



P3 CITY

NINE SHOPS, HOUSE GUTTED IN TWO FIRE INCIDENTS

At least nine shops and a residential house were damaged in twin fire incidents at Gadyar area of Zaina Kadal and Rajouri Kadal areas of Srinagar. Official sources said that fire broke

THINK

TULIPS IN FULL BLOOM AT SRINAGAR'S TULIP GARDEN

Tulip garden located in the foothills of Zabarwan mountain range overlooking famous Dal Lake in Srinagar has enthralled thousands of visitors since its opening. The sprawling garden houses 1.5 million flowers of tulips, daffodils,



P7 STATE

LG CALLS FOR PROACTIVE MEASURES TO RESOLVE PEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed the officials of his administration to take proactive measures to resolve



Quote!

If you want to overcome the whole world, overcome yourself

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky

NEWS DIGEST

30 New Corona Cases In J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday logged 30 new COVID-19 cases that pushed its tally to 4,53,720, while no fresh death due to the viral disease was reported, officials said. The death toll stood at 4,750, they said. Of the fresh cases, two were reported from **More on P6**

Short Circuit Sparks Fire At Secretariat

JAMMU: A fire broke out inside the Civil Secretariat complex, the seat of Jammu and Kashmir administration, here on Wednesday, officials said. Flames were first noticed at a room used by the rural development **More on P6**

PDA Engineer Falls In ACB Net

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Wednesday claimed to have arrested an Executive Engineer for demanding and accepting a bribe for passing the bill of a contractor. Muzaffer Ahmed Dada, Executive Engineer, Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) was arrested **More on P6**

Teacher Booked For Beating Student

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday registered a case against a private school teacher in Central Kashmir's Budgam district for allegedly beating up a minor student. A relative of a student told a local news agency KNO that on Tuesday evening, when his cousin, a student of Class 4th returned home **More on P6**

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Ishrad Ahmad: 7006276927

2 Militants Killed In Overnight Srinagar Gunfight



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two militants were killed in an overnight encounter with government forces in the Rainawari area of this capital city, police said on Wednesday. Police said both were local militants associated with the

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by police, Valley Quick Reaction Team (QRT) and CRPF in the Rainawari area of the city, a police spokesperson said.

As the **More on P6**

'Woman Who Lobbed Petrol Bomb Identified'

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have identified a woman who hurled a petrol bomb at a CRPF picket in Sopore town of Baramulla district. Talking to media persons **More on P6**

IGP Warns Journalists Against Spreading Fake News

Hours after a militant and his associate were killed in an overnight encounter with government forces here, the IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Wednesday warned journalists of action if they indulge in anti-national activity, instigating **More on P6**

Trouble Grows For Pak PM As Allies Switch Sides

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's embattled Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday effectively lost majority in Parliament after a key partner of the ruling coalition joined the ranks of the Opposition, which has tabled a no-confidence motion against his government in the National Assembly.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a key ally of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led coalition government, with its seven members announced that it has parted ways with the government during a joint press conference of the opposition parties here.

Prime Minister Khan needs 172 votes in the lower house of 342 to foil the Opposition's bid to topple him. However, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, chief of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islama Fazl (JUI-F), said that the Opposition has the support of 175 lawmakers and the prime minister should resign.

It was also announced that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif would be next prime minister of the country after removal of 69-year-old Khan.

"We want to make a new beginning for politics of tolerance and true democracy," MQM-P chief Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui told **More on P6**

US Urges Citizens to Avoid J&K Travel

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The United States in a new travel advisory on Tuesday urged its citizens to exercise "increased caution" while travelling to India and advised them to not to travel to Jammu and Kashmir and within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border.

Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism, the US State Department said in its latest travel advisory for India that decreases the risk of travel to India from Level 3 to Level 2. The last travel advisory issued by the United States was on January 25.

The State Department's travel advisory comes a day after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 1 Travel Health Notice due to COVID-19, indicating a low level of COVID-19 **More on P6**

We've No Interest in Keeping J&K Under President's Rule: Shah

Says Polls After Delimitation Exercise Concludes

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held once the delimitation exercise is over and after consultation with political parties.

"We have no interest in keeping Jammu and Kashmir under President's Rule," Shah said in Lok Sabha while responding to concerns raised by members on Kashmir during the discussion on the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill.

Shah said that he had made it clear that first panchayat elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir, then this would be followed by the delimitation exercise, after which assembly



elections will be held, and then J-K's statehood will be restored.

"Panchayat elections have been held, without any violence. Zilla panchayat elections are over. Delimitation is on the verge of completion. I would like to say this once again, that once delimitation is completed we will hold elections after consultation with political

parties," Shah said.

During the discussion on the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, opposition members had accused the government of delaying the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir has been under President's Rule since June 2018, when the BJP walked out of the **More on P6**

J&K Becomes First UT To Launch Mygov Platform

We Are Setting New Benchmarks Of Participatory Governance: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a move aimed to build citizen-government partnership and to promote participatory governance & policymaking, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday launched MyGov- the robust citizen engagement platform for Jammu & Kashmir.

According to an official spokesperson, the LG said that the innovative platform to build the partnership between citizens & the government will promote participatory governance and policymaking.

"MyGov will bring the J&K administration closer to the

common man while providing them opportunity to share opinions, ideas and suggestions on a range of issues for socio-economic transformation of the UT," Sinha said.

"Governance process is a two-way street. Citizens' suggestions are essential for people-centric policy making and MyGov platform will ensure that views of all stakeholders are incorporated in planning and decision making," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson, dedicated the new initiative to the citizens of J&K and reiterated the government's commitment to fulfill the aspirations of the people.

"We are setting new benchmarks of participatory governance, providing technology driven solutions, real time monitoring of government schemes & programmes, and making public **More on P6**

CBI Begins Probe Into Ex-JK Guv Malik's Bribe Claims

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The CBI on Wednesday began its probe into the allegations made by former Jammu & Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik that he was offered bribes to clear two files when he was in office, officials said.

On March 25, the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had said that the CBI has been given consent to probe Malik's allegations to make "everything crystal clear".

Malik, the last governor of Jammu & Kashmir before the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two union territories in August 2019, had in October last year claimed that he was offered Rs 300 crore bribe to clear a file each belonging to "Ambani" and an "RSS-affiliated man" during his tenure.

Currently the governor of Meghalaya, Malik said that he cancelled the deals, and praised



Prime Minister Narendra Modi for supporting his decision by saying there is no need to compromise on corruption.

The officials said the CBI had taken over the investigation of the case and commenced its probe into the allegations.

Malik is also likely to be questioned during the course of the

investigation as he had signed the file before making the allegations, the officials said.

Addressing a press conference in Jammu, Sinha said, "If someone sitting on such a high post has said anything, then it needs to be probed. We have sent our consent to the CBI to probe both allegations."

Sinha said that he considered the allegations and decided that truth needs to come out.

Malik in his allegation last year had said that he was offered a bribe of Rs 150 crore each for clearing two files, one of them related to Ambani and other to a former minister in the previous Mehbooba Mufti-led (PDP-BJP coalition) government.

He had also alleged that the minister was said to be someone "very close to the prime minister".

"I was informed by secretaries in both the **More on P6**

CRICKET CONTROVERSY

Allahabad HC Grants Bail To 3 Kashmiri Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After spending over five months in Agra jail, The Allahabad High Court Wednesday granted bail to three Kashmiri students, who were arrested on sedition charges for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans following Pakistan's victory in the T20 cricket World Cup match against India last year.

Spokesperson, J&K Students Association, Nasir Khuiami said that the Allahabad High Court today passed an order for the release of three incarcerated Kashmiri students of an engineering college in Agra on bail.

The trio - Arsheed Yusuf,

Inayat Altaf Sheikh and Showkat Ahmed Ganai - were arrested on October 28, 2021 by Agra police.

The trio were booked under Sections 124 A (sedition), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 505

(1)(B) (with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public, or to any section of the public) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 66-F of the Information Technology Act for allegedly sending WhatsApp messages "against the country" after the match.

Nasir said that the bail application of trio was argued by Senior Advocate Ramesh Chand Yadav, who **More on P6**



CRISIS IN LAHDC

BJP Councilors Withdraw Support To NC In Kargil

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) withdrew its support to the National Conference in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil on Wednesday.

BJP Ladakh President Phunchok Stanzin confirmed to Kashmir Observer that they have withdrawn support to NC.

LAHDC Kargil was jointly running with the BJP-NC alliance led by National Conference leader Feroz Khan.

Earlier, BJP MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal had maintained that despite their ideological differences, the BJP will continue to support NC for a stable administration to ensure the development of the region.

According to a press release issued by the BJP, UT of Ladakh,

the decision to withdraw the support was taken after a thorough discussion with all the stakeholders and BJP executive members and functionaries.

It adds that the reason behind withdrawing the support was the lackadaisical approach of LAHDC Kargil under the council that according to him is not serving its constitutional responsibilities.

The handout further reads that the allotted funds for the purpose of public welfare were also not translated in a transparent and accountable manner.

"The influence of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference is also not favouring public welfare as such, instead, JKNC is resorting to vendetta politics which ultimately creates mistrust between the public and LAHDC-Kargil," **More on P6**



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People Underestimate Others' Desire For Constructive Feedback, Says Study

ANI

According to a study led by the American Psychological Association, people underestimate others' desire for constructive feedback and therefore don't provide it, even when it could improve another person's performance on a task. The study was published in the journal, 'Journal of Personality and Social Psychology'.

"People often have opportunities to provide others with constructive feedback that could be immediately helpful, whether that's letting someone know of a typo in their presentation before a client presentation, or telling a job candidate about a stained shirt before an interview," said lead author Nicole Abi-Esber, a doctoral candidate at Harvard Business School.

"Overall, our research found that people consistently underestimate others' desire for feedback, which can have harmful results for would-be feedback recipients," he added.

Constructive feedback is instrumental for aiding learning and performance and people commonly want this type of feedback, according to the researchers. However, despite wanting constructive feedback themselves, people often avoid giving it to others.

In a pilot study conducted by the researchers, only 2.6 per cent of participants informed a tester of a visible smudge on his or her face (e.g., chocolate, lipstick or red marker) during a survey.

Previous research suggested that people avoid giving feedback for fear of negative outcomes, such as the other person's be-



coming embarrassed or upset. Abi-Esber and her colleagues theorized there might be another reason people withhold feedback.

They simply did not fully recognize the potential of their input to improve others' outcomes, leading them to underestimate others' desire for such feedback.

To test their theory, the researchers conducted a series of five experiments involving 1,984 participants to measure how much people underestimate others' desire for constructive feedback. In one,

participants were presented with 10 hypothetical awkward social situations at work, where they could either give or receive constructive feedback.

In another experiment, participants were asked to recall a situation where they could either have given or received constructive feedback. In the final experiment, participants were paired, with one practising a speech for competition and the other assigned to listen and provide feedback.

Across all five experiments, people in a po-

sition to give feedback consistently underestimated potential receivers' desire for it. The more consequential the feedback (e.g., telling someone they need to improve their presentation skills), the more likely participants were to underestimate the other's need for feedback and the less likely they were to offer it.

The gap was smaller in more every day, less consequential scenarios, such as when the other person had food on their face or a rip in their pants.

The researchers were surprised to find that the simple intervention of perspective-taking could increase the likelihood someone would recognize the need for and provide feedback. Simply asking people to quickly reflect, "If you were this person, would you want feedback?" helped participants recognize the value of feedback to the other person and helped close the giver-receiver gap.

"Even if you feel hesitant to give feedback, we recommend that you give it," said Abi-Esber.

"Take a second and imagine you're in the other person's shoes and ask yourself if you would want feedback if you were them. Most likely you would, and this realization can help empower you to give them feedback," he added.

"Feedback is a key to personal growth and improvement, and it can fix problems that are otherwise costly to the recipient," said co-author Francesca Gino, PhD, also of Harvard Business School.

"The next times you hear someone mispronounce a word, see a stain on their shirt or notice a typo on their slide, we urge you to point it out to them -- they probably want feedback more than you think," he concluded.

Public Notice

My DOB has been wrongly written in school records as 3-12-2004 While my correct DOB is 03-12-2008 Which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file shi/her objection in the office of the MMIA -Model Public School Yall Kunzar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Danish Hussain Mall S/o Gulam Mohi-ud-dn Malla R/o Uchalipora Kunzar

bmg

Public Notice

I have lost the Death certificate of my Husband , BANTOO JI SHARMA S/o TRILOKINATH SHARMA R/o K G RAINA WANPOH ANANTNAG who died on 17-09-2021. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Police Station Qaimoh within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Minakshi Pandita W/o Late BANTOO JI SHARMA R/o K G RAINA WANPOH ANANTNAG

rma

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Gulzar Ahmad Bhat S/o Abdul Rashid Bhat R/o H. No- 18 Sultan Arfeen Colony Lane No 3 Bemina Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Ashiq Hussain Bhat S/o



Mohd Ramzan Bhat R/o Ishbar Nishat Bren Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 30035/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01AQ- 6303 .

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

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

Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S --- Namely --

NOJK-RTOK 3153
Dated: 29/03/2022
fko_R

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Baba Inamul Haq S/o Khazir Mohammad Baba R/o Chandpora Harwan Sgr (Transferor) and Gulam Rasool



Baba S/o Ghulam Mohammad Baba R/o New Colony Syed Rehman B rein (Transferee) for transfer of Innova carriage route Permit No 6544/mc Covering Vehicle No JK01Q-0930 .

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

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

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

NOJK-RTOK 3251
Dated: 30/03/2022
fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from M. Yousuf Bhat S/o Mohammad Maqbool R/o Amira adal Sgr (Transferor) and Shakir Ahmad S/o Khazir Mohammad R/o Chatham Parimpora (Trans-



feree) for transfer of Sumo carriage route Permit No 2886/mc Covering Vehicle No JK01G- 7255 .

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

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

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

NOJK-RTOK 12
Dated: 23/03/2022
fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

HANFIA ISLAMIA (SYED LAL BAB SAHIB), INSTITUTE, PAHALGAM ANANTNAG.

List Of Managing Body

S.No.	Name with Parentage	Designation	Qualification	Occupation	Residence
001	Fancy Maqbool Lone D/O Mohd Maqbool Lone	Chairperson	B. A	Household Worker	Pahalgam
002	Umar Rashid Lone S/O Abdul Rashid Lone	Secretary	Under Graduate	Businessman	Pahalgam
003	Tabasum Jan D/O Mohd Ramzan Bhat	Teacher Member	Post. Graduate	Teacher	Pahalgam
004	Bashir Ahmad Lone S/O Gull Mohd Lone	Parent Member	Matric	Businessman	Pahalgam
005	Mohd Akram Khanday S/O Ali Mohd Khanday	Parent Member	Middle Pass	Businessman	Pahalgam
006	Mohd Ramzan Bhat S/O Ab. Ahad Bhat	Member	Matric	Businessman	Pahalgam

Principal

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

ELYSIUM PUBLIC SCHOOL WANIHAMMA ANANTNAG.

Subject:- Staff Statement as on 24/12/2021.

S.No	Name of the official	Qualification	Designation	Salary per month
01	Irshad Ahmad Parrey	M.SC. M.ED	Principal	7000
02	Aabid Maqbool	M.Sc., M.ed	Teacher	6000
03	Javaid Majeed	M.A.B.ed	Teacher	6000
04	Nazima Nazir	M.A	Teacher	3500
05	Nusrat Jan	M.A.B.ed	Teacher	3500
06	Muzamil Jan	M.A	Teacher	350
07	Shaheena Akhter	C.PED	Teacher	3000
08	Sajad Ahmad	B.SC	Teacher	3000
09	Gazala Mohi Ud Din	M.A	Teacher	3000
10	Jasia Jan	M.A	Teacher	3000
11	Ifra Bashir	B.SC	Teacher	3000
12	Arooja Rashid	M.A	Teacher	3000
13	Jeenofar Muneer	B.A	Junior Assistant	3000
14	Shobey Jan	Middle	Peon	2000

RNA

Sd/- Chairman

ELYSIUM PUBLIC SCHOOL, WANIHAMMA ANANTNAG

The list of Proposed Panel of ManagingBody is as under:

S.No	Name & Parentage with Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation	Phone No
1	Gh Nabi Parrey S/o: Gh Ahmad Par-ray R/o : Wanihama Ang.	Matric	Business	Chairman	9858084786
2	Irshad Ahmad Parrey S/o : Mohd Ramzan Parrey R/o: Wanihama Anantnag.	M.Sc M.ed	Principal of the School	Member	9797806824
3	Ishfaq Ahmad Koka S/o: Gh Qadir Koka R/o: Wanihama Anantnag	B.A / B.ED	Business	Member/ Parent	8899959830
4	Gh Mohi Ud Din Parrey S/o: Ab Rashid Parrey R/o: Wanihama Anantnag	Matric	Business	Member	9906726325
5	Bilal Ahmad Parrey S/o: Ab Rashid Parrey R/o: Wanihama Anantnag	8TH	Business	Member/ Parent	9906886630

Note:- I am going to get the approval of Managing Body to be approved by the Director of School Education Kashmir Srinagar. If anybody has any sort of objection regarding in this matter he/she may file the same within a week's time of the date of publication in Directorate of School Education Srinagar.

Fee Structure of the School

S.No	Class	Tuition	Building Fund	Red Cross	Games	Library
1	KG's	350	05	12	05	05
2	1st -5th	400	30	12	15	10
3	6th -8th	450	50	12	10	15

RNA

Sd/- Chairman

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Safeena Bano S/D/W/O Ghulam Mohammad Kandoo R/o Parimpora Sgr (Transf-feror) and Feroz Ahmad Shekh S/o Mohammad Amin Sheikh R/o Kh-alipora Buchwara Dalgate Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Tata Sumo carriage route Permit No 1199 /mc Covering Vehicle No JK01F- 9791 .



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

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

Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STW Co Namely Bagh Hus-sain

NOJK-RTOK 3226
Dated: 30/03/2022
fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

Health Centre University of Kashmir

Hazratbal, Srinagar, J&K (India)-190006

NAAC Accredited Grade "A+"

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of Competent Authority of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders in two bid systems are invited from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers/suppliers/retailers for supply of Life saving Medicine on monthly basis. The bid/tender document consisting of eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from website www.iktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below:

S.NO.	Particulars	Date & Time
1	Date of Issuance of Tender Notice	28-03-2022
2	Date of downloading bid documents	29-03-2022 from 10:30 a.m
3	Bid submission Start Date	29-03-2022 from 10:30 a.m
4	Bid Submission End Date	18-04-2022 from 3:30 p.m
5	Last date for submission of Hard copies	18-04-2022 from 4:30 p.m

Note:- The centre may also explore the availability of medicine over GEM and the bidders shall be free to participate in both processes. However the University reserves the right to finalize the bidder from either of the portals as per merit in the interest of the organization.

Detailed tender notice can be also be viewed from the official website of University of Kashmir www.kashmiruniversity.ac.in.

Incharge Procurement
University Health Centre

No. F-TENDER (UOK/UHC/2022)

Dated:- 28-03-202

DIPK-NB-8055/21

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Tourism Kashmir

TRC, Srinagar, Kashmir.190001

Tel/Fax 0194-250227, 0194-250228.E-mail-directortourismkmr@gmail.com

Subject: - Out-sourcing of operation and Management of adventure activities at Pahalgam on license basis for a period of 03 years.

Reference: - This office fresh Auction Open Notice No. DTK-RECS/3/2022/06/ 2695 dated 25.03.2022.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read date of Auction as 05.04.2022 at 2.00 P.M instead of 10.04.2022.

"Three activities i.e., Zorbing, Water Zorbing and Trampoline shall be exclusively reserved for local Adventure Tour Operators".

However, all other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Malik Waseem (JKAS)
Dy.Director Tourism
Recreation.

No: DTK-RECS/3/2022/06/2698
Dated: 28.03.2022

DIPK-20144/21

Advisor Bhatnagar Reviews Works At Govt College For Women

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Wednesday conducted a surprise inspection of Govt. Women's College M.A Road here and reviewed the pace and progress of various ongoing construction works in the college.

During the visit, the Advisor inspected ongoing works on classroom block being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 13.34 crores under JehlumTawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) being powered by World Bank.

The Advisor had a detailed inspection of the different aspects of the building. He directed the chief Engineer R&B, Kashmir to complete the ongoing works within the given deadlines so that the building can be dedicated to students for the class work.

Chief Engineer R&B presented a detailed outlay of the building before the Advisor and informed him that the building is being constructed keeping in view the other heritage structures of the college.

The Advisor also visited the construction site of Administrative block and inspected the ongoing works

there. He took serious note of the slow pace of work there and instructed the officers of executing agency that no lackadaisical approach will be entertained while carrying out this important work. The Advisor asked them to complete the all required works within the fixed timelines.

Advisor Bhatnagar also took a detailed round of the college and inspected all the infrastructure of the institution.

He visited the Innovation and Incubation centre of the college and took detailed overview of the courses being offered through the centre. He also inspected the skilling centre for health care professionals.

Advisor Bhatnagar while interacting with the management of these centres, lauded them for establishing these kind of innovative centres here. He asked them to use these centres to their maximum potential so that the objective with which they have been established can be achieved.

The Advisor further asked them to create linkages with other institutes like NIT Srinagar so that campus placements for the students can be carried out in this college also.



Nine Shops, House Guttred In Two Fire Incidents

Agencies

Srinagar: At least nine shops and a residential house were damaged in twin fire incidents at Gadyar area of Zaina Kadal and Rajouri Kadal areas of Srinagar.

Official sources said that fire broke out at Gadyar Zainakadal at around 1 am in the intervening night of Tuesday-Wednesday.

In the incident, nine shops

were gutted completely, the traders said, adding that the losses worth crores have been suffered by the affected shopkeepers.

Meanwhile, locals said the firemen arrived on time and doused the flames.

No loss of life or injury was reported in the incident and the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

Meanwhile, a residential

house was damaged in a fire incident at Rajouri kadal area of Srinagar on Wednesday evening.

Official sources said that the fire broke out in a residential house at Rajouri Kadal opposite Islamia Higher Secondary School.

They said that the fire tenders reached the spot and doused the flames. The cause of fire was not known immediately. (KNO)

Body Of Teenage Girl Retrieved From Jhelum

Agencies

Srinagar: The dead body of a teenage girl was retrieved from the river Jehlum by the River Police in Srinagar on Wednesday.

A 17-year old girl (name withheld) from Buddo-BaghRainawari area had allegedly jumped from the Cement Bridge Qamarwari into the river on 23 March this month.

The search operation to locate her body was intermittently going on.

The River Police fished out her body at Kreshbal Srinagar on Wednesday which falls under the jurisdiction of police station Parimpora.

After the completion of legal and medical producers, the body was handed over to the family.

A case in this regard has already been registered. (KNT)

Six Persons Involved In Badamwari Stabbing Incident Arrested

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday said that it arrested six accused persons involved in a stabbing incident outside Badamwari two days ago. Two persons were injured in the incident.

According to a police statement, on 28 March during evening hours, a scuffle broke out outside Badamwari between the two groups comprising of young boys, over a trivial issue.

In the beginning two boys had a small quarrel with each other and later on two groups took their sides.

“The fight ended in stabbing of one boy resulting in serious injuries to him, while as other boy also sustained

injuries in the incident. The injured were later operated upon at SMHS and SKIMS Hospitals, respectively,” the statement reads.

The injured, as per

“The fight ended in stabbing of one boy resulting in serious injuries to him, while as other boy also sustained injuries in the incident. The injured were later operated upon at SMHS and SKIMS Hospitals, respectively

the statement, were identified as Tariq Ahmad Sheikh and Arshad Ahmad Sheikh.

It reads that in this context case under FIR No 19/2022 U/S 307, 325,147,148 IPC stands registered in Police Station Rainawari.

“Many suspects were apprehended for questioning. During questioning, 6 persons

identified as Danish Ahmad Sheikh, Farhan Ahmad Mir, Shahzib Altaf Ahangar, Arbaz ahmad bhat, Tavqeer sidiq Gojree and Waseem Ahmad Dar.

“Other accused persons, who were part of either of the two groups are being identified and will be arrested in due course”, the statement further reads. (KNS)

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Manzoor Ahamd Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohd Bhat R/o Brein Sgr (Transferor) and Mudasir Ahamd Dar S/o Abdul Majeed Dar R/o Drugjan Dalgate (Transferee) for transfer of Innova carriage route Permit No 3381/mc Covering Vehicle No JK01J-9435 Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

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

NOJK-RTOK 3237 Dated: 30/03/2022 fko

Sd/- Regional Transport Office, Kashmir



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Zonal Office Srinagar 190001 J&K
T +91 (0)194 248 2658

EXTENSION OF TIME

With reference to the tender notice No. JKB/ZOKC-1/EST/22 +Dt:-29-01-2022, issued by this office, regarding premises for outright purchase/ on lease basis for housing its Business Unit Habbak Crossing, the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 15th of April, 2022. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link www.jkbank.com. The parties who have already applied need not apply again. Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

No. JKB/ZOKC-1/EST/22- Sd/-
Dated:-26-03-2022. DIPK-NB-8075/21 Zonal Head (ZKC-1)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION SRINAGAR

Subject:- EXTENSION NOTICE.

As requested by the intending bidders and consequent to Corrigendum / Addendum for the Work “**Design , Supply & Implementation of SCADA, Instrumentation & Automation system for Various WTPs at Srinagar Smart City**” (J&K).” advertised vide this office e-NIT No. 33/WSMP of 03/2022 Dated: - 11-03-2022 issued under endorsement No:- **9454-92** Dated: **11-03-2022**. Under **Tender ID No. 2022 PHE 164054 1** The Bid Submission Close & Online Bid Opening Date is rescheduled as under:-

S.No	Previous Date	Re-Scheduled Date
1.	Bid Submission Close Date 04-04-2022	18-04-2022 Up to 4 PM
2.	Online Bid Opening Date 06-04-2022	20 -04-2022 at 12 Noon

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the above e-NIT / Corrigendum / Addendum.

No:- WSMP/CC/10059-65
Dt:- 29-03-2022

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
Water Supply Master Plan Division
Srinagar

DIPK-20175/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

No:-10138-44

Date:- 29-03-2022

(Final NOTICE)

Ab. Rashid Dar (Contractor)

S/o Mohd Sultan Dar

R/o Naidgam Budgam.

Regd. No.Kmr/CE/I&FCD/A-34/1998.

Subject:- Construction of lining wall and crate protection on Suresh Khul from Fujipora to Suresh village Arzabji at Spots.

Reference:- This office 2nd Notice No 9959-61 Dated 24-03-2022.

- Whereas, the authority for execution of the subject work has been issued to you vide this office Allotment order No. 119 of 01/2022.
- Whereas, notices were served to you to start the balance work but till date you have failed to start the work. `
- As per the conditions of the NIT you were supposed to complete the work within stipulated time.
- As the work is of urgent nature and needs to be completed within the stipulated time.

Now you are given final notice to resume the balance work within 02 days time positively failing which the work shall be put fresh tenders at your risk and cost, as this office cannot wait further in view of the irrigation season.

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division,
Ompora Budgam.

DIPK-20215/21

DIAL-EMMA

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



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
27 Shaban
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 56
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:04
Magrib	6:54
ISHA	8: 14

This Day In History

- 1667 France & England sign anti-Dutch military accord
- 1683 - Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I and King John III Sobieski of Poland sign a covenant against Turkey, beginning of the Holy League
- 1814 - Forces allied against Napoleon capture Paris
- 1885 - Great Britain declares Bechuanaland a protectorate
- 1889 - Eiffel Tower officially opens in Paris. Built for the Exposition Universelle, at 300m high it retains the record for the tallest man made structure for 41 years.
- 1905 - Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany visits Tangier, Morocco and proclaims Germany's support of Moroccan independence and equal opportunity for all powers to trade there
- 1943 - US errantly bombs Rotterdam, kills 326
- 1951 - US tanks exceed 38º of latitude in Korea
- 1953 - UN Security Council nominates Dag Hammarskjöld for Secretary-General
- 1954 - USSR offers to join NATO
- 1958 - USSR suspends nuclear weapons tests, & urges US & Britain to do same
- 1966 - USSR launches Luna 10, 1st lunar orbiter
- 1970 - Explorer 1 re-enters the Earth's atmosphere after 12 years in orbit
- 1973 - Muhammad Ali suffers a broken jaw in a shock split-points decision loss to Ken Norton over 12 rounds in San Diego; Ali wins rematch in another controversial split decision
- 1978 - USSR launches Kosmos 1000 navigational satellite
- 1979 - The last British soldier leaves the Maltese Islands. Malta declares its Freedom Day (Jum il-Helsien).
- 1986 - 167 die when Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashes
- 1988 - Pulitzer prize awarded to Toni Morrison for her novel "Beloved"
- 1991 - Albania offers 1st multi-party election in 50 years
- 1992- UN Security Council voted to ban flights & arms sales to Libya

From KO Archives

Charar Shrine Reconstruction Project

MAT Approves Traditional Model

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Muslim Auqaf Trust (MAT) today decided to re-construct the holy shrine of great Kashmir saint, Shiekh Noorudin Noorani at Charar-i-Sharief, on its old traditional pattern. The total cost of the project will be around rupees ten crores, a high level meeting of the MAT was told. The meeting was presided over by Farooq Abdullah, who also happens to be the Chairman of the MAT.

According to a government handout issued here this evening, of the total of ten crores, three will be exclusively spent on the construction of shrine. So far, the meeting was told, Rs.43 lakhs have been spent on the construction of the basic structure of the shrine.The traditional model designed by a Kashmir architect, involves 10,000 sq.ft. for shrine area and 4,000 sq.ft for the mezzanine floor. The new structure, handout said will have sophisticated improvements like fire-proof system, lighting effects and concrete shingled roof (wooden), glass enclosures around the holy sanctum inside the shrine and motifs designed on traditional pattern.

The MAT also approved construction of school building at Khanyar, construction of Khankah mosque at Makhdoom sahib and many other projects involved renovation and repairs of different Auqaf properties.

(Kashmir Observer, 31 March, 1998)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Covid Not Going
Anywhere

There has been a surge in Covid-19 cases in several countries after a brief lull following the sudden eruption of the Omicron wave across the world including in India. There has been a fresh spread in some European and Asia-Pacific countries South Korea, Germany, Austria and New Zealand even registered their highest single-day infection counts ever. Similarly, the resurgence of the infection in China and Hong Kong took the world by surprise. The communist giant put nearly 30 million people under lockdown, as surging virus cases prompted the return of mass tests and health officials to city streets on a scale not seen since the start of the pandemic. But India is so far doing well in the aftermath of the Omicron wave which mercifully didn't lead to as massive a death toll as the Delta wave in April-May last year. India just resumed regular overseas flights and is all set to end official containment measures this week. This raises some legitimate concerns: is it really safe to restart international flights when the major parts of the world are seeing fresh outbreaks. And some of these countries, unlike India, have a developed healthcare system.

So, it is premature to rule out more Covid waves and we have to be prepared for them. The world has been through several successive waves of the Covid-19 pandemic which have infected millions and claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. With the abating of the Omicron wave which broke out early this year, there was a temporary sense of relief across the world. The economies have started re-opening in most parts of the world. There is a realization that the worst is over and the pandemic is gradually on its way out.

But is it really so? Fresh outbreaks have dispelled this illusion. So, it is not clear yet what would be the future shape of the Covid-19 virus that was unleashed on the world in February 2020 from Wuhan in China. Whether herd immunity will save us? Whether the virus will become endemic in some milder form like our everyday cold. Or whether deadlier variants of the virus are on their way. There is already talk of the sub-variants of Covid-19 rearing their head. And the fresh outbreaks across the world could be traced to them. So far, Covid-19 has turned out to be a very stubborn virus. Despite full vaccination by a large mass of people across the globe, the outbreaks have not stopped. Here's hoping that the new Covid variants become milder so that people can live with them.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Look back

The Centre has decided to lift Covid-19 restrictions, barring a few, by the end of March for the first time in two years. It is true that the infection rate has been falling — the country witnessed fewer than 2,000 cases in the last 24 hours. But this should not be seen as a signal to let the proverbial guard down. There has been a surge in Covid re-infections in some parts of the world, including the United States of America, China and South Korea. India, given its lax culture of civic consciousness, will continue to remain a potential target of the virus that seems to have resurrected itself.

There is, however, another pertinent issue. India needs to reflect on and learn from its experience during the period of Covid-induced restrictions. This phase bared some of the ugliest warts in governance, healthcare and, most strikingly, its body politic. There was the horror of government ineptitude when the nation was lashed by the first two waves of the pandemic. Searing images — be it of bodies floating on the Ganges or, earlier, migrant labourers trudging on deserted highways in a desperate bid to reach home — bore evidence of the government's insensitivity. Meanwhile, the economy continued to tumble in the absence of meaningful interventions, magnifying public suffering. Equally shameful was the weaponization of no less than a health emergency to target minorities — Muslims — by social and political segments that are fuelling India's unabashed march towards majoritarianism. There can be no greater evidence of the deterioration in — near-obliteration of — the pluralist ethos cemented in the constitutional vision. Rickety hospital infrastructure, the dissemination of unscientific concoctions as medical remedies as well as a tepid response to safety protocols were some of the other overwhelming features of this difficult time. Strangely enough, these marked failures have not elicited an electoral retribution on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. If the last round of assembly elections were an indication, the BJP's policy failures on numerous fronts seem to have been brushed away by the electorate in these states. The last two years of suffering — India and the world are not out of the woods yet — have thus dismantled two entrenched assumptions. First, that a regime's failure during a health crisis brings collateral political damage. Second, that a pandemic is a medical crisis only. It is not. It wreaks equivalent social and economic costs. India is proof of that.

Telegraph India



For representational purposes only. PTI file photo

2024: Four Scenarios

Riyaz Wani

“The AAP led by Arvind Kejriwal has still a long way to go before it could emerge as a credible rival to the BJP, but the party seems to offer a sort of new politics that has been effective against that of the BJP

It looks now almost certain that the still potent Modi wave will win BJP the next general election if no credible political rival or an alliance emerges from the shadows in the near future

AS we look forward to general elections in 2024, the outcome of the recent Assembly elections in five states serves as an accurate bellwether. There are four big takeaways from these polls, four of which were comfortably won by the BJP: It looks now almost certain that the still potent Modi wave will win BJP the next general election and that the party is here to stay until 2029. That is, if no credible political rival emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect that looks bleak considering the opposition is fighting over scraps.

Second is the decimation of Congress as the national party. The party's presence on the ground is depleting by the day and there are not even distant signs that it will recover anytime soon. At least, not until 2024, unless there is a fundamental shift in the kind of politics the party has been practicing for many years now. As things stand, Congress lacks ideas, ideology, organization, and above all leadership.

Rahul Gandhi, it is now clear for the umpteenth time, is not up to the task. His image makeover is still a project in the works. Gandhi's speeches are sincere but carry little conviction in the prevailing polarized environment. He has paid attention to his communication style: he now frames his arguments in a way that generates a bigger ideological contestation with the BJP — but he has still a long way to go to match Modi's overarching persona. But if he hasn't been able to do so over the last eight years of Modi's rule, there is little hope that he will be able to make a redeeming difference in the future.

So, Congress does need deep surgery. It can only survive if it has a charismatic new leader who can not only corner the ruling party on day to day governance but also aggressively peddles a credible alternative vision of India on a sustainable basis. The chances of this happening in near future look very bleak. And given the current state of Congress, it may not happen at

all. So, a Congress-mukt Bharat seems a distinct possibility as has been the BJP goal or as the dissident Congress leader Manish Tiwari has warned against.

The third is the wider opposition in India. It is true, some regional parties have done individually well for themselves in their respective states. For instance, Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Tejasvi Yadav in Bihar, Sharad Pawar in Maharashtra and recently Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh. And for that matter Naveen Patnaik in Orissa. But they have so far been singularly unable to stitch together an alli-

And therein lies the threat to the existing invincibility of the BJP.

Of course, politics is not only about great rhetorical skills. It has to have substance too: For example, the party's social, economic and ideological agenda and its credibility to execute these on the ground make all the difference. And the BJP is strongest on all these fronts. More so, in its ideological agenda: Hindutva has now widest acceptance across the country. No other party's ideology comes even close, least of all that of Congress whose secular credentials now carry little conviction even within the party it-

“Second is the decimation of Congress as the national party. The party's presence on the ground is depleting by the day and there are not even distant signs that it will recover anytime soon. At least, not until 2024, unless there is a fundamental shift in the kind of politics the party has been practicing for many years now. As things stand, Congress lacks ideas, ideology, organization, and above all leadership.

ance - say the Third Front sans Congress. Or a Mahagathbandhan including Congress with the latter as one of its constituent parties, not a dominant entity, as used to be the case earlier. Despite its pan-India presence, Congress over the last decade has shrunk even below a regional party. So much so that the party seems now in no position to even win a state election.

Fourth is the emergence of the Aam Aadmi Party as a major political force in the country with its landslide triumph in Punjab. Though the party led by Arvind Kejriwal has still a long way to go before it could emerge as a credible rival to the BJP, the party seems to offer a sort of new politics that has been effective against that of the BJP. And in Kejriwal, the party has a leader who is shaping up to be a match for PM Modi's extraordinary rhetorical skills. If anyone had any doubt, these were put to rest by his recent speech in the Delhi Assembly which hit the BJP where it hurt the most - its perceived authoritarian style of functioning. The speech which went viral ended up showing the BJP in a poor light, something no other opposition leader, least of all Rahul Gandhi, has been able to successfully accomplish so far.

self. The AAP has left this area conspicuously ambivalent. But from the actions of Kejriwal in recent years, the party has made not so subtle appeals to Hindu religion and majoritarianism to protect and expand its base. The party's trump card, however, has been its model of governance which it has perfected in Delhi and which over the years has attracted notice from across the country. Hence the AAP's absolute victory in Punjab.

And if the model works well in Punjab, the party could very well expand its footprint in other states, making it a potential rival to the BJP in the long term. The AAP along with the other regional parties could thus seriously dent the chances of the BJP to return to power in 2024, or at least help reduce the saffron party's numbers in the parliament, circumscribing the latter's ability to carry forward its ideological agenda.

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

The author is the Politics Editor at Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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Rise in Temperatures

It is evident since the start of spring that degrees in temperature have increased unprecedentedly. While a layman's perspective of the situation might be, "it's good how the harsh cold ended sooner this time", people need to realise this rise in temperature isn't the fix to their miseries but an addition to it. Climate change is a very grave issue, but it is unfortunate how people tend to ignore it and go about their daily lives with all their habits adding to it.

Three days ago on 27th of March 2022, Jammu recorded its highest temperature in 76 years at 37.3 degree celsius. Whilst the normal temperature in Gulmarg during the season would remain around 4 degree celsius, it has recorded a whopping 17 degree celsius in the past week, resulting in early melting of snow.

As commoners, the most we can do is try to contribute little by little to the tumultuous climate change. Small habits that we can incorporate into our daily lives include cycling

or walking short distances instead of driving, avoiding usage of plastic bags and materials, using a dustbin to dispose of waste (especially non-biodegradable), as it should be and not dumping waste directly onto roads and into water bodies. Kashmiri women mostly, are frequently seen throwing waste on roads, lanes and bylanes, but it is neither civil nor sane of them to do so. We as a community must start gaining some civic sense and manners, and start taking a responsibility towards this planet

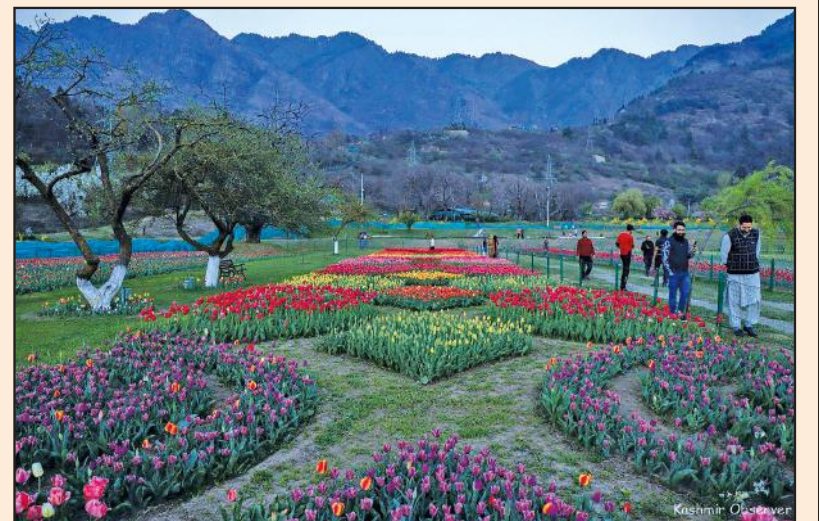
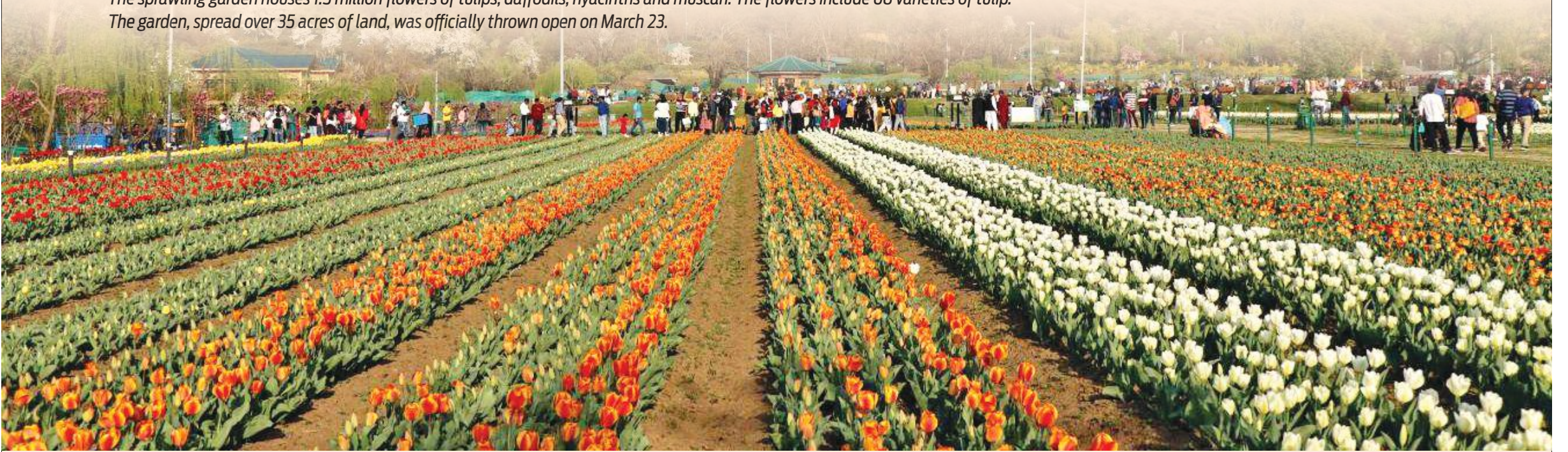
we're thriving on. You and I can start by learning about climate change and contemplating small significant steps to help combat it, so we could be able to aid a greener world. We must realise how selflessly the earth gives its bounties to us, we may never be able to return the favour of mother earth, but we can at least try to not harm it.

Sarah Koul
kousarah@gmail.com

Blooming Bulbs of Tulip Garden

Tulip garden located in the foothills of Zabarwan mountain range overlooking famous Dal Lake in Srinagar has enthralled thousands of visitors since its opening. The sprawling garden houses 1.5 million flowers of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and muscari. The flowers include 68 varieties of tulip. The garden, spread over 35 acres of land, was officially thrown open on March 23.

Photos: Abid Bhat/KO



#KO DEBATES

What Russia-Ukraine War Means for South Asia

Guest
B Z Khasru

With
KO's Tooba Towfiq

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Catch the Interview on KO's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram Handle or tune in to KO's Youtube Channel

Principal Secretary Discusses Various Issues Of Mining Dept

Observer News Service

Jammu: Principal Secretary Mining Department, Ashok Kumar Parmar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to discuss various issues of the Department.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary Forest, Ecology and Environment, Director Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing J&K, Director Geology and Mining, Director Finance, Mining Department, Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Minerals Ltd. Corporation.

At the outset, Director Geology and Mining, J&K briefed the Principal Secretary about the procedure adopted by the Department of Geology and Mining in e-auction of Minor Mineral Blocks and grant of Mining Leases.

Director informed the Principal Secretary Mining that as on date, out of 365 e-auctioned Minor Mineral Blocks, Environmental Clearances (ECs) has been issued in favour

of 175 blocks, Environmental Clearances (ECs) of 20 cases has been approved and 19 cases are under consideration (i.e listed for approval) before State Environment Impact Assessment Committee (SEIA).

The Director further apprised the Principal Secretary the Department has granted Mining Leases in favour of 167 Minor Mineral Blocks.

The Principal Secretary discussed important issues like issuance of Environmental Clearances (ECs) and Consent to Operate (CTO) for Operationalization of remaining Minor Mineral Blocks with the Commissioner Secretary Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment and Director, Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K and they impressed for expediting the pending cases of ECS before March 31st 2022.

A detailed and threadbare discussion was held with the Commissioner Secretary Department of Forest, Ecology

and Environment, Director, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K and Director, Geology and Mining, J&K for extending validity of Letter of Intents (LOIs) already issued in favour of the Project Proponents beyond 31st March, 2022 to enable operationalization of maximum number of e-auction Minor Mineral Blocks within minimum possible time period.

Principal Secretary, Mining Department also discussed following projects which are under pipeline in the Department:-

a) Adoption of Vehicle Tracking System (VTS): The Principal Secretary was informed that the Department has invited EoI for empanelment of vendors for installation of Vehicle Tracking Devices with Load Sensors on the vehicles engaged in transportation of minor minerals.

The Department is in the process of finalization of empanelment of vendors and the matter has been taken up with the Finance and Transport

Department for their comments.

b) E-Market Place: To develop an e-Market place (on-line web portal) to sell minor minerals to the consumers at the rates notified by the Government in a particular District.

c) Construction of Hi Tech Mineral Check Posts (MCPs): A uniform Detailed Project Report has been prepared by SIDCO for all 111 MCPs (50 in Jammu and 61 in Kashmir) @ Rs 9.77 lakh.

Out of which 22 Mineral Check Posts (11 each in Jammu/ Kashmir Divisions) have been completed by J&K SIDCO and handed over to the Department and have been operationalized.

Re-identification of suitable land for construction of Mineral Check Posts is in progress and is being vigorously followed by the Department.

d) ENFORCEMENT: Director, Geology and Mining, J&K informed the Principal Secretary that the Government has constituted a Multi-Disciplinary District Level Task Force Cell

under the 1569-GAD of 2018 dated October 22, 2018 to check and curb the illegal extraction of minor minerals. Construction of Hi-Tech Mineral Check Posts with CCTV cameras; conducting regular checks and seizures, during the year 2021-22 (upto ending November), the Department has seized 4267 no. of vehicles for illegal extraction and generated fine to the tune of Rs.1184.71 lakh from the violators.

In pursuance to NGT guidelines, the Department has already introduced Transport permits/challans printed with security features like unique barcode, fugitive ink background, invisible ink mark and watermark.

Recently, a provision has been made for having separate colour coding i.e Mining Lessees, Crusher Unit Holders and Principal Executing Agencies of various projects of National importance for proper check on transportation of minor minerals in order to identify the violators easily.

Archaeology Dept Recovers 3-Headed Vishnu Sculpture In Pulwama

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A three-headed Vishnu sculpture was recovered by the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums from Kakapora area of Pulwama district.

The sculpture was recovered from the River Jhelum during the course of extraction of sand at Kakapora area of Pulwama district by some labourers and was handed over to the Police Station Kakapora.

After completing legal formalities the sculpture was handed over to Deputy Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums Kashmir.

The finely carved and well dressed/polished sculpture demonstrates clearly the sculptural style in use at Avantipora during the 9th century AD. The sculpture is now housed



in SPS Museum Srinagar for further studies.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2 Militants Killed

search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, he said, the hiding militants fired upon the search party which retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, the spokesperson said that two LeT militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

Police identified them as Rayees Ahmad Bhat and Hilal Ahmad Rah, both residents of Bijbehara, in Anantnag district.

As per police records, the spokesperson said both the killed militants were categorized and part of groups involved in several "terror crime cases including attacks on Police/SFs and civilian atrocities".

Giving further details of the killed militants, he said, Rayees Ahmad was earlier working as a journalist and running online news portal 'Valley News Service' in Anantnag. Ahmad, he said, had joined militant ranks in year 2021 and was wanted by law in cases related to "terror crime".

"He was also responsible for creating terror among the locals and had been coercing innocent citizens to sympathise with anti-national elements," the spokesperson said.

He said that incriminating materials, arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation.

"In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

The spokesperson also quoted IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar as congratulating the forces for carrying out the operation in a professional manner without any collateral damage.

Kumar, he said, shared the details with the media and said the killed militants were planning to attack soft targets in Srinagar & timely action by Police led to the elimination of both of them.

According to the spokesperson, the IGP also said the number of militants operating in Kashmir Valley has fallen as compared to last many years and we are intensifying the operations to make the valley "terror free".

"He further said that J&K police is trying hard to bring the misguided youth who have joined terrorist ranks back to their normal life with the help of their family members & respectable citizens," he added.

Woman Who Lobbed

here, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said that the burka clad woman who lobbed a petrol bomb on CRPF bunker in Sopore has been identified and soon she will be arrested.

On Tuesday evening, the woman halted briefly before a CRPF picket near Main Chowk Sopore and attacked it with a petrol bomb.

The video of the incident had gone viral on social media networking websites.

IGP Warns Journalists

people or spreading fake news. One of the deceased was running a social media handle titled

'Valley News Service', according to the police.

Sounding a word of caution, the IGP said the information department and journalists should follow the Press Council of India guidelines. "Else, police will act."

He alleged that social media was being misused by Pakistan and by some journalists in Kashmir.

"I request the journalists to avoid getting involved in anti-national activity, instigating people or spreading fake news," Kumar added.

Trouble Grows For

reporters. "I announce to support the opposition in the parliament."

Sharif said that it was an important day as all opposition parties have joined together to address the problems faced by Pakistan. "The premier, even if he is a selected one, should resign to set a new tradition," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), said the support by MQM was a big development and with this the prime minister has lost the majority. "The prime minister has no option and he will have to resign," he said.

Bilawal also said that Sharif will soon be elected as the next prime minister.

Another ally of the ruling coalition, the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) with five members in the lower house had announced on Monday that it had "accepted the opposition's invitation" to vote against Khan.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said that Prime Minister Khan will address the nation on Wednesday evening and discuss the prevailing political situation.

Briefly talking to the media after a special session of cabinet, which was chaired by the premier, Rashid said Khan also shared a "threatening letter" with the cabinet colleagues, who in return expressed complete trust in him.

Addressing a mammoth rally in the national capital on Sunday, Khan had claimed that foreign powers were involved in a conspiracy to topple his coalition government. He pulled a document from his pocket to exhibit it for the charged crowd, saying it was the letter sent to threaten him.

To a question if Khan would announce his resignation in his speech, Rashid said: "No way. He will fight till the last ball."

The minister also said that Khan himself or foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi may also brief the parliament in-camera about the threatening letter.

Earlier, Prime Minister Khan summoned a special session of the federal cabinet.

The cabinet members and those invited to attend the special session were taken into confidence about the threatening document letter that the premier said was proof of a foreign conspiracy to topple his government.

Pakistan plunged into uncertainty on March 8 after the combined opposition submitted the motion with the National Assembly, which will convene on Thursday to debate the motion.

Earlier in the day, two MQM-P lawmakers, Farogh Naseem and Aminul Haque, serving as federal ministers, submitted their resignations to the prime minister.

The PTI has 155 members in the 342-member National Assembly and needs at least 172 lawmakers to retain power. Khan is also facing a rebellion by his about two dozen lawmakers and allied parties.

No prime minister in Pakistan's history has ever been ousted through a no-confidence motion, and Khan is the third premier to face the challenge.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Khan strictly directed his party lawmakers to either abstain or not attend the National Assembly session on the day of voting on the no-confidence motion against him, which is likely to be held in the first week of April.

Khan came to power in 2018 with promises to create a Naya Pakistan but miserably failed to address the basic problem of keeping the prices of commodities in control, giving air to the sails of opposition ships to make war on his government.

His chances of survival are getting slimmer and the easiest way to end the uncertainty is getting back support of all allies and winning back dissidents within his own party.

No Pakistani prime minister has ever completed a full five-year term in office.

Move Aimed

trying to kill two of his colleagues, and four more employees for alleged links with terror groups.

It terminated the services of the employees following a recommendation of a designated committee constituted under Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution that allows dismissal without an inquiry in the interest of the security of the State.

"On one hand GOI is recruiting retired security personnel from all over India for civilian posts in J&K. But at the same time they are deliberately firing Kashmiri govt employees to offset the balance in the administration & disempowering locals," Mehbooba tweeted.

No New Rule

minister said, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued instructions about mandatory vigilance clearance for government employees for obtaining passport in accordance with the instructions of the central government's Department of Personnel and Training.

"The government of Jammu and Kashmir has not notified any new rules in this regard," he said, in a written reply.

Rai was replying to a question on whether the Jammu and Kashmir administration has notified new rules under which employees can be dismissed from service if they or their family members are found "sympathetic" to people accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA).

Govt Fires 2

Mir subsequently joined the police force but covertly started working for Hizb UI Mujahideen and over the years he became close to several of the outfit's commanders.

He also allegedly provided logistics to five militants in Shopian district and in June 2017, he along with militant associates tried to kill an SPO.

He also allegedly tried to kill a police constable in Shopian.

Later on, he is alleged to have begun recruiting youths for the militant outfit and when his activities became known, an FIR under the Public Safety Act was filed against Tawseef at Shopian Police station.

Although he was suspended from the service in July 2017, he was not dismissed.

Considering him as a grave threat to national security, the government has decided to terminate him from service, the order said.

Others who faced action are constable Shahid Hussain Rather, Gulam Hassan Parray (computer operator), Arshad Ahmed Dass (teacher) and Sharafat Ali Khan (orderly), it said Parray was an active member of the banned Jamat-e-Islami (Jel).

He was booked in 2009 by the police for organising a violent protest in Parimpora and it is alleged that he was tasked by the separatist groups to motivate youth to join "terror ranks".

When the banned Islamic State (IS) tried to create a disturbance in the union territory, Hassan covertly began to spread the propaganda and became the mouthpiece of so-called IS in Jammu and Kashmir, it is alleged.

Arshid Ahmad, a teacher, from Awantipora of South Kashmir, was allegedly active in Jel activities. He had become close to Hizbul Mujahideen and supported its activities under the guise of a teacher.

He had also organised a mob for stone pelting on CRPF personnel in Awantipora. It is learnt Ahmad is also involved in raising funds for Jel and other militant activities.

The order said that police constable Shahid Hussain Rather, hailing from Baramulla of North Kashmir, was also dismissed under the provisions of the Constitution.

Rather, while working as a police constable, took advantage of the cover

and started transporting arms and ammunition for militants operating across the Kashmir valley.

It is learnt that Shahid's ties became public in June 2021 when he and two of his associates travelling in a swift car were intercepted in Uri and 10 hand grenades, two Chinese pistols and drugs were recovered from them.

He was arrested, and subsequent interrogation led to the arrest of seven more persons and the recovery of a large cache of arms and ammunition.

A nursing orderly of the health department Sharafat Ali Khan from Kupwara in North Kashmir was also dismissed from the service.

Using the cover of a government employee, Khan began working for various militant outfits and even got involved in the circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN).

During the arrest of an FICN cartel and in the subsequent investigation, his name surfaced for the first time. He figures in the FIR filed in police station Kupwara.

However, his deep links to militant outfits came to the fore when he was arrested along with police constable Shahid in June 2021 in Baramulla. He was terminated from the service on March 30, 2022.

Prominent among those dismissed from the service earlier were the two sons of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and tainted Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Singh who was caught along with a most wanted militant and two others along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

The sacking was done as the Lt Governor was satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the cases and based on the information available that the activities of these employees are such as to warrant their dismissal from service using provision of Article 311 (2) © of the Constitution.

The process of dismissal of employees began in April last year barely a week after the Union Territory administration constituted the committee that is empowered to investigate allegations of involvement in anti-state activities against government employees and recommend dismissal of those found involved.

US Urges Citizens

in India. Both the advisories are indicative of the fact that the US considers that the situation in India is now returning to normal.

However, its view on Jammu and Kashmir and the Indo-Pak border remains the same, where it is asking its citizens not to travel. "Terrorist attacks and violent civil unrest are possible in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Avoid all travel to this union territory (with the exception of visits to the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh), the advisory said.

Sporadic violence occurs particularly along the Line of Control (LOC) separating India and Pakistan, and in tourist destinations in the Kashmir Valley: Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgam. The Indian government prohibits foreign tourists from visiting certain areas along the LOC, the State Department said. India and Pakistan maintain a strong military presence on both sides of the border, it said, adding that the only official India-Pakistan border crossing point for persons who are not citizens of India or Pakistan is in the state of Punjab between Atari, India, and Wagah, Pakistan.

The border crossing is usually open, but confirm the current status of the border crossing prior to commencing travel. A Pakistani visa is required to enter Pakistan. Only US citizens residing in India may apply for a Pakistani visa in India. Otherwise apply for a Pakistani visa in your country of residence before travelling to India, it said

We've No Interest

coalition government with the PDP which was led by Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

The Modi government had bifurcated the state into union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh in August 2019.

Jammu and Kashmir, which is now a Union Territory with a legislative assembly, is under President's Rule under the J&K Reorganisation Act.

J&K Becomes

services easily accessible to the people of J&K," the LG said.

While speaking on the occasion, the spokesperson said, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, asked the officials to reach out to citizens in a more effective manner and put dedicated focus on ensuring that the facilities and services created for people are being utilized by them to the fullest.

He said that Abhishek Singh, CEO MyGov congratulated the LG-led J&K Government for becoming the first Union Territory to launch MyGov platform, which is a unique initiative to connect the people with the Government & enabling them to contribute towards good governance.

"Later, the Lt Governor also launched the UT Dashboard. The dashboard will monitor development works and flagship schemes of various government departments for ease of decision-making. The UT dashboard facilitates a graphical overview of the performance of various schemes pertaining to different departments based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)," the spokesperson said.

He said that Prerna Puri, Secretary to Government, Information Technology Department highlighted the initiatives taken by the department for empowering common citizens through digital initiatives.

"All possibilities are being explored to develop a unified portal for public services," she added.

CBI Begins Probe

departments that there is a scandal involved and I accordingly cancelled both the deals. The secretaries said to me 'you will get Rs 150 crore each for clearing the files' but I told them that I had come with five kurta-pyjamas and would leave with that only," Malik had said at an event in Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan.

Allahabad HC

was assisted by Advocate Santosh Kumar Singh.

He said that all the legal formalities are in progress and the students are likely to be released in a couple of days.

BJP Councilors

reads the statement. Adding that the "work ethics of LAHDC-Kargil Councilors are also not appropriate for grassroots democracy and Constitutional responsibilities."

The six BJP members who withdrew support from National Conference are Mohsin Ali (Councillor- Chiktan), Stanzin Lakpa (Councillor-Cha) Muhammad Ali Chandan (Councillor-Shargole) Padma Dorje (Councillor-Nominated) Leela Bano (Councillor-Nominated) Stanzin Chosgyal (Councillor- Nominated) and Zainab Bee (Councillor- Nominated).

The councillors resigned under the direction of BJP Ladakh President Phunchok Stanzin.

The LAHDC comprises 30 members, 26 are elected. 11 were from the NC, eight from Congress, two from PDP, One from the BJP and five (Independents).

Sources told Kashmir Observer that two candidates from the PDP later joined BJP post abrogation of Article 370.

The four members to the 30-member council were nominated by the Ladakh Union Territory administration. They were from the BJP.

The 2018 elections to the Kargil Hill Council had produced a hung verdict.

The NC initially had an alliance with the Congress; the PDP had two councillors and the BJP had one.

After the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the NC and Congress alliance fell apart, and the NC entered into a coalition with two PDP councillors and four Independents to continue in power in the Council.

30 New Corona

the Jammu division and 28 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, according to the officials.

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 24, followed by four in Baramulla district. Seventeen of the 20 districts in the union territory did not report any fresh cases.

There are 146 active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir. So far, 4,48,824 people have recovered from the disease, the officials said. (PTI)

Short Circuit

department around 9:45 am. The blaze quickly spread to adjoining rooms, they said.

A fire tender from the secretariat fire station was joined by one from city station to put out the blaze. Senior officials have rushed to the spot, the officials said.

The fire was brought under control after about an hour, they said.

Preliminary investigation suggested that the fire was caused by a short circuit in the first floor of a prefabricated double storey structure on the back side of the main building, officials said.

PDA Engineer

by the anti-graft body on the basis of a complaint alleging that he was demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 for passing the bill for balance payments to a contractor, a bureau spokesperson said.

The contractor, he said, had done the work titled R.C.C Foot path foundation and Boundary Walls work of Amarnath Yatra Track from Chandanwari to Pissotop in KM 01 to 03 in PDA.

"In his complaint, the complainant alleged that Muzzaffer Ahmad Dada, Executive Engineer, PDA is demanding a bribe of 20,000 from him for releasing an amount of Rs 8,044,72 for work done," he said.

"Upon receiving the instant complaint prima facie offence U/S 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was found made out. Consequently, case FIR No. 04/2022 was registered at P/S ACB Anantnag and investigation taken up," he added.

During the course of investigation, the ACB spokesperson said a trap team was constituted that caught the Executive Engineer red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe from the complainant.

"He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses. Further investigations are going on," he added.

Teacher Booked

from school, his parents found several marks on his body following which they tried to contact the school principal.

"Today morning, we approached the school administration of Alpine School Sonpah Beerwah and took the matter with them for which they apologized but that is not enough we want punishment to the teacher, who has beaten the minor student ruthlessly," he said, adding that they also approached Police Station Beerwah to register FIR against the teacher.

The minor student was allegedly thrashed for not carrying school copy with him.

However, an official said that after receiving the compliant, police registered an FIR a case under FIR number 25/2022 against the teacher and started further investigation

DGP Stresses For Adopting New Initiatives, Technologies To Fight Militancy



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Wednesday chaired a meeting of senior officers here and stressed for adopting new initiatives and technologies in counter-militancy operations and other security matters.

He also directed for increasing usage of various modules of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) for investigation and crime prevention, a police spokesman said.

The meeting at the police headquarters here was convened to discuss the follow up of the recommendations of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police Conference 2021 and their implementation by various wings and zones of J-K Police, he said.

While discussing the installation of CCTV cameras and other technology-driven policing aids, the DGP stressed for mission mode work on adopting new initiatives and technologies in counter-terrorism operations, crimes and other security matters.

Singh directed the officers for developing the system to harness benefits of technical infrastructure put in place.

With regard to Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), he directed the nodal officers to take all the necessary initiatives to ensure integration of remaining helpline emergency numbers of different departments with ERSS setup as soon as possible.

He also directed to carry out the detailed analysis of all important police related incidents and develop them into case studies for making it an institutionalised learning mechanism, saying it will help in shaping the future policing. The DGP stressed for submitting regular updates of the elements involved in crimes of special nature.

He directed senior wing heads for preparing detailed reports on different policing issues so that implementation of the recommendations of the conference is ensured in a time-bound manner, the spokesman said.

Referring to the community policing, Singh emphasised on organising increased police-public meetings to further strengthen the ties with the people.

He directed for organising sports competitions including adventure sports events in border villages to engage youth in positive activities, the spokesman said.

Court Summons Mawa Over Defamatory Remarks Against Dr Farooq, Others

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A local court here has issued summons to Sunil Mawa who runs a civil society group - Jammu and Kashmir Reconciliation Front - after he allegedly made defamatory remarks against former chief minister of the state Farooq Abdullah and others.

A complaint was filed by provincial president of the National Conference Nasir Aslam Wani before Chief Judicial Magistrate Farooq Ahmed Bhat alleging that Mawa had given an interview to a web portal in which he had made derogatory remarks against Abdullah, his son Omar and the complainant.

The court after hearing the matter on Wednesday ordered that summons be served to Mawa and posted the matter for April 6.

"Perused the contents of the complaint along with the statements of the complainant and the identifier, accordingly I am satisfied that cognisance in respect of the offence under section 500 IPC (defamation) has to be taken against the accused.

"Therefore the cognisance in the said offence is taken, as such a sum-

mons is issued to the accused for his appearance before this court on next date of hearing. Let the summons be sent to SHO Police Station Karan Nagar, Srinagar for execution upon the accused along with a copy of the complaint," the order said.

Mawa had made personal allegations against the NC leaders and even gone to the extent of their character assassination, it is alleged.

Wani's counsel said that bare perusal of the contents of the excerpted comments, it is manifest that the comments made are "not only vile, reckless, unsubstantiated but are also absolutely uncouth and per se defamatory and disparaging and have incorrigibly tarnished and harmed the reputation goodwill and public image of the complainant herein".

It is averred that the defamatory, disparaging and scurrilous comments made with malevolent intent and malicious design to expose the complainant to public hatred, contempt and ridicule, a fortiori, are deleterious enough to harm or injure incorrigibly the reputation of the complainant, besides lowering his image before the general public, the complaint alleged.

Bemina Man Held For Killing Stray Dog With 12 Bore Rifle

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday arrested a man from Bemina area of Srinagar following a "viral video" in which he is purportedly seen shooting a street dog dead with his 12 bore rifle.

A police officer told a local news agency GNS that one person identified as Iqbal Ahmed Dar son of Ghulam Hassan Dar of Khumani Chowk

Bemina killed the dog with 12 bore rifle on Tuesday. "He made video of it that went viral on social media," the officer said, adding, "A case (FIR no 21/2022) under section 429 IPC has been registered in this connection at police station Bemina." The person has been arrested, the officer said. The offence of 429 IPC envisages imprisonment for term which may extend to five years or with fine or with both.

LG Calls For Proactive Measures To Resolve People's Grievances

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed the officials of his administration to take proactive measures to resolve people's grievances.

He made these remarks while interacting with the randomly selected individuals from across the UT during "LG's Mulaqaat"- Live Grievance Hearing here at Civil Secretariat, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, observed that public grievances are being addressed promptly through "LG's Mulaqaat programme". Sinha, he said, also maintained that responsive governance and consequent accountability in the system have led to manifold increase in citizens' complaints on JK-IGRAMS.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that his government has taken all possible steps for public outreach and grievance redress efforts.

"LG Mulaqaat is playing a pivotal role in improving public policy, delivery of public services and encouraging the constructive participation of common man," the LG said.

"DCs, HoDs & Administrative Secretaries have a constitutional duty and a moral obligation to see that every complaint from the citizens is addressed within a reasonable time frame. Regular performance & compliance audit would be a productive exercise to strengthen accountability structure," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson directed the SSPs of all Districts to explore the possibility of organizing 'Thana Diwas', on the lines of Block Diwas to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in policing.

In today's LG Mulaqaat program, with the intervention of Lt Governor, an applicant from Kathua namely, Sh Rakesh Kumar will now receive his Old Age pension.

One Munish Badyal from Upper Roop Nagar Jammu projected the issue of non-availability of street lights the area, upon which the Lt Governor directed the Commissioner JMC to take appropriate action on priority.

On the issue put forth by Moolraj Chanayal from Udhampur regarding the completion of sewerage work, the Lt Governor directed the concerned DC to take the issue on priority and submit the action taken report



Dedicates 6 Power Infrastructure Projects To People

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday dedicated 6 Power Infrastructure Projects costing Rs. 64.10 crores to the public.

These inaugurated projects will add another 660 MVA capacity to the existing power systems in Jammu region and include new 400 MVA, 220/132 KV Power Transformer at Gladni Grid Station, besides new 50 MVA, 132/33 KV Power Transformers each at Gladni, Canal, Bari Brahmana-I; Jaurian and Akhnoor Grid Stations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor highlighted that the Gladni Grid Station -the Gateway of Electric Power to J&K has witnessed long-due capacity augmentation of 400 MVA after almost 14 years.

"In addition to the installation of 400 MVA power transformer at 220 KV level, as a major relief to inhabitants of Jammu city, the department has created additional capacity by way of installation of 50 MVA power transformer at 132 KV level at the same grid station, which will particularly cater to the increased summer demand mainly of domestic and commercial installations of Jammu", he added.

The Lt Governor further said that these new projects will benefit more than 6 lakh population of Jammu and the additional capacity augmentation at Gladni and Canal sta-

tion will ensure quality power to several areas of Jammu city. 'The addition of three new power transformers of 50 MVA capacity each (Jaurian, Akhnoor & Canal) shall ensure sufficient and reliable power supply in the rural border areas of Jammu Region', he added.

It was also informed that the 50 MVA power transformer installed and commissioned in the industrial area of Bari Brahmana is another step towards ensuring adequate power capacities to boost industrial Growth.

"16 new sub-stations have also been built to provide adequate power to the existing industries, ensuring sustained economic activities", the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor further noted that last year till December 2021, the UT administration was able to achieve the capacity augmentation of up to 231.5 MVA, but in the last three months, it has been increased to 601.5 MVA, which has strengthened the power system in the industrial areas of Jammu, Samba and Ghatti.

The Lt Governor observed that inauguration of a string of power projects in the last three months in both Jammu and Kashmir Division is a testimony to the UT government's commitment to improve the quality of life of 1.25 crore citizens of J&K.

within 10 days.

Ashish Singh of Ramban drew the attention of authorities pertaining to construction of Jawahar Navodhay Vidhyalaya School. The chair was informed that the work on the school will be started in the month of April.

On the issue projected by Ummer Hussain Bhat from Anantnag pertaining to the toilet

facility at Toll Plaza Qazigund, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officers to take the appropriate action in this regard.

Similarly, redressing the grievance of Mohammad Maqbool Mir from Kulgam regarding better road connectivity in his area, the Lt Governor said the work would be taken up on priority.

Strike By Transport Unions Called Off In J-K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A strike by the transport unions was called off after the Jammu and Kashmir administration agreed to their five demands, including recovery of arrears of passenger tax in instalments, officials said.

All the private transporters and transport operators in Jammu and Kashmir had announced a strike on March 30 alleging "neglect and harassment" on the part of the administration over passenger tax, phasing out of over 20-year-old vehicles, denying renewal of route permits and tracking system among others.

A spokesperson said, "In a major relief to the public, the transport unions of Jammu and Kashmir, which had called for a complete strike on March 30, have called off their strike after lengthy discussions with the divisional commissioner of Jammu."

He said the negotiations concluded around 2:00 am with four out of five demands accepted in principle by the administration.

The consensus decision was taken after the second round of talks held under the chairmanship of Jammu Divisional Commissioner Dr Raghuvaran Lange.

The President of All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare

Unions, Vijay Singh Chib, told reporters the government has agreed to the recovery of arrears of passenger tax in instalments, from commercial and passenger vehicle owners.

A committee shall be constituted to look into the demand of phasing out of vehicles more than 20-years-old from non-attainment cities of Jammu and Srinagar in a staggered manner, the spokesperson said.

Transport Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir Pradeep Kumar, the deputy commissioner and the SSP of Jammu were present at the divisional commissioner's office during the late-night negotiations.

3 Family Members Critical After Consuming 'Rhubarb Leaves'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Condition of three members of a Handwara family, suspected to have consumed 'Rhubarb leaves' on Tuesday evening, continues to remain critical at a hospital here, officials said.

"At least eleven members of the family were hospitalized after being found lying in an unconscious condition by their neighbours in Shirhama Mawar Handwara last evening", the officials said.

"The villagers took the victims to PHC Qalamabad from where eight with higher complications were taken to District Hospital Handwara and on initial assessment at the hospital, the doctors referred all (eight) of them to SMHS Hospital Srinagar", they told GNS.

"Condition of three (family) members remains critical as of

now", they said.

When contacted, a medical officer at District Hospital Handwara told GNS that prima facie it seems that the herbs (forest vegetables) they consumed were poisonous in nature.

A doctor who initially examined the victims at NTPHC Qalamabad told GNS that they (family) more probably seem to have taken ill because of consuming a wild herb called Rhubarb (known in Kashmiri as Braand). "Rhubarb leaves contain high amounts of oxalic acid, which can cause health problems when eaten in higher amounts", he said adding "symptoms of toxicity include mild gastrointestinal symptoms, as well as more serious problems, such as kidney stones and kidney failure."

"We hope all of them are alright very soon", the doctor opined.

Govt Committed To Provide Quality Healthcare Services In J&K: Bhardawaj

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Vivek Bhardawaj on Wednesday reiterated commitment of the Government to provide quality health care services to the people of J&K.

He said this after declaring open 2-days orientation workshop on NABH standards at Indira Gandhi Govt Dental College, Amphalla.

He maintained that the accreditation of any product or service induces faith and confidence in it. He stressed that health sector is among the most vital services dealing with birth, death and the life in between so the certification of this service is pre eminent.

Bhardawaj advised the health care providers to be ready to face the tough competition at the hands of private players.

"Govt institutions need to upgrade their services at par with the upcoming private hospitals to retain the tag of major service provider in the UT," he said on the occasion.

He emphasized that introducing quality management in dental care services is very important and accreditation standards helps to achieve the purpose of upgrad-

ing them continuously.

He asked them to avail this golden opportunity to improve their health services.

Dr. Rakesh K. Gupta, Principal, Indira Gandhi Govt. Dental College, Jammu thanked the government for providing their institution opportunity to be part of orientation workshop on NABH standards He assured that the college will upgrade all parameters to get the necessary accreditation at an earliest.

"Strength of institution depends on patient Care, academic and research. IGGDC is the only dental college of J&K registered with Health Research wing of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Government of India," he said.

It is pertinent to mention that IGGDC is getting accredited for NAAC in second phase of process and it is the first institute in health sector in J&K.

Dr. Riyaz Farooq, Principal & Dean Govt. Dental College, Srinagar stressed that the best quality doctors are being produced by the Govt. Dental Colleges of the UT and stressed upon their efficient utilization in health services at various levels for the benefit of general masses.

Ensure Early Disposal Of Cases, Provide Timely Justice: Justice Magrey

SRINAGAR: In order to give impetus to the preparations for the next National LokAdalat to be held on May 14, across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority on Wednesday chaired a meeting with all the Chairpersons and Secretaries of District Legal Services Authorities, Secretary High Court Legal Services Committee and other judicial officers through Video Conference.

Justice Magrey impressed upon the participants that settlement of disputes in an amicable way is the hallmark of any civilization. He called upon the Secretaries DLSAs to reach out to the people in far flung areas and educate them about the benefits of settlement of dis-

putes through Lok Adalat.

He also emphasized the participants to hold meetings with all the stakeholders like insurance companies, banks, district administrations and police etc to identify the cases to be taken up in the Lok Adalat.

He further informed that for the last four decades there is much thrust on resolution of disputes through alternate means specially through Lok Adalat because Lok Adalat is seen as the most practical solution not only in solving the dispute but also to prevent further litigation between the parties.

Member Secretary, J&K Legal Service Authority, M.K. Sharma gave an overview of the performance of Legal Services Institutions across the UT of J&K in the year 2021.

TRANSFORMATIONAL BUDGET J&K 2022-23

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In order to deal with the influx of people towards the cities, the Jammu and Kashmir government and central government are working shoulder to shoulder to cater the demands of local urban populace.

The government is giving high priority to building sustainable and smart cities that are resilient to meet the challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

Keeping in view these things, the central government has allocated significant amount of funds to Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) which will revolutionise this sector in coming years.

AMRUT-1.0 & AMRUT-2.0

The purpose of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is to provide basic services (e.g. water supply, sewerage, urban transport) to households and

build amenities in cities which will improve the quality of life for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged is a national priority.

During the current financial year, 76 projects are likely to be completed and the remaining projects are to be completed during 2022-23 viz. Construction of Multi level car parking facility at Panjithir Jammu, Construction of 05 Nallahs of Tawi River Phase-II, Green Space at Roop Nagar, and so on. City Water Action Plan is to be implemented for all ULBs for providing 100% secure water tap connections to each household left out in urban areas. Besides, all water bodies in urban areas to be rejuvenated in the phased manner. The components of the AMRUT consist of capacity building, reform implementation, water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, urban transport and development of green spaces and parks.

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) (SBM-U) had three major objectives; achieving 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) ensuring 100% scientific Solid Waste Management (SWM), and behavior change through 'Jan Andolan'.

16 Urban Local Bodies (ULB) have achieved ODF+ status, 25 ULBs to accomplish ODF+ status by the end of current financial year and the remaining ULBs to achieve ODF+ status in 2022-23. With the roll out of Solid Waste Management, nearly 70% source segregation is likely to be achieved by 2022-23. All the uncovered areas of Srinagar, Jammu & Anantnag to be covered with Sewerage/Septage treatment facilities in phased manner during 2022-23 under SBM (U)-2.0.

A target of scientific disposal of about 850 Metric Ton of waste per day is to be achieved by establishment of Solid Waste Management

Plant at Srinagar and Jammu cities benefitting nearly 20 Lakh people. This will also result in elimination of the vulnerable garbage points in both the cities besides generation of energy and production of Compost/Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). Establishment of decentralized processing facilities in 76 ULBs to be completed during financial year 2022-23 and 690 Metric Ton of waste generated in ULBs to be scientifically treated benefitting nearly 14 lakh population.

SMART CITY MISSION

Smart Cities Mission is an urban renewal and retrofitting programme launched by the Government of India to develop smart cities and make them citizen friendly and sustainable. With an increase on urban population and rapid expansion of areas, government is looking at smarter ways to manage complexities, increase efficiencies and improve quality of life. This has created a need for cities

that monitor and integrate infrastructure to better optimise resources and maximise services to citizens.

Under Smart City Mission, 95 projects are likely to be completed by the end of current financial year and 80 more projects to be completed in 2022-23 improving the quality of life of the people by way of providing Wifi facilities, Smart health centres, installation of river vending machines, smart class rooms, TV charging stations, development of cycle tracks & hawkers zone, development of parking and space under flyovers, etc.

9 major sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 1131.07 crore will be executed during 2022-23 benefitting the population of 620565 people. Also, 2.15 lakh LED lights in 76 ULBs, in collaboration with M/S Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) are expected to be replaced and nearly 14 Lakh souls in these ULBs will be benefitted.

NATIONAL URBAN LIVELIHOODS MISSION

The National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, aims to facilitate skilled wage employment and gainful self-employment among the urban poor. It would also provide shelter that is equipped with essential services in a phased manner to the urban homeless. 15000 beneficiaries to be covered under Self Employment component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission scheme during 2022-23.

CONSERVATION OF DAL-NAGEEN LAKE

Sensing the necessity to protect Dal lake, Government in the new budget has devised string of plans like Western Foreshore Road along Dal lake is to be constructed, more indigenous lake cleaning machines will be procured, 1.5 sq.km. area to

be cleared from lilly pads during 2022-23, de-weeding & dredging to be conducted along with shore line in 1.5 sq. km. area during 2022-23 and Dredging of acquired land near western side of the lake for 60,000 Sq. Mtrs. in 2022-23 which is to be converted into water bodies has been announced.

ELEVATED LIGHT METRO RAIL SYSTEM IN JAMMU AND SRINAGAR

To decongest both the capital cities and to provide the modern transport facilities to the people of J&K, the Jammu and Kashmir government has submitted a final Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of Rs. 10,599 crores for the metro rail projects in Jammu and Srinagar to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The project is expected to be rolled out in 2022-23 and is likely to be completed in 2026. This will reduce the traffic congestion in Srinagar & Jammu cities.

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