demands of coming years. The state cannot even generate finances to meet its own salary bills, and has been kept dependent on outside injections in more ways than one. Right from the everyday necessities of life, including the food front where Jammu and Kashmir should have been self-sufficient, the state has to rely on imports, and can be brought to its knees in a matter of days as evidenced in the economic blockade by communal fanatics in the Jammu region.

The connection between salary issues and the self-sufficiency of the state is not far-fetched, as Kashmir's vulnerability comes to the fore every time the Srinagar-Jammu highway gets blocked for a matter of days. It bears repeating that the National Conference, which has been in power at what could have been a defining stage in Kashmir's development, has failed abysmally in providing the leadership and vision required to put a people on the path of sustainable progress. What has been cultivated instead is a pervasive cult of consumerism and ostentation under which even the last remnants of producers, the peasantry and the farming community, are selling off their land to finance bribes for government jobs for their younger generation. The National Conference had lost no time in granting land to the tiller, but failed to give a sound agrarian philosophy that would have sustained the state as agriculture does states like the Punjab.

The credit for the state's perennial begging bowl image, even for employees' salaries, goes fair and square to the National Conference which has been content with flowing with the drift, and seldom lifted up a hand to address the state's decline.

The article is an editorial from KO Archives and was originally published on June 12, 2010

Fictionalising Kashmir: Distorted
Diagnosis of Eccentric Hakims

The fatalities that fiction causes by distorting reality into a pseudo reality are spread across the world.

Asma Majid

It was perhaps time to unmount. The mule seemed tired to the core traversing the Pir Panjal mountains for hours altogether. Hammad decided to walk but his pulhoer—slippers made of straw-rope—wouldn't abide by the travails of his long journey. Had he been aware of the disobliging temperament of his mule that morning, he would've put on some special shoes apt for the rugged track.

The sun had come of age and he was still a kilometre away from his school. Disgusted by the mule's act of cozenage to rid itself of burden, Hammad decided to walk it off.

With a heavy pheran on in the midst of July, a skullcap on the head and a slate in hand, traversing the rugged mountains was an arduous task but it had to be accomplished. Just a few yards and his pulhoer broke down. He knew it wouldn't do, the straw-slippers were too impotent to assist him in crossing the rocky trail. So he made a quick fix and began to walk again. A couple of steps and he lost his balance and slipped down the mountain.

A hypnic jerk woke Hammad up. He wasn't in deep slumber but perhaps in a trance, like a deep hypnosis, the resultant of a chain of bizarre interrogations by his fellow students at college.

Hammad, a Kashmiri, was a new admission in one of the reputed colleges of Delhi and thus his mates who had come across various myths and legends pertaining to his native land, propagated by fiction, were intrigued by his eccentric culture, the highlights of which were wearing pheran and a skullcap all year long, crossing mountains altogether to reach schools and places, writing on slates, wearing ancient slippers and living in houseboats, aloof from the land areas. They would ask with utmost astonishment as to how Hammad had such a good hold at Hindi language and why there was no native accentual effect in his speech.

While passing the corridor, some students would shout at Hammad and say, 'Wala yoori' (come here) just as they had heard the actor Mehmood say in the famous 1960's Hindi movie based in Kashmir. They would even ask him if people of his land said, 'Yalla kasam' (By God) while swearing.

Despite being "so nerve-racking", Hammad decided to endure, deeming them as short-lived.

But what makes him distraught lately is a totally unsound and off-base fictional narrative about his homeland which is fraught with fab-



Once deemed as a form of entertainment, it never occurred to many Kashmiri out there as to how fiction operates on myriad levels of personality. For instance, Kashmir, once a hub of Bollywood shootings, served as an arena of film activities. But while appreciating the purity of pastures, the burble of murmuring rivulets, the magnificence of snow-clad mountains, all shot in the movies with utmost perfection, a Kashmiri could hardly make peace with the ding-a-ling portrayals of the native people

rications. As a consequence of this, he's now more concerned that those like him who put up outside the valley may face the music owing to the presentation of a purely fictionalized and fabricated reality.

Alack! The impacts of fictionalizing facts and realities are more far-reaching and stimulating than one can imagine. As such, Hammad is not the only one who suffers at the hands of this distorted media perception propagated strongly over the few past decades. Hareem finds herself in a similar quagmire.

As if it was not enough for her to convince people that in spite of being a Kashmiri woman she was a M. Tech degree-holder and that she was allowed to work in Bangalore given her dream of working in a multinational organisation, that her colleagues ask her ditzzy things.

Teasing Hareem by calling her 'Kashmir Ki Kali', the female staff now and then tells her to bring those Jhumkas—long earrings—for them which Sharmila Tagore wore in the movie.

"Does our culture and individual character only bow down to what is propagated through fictionalized cinematography?" Hareem wonders.

Some especially inquisitive mates even go to the extent of inquiring: "Are you people locked up in your houses for weeks when there is snow? We saw that in movies." Others add up by saying: "Can you look through the windows or your houses themselves are clad with the snow?"

But unlike Hammad, Hareem is not patient enough to bear these interrogations. For every puerile remark, she responds with a befitting reply.

Once deemed as a form of entertainment, it never occurred to many Kashmiri out there as to how fiction operates on myriad levels of personality. For instance, Kashmir, once a hub of Bollywood shootings, served as an arena of film activities. But while appreciating the purity of pastures, the burble of murmuring rivulets, the magnificence of snow-clad mountains, all shot in the movies with utmost perfection, a Kashmiri could hardly make peace with the ding-a-ling portrayals of the native people.

As fiction would have it, these simpletons would either be well-versed with the art of Shikara riding, or some menial job which went well with their naive bearing.

At other times, they were so diminutive as to go unnoticed. As times changed, these dipsticks were replaced by malefactors of the worst sort which created a ballyhoo within the consumers of broadcast media and put the indigenous people in a tight spot vis-a-vis their original characters.

The fatalities that fiction causes by distorting reality into a pseudo reality are spread across the world.

A Black African child looks down upon herself because she has a white doll. All the billboards, banners and placards advertising face-whitening creams and lotions scourge her sensitive soul. Even

the mug she consumes her milk in has the picture of a white girl on it. Looking into the mirror has become a curse for her. After all, the world-view converges on their concept of 'white' as the ideal, a bestowal of false media perception.

Hammad had once come across a nabeena—blind—Hakim Sahab in Delhi who happens to be a part-time soothsayer as well. What's striking about him is that he diagnoses his visitor's physical problems and ailments of the soul by just feeling their pulse: "Forward your wrist and I'll suck out your troubles."

The eccentric Hakim Sahab's cure is also bizarre. For a pain in the neck, he offers an exercise of the legs and cures the soul by hitting a round metal plate with a clunk.

Recalling his fellow students, the victims of fatal media constructs, always goofing on him owing to their stereotypical image of him, Hammad feels the Hakim Sahab to be a microcosm of broadcast media that alters constructs, uttering a catena of lies that shall ultimately prove to the undoing of the visitor. The media too feels the pulse of the people, deciphers which way and in what strength its blood is flowing and then resets the direction to its own benefit.

When one looks into the machinery of media storytelling, some fundamental questions to answer are – How close is a fictional character to the real one? What constitutes a telling detail? What makes the metaphor successful? Is the realism portrayed truly realistic?

It's a fairy tale that ostriches bury their heads in the sand. But, if ostriches did that, there would be sand in their eyes and ears. Also, if they kept their heads below chest level for long periods of time, they would pass out from high blood pressure. In reality, an ostrich resting on the ground will lay its head flat on the ground with its neck stretched out in danger. This is the difference between reality and a distorted media construct.

Hammad has learnt to turn a Nelson's eye towards the provocative remarks of his fellow students, in hopes of convincing them to visit his homeland once and feel the difference. But Hareem, owing to her irascible disposition, has pledged to pay back the peevish offenders in the same coin with interest.

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

The author has a Masters in English from University of Kashmir

Leaping Into The
Future With Gen Z

Praveen Rawal

Drucker's famous quote, " Culture eats strategy for breakfast", sounds like an anthem. A hard-nosed strategic plan is of little consequence if the people driving it forward are denied a supportive work environment that makes them feel valued and understood. Fortunately, many Indian companies are quickly realizing how cost-to-company digits alone are no longer enough; millennials and Gen Z have their hearts set on the psychological gains, which come from a work environment that fosters inspiration, purpose, optimism, creativity, innovation, and freedom.

More and more companies are increasingly willing to see the merit in responding to these subliminal needs and Gen Z's quest for personal agency. According to our report, 87 percent of global leaders agree they will offer more choice and control for employees to work from home or elsewhere.

As companies shut down satellite offices and gather on one campus, they are also making copious investments in learning and development programs to compensate for the vacuum in learning that blindsided them over the past 18 months. The pandemic has compelled companies to reevaluate their curriculum, so it better adapts to their changed work environment. Now, training content is not focused on product or function alone, but includes subjects that mat-

ter deeply to Gen Z, such as diversity, inclusion, and issues linked to environment, society, and governance.

Radical candor

Gen Z also feels more fiercely about the earth than millennials and Gen X—after all, they have been veritably raised under the intimidating specter of climate change. Consequently, they find an aspirational value in companies that extend genuine commitment towards causes such as hunger, sustainability, deforestation, pollution, gender equality, diversity, etc.

Gen Z prefers being part of organizations that speak unreservedly about causes they are invested in. Studies reveal that, unlike millennials, they do not spurn diverse points of view either, even if those are at odds with their own.

Mobility all the way

With their aversion for stereotypes and their passion for individual identity, Gen Z is ardent about the hybrid model of working. They are disinclined towards assigned spaces, and more amenable to the idea of working from anywhere. They prefer cafeterias, lounges, sofa settings, pods, and biophilic design. In fact, they do not regard the cafeteria as a dedicated area for meals, but as a place to brainstorm and collaborate.

It would help to redefine such spaces in the office with clever adjustments that allow for an easy 'flip and tuck'.

Steelcase meets this demand in more ways than one with a vast collection of furniture and accessories, which is designed for collaborative teams that seek flexibility and control to adapt their space on demand, be it a daily stand-up or a creative brainstorm. It places employees amid a floor plan that offers both privacy and a sense of community. Think work surfaces that can be pulled out when there is work and tucked away when you are done; portable and lightweight acoustic solutions and power stations; adjustable desks that can be pulled up (or down) to allow employees to alternate between standing or sitting, and move away from unhealthy sedentary forms.

It is hardly surprising why all these measures are being eagerly received by Gen Z. Here is a generation that is hypercognitive and at ease while they connect the dots between multiple streams of information. One of their greatest strengths is that they have mastered the skill of integrating virtual and offline experiences, and are adept at deftly moving in and out of both spheres. This startling versatility can be an asset to any organization, if understood and harnessed appropriately.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Business Insider

The author is MD, Steelcase India & SAARC

If I Weren't a Girl, Here's Where I Would Sit and Read in Kashmir



TOOBA TOWFIQ

“
For a literature enthusiast, a pacific ambience could play a pivotal role in analysing and creating literary texts. Yet it is downcast and discriminatory how women find it hard to be able to create or find such an environment

Sarah Koul

Our society, though very encouraging to women in many spheres, still has a long way to go as far as seeing women enjoying in public places is concerned. The “if I weren't a girl” is a self-explanatory phrase of helplessness a woman feels. We as a society may think that we have progressed in terms of achieving women's rights and safety but in actuality we're far from it. It is woeful how women still find it bothersome to go about their daily lives, struggling and hustling to keep themselves safe. Sexual harassment on streets, loosely termed “eve teasing” or “cat calling” and uneasy stares make it difficult for women to completely access public life unabashedly. Women can never be at ease while going out for any purpose, be it for work or leisure. We always have to look out for ourselves, it is wretched how we are even stripped off of our peace of mind. It's always stereotypes and prejudices that stand in the way of everything women tend to do. Thus, no matter how much we want to be

able to sit and read in a particular ambience, it is not entirely always possible for us. For a literature enthusiast, a pacific ambience could play a pivotal role in analysing and creating literary texts. Yet it is downcast and discriminatory how women find it hard to be able to create or find such an environment. As women, we live our lives aspiring, achieving yet there's so much wanting. But if I could, these are the five places I would sit and read a book at. **JEHLUM BUND** Needless to say that Jehlum is not just a river, it carries years of Kashmir's rich legacy and heirloom. The banks of Jehlum are a perfect spot to stop and absorb Kashmir's rich heritage that follows throughout the course of the river. Jehlum cascades throughout Srinagar, carrying with itself thousands of stories from different generations. Pay attention to the scintillating waves of the adept river and you might as well find some of those stories in the enthralling song of the river. If you're a storyteller, make sure you

listen to what Jehlum has to say. If you're looking forward to a captivating sight and a creative experience, grab your current read and encamp at the Jehlum Bund for the day. **KHANQA-I-MOULA** Located in the old city alongside the river Jehlum, Khanqa-I-Moula is the epitome of spirituality and devotion. The place where you can let go of all your worldly obligations and reconnect with your soul and your rabb. The aura creates a serene disposition for anyone to ponder into the questions about the world and hereafter. If you're reading the Forty Rules of Love by Elif Shafaq, you ought to visit Khanq-I-Moula and sit beside the bank of Jehlum to think and meditate and find answers to your questions about devotion, spirituality and the essence of human existence (love and devotion to the almighty). And reminisce about how Shams and Rumi found their path to spirituality, maybe you find your way too. **BANKS OF DAL LAKE** Known as the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir”, a significant historical

and natural asset of ours, and one of Srinagar's most inviting landmarks- the Dal. The coruscating waters of Dal, surrounded by the Zabarwan range provide the most undisturbed and tranquil ambience for anyone to sit back and relax to ruminate on their stories. It yells stories of all dwelling in Dal, how the lake feeds various people just by simply existing. The shikara business, the floating market and the houseboats run by those dwelling in the lake attract many travelers which makes for their livelihood. Dal is a selfless giver, it teaches the lesson of empathy. There is much to learn from the lake, sitting on its bank, while savouring the appealing waterscape. **PARI MAHAL** Located at the top of Zabarwan overlooking the city of Srinagar and Dal, Pari Mahal was built for the Mughal Prince Dara Shikoh. It is said to have been used as an observatory for teaching astronomy and astrology. Pari Mahal is home to many mythical and mysterious tales. The field of vision encompasses the beautiful Dal and adjoining Zabarwan Hills along with the finest dis-

play of Mughal style architecture. If myths and folklore excite you and if you are an admirer of Mughal architecture, Pari Mahal is the place where you can spend your time reading and writing about what excites you the most, along with the finest of Srinagar's scenic view at your disposal. **NIGEEN LAKE** Located adjacent to the Hari Parbat hillock, the lake is surrounded by a number of willow and poplar trees. Nigeen Lake is a calm, serene and peaceful getaway for those who prefer a more quiet frame of mind. Usually less crowded, Nigeen Lake is the right choice for watching wondrous sunsets and thousands of birds flying back in the evenings. The scenic arrangement is calming and soothing, making it easier to dwell on abstract ideas. If your current read is The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho, you should spend a sunset on the brink of Nigeen and contemplate the ideas of fate, self discovery, wisdom, omens and dreams. The spectacle of the setting sun on the gleaming waters of the lake makes the mind muse endlessly.

WHAT CAUGHT THE WEB

Tulips on Springtide



A still from @outdoorshotz's video

KO Web Desk

Asia biggest Tulip Garden was thrown open for visitors from 23rd of March 2022. Sitting in the foothills of Zabarwan, it is home to 48 varieties of Tulip flowers. Admire 15 lakh blooming tulips, both tourists and locals were seen rejoicing on the weekend. Social media sites like Facebook and Instagram were flooded by pictures and videos of people having a good time at the garden. Tulip Garden is a major attraction in

the months of march and april when the flowers breathe in full bloom. Locals and tourists who were interviewed by various channels enthusiastically talked about how mesmerising they find the sight to be. Many people took to twitter to express delight and amusement at the sight of beautiful flowers in the lap of Zabarwan. Tufail Shah, a video creator @outdoorshotz took to Instagram with his reel gracefully capturing the view. In another instance, journalist Mufti Islah also took to twitter to showcase the beautiful collection of the flowers.



KODAK MOMENTS



Different dimensions of Spring.

Picture credit: Firdous Parray. Instagram: @firdousparray06

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

Raj Cong MLA's son, 4 others, booked for raping minor girl; BJP says no rule of law in state

Agenceis

JAIPUR: The son of a Rajasthan Congress MLA and four others have been booked for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl belonging to Dausa district in the state, police said on Saturday.

Attacking the Congress government, the BJP claimed there is no rule of law in Rajasthan and the incident has put a question mark on the law and order situation of the state.

The incident also prompted the National Commission for Women to ask the Rajasthan Police to conduct a "fair probe" into the incident and arrest all accused at the earliest while ensuring the protection of the victim.

Police have identified the key accused as Deepak Meena, son of Congress MLA Johari Lal Meena from Rajgarh assembly constituency in Alwar district.

According to police, a case of rape was also registered against Johari Lal Meena in 2019, but after a probe by the CB-CID the allegations made by the woman were found to be false.

In a defensive mode, the Congress in New Delhi said it would take stern action against any party member accused of criminal activity and not spare the individual irrespective of his position, "unlike the BJP".

SHO Nathu Lal of the Mandawar police station in Dausa district earlier said one of the five accused, identified as Vivek Sharma, was also booked for extorting a sum of Rs 15 lakh cash and jewellery items by threatening the victim to upload the video of her gangrape on social media.

"A case has been registered against three named accused, including Rajgarh MLA's son Deepak Meena. Two others have also been booked for gang rape and other sections of the IPC," he added.

He said the case was registered on Friday on the basis of a complaint lodged by the minor girl's family members. Medical examination of the victim has been done and her statement recorded, he added.

The SHO said the incident happened in February 2021 when the accused took the

girl to a hotel on Mahwa-Mandawar Road and committed the crime.

They also made an obscene video to threaten her, he added.

The matter came to the light during the probe into a complaint lodged by the girl's family members after the cash and jewellery went missing from the house. Family members had initially lodged a complaint of theft.

A probe into the matter found the involvement of Sharma following which the victim mustered courage to share her ordeal with her mother, the SHO said.

Johari Lal Meena said the allegations against his son were baseless and part of a political conspiracy against him and his family.

The BJP, however, targeted the Congress government over the issue. When allegations of rape are made against the son of a Congress MLA, not only is Rajasthan ashamed, but raises questions on the law and order situation of the state, BJP state president Satish Poonia said.

In one year, 6,337 rape cases have been reported in the state. It seems that the rule of law has ended, he claimed.

Meanwhile, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the party would take action after the investigation into the alleged crime committed by the party MLA's son.

The Congress also attacked the BJP and alleged that the saffron party protects its own people even if they are accused of rape or crushing innocent farmers under their car.

Former Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar was sentenced to life imprisonment in December 2019 for raping a girl while Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra is one of the key accused in a case related to killing of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri.

"I want to assure everybody, whosoever you may be, the Congress party will not protect 'Sengars' of the world. You cannot, in the Congress party, trample farmers and remain Union Minister and cohabit with Narendra Modi ji (prime minister) and Amit Shah ji (Union home minister)," Surjewala said.

3 Member World Bank Team Meets Chief Secy Visits Oxygen Plant At Charar-E-Sharief, Drainage Projects At Bonpura, Lalmandi, JLNH Hospital



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR : The 3 member team of World Bank led by Abhasjha, Practice Manager, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, South Asia Region with Deepak Singh, Lead Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank and Hemang Karelia, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist of World Bank as members today had a meeting with Chief Secretary J&K, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta regarding the World Bank funded projects being implemented in the Jammu and Kashmir.

The World Bank team lauded the efforts of J&K government in streamlining implementation of the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) during the past two years.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Chief Executive Officer, J&K ERA was present in the meeting.

Chief Secretary had a detailed discussion with the visiting team about the progress of the World Bank funded JTFRP in the UT. He emphasized the need for exploring more possibilities for capacity building of engineers in the sphere of seismic proof construction. He expressed hope that World Bank would continue to support J&K in the areas of climate change, sustainable development, environmental

sustainability and other significant sectors.

Later, the World Bank team visited 500 LPM Manifold Oxygen Plant at SDH Charar-e-Sharief at Budgam, one of the Manifold Oxygen Plants constructed by J&KERA under the World Bank funded JTFRP. It was informed that the Oxygen Plant at Charar-e-Sharief will directly benefit the population of around 1 lakh souls in various areas of remote Charier-e-Sharief tehsil in Budgam district.

During the visit of the World Bank team, a delegation of local community based organization called on them and thanked the World Bank for funding the construction of a much needed Oxygen plant in the area.

Pertinent to mention here that under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery project 30 Oxygen Plants have been constructed by J&KERA at a cost of Rs 70 crore in most far flung areas across J&K.

During visit to Rs 12.88 crore Bonpora-Padshahi Bagh Storm Water Drainage project constructed by J&KERA under JTFRP, the team was informed that the area was one of the worst hit residential areas to be badly damaged during the floods of 2014 and with construction of this project the people here have been immensely benefited.

A delegation of local community also called on the visiting

team and expressed their gratitude to World Bank for providing the people of area with the much needed facility of storm water drainage.

The team also visited pumping station at Lalmandi being constructed as part of Rs 103 crore up gradation of the 49 pumping stations in Srinagar.

The World Bank team also visited the JLNH, Hospital at Rainawari and was shown various latest critical medical care equipments which have been provided under the JTFRP project at a cost of Rs 270 crore to all the District Hospitals across J&K.

Medical Superintendent, JLNH Hospital, said that the equipments provided under the World Bank funded project have brought a key change in providing best quality healthcare services to people in J&K.

She added that the latest hi-tech equipment's like Anaesthesia work station, Dithermy vessel sealing machines, high flow oxygen devices, Dialysis machines, Hydraulic OT beds etc have turned the hospital into the state of art health care facility.

Abhasjha expressed satisfaction and gratitude that the critical care medical equipments provided to different hospitals across the UT under World Bank funded projects have considerably upgraded the health infrastructure in the UT.

China Says No Survivors In Plane Crash With 132 On Board

Agenceis

BEIJING: Chinese authorities officially confirmed Saturday that there were no survivors in the crash of a China Eastern 737-800 earlier this week with 132 people on board.

The announcement by an official of the Civil Aviation Administration of China at a late-night news conference was followed by a brief moment of silence. Investigators have identified 120 of the victims through DNA analysis, state media reported.

The flight from the city of Kunming in southwestern China was flying at 29,000 feet (8,800 metres) on Monday when it suddenly nosedived into a mountainous area, shortly before it would have started its descent to the airport in Guangzhou, a provincial capital and export manufacturing hub near Hong Kong on China's southeastern coast.

Construction excavators dug into the crash site Saturday in the search for wreckage, remains and the second black box. Searchers found the cockpit voice recorder on Wednesday but have yet to

find the flight data recorder.

Workers wearing knee-high rubber boots used shovels and other hand tools to sift through the earthen slopes in a 20-metre- (65-foot-) deep pit left by the plane. Debris and other items were collected in dozens of rectangular, mud-stained plastic containers.

Pumps were used to drain water as muddy conditions in the rainy Guangxi region hampered the search. One excavator stopped working after getting partially stuck, state broadcaster CCTV said.

The cause of the crash remained a mystery. An air traffic controller tried to contact the pilots several times after seeing the plane's altitude drop sharply but got no reply, officials have said.

Authorities said that forensic and criminal investigation experts had confirmed the identities of 114 passengers and six crew members. China Eastern, one of China's four major airlines, and its subsidiaries have grounded all of their 737-800 aircraft, a total of 223 planes. The carrier said the grounding was a precaution, not a sign there was anything wrong.

India Repatriates 3 Pakistani Prisoners After Completion Of Jail Terms

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday repatriated three Pakistani prisoners through the Attari-Wagah border transit point after they completed their jail terms. The prisoners are Sameera Abdul Rehman, Murtaza Asghar Ali and Ahmed Raja, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"Three Pakistani prisoners, who had completed their sentences, were repatriated to Pakistan via the Attari-Wagah border on March 26," the MEA said.

It said Sameera Abdul Rehman was accompanied by her four-year-old girl child Sana Fatima. The MEA also said India attaches highest importance to addressing all humanitarian matters, including

early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners and fishermen from Pakistan.

"The government's persistent efforts have succeeded in release and repatriation of 20 Indian fishermen and one civilian prisoner from Pakistan's custody in 2022, so far," the MEA said in a statement.

An official at the Attari border said that in 2017 the Pakistani woman was arrested along with her husband Mohammad Shihab of Palakkad in Kerala. She had met him in Qatar.

Shihab brought her to India without a visa in September 2016 via the Nepal border. She was arrested in May 2017 and was subsequently sentenced to three-year imprisonment. She was lodged in a Bangalore jail.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

SPO Killed

family and neighbours to the SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) Bemina for treatment. However, the doctors there declared the policeman brought dead.

The SPO's brother Umar —said to be a student is battling for his life at the hospital.

Soon after the attack, police, army and CRPF reached the spot and launched a massive search operation to nab the militants. The search operation was underway when the last reports came in.

"SPO Ishfaq Ahmad and his brother Umar Jan (a student) were fired upon by terrorists at their residence in village Chadbugh area of Budgam. However Ishfaq Ahmad scumbled to his injuries & attained martyrdom. Area cordoned off, search operation in progress. Further details follow," Kashmir Police posted on its official Twitter handle.

Pertinently, the attack on SPO and his brother comes five days after a civilian was shot dead by unidentified militants early this week in the Budgam district.

On March 21, unknown militants barged into the house of Tajamul Mohi-ud-din Dar in Gotpora village of the district and shot him dead.

Recently, the Inspector General of police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar had claimed that Lashkar-e-Taiba's group led by Mehran's successor Basit was responsible for the recent killings, including Dar's in Budgam.

Twin Blasts Cause

off the area to investigate the cause of the blast. As the investigation was underway, another blast occurred 10 minutes later, the officials said, adding the whole area has been cordoned off. The officials did not rule out militant angle in the incident.

J&K Will Have

said the government belongs to that party which that has its own chief minister.

In 2016, the BJP Legislature Party formed government in Jammu and Kashmir with coalition partner Peoples Democratic Party and Mehbooba Mufti became the chief minister. In June 2018, the alliance came to an end.

We are witnessing huge enthusiastic crowds, irrespective of their religion, at our rallies everywhere, be it Ramban

the day before yesterday. Kishtwar on Friday or Doda. All ways are leading to the BJP. No one can stop us from forming the next government with our own chief minister in Jammu and Kashmir, he said in the event held to garner public support for the party, as the assembly elections are likely to be held later this year.

The BJP is the fastest growing party in both regions -- Jammu and Kashmir -- as the people have rejected the National Conference, PDP and Congress who have only sucked the blood of the poor over the past many decades of their rule, he said.

Raina alleged that the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a coming together of several parties, including the National Conference, PDP and Communist Party of India (Marxist), was poisoning the minds of the people in a bid to divide them in the name of Muslims and Hindus.

However, he said, the Gupkar Alliance will not succeed and the BJP will win more than 50 assembly seats to form its government and have its first chief minister in Jammu and Kashmir.

Our government will provide free electricity, water and Rs 1,000 to poor families, besides the special package for unemployed educated youth. We will not differentiate on the basis of religion and region, and we will ensure development of every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

J&K Pays Second

tax on petrol in North India followed by the state of Rajasthan where for every 100 rupees of petrol, 50.8 rupees goes as tax.

The Stats of India has used Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell's data which is under the ambit of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. As per the petroleum planning & Analysis Cell's data, for every 100 rupees, J&K pays over 30 Rupees as central tax. Pertinently, in 7 states, half of what a customer pays is collected as tax. These seven states include Maharashtra where 52.5 rupees goes as tax per 100 rupees of petrol, Andhra (52.4 rupees), Telangana (51.6 rupees), Rajasthan (50.8 rupees), MP (50.6 rupees), Kerala (50.2 rupees) and Bihar (50.0 rupees).

According to individual data, In J&K for every litre of petrol, the Central Government charges Rupees 32.90 per litre as a tax.

Among the metro cities, fuel rates

are still the highest in Mumbai. Fuel prices vary across the states due to Value Added Tax (VAT).

Pertinently, in Ladakh for every 100 rupees consumers pay 44.6 rupees as tax. In other states of North India, for every 100 rupees Himachal Pradesh pays 44.4 rupees, Punjab pays 44.6, Uttarakhand pays 44.1 rupees, Haryana 45.1, Delhi 45.3 and Uttar Pradesh pays 45.2 rupees as Tax.

It is pertinent to mention here that as on March 26, the petrol price in J&K has been recorded at 103.58/litre and diesel costs 87.01/litre.

Petrol, Diesel Prices

increases are the steepest single-day rise since the daily price revision was started in June 2017.

In four increases, petrol and diesel prices have gone up by Rs 3.20 a litre.

Prices had been on a freeze since November 4 ahead of the assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab -- a period during which the cost of raw material (crude oil) soared by about USD 30 per barrel.

The rate revision was expected soon after assembly elections ended on March 10 but it was put off.

Oil companies, who did not revise petrol and diesel rates for a record 137 days despite prices of crude oil (raw material for producing fuel) rising to USD 117 per barrel compared to around USD 82 in early November, are now passing on to consumers the required increase in stages.

Moody's Investors Services on Thursday stated that state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) together lost around USD 2.25 billion (Rs 19,000 crore) in revenue for keeping petrol and diesel prices on hold during the election period.

Oil companies "will need to raise diesel prices by Rs 13.1-24.9 per litre and Rs 10.6-22.3 a litre on gasoline (petrol) at an underlying crude price of USD 100-120 per barrel," according to Kotak Institutional Equities.

CRISIL Research said a Rs 9-12 per litre increase in retail price will be required for a full pass-through of an average USD 100 per barrel crude oil and Rs 15-20 a litre hike if the average crude oil price rises to USD 110-120.

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs and so retail rates adjust accordingly to the

global movement. (PTI)

Asset Seizure

wilfully provided shelter/ harboured terrorists, in most cases for days together and that it was not done under any duress whatsoever," the SSP said.

The attachment proceedings always come after investigation procedures in any case are at advanced stage, he said.

Balwal said some people, out of ignorance, were trying to portray it as some kind of forced enforcement, "but it is a fact that Sections 2(g) and 25 of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 have been in vogue since decades and these are not some recent additions as claimed by some rumour mongers".

"The decision regarding enforcement of these sections of law is due to the fact that many supporters of terrorism are wilfully providing harbour and safe havens to militants who conduct attacks on civilians and security forces in Srinagar city," he said.

The SSP, however, said that on the "issue of so called 'forceful entry' of terrorists into any house or other structure, the house owner or any other member claiming duress should timely inform the authorities about the same, as many provisions for hiding identity of such informant are available under law".

"The onus always lies on the house owner/member to prove duress by informing the authorities well in time that there is/was forceful entry of terrorists into his/her house," he added.

He appealed the citizens of the city not to pay heed to misinformation floated by some vested interests.

"We also request citizens not to provide shelter or harbour terrorists in their homes or immovable properties, failing which lawful procedures will take their own course in full letter and spirit," Balwal said.

"There is and will always be zero tolerance towards terrorism and supporters of terrorism in a civilised society like ours," he said.

On Thursday, the police had said process has started for attachment of some immovable properties which have been used for purpose of militancy as per section 2(g) & 25 of ULP (UAPA) Act.

The police said properties will be attached according to law apart from legal action in such cases.

Pertinently, the crackdown against the separatist leaders and alleged

militant supporters gained momentum in February last year when the police headquarters in a major action approved seizure of at least 72 movable and immovable properties, including a house belonging to separatist leader Asiya Andrabi's mother in law and a SUV of her close aide Sofi Fahmeeda.

"While the number of militants belonging to different outfits is neutralized in the sustained anti-militancy operations, the handlers are using motor vehicles and the proceeds of militants for furthering their evil designs," a police spokesperson had said.

Pertinently, Asiya and her aide Sofi Fahmeeda are currently in Jail on charges of 'anti-national activities'. (With PTI inputs)

'How Many KPs

it should be spent on welfare of Kashmiri Pandits," he said during the post budget press conference.

The suggestion was first made by him on Thursday, when during an assembly session he criticised the move of making the film tax-free, and suggested the filmmaker to just upload it on YouTube for all to see free of cost.

80% Qualify Annual

annual regular exams of 11th standard, 23,837 students got first division, 8861 secured second division and 398 passed the exams with third division.

The figures also reveal that in the exams, at least two students were having disputed eligibility, 151 students were absent, five students were disqualified and examination was cancelled of two students.

Earlier in February, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) announced the annual regular results of 10th standard examination 2021 for Kashmir division with a total pass percentage of 78.14 percent—(KNO)

15 More Test

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest 10 cases. Fifteen of the 22 districts in the Union territory did not report any fresh Covid cases.

The Union Territory has 138 active cases while 4,48,764 patients have recuperated from the disease, the officials said.

The death toll in the union territory due to COVID-19 stood at 4,750.

The officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of Mucormycosis (black

fungus) in the union territory as no fresh case was reported in a day. (PTI)

NIA Charges

Uri sector in September last year, an official said.

The charge sheet was filed against Imdadullah, hailing from Pakistan's Punjab province, under various sections of the IPC, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosives Act and the Foreigners Act, a spokesperson of the NIA said.

Imdadullah who had several code names such as 'Ali Babar', 'Dujana' and '313' was arrested, while his associate Atiq-ur-Rehman alias Qari Anas and Abu Anas was killed by the Army when they made a failed infiltration attempt from across the border in Uri sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on September 27 last year.

The spokesperson said the case was initially registered at police station Uri on September 27 and later re-registered by the NIA on October 30, 2021.

A huge cache of arms, ammunition, explosives and other incriminating material were recovered from the possession of the slain and arrested Pakistani terrorists, the NIA said, adding further investigation in the case was underway. (PTI)

Fire Damages

efforts by the locals, who were later assisted by the Fire and Emergency Department, the structure could not be saved", the official said adding however due to joint efforts the fire was controlled from spreading to nearby structures.

A Fire and Emergency Department official in the meantime told a local news agency GNS that the structure has suffered extensive damage in the mishap.

"Despite efforts, the structure could not be saved", he said.

Cause of the fire was however not immediately known.

25 Sleepers Of Deodar

tip-off received from a source at Prakar-Bhingala in Ukhral area, a police officer said.

No one has been arrested so far in this matter, the officer said.

A case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and Forest Act was registered at Ramssoo Police Station, and an investigation is on to arrest the smugglers, the officer added. (PTI)

Engage, Motivate Youths Towards Nation-Building: LG To Armed Forces



JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday called upon the members of armed forces to engage and motivate the youths of Jammu and Kashmir towards nation-building

He made these remarks while conferring the "Lieutenant Governor's Unit Citation" to the fifth battalion of the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (Ashok Chakra Bn), an official spokesperson said. The citation was received by CO of the Battalion, Col Gural Singh Jambal, and Subedar Major Daler Singh, at the Raj Bhavan.

Pertinently, the Fifth Battalion of the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry has played a lead role in

the UT of J&K Republic Day for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

According to the spokesperson, the LG cited the Battalion for its professional proficiency and commended the efforts of the Officers and drill instructors who have toiled hard to bring about very high level of synchronization and impressive marching standard of the participating contingents in the Republic day parades.

"Felicitating the Commanding Officer and personnel of the Fifth Battalion, the Lt Governor called upon the members of armed forces to engage and motivate the youths towards nation-building," he added.

Govt Frees Encroached Evacuee Land In Budgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the Evacuee Property Department Kashmir retrieved land measuring about 140 Kanal during intensified anti-encroachment drive on Evacuee land at Ketchrazgir, Chek Raithan and Raiyar Yech Tehsil Khansahib.

The drive was conducted by the constituted team under the supervision of Tariq Hussain Naik, Custodian Evacuee Property Kashmir with the active support of District Administration Budgam through Abid Gani Wani, Tehsildar Khansahib and police.

Earlier, while reconciliation of the figures of Evacuee land in

Kashmir Division (District Wise) and during the process it had come to fore that Evacuee land measuring about 140 Kanals has been illegally occupied by various persons at the said places.

The Custodian Evacuee Property Kashmir has ordered that the anti-encroachment drive shall also be launched in other areas to retrieve all the encroached Evacuee land from the land grabbers/ illegal occupants.

The Evacuee Property Department also appeals to the general public to refrain from raising illegal constructions on Evacuee land and illegal occupation thereof failing which action as warranted under law shall be taken against all violators.

Asia Education Award 2022

KIIT India's Best University For Placement & Campus



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: KIIT Deemed to be University was conferred Asia Education Award for 2022 by Asia Today Research & Media in Bengaluru on 25th March 2022.

In the absence of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, Sasmita Rout received the award on behalf of KIIT from Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka. KIIT earned the award in the category of "Best University with Excellent Placement & Campus in India".

KIIT has carved a niche for itself in the country for its outstanding contribution to the field of education. Since its inception, KIIT has been emphasizing value-based education in ensuring congenial learning ambience and excellent

placement to students. By virtue of these aspects, KIIT bagged this coveted award for its aesthetically appealing campus and best possible placement.

Every year, Asia Today Research & Media presents the award to institutions contributing immensely to the field of multifarious research and analysis services. Dr. Achyuta Samanta thanked Asia Today for selecting KIIT for the award. It became possible on part of KIIT to get such an award due to the earnest effort and goodwill of the guardians, faculties and staff, he said. Among others, Basavaraj Horatti, Chairman of Karnataka Legislative Council; and Dr. Mrugesh Rudrappa Nirani, Minister of Large and Medium Industries, Govt. of Karnataka were present.

IUST's Civil Engineering Students Shine In GATE 2022

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Despite the challenges posed by Covid -19 Pandemic, at least fourteen students from the Department of Civil Engineering at the Islamic University of Science & Technology, IUST Awantipora have qualified the GATE 2022 (Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineering) securing good ranks.

Arif Ahmad, a GATE qualifier, has an All India Rank of under 3000 in the Subject while other outstanding achievers including Saliq Bashir, Syed Roman Naqash, Uhozaifa Gani, Irfan Fayaz, Nadeem Ahmad Mir and Basit Farooq Malik. The achievements of these Civil Engineering students are reflective of their

hard work and the exemplary standards of academic teaching displayed by the departmental faculty. Significantly, the qualification percentage of IUST's Civil Engineering is comparable with the top most performing institutes in the region.

In his congratulatory message, the Vice Chancellor and an Eminent Scientist himself, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo complimented the students and their mentors at the department for their efforts and consistency and wished the best for their future endeavours so that they would contribute towards the well-being of JKUT and society at large. He also encouraged all the students to work hard and be part of a resourceful national workforce.

200 Electric Buses With Real-Time Tracking Soon In Jammu, Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government is all set to launch a fleet of 200 electric buses equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including a real-time tracking system, in both capital cities of the union territory, an official said on Saturday.

The move to introduce 100 eco-friendly buses each in Jammu and Srinagar is aimed at reducing air and noise pollution and dependence on fossil fuels, as well as to provide better facilities to the people, he said.

The official said the buses will be procured under the second phase of central scheme Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and EV (FAME II), and tenders have been floated for

the procurement.

"The electric bus service will encourage commuters to shift towards the public transport system," he said.

Introduction of the high-tech buses will also boost revenue generation as more viable and lucrative routes will be included in the operational network of transportation, the official added.

These buses will be equipped with modern features like a real-time passenger information system (PIS), panic buttons for emergency, automatic bus vehicle location system, CCTV cameras, public address systems, stop request buttons and online collection of fares through various mediums.

"The Intelligent Transport Management System (ITMS) of

buses will be connected with the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) of Jammu Smart City Limited (JSL) and Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) simultaneously," the official said.

Fares will be collected through a variety of options like cash, smartcards and QR codes, he said.

An online monitoring platform will be created at the city level for these buses to monitor relevant parameters, including running kilometres, equivalent fuel saved in litres per day, and equivalent carbon dioxide reduction per day, the official said.

Officials said the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) will be rolling out the ITMS by April 30.

No Peace Till Kashmir Issue Remains Unresolved: Mehbooba

Calls BJP Govt To Hold Dialogue With Pak, J&K People

Press Trust Of India

RAMBAN: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday reiterated her call to the BJP government for dialogue with Pakistan and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, saying that peace would be elusive as long as Kashmir remained unresolved.

She called upon people to vote for the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) an alliance of several parties, including the National Conference, PDP and Communist Party of India (Marxist) - in the next assembly elections to defeat the BJP's attempt to gain power and seal its wrong decision to abrogate Article 370.

Kashmir has been awaiting a solution for the last 70 years there will be no peace in the region until the Kashmir issue is resolved, and for that, dialogue with Pakistan and the people of Jammu and Kashmir is imperative, the former chief minister said.

Addressing a workers convention in Ramban on the last day of her week-long tour of Jammu, the Peoples Democratic Party chief sought to know, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee both visited Pakistan, but why do they (BJP) feel perturbed when we speak about it (holding dialogue with the neighbouring country).

Mehbooba alleged that the present government was only speaking the language of oppression by sending the youth to jails in and outside the union territory.

Calling out the BJP over its claims that the party had set everything right after the abrogation of Article 370, she said, If their claim is true, what is the need to deploy 10 lakh soldiers in Kashmir?

Asking the people to vote for the PAGD irrespective of whether the parties form a coalition or go solo in order to keep the saffron party out of power, she said, The BJP wants to grab the power and put a stamp on its wrong, unconstitutional and illegal decision of August 5, 2019. We have to demonstrate maturity and use our votes to defeat their designs.

Mehbooba also took a dig at the BJP for renaming the Nashri tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar

national highway after former leader Syama Prasad Mookerjee and said a local politician or a saint's name would have been better.

Asking the people to maintain communal harmony, she said, We have joined Mahatma Gandhi's India and they want to turn it into his assassin Nathuram Godse's India. Jammu and Kashmir has already slipped out of their hands and it will further slip away if corrective measures are not taken.

In response to a question on the movie 'The Kashmir Files', based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990s, the PDP president said the BJP is promoting it with the intention of polarizing people.

Instead, an effort by the BJP to rehabilitate the Pandits in the last eight years would have been better, she quipped.

Calling the delimitation commission BJP's commission, Mehbooba said her party had already rejected it.

The commission, through its draft proposal, has left everything in disarray. We have no faith in it, she said.

NCERT's FLN Survey Concludes

1008 Students From 130 Schools Across J&K Participate In Survey

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 3-day country-wide Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) survey initiated by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, concluded on Friday with some 1008 students of Grade-3 from 112 schools in all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir taking part in the study.

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, which had been tasked with conducting the survey, had made all the necessary arrangements while roping in field investigators (FI) and District Coordinators (DC) from all the 40 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET).

The Joint Directors of the SCERT at both Jammu and Kashmir divisions besides supervising the survey had constituted teams of observers that travelled far and wide and across the length and breadth of the Union Territory to ensure that the survey takes place as per the guidelines provided by the NCERT.

"It was a humongous task, however the dedication and the commitment of the teams made it relatively easy," Deepak Sharma, who is the coordinator for FLN, NAS, said. "The rigorous training imparted by the SCERT to the FIs, DCs and Observers came handy who performed their tasks highly professionally" he added.

His Kashmir counterpart, G H Reshi, echoed Sharma's views and expressed his satisfaction over the smooth conduct of the survey.

"In a run-up to the survey, the Educational Research Survey



and Assessment (ERSA) Wings of the SCERT, at both the Divisions, had conducted orientation programs to train the FIs and DCs." Reshi said. "Experts, who had prior experience in sampling techniques, were roped in for the purpose" he added.

Earlier Director SCERT, Prof Veena Pandita, while enumerating the aims and objectives of the survey, said that every grade-3 child, as per the NIPUN Bharat Mission, must attain foundational literacy and numeracy by 2026-27.

"Foundational learning comprises integrated and holistic development of a child that ensures children maintain good health and wellbeing besides learning effective communicative skills," Prof Pandita said. "The study shall provide a first-hand understanding of the learning levels of the students at the foundational learning stage at the end of Grade 3, added she"

The study, Prof Pandita said, is

the first of its kind in the world as it aims to set up benchmarks for reading with comprehension in 22 Indian languages.

As per a Ministry of Education communiqué approximately one hundred thousand students from 10,000 schools participated in the survey.

"The objective of the survey is to conduct a large-scale assessment of the foundational learning of grade 3 students to establish a baseline for the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat mission," read a statement from the Ministry.

The study, the statement added, will help in establishing reading proficiency benchmarks for fluency with comprehension for each of the languages being assessed under the study and provide the data for sustainable development goals (SDG 4.1.1), covering aspects of foundational literacy and numeracy.

SKUAST-K, BSF Join Hands For Border Area Development



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An interactive meeting of Inspector General, Border Security Force, Raja Babu Singh and Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof Nazir Ahmad Gani, was held on Saturday to foster the linkage between the two organisations.

The aim of the cooperation is capacity building in areas of agriculture and allied sector for empowering the ex-service-men, forces veterans and cooperation to initiate collaborative programmes for border areas in order to support and nurture border population into the mainstream through skill training

in the areas of protected farming practices as well as in bee-keeping, nursery development, mushroom cultivation, organic farming practices and integrated farming systems (IFS).

The Border Security Force and SKUAST-K shall develop a joint five-year collaborative programme for the above activities. IG BSF also visited the High-Density orchard of the University at Shalimar and appreciated the state of the facilities available at the University. It was decided to work out the modalities for this joint venture. The meeting was attended by the Director Research and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture.

All Pensioners In Ladakh Migrated To CPAO: Official

Press Trust Of India

LEH: All 4,488 pensioners in the Union Territory of Ladakh have been migrated to the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), an official said on Saturday, asserting that the finance department is in continuous touch with the Jammu and Kashmir Bank to ensure that they receive their pensions by the month-end.

To further smoothen the process of pension, the Union Controller General of Accounts had issued guidelines for migration of the pensioners of Ladakh to the CPAO, which is mandatory according to the scheme for the payment of pensions.

The official said the Ladakh administration, in coordination with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), is continuously addressing the issues raised in respect of the pensioners of the Union Territory like authorisation of pension, a timely disbursement of pension and reimbursement to the pension-disbursing banks.

Certain issues that emerged due to the stoppage of reimbursement of the disbursed pension to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in May 2021 have also been successfully resolved to avoid any disruption in the disbursement of pensions, the official said.

He said all the 4,488 pensioners have been migrated to the CPAO with the coordinated efforts of the Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries, Ladakh, the office of the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, the MHA and the CPAO.

The Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries, Ladakh as well as the CPAO deployed additional manpower for this massive migration exercise, which was completed in the last two

months, the official said.

He said the process of migration involved collection of the disburser's portion of the Pension Payment Order (PPO) from the bank branches concerned, verification of the required information and certification by the Pension Accounting Offices (PAOs) concerned.

All the PPOs were sent to the CPAO, who, in a dedicated and time-bound manner, migrated the PPOs to electronic PPOs following the requisite procedure and sent those back to the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, the official said.

To expedite the process of disbursement of pensions, the CPAO sent soft copies of the e-PPOs on a regular basis to the bank, he added.

The official said the Ladakh finance department is in continuous touch with the bank to ensure that all pensioners receive their pensions by March 31.

He said the migration exercise will be helpful to the pensioners as the database in respect of them has been completely digitised.

"This will facilitate any changes, including increases in the dearness allowance, to be implemented seamlessly in the future for the pensioners. The migration to the CPAO will also be helpful for the spouses of these pensioners as the pension to the spouse, when required, shall be started with minimum formality," the official said.

He said all the pensioners are requested to contact their pension-disbursing branches and verify the data of the e-PPOs, particularly in respect of furnishing the details of the spouse.

After the migration, the pensioners can also draw their pension through any of the CBS-enabled branches of any authorised bank throughout the country, the official said.

J&K Records 8-Fold Increase In CA Storage Capacity Since 2015-16

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded an eight-fold increase in controlled atmosphere (CA) storage since 2015-16, an official said on Saturday.

The Jammu and Kashmir government, in a bid to reduce post-harvest losses by increasing the shelf life of various agriculture and horticulture products besides addressing the issue of distress sale of crops by the farmers, has encouraged and aided private players to set up cold storage (CA) facilities.

Director General Horticulture Ajaz Ahmed Bhat said the efforts have resulted in 700 per cent increase in CA storage capacity from 25,000 MT in 2015-16 to 2 lakh MT in 2021-22, which is expected to be further increased by 25000 MT in the next year.

Establishment of CA stores has resulted in significant reduction of distress sales resulting in higher returns for the orchardists. There are 40 CA stores across Jammu and Kashmir with Industrial Growth Centre (IGC) in Lassipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama alone having as many as 23 CA stores, he said.

Besides, there are 17 stores functioning in different districts including Shopian, Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla and Jammu.

He said the government has taken several concrete steps for increasing Agriculture and horticulture produc-

tion besides enhancing the quality of crops while laying special focus on post-harvesting management infrastructure, especially in the private sector.

Apples kept in cold storages in Kashmir help farmers to fetch much better rates by selling their production as per their will according to demand.

He said the government-aided cold stores would help in fetching higher rates to the A-grade apples in Kashmir which amount to around 8 lakh metric tonne. Earlier, these apples used to be sold at less than their actual value due to inadequate availability of CA stores in the valley.

Bhat said the department is committed towards strengthening the post harvest infrastructure in the valley.

We are exploring every possible opportunity to have infrastructure like CA stores, processing units and related utilities developed across the Valley and best services are provided to the orchardists, he added.

At present, he said, we are encouraging new entrepreneurs to set up CA storage capacity with government support to cater to the annual production which otherwise would result in distress sales. As per available data, Kashmir produces 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples annually.

Ali Muhammad Bhat, a farmer, says that setting up of cold storage system is not only benefiting the growers but consumers also.

Mumbai Police To Provide Green Corridors For Smooth Movement Of IPL Players



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Police will provide green corridors for the movement of buses carrying players and staff for the IPL 2022 season to ensure that they reach the venues for playing and practice in time and do not get stuck in traffic.

Over 1,100 police personnel including traffic police will be deployed for the matches in Mumbai, a senior officer said on Saturday.

This year all IPL league matches are being held in two cities Mumbai and Pune, and the ten participating teams are staying in posh hotels in different parts of the megapolis.

The league matches starting this evening will be played at the Wankhede Stadium, Brabourne stadium- both in south Mumbai, DY Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai and MCA Stadium in Pune.

A police officer said that as the distance between the hotels where the players and staff of teams are staying and the stadiums are far, Mumbai Police are taking additional precautions about players' safety and timings of matches.

Regarding green corridors, each team will be provided (police) escort and security as some of the matches are (scheduled) during peak hours. Infrastructure-related work is also going on at some places in Mumbai, the officer added.

The distance between south Mumbai and D Y Patil stadium in

Navi Mumbai is around 35 km and considering traffic-related issues, Mumbai Police will coordinate with their counterparts in Navi Mumbai for smooth traffic movement, he said, adding that Thane and Pune Police too will be put in the loop.

For matches to be played at Wankhede and Brabourne stadiums, police will take precautionary measures to avoid traffic jams considering that Marine Drive and Churchgate stations are located nearby, he said.

Chennai Super Kings team is stationed at hotel Trident and Delhi Capitals at Taj Palace, both in south Mumbai.

Gujarat Titans are residing at JW Marriott, Sahar, and KKR at ITC Grand Central, in Parel in Mumbai.

Lucknow Super Giants are staying at Taj Vivanta in Navi Mumbai and Mumbai Indians at hotel Trident in the Bandra Kurla Complex.

Punjab Kings are staying at hotel Renaissance in Powai, Rajasthan Royals at Grand Hyatt in Santacruz, Royal Challengers Bangalore at Taj Lands End in Bandra, Sunrisers Hyderabad at ITC Maratha, Sahar.

The teams will travel to Navi Mumbai and Pune for the matches.

"Considering the travel time to reach to those stadiums from hotels of the players, police have prepared specific time-bound security plans. Necessary logistical support is also being provided," the officer said.

IPL 2022: KKR Beat CSK By Six Wickets In Opener



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Kolkata Knight Riders defeated Chennai Super Kings by six wickets in the IPL opener here on Saturday.

Invited to bat, CSK rode on Mahendra Singh Dhoni's unbeaten fifty and contributions from skipper Ravindra Jadeja (26 not out) and Robin Uthappa (28) to manage a modest 131 for five.

Dhoni, playing for the first

time after 12 seasons without wearing the captain's armband, slammed seven fours and a six in his 38-ball innings.

In reply, KKR overhauled the target, scoring 133 for four in 18.3 overs.

For KKR, Umesh Yadav snapped two wickets, while Varun Chakravarthy (1/23) and Andre Russell (1/38) also kept things in check as CSK found the going tough at the Wankhede stadium.

Dwayne Bravo was the most successful bowler for CSK, snapping 3 for 20 in his quota of four overs. Mitchell Santner (1/31) took one.

Brief Scores:

Chennai Super Kings: 131 for 5 in 20 overs (MS Dhoni 50 not out; Umesh Yadav 2/20).

Kolkata Knight Riders: 133 for 4 in 18.3 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 44; Dwayne Bravo 3/20).

IPL 2022: DC Vs MI, PBKS Vs RCB Today

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Indian Premier League 15 will see two mega fixtures on Sunday. Delhi Capitals take on Mumbai Indians at 3:30 PM, while Punjab Kings lock horns with Royal Challengers Bangalore at 7:30 PM.

It will be the first time Kohli will not be leading RCB in nearly a decade, turning out only as a player, instead.

Both RCB and PBKS will have new captains at the helm in Faf du Plessis and Mayank Agarwal respectively, but Kohli will certainly attract a lot of attention now that he is not entrusted with leading the side, something which he last experienced in 2012.

Mumbai Indians' five titles to Delhi Capitals' none will matter little when the heavyweights, equipped with multiple match-winners, lock horns in a clash of titans in a new IPL here on Sunday.

Mumbai have retained their core in skipper Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Kieron Pollard and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, and the role of these four would be crucial against DC at the Cricket Club of India (CCI), as well against other teams through the season.

While the leadership skills and tactical acumen of Rohit, who is now the India captain in all formats, are well documented, how Rishabh Pant performs as skipper will be watched with interest, keeping in mind the need to identify future leaders for the country.

F1 Race In Saudi Arabia To Go Ahead Despite Nearby Attack



Agencies

JEDDAH: Formula One said its race in Saudi Arabia will go ahead as scheduled Sunday despite attacks on the kingdom by Yemen's Houthis rebels.

The announcement came a day after the rebels attacked an oil depot located about 11 kilometers (seven miles) from the F1 circuit. The attack happened while the first practice was taking place, and the 20 drivers later met Friday night in talks that stretched well past 2 a.m. to discuss safety concerns.

In a statement, F1 and governing body FIA confirmed Saturday that "following discussions with all the teams and drivers," the grand prix "will continue as scheduled."

"Following the widely reported incident that took place in Jeddah on Friday, there has been extensive discussion between all stakeholders, the Saudi government authorities and security agencies who have given full and detailed assurances that the event is secure," the statement said.

F1 added that it has been agreed "with all stakeholders to maintain a clear and open dialogue throughout the event and for the future."

There was a third and final practice session later Saturday scheduled to start at 5 p.m. local time with qualifying set to start under floodlights at 8 p.m.

The Houthis acknowledged the attacks on Friday evening and Saudi Arabia state TV called it a "hostile operation." The Jeddah oil depot erupted in flames when attacked during Friday's first practice session. It caused a raging fire that rattled the drivers enough to hold extraordinary talks regarding F1's presence in Saudi Arabia.

World Cup Playoff: Salah's Turn As Egypt Beats Senegal In First Leg



Agencies

CAIRO: Mohamed Salah had his say this time as Egypt beat Sadio Mane's Senegal 1-0 in the first leg of their World Cup playoff on Friday.

Salah's early shot in Cairo cannoned off the crossbar, hit Senegal defender Salio Ciss and went in to give Egypt a slim advantage over the newly crowned African champion to take to the second leg in Senegal on Tuesday.

The Salah-Mane international rivalry continued six weeks after the Liverpool teammates met in the final of the African Cup of Nations in Cameroon. Then, Mane hit the winning penalty in a shootout to give Senegal its first major title as Salah watched on helpless.

Egypt started the playoff at breakneck speed at Cairo International Stadium and the own goal from Ciss came in the fourth minute. Salah sprinted away after it went in and was mobbed in celebration by just about every player from the Egypt bench.

There was redemption of sorts for Algeria, too.

The Algerians returned to the same stadium where they were dumped out of the African Cup in the group stage as defending champion to clinch a crucial 1-0 away win over Cameroon in the first leg of their playoff.

Striker Islam Slimani scored with a header in the first half at Japoma Stadium in Douala, justifying his promotion to the starting lineup. Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana got a hand to the header but pushed it only onto the crossbar and watched the ball drop into the goal behind him.

Cameroon was playing its first game under new coach and former national captain Rigobert Song, who was brought in to replace Toni Conceicao despite Conceicao leading Cameroon to a fairly impressive third place at the African Cup.

The debut didn't go according to plan for Song, and Cameroon must come from behind in the second leg in Blida to reach the World Cup in Qatar and extend its African record to eight World Cup appearances. Algeria hardly ever loses at home.

The playoffs will decide the five African teams to play at the World Cup in Qatar and could erase those painful African Cup memories for Egypt and Algeria.

Tunisia claimed a crucial 1-0 away win over Mali in scorching hot Bamako to give it the advantage in their tie. Morocco's 1-1 draw in Congo made it a strong night for the North African challengers. Ghana and Nigeria drew 0-0 in Ghana. The second legs are all on Tuesday.

Australia's Steve Smith Ruled Out Of Pakistan White Ball Matches

Reuters

LAHORE: Australia batsman Steve Smith will miss the one-day and T20 matches against Pakistan to manage a left elbow injury, the team said on Saturday.

Smith experienced some discomfort during the latter stages of Australia's 1-0 win in the three-match Test series against Pakistan, team physiotherapist Alex Kontouris said.

"Given he had an injury with the same elbow last year, we felt it important to manage this proactively," Kontouris said in a statement.

"Withdrawing him... means Steve will have the necessary time to rehabilitate his elbow to ensure his continuing availability and performance for Australia."

Smith said he did not regard his injury as a major issue.

"But by staying on top of things now, we can ensure that it doesn't become something more significant further down the line," he added.

He will be replaced by Queenslander legspinner Mitchell Swepson in the squad for the three ODIs starting on Tuesday in Lahore and the one-off T20 on April 5.

Swepson, who made his test



debut in Pakistan, is uncapped in ODIs but played the last of his seven T20 internationals against Bangladesh in August.

Chair of Selectors George Bailey said his panel had opted against a replacement batsman as they felt they had enough options in the squad.

"We have decided to include Mitchell Swepson in the white ball squad because it will offer us additional options in the bowling department on surfaces that may well assist spinners," he added.

"Having been in Pakistan for the past month he is familiar with conditions."

Australia ODI squad: Aaron Finch (capt), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Jason Behrendorff, Alex Carey, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Ben McDermott, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Swepson, Adam Zampa.

Kulgam Inter-School T-10 Knock-Out Cricket Tournament Begins



Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Saturday inaugurated the T-10 inter-school cricket tournament at Kulgam Cricket Stadium, here.

The tournament was organised to promote sports related spirit in the district and give young and promising talents an opportunity to come together for the cause of sports.

The tournament was organised by District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with District Information Centre Kul-

gam and District Youth Services Department Kulgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC shared how cricket had been his passion since his childhood days, and exhorted the youth to take part in sports to beat stress and enhance physical and mental fitness.

A total of 08 teams from various Higher Secondary Schools of Kulgam are scheduled to participate in this T-10 Knock-out tournament.

The inaugural match of the tournament was played between HSS Nihama and HSS Bugam which was won by team of Higher Secondary School Bugam.

Jammu & Kashmir Excise Department (Kashmir Division)

منشیات کی فصل کونہ اگائیں

نوجوان نسل کو بچائیں

اطلاع برائے ہر خاص و عام

خشکاش (پوسٹ) کی کاشت قانوناً ایک سنگین جرم ہے۔ پچھلے کئی سالوں سے محکمہ ایکسائز لوگوں کو تربیت و تبحر کرتا آ رہا ہے کہ اسکی کاشت سے اجتناب کریں اور اس مہم میں ایکسائز بہت حد تک کامیاب ہو گیا ہے۔ زیادہ تر لوگوں نے اس کی کاشت چھوڑ دی ہے۔ اور جنہوں نے خلاف ورزی کی وہ جیل پہنچ گئے۔ محکمہ نے یہ عہد کیا ہے کہ باقی ماندہ چند سماج دشمن عناصر جو ابھی تک اس سے باز نہیں آئے ان کے ساتھ سختی سے پیش آنا لازمی ہے تاکہ اس بدعت کو سماج سے مکمل طور ختم کیا جاسکے۔ یاد رہے جو بھی خشکاش (پوسٹ) کی فصل چھوٹے یا بڑے پیمانے پر اگائے گا اس کے خلاف سخت قانونی کارروائی کی جائے گی جس میں کاشت کار اور مالک زمین دونوں کو دس سے بیس سال کی قید اور ایک سے دو لاکھ روپے تک کا جرمانہ ہو سکتا ہے۔

اگر آپ کو کسی ایسے سماج دشمن عنصر کا پتہ چلے تو 7006138639 پر تفصیلات، WATSAPP, SMS یا کال کے ذریعہ مجھے کریں۔

آپ کی شناخت خفیہ رکھی جائے گی۔

J&K EXCISE DEPARTMENT (KASHMIR DIVISION)

DIPK-20017/21