



P3 CITY

7 HOUSEBOATS REDUCED TO ASHES IN MIDNIGHT BLAZE AT NIGEEAN LAKE

At least seven houseboats were gutted in a midnight blaze that broke out in Nigeean Lake on Monday. Three wooden sheds were also damaged in the blaze.

THINK

P5 HOW SHOULD I BREAK MY FAST?

This is my most common patient question this week. As 2 billion Muslims start fasting for Ramadan, I'll answer here from my perspective as a doctor & cardiometabolic researcher. Hopefully you'll find takeaways to enjoy a Ramadan Mubarak. First and foremost a



P7 STATE

36 SCHOOLS IN BANDIPORA HEADLESS, GUREZ WORST HIT

As many as 36 higher secondary and high schools in north Kashmir's Bandipora district are without principals and headmasters, hitting the smooth



3RD RAMZAN

	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMORROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	6:57	4:48
FIQAH JAFARIYA	7:04	4:47

Quote!

The greatest wealth is to live content with little

- Plato

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Records 2 New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday reported only two fresh cases of COVID-19, taking the infection tally in the union territory to 4,53,815, officials said here. Both the fresh cases were reported from Kashmir division's Srinagar district, they said. Nineteen of the **More on P6**

Arms Cache Recovered In Poonch

JAMMU: Government forces busted a militant hideout in a village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition, officials said on Monday. **More on P6**

Woman Killed In Awantipora Accident

SRINAGAR: A mentally unsound woman was killed in a road accident in Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Monday. The 45-year-old woman was killed on the spot when an unknown vehicle mowed her down in Charsoo area of Awantipora on **More on P6**

ANTF Arrests Drug Peddler In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The Anti Narcotic Task Force (ANTF) of police on Monday claimed to have foiled a bid to smuggle heroin worth lakhs by arresting an alleged drug peddler in this capital city. The ANTF, a specialized unit to check rising menace of drugs, on a specific information regarding smuggling of drugs by a peddler namely Ab. Qayoom resident of Sultan Daki, Uri in **More on P6**

CRPF Head Constable Killed In Maisuma Attack

Another Jawan Injured In Broad Daylight Militant Strike

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man was killed and his colleague injured in a broad daylight militant attack on Monday in Maisuma area of this capital city.

Around 3:30 pm Monday, unidentified militants opened fire upon two CRPF personnel in the bustling Maisuma area of the uptown city, officials said. Both the security personnel sustained serious gunshot injuries in the surprise attack. They were taken to the hospital for treatment. However, one of them identified as Head Constable Vishal Kumar succumbed to his injuries.

"Keeping in view the huge rush of people and to avoid any civilian casualties, security forces exercised maximum restraint," a police spokesperson said Monday.

Soon after the incident, a contingent of police and CRPF personnel reached the spot and carried out a search operation to nab the attackers. The



CRPF personnel keeping tight vigil in Maisuma on Monday after a militant attack left a head constable dead and another personnel injured. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

forces, according to the eyewitnesses, also questioned local traders about the attackers.

"Police has registered a case under relevant sections of law and initiated investigation. Officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of the terror crime while the whole

area had been cordoned off with the help of reinforcement and search in the area is going on," the police spokesperson said.

Pertinently, the attack on CRPF men came barely ninety minutes after unknown militants shot at and injured two Bihar residents in Pulwama district. **More on P6**

2 Bihar Residents Injured In South Kashmir Attacks

Three people, including two Bihar residents on Monday were injured in twin attacks by suspected militants in South Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian districts. An official said that militants fired upon two persons namely Joko Chowdary son of Thaugh Chowdary and Patlashwar Kumar, son of Joko Chowdary, both residents of Bihar in Lajoora area of Pulwama. Both the injured, he said, were shifted to District Hospital **More on P6**

Govt Okays Rs 4,119 Cr For J&K Bank Pension, Other Bills

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said it has cleared the payments for various departments, including Rs 4,119 crore for J&K Bank pension disbursement, for the last financial year.

According to officials, since the financial year 2021-22 has ended, the finance department has cleared all the verified bills to ensure zero pendency at the treasury. "Rs 4,119 crore has been paid to J&K Bank against Rs 5,573 crore of pension liability which

we owe to the bank," Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, finance department, told PTI.

The department has cleared the payment of Rs 810 crore for power purchase.

"Rs 600 crore of equity contribution for Kiru and Rattle hydel Projects has also been paid," he said, adding that Rs 1,206 crore has been provisioned in the Union Territory's annual budget for the two power projects.

Dulloo said that all verified bills of contractors as well as payments of the UT's share in central government **More on P6**

RS 4,119 CRORE HAS BEEN PAID to J&K Bank against Rs 5,573 crore of pension liability which we owe to the bank."



A Sehar Khan walks through a street in Srinagar to wake up residents with the sound of his drum so that they can have their pre-dawn meals on the second day of Ramadan. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

PM To Visit J&K On Apr 24: BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir later this month, his first trip to the union territory since the abrogation of Article 370, a senior BJP functionary said on Monday.

He will address a conference of local body representatives in Samba on National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Kaul said while addressing a function of Kashmiri Pandits here.

Kaul said efforts are being made for a meeting between the prime minister and representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community so that they can raise their concerns with him. In August 2019, **More on P6**

Govt Caps Trade Margin On Medical Devices

MRP Of Over 1000 Brands Drop Upto 89%

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has achieved a major breakthrough in keeping the "menace of printing exaggerated" Maximum Retail Price (MRP) by pharmaceutical companies on the label of medical devices, officials said Monday.

The development took place after Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole took serious note of information that most medical devices were found carrying trade margins of 100-800 percent, an official spokesperson said.

Earlier, he said, the Div Com had taken up the matter of printing inflated MRP on medical devices with the National

Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Government of India. In response, he said, the NPPA has acknowledged the loophole and has assured action in this regard.

"The matter of unethical practice of printing inflated MRPs on medical devices by pharmaceutical companies was brought into the notice of Divisional Administration by the Legal Metrology department," he said.

"The acknowledgement on behalf of NPPA is seen as a major success towards eradicating the menace of profiteering and deception of consumers," he added.

While responding to Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the spokesperson said that the NPPA stated that trade margin of six medical devices including **More on P6**

REDRAWING J&K'S POLITICAL MAP

Panel Begins Two-Day Public Interaction In J&K



Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Delimitation Commission which had earlier tweaked its schedule to hold public sittings in J&K, arrived

in Jammu on a two day visit on Monday to hear suggestions and objections from the local populace on its draft proposal which has redrawn assembly constituencies in the erstwhile state.

Pertinently, in its **More on P6**

Congress Unleashing Propaganda: BJP

Expressing satisfaction over the functioning of Delimitation Commission, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Monday accused Congress of unleashing a "propaganda" against the independent body after losing credibility among the people. Raina made the remarks **More on P6**

Cong Stages Protest Against Commission

Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress on Monday staged a protest against the delimitation commission here, urging the visiting team to provide sufficient time to the party so that it can highlight the irregularities in its draft report in a proper way. The protest led by J&K Pradesh Congress Committee president G A Mir coincided with the start of the public sitting of the delimitation commission on its report which was made public last month after nearly a two-year-long exercise. **More on P6**

Speculation Rife Over AFSPA Withdrawal From Jammu

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Speculation is rife over the possibility of lifting of AFSPA from some parts of Jammu and Kashmir after the controversial law was partially removed from three Northeastern states - Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) a geographical location is declared as disturbed area to facilitate operations of the armed forces.

"A highly sensitive decision like withdrawal of the AFSPA from some parts of Jammu and Kashmir can be taken only at the highest political level of the government on the basis of a thorough assessment of the ground situation," a senior government official said when asked about the matter.

There has been speculation

that to send a positive political message, the government, if it takes any decision, may first make an analysis of the security situation of Jammu city only.

"Any consideration on tweaking the AFSPA in the Kashmir valley is very unlikely," the official said.

Citing Manipur, another official said, barring four police station areas, all the localities from where the AFSPA was withdrawn in the state were mostly in the Imphal city area.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the security forces if they shoot someone dead.

In a major outreach to the Northeast, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on March 31 had announced reduction of the disturbed areas **More on P6**



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Consumer Spending In Mobile Games Declined In Q1 2022

IANs

Consumer spending in mobile games declined 7.1 per cent Y/Y to \$21 billion in Q1 2022, with both the App Store and Google Play seeing less revenue when compared to the year-ago period. Mobile games on Apple's platform saw about \$12.9 billion, down 2.3 per cent Y/Y, while Google Play saw its mobile game revenue decline 13.8 per cent Y/Y to \$8.1 billion, reports Sensor Tower. The top three highest grossing mobile games overall as well as on the App Store all came from Chinese publishers this quarter. Tencent's Honor of Kings and PUBG Mobile including its Chinese localisation



Game for Peace came in number one and number with \$735.4 million and \$643 million generated across both stores. MiHoYo's Genshin Impact came in third with \$551 million in player spending. On Google Play, NCSoft's

Lineage W was the top earner, followed by Moon Active's Coin Master and King's Candy Crush Saga. Worldwide downloads of mobile games grew 2.1 per cent Y/Y in 1Q22, climbing to 14.4 billion. This was driven mainly by

Google Play, which grew 2.5 per cent Y/Y to 12.1 billion first-time downloads this quarter. App Store game installs remained flat Y/Y, holding at 2.3 billion. Garena's massively popular battle royale title Garena Free Fire saw the most downloads across App Store and Google Play as well as on Google's marketplace, with 71.2 million installs across both platforms. It was followed by Sybo Games' Subway Surfers, which saw 66.4 million installs across both stores and also topped the App Store chart. The third most downloaded title overall was Homa Games' Merge Master - Dinosaur Fusion, which reached 49.4 million installs.

از نیابت مٹن یا اجلاس ایکویٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول
مضمون درخواست مخائب: جنید احمد ولد نذر احمد ڈارسا کرکٹو تحصیل مٹن ضلع ابٹ ناگ
بعض حصول :- RBA سرٹیفکیٹ
استہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بعض حصول ایک وارڈ ایئرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے ہڈا کی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا تکیہ ذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	آدائی
01	نذر احمد ڈارسا کرکٹو	مزدوری	48 سال	8000/=
02	میسہ بانو زوجہ نذر احمد ڈارسا کرکٹو	گھر بیٹاکام	46 سال	
03	جنید احمد ولد نذر احمد ڈارسا کرکٹو	زیر تعلیم	16 سال	
04	شاہد احمد ولد نذر احمد ڈارسا کرکٹو	زیر تعلیم	15 سال	
05	عاشیاں احمد ولد نذر احمد ڈارسا کرکٹو	زیر تعلیم	13 سال	

اس طرح سائل کا تکیہ پانچ افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ سائل کے تکیہ کی کل سالانہ زرعی وغیر زرعی آمدنی تقریباً ایک لاکھ روپے تک ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے دوران دفتر کی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیار ذکر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(خواہر الصدر ایکویٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول)

RNA

از نیابت ہرہ خورہ یا اجلاس ارشاد احمد ملک
مضمون درخواست مخائب:- توفیق احمد بانگر ولد عبدالستار بانگر ساکنہ ہرہ خورہ بعض حصول SC سرٹیفکیٹ تحت الیں آ آر 126
استہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بعض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں مملہ فیڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا تکیہ دھندل گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہا ہے پندرہ سالہ کی مہمہ آمدنی 28100 ہے اور سائل کا تکیہ ذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد تکیہ	عمر	پیشہ	آدائی
01	عبدالستار بانگر داماد غلام احمد بانگر	50 سال	لوہار	
02	فہمیدہ بیگم زوجہ عبدالستار	45 سال	گھر بیٹاکام	
03	مشتاق احمد بانگر پسر	25 سال	مزدوری	
04	جلال احمد بانگر پسر	18 سال	مزدوری	
05	مومن احمد بانگر پسر	12 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	عقیل بیگم زوجہ غلام احمد بانگر	70 سال	عرسیدہ	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد تکیہ نہیں ملتا یا گیا ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ سات دن کے اندر اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ذکر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تاجبہ تحصیلدار

msk

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Bashir Ahmad Mir S/o: Ali Mohammad Mir R/o: Hamchipora Khag Budgam (Transferrer) of LMV Alto10. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C- 8288. Chasis number 51605 Engine no. 1702 Model 2015. in favour of Shri.. Asif Ahmad Dar S/o. Ab. Rashid Dar R/o Dobipora Shopian Pulwama (Tranferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.19
Dated 04/04/2022

mcb

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Gh Hassan Dar S/o Ab Khaliq Dar R/o Darbagh Shopian (Party No 1st) as Transferrer, (seller) owner of the vehicle LMV - FIGO Regd. No. JK22A 6411 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: -----

And Mr./ Mrs Sheeraz Ahamd S/o Gh Ahamd R/O Avind Shopian (Party No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Sangam. Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .

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

No : ARTO/Spn/23
Dated 04-04-2022

S/D Asst Regional Transport Officer Shopian

fko

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th & 12th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Imtiyaz Ahamd Wantoo
S/o Ab Qayoom Wantoo
R/o Sanoora Kalipora Magam (Budgam)

Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 253219 Session /Year Annual / Reg. 2005
Higher Secondary School Examination (class12th)
Roll No 252572 Session /Year Annual. 2008

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Any-body (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

bmg

از نیابت وائلو کرلہ پورہ
یا اجلاس تاجبہ تحصیلدار ایکویٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول
مضمون کاغذات درخواست مخائب : اشفاق نبی راثر ولد غلام نبی راثر ساکنہ محمود پورہ تحصیل کتنر بمراء عطا بگی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ تحت 294
سجٹ حنو

استہار بمراء آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس سلسلے میں ہڈا کی حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول ریکارڈ طلب کیا گیا ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل اور اس کا والد گزشتہ پندرہ سال سے وہ ہڈا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کی مہوارہ آمدنی 83180 روپے جتنائی گئی ہے کہ یہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

غلام نبی راثر ولد محمد رمضان ملازمت 59 سال سربہ کمبہ
مسانہ زینب بیگم زوجہ گھر بیٹاکام 57 سال
اشفاق نبی راثر پسر زیر تعلیم 31 سال
رفتہ آہ دختر زیر تعلیم 25 سال

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کمبہ نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض بعض ضروریہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم اندر دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کرے معیار ذکر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

تاجبہ تحصیلدار

msk

*Indeed We Blong To Allah
Indeed We Return To Him*

Khateejaa W/O late Khaleel Mohammad Muqdam(Sofi) of HMT passes away
It is informed with grief and sorrow, that Mrs Khateejaa W/O late Khaleel Mohammad Muqdam(Sofi) R/O Friends Colony Lane No. 4, HMT, Srinagar left for heavenly abode on 03 April, 2022. May Allah grant her Jannat-ul-Firdous. Her congregational Fateh Khawani will be held on Thursday 7 April, 2022 at 11.00 am at her Ancestral graveyard at Budshah Tomb Zaina Kadal.

Bereaved family
Manzor Ahmed Muqdam, 9906147299
Ashiq Hussain Muqdam, 7006959168.

inf

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohammad Younis Salim S/o: Mohammad Abdullah Mir R/o: Kandoora Beerwah Budgam (Transferrer) of LMV Celerio. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F- 1149. Chasis number 42218 Engine no. 33166 Model 2019. in favour of Shri.. Faheem Abdullah S/o. Mohammad Abdullah Mir R/o Kandoora Beerwah (Tranferee) as well as HPA Cancellation with J & K Bank Ltd B/U Beerwah

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.28
Dated 04/04/2022

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Hafeez Ahmad Dar S/o: Ghulam Rasool Dar R/o: Sholipora Budgam (Transferrer) of LMV Alto10. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F- 1672. Chasis number 36856 Engine no. 60754 Model 2019. in favour of Shri.. Nisar Ahmad Shah S/o. Ali Mohammad Shah R/o Choon Budgam (Tranferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.8091
Dated 31/03/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

mcb

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Office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Sub-Division Magam.

CORRIGENDUM

Ref- 1) This office NIT No. NIT No. 181/RnB/Magam/e-tender of 2021-22 Dated: 22/03/2022 issued under endorsement No: R&B/ Magam/ 9198-9219 Dated: 22/03/2022.
2) This office NIT No. NIT No. 182/RnB/Magam/e-tender of 2021-22 Dated: 22/03/2022 issued under endorsement No: R&B/ Magam/ 9223-43 Dated: 22/03/2022

Kindly read NIT conditions as

1. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Chailan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
2. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam. The successful bidder will have to provide performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
3. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam (tender receiving authority).
4. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
6. Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
7. In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
8. Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.
9. Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
10. Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
6 The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.
7 The original Treasury Chailan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/ BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Chailan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).
8 Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
9 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
10 Price escalation and Taxes:- The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.
11 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.
12 All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):
• All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/ legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.
• A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.
• Treasury Chailan & Earnest money
• Valid PAN Card
• A Civil Contractor who does not own HMP and is bidding for Bitumen Macadam Works is required to upload an MoU with HMP, from whom the material/machinery for the subject work will be procured. The Memorandum of Understanding must be registered and duly executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate, specifying clearly that failure on the part of the HMPD shall be deemed failure on the part of the bidder, and vice versa.
• Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable, ending 03-2022.
13 Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2021-22.
14 Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hand copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.
15 The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.
16 General Conditions of Contract:-
16.1 The start date of the work shall be calculated within from one week of the date of issuance of the LOI/contract allotment, as applicable. The work must be completed within 45-60 days.
16.2 Penalty for delay in completion: In the event that work is not completed within the specified time frame, a penalty of up to 10% of the contract value will be imposed.
16.3 Time extension: A suitable time extension shall be granted in the event of an increase in the scope of work and a delay beyond the contractor's control, as determined by the department.
16.4 In any case, if any item not included in the allotted items of work is required to be executed on-site with prior approval from the competent authority under relevant clauses of the Manual of Works and GFR, it shall be paid at the same rate as the percentage quoted/ allotted for other items of work.
16.5 Advance Payments:- No mobilization advance/equipment advance/ secured advance shall be admissible/ paid under this contract.
16.6 Schedule of Payment: The payment schedule shall be determined by the Engineer following the award of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, based on the schedule of release/availability of funds and the value of work completed, as well as other circular instructions issued by the Government in this regard from time to time.
16.7 Amendment of bidding document: The Employer reserves the right to make changes to the bidding documents by issuing an Addendum prior to the bid submission end date.
16.8 For sake of public works, the tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without giving a reason.
16.9 Restoration of work: When any job in the contract is completed, the contractor is responsible for removing all un-used material and equipment at his own expense in order to make the site serviceable/functional for purposes/fitness.
17 Traffic regulations: The contractor is required to follow traffic regulations as they apply from time to time and to make arrangements at its own cost for the smooth regulation/ flow of traffic during the execution of work and no claims whatsoever shall be entertained on this account.
18 Arbitration: The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the arbitration procedure outlined in the J&K Conciliation and Arbitration Act No: -xxxv of 1997, as amended by SRO No:- 403 issued by the J&K Govt., "Law Department" on December 11, 1997.
19 Defect Liability Period/Maintenance Period: The DLP/Maintenance Period shall be calculated from the date of certified Physical completion of work and shall be 3 years for Pavement Bitumen Macadam Layers and 18 months for Bitumen Surface renewal layers. The contractor or his authorised representative must inspect the Road to ensure that the Intervention Period for implementing maintenance measures to control defects for adherence to the Maintenance Criteria as specified in the Contract Agreement. The DLP/Maintenance will be governed by the Road Maintenance Policy's manual for road maintenance and will be based on Performance Based Assessment.
20 The ten percent normal/performance security deposit for the work will be released upon successful completion/performance in the mandatory DLP/Maintenance Period as outlined below:
A: During DLP/Maintenance of 3 Years (Bitumen Bases Pavement Layers)
Only 70% of the deposit will be released after the successful completion of the second year and

30% after the successful completion of DLP/Maintenance Period, with each release based on performance evaluation duly certified by the Concerned Executive Engineer.
B: During DLP/Maintenance of 1.5 Years (Bitumen Based Renewal Layers)
Only 70% of the deposit will be released after the successful completion of the One year and 30% after the successful completion of DLP/Maintenance Period, with each release based on performance evaluation duly certified by the Concerned Executive Engineer.
Road Maintenance Activities during the Defect Liability/Maintenance Period shall include the following:
• Repair of Potholes by way of filling with premix material/penetration patching in regular cut sections, rectification of Loss of aggregates by replacement with Fresh Bituminous Mix, rectification of Stripping and ravelling by way of application of Liquid Seal or Slurry Seal depending on the extent of damage, application of Cutback bitumen covered with coarse sand or slurry seal or premix renewal coat.
• Filling of cracks with a low viscosity binder or a slurry seal or fog seal depending upon the width of cracks.
• Rectification of Subsidence, showing & rutting by way of Removal of the surface layer in the affected area and replacement with fresh material.
21 All Key Construction materials to be used in the execution must strictly adhere to the prescribed specifications/standards and be approved by the Engineer in-Charge.
22 Safety: The contractor shall be responsible for the environmental and social safety of all activities on the job site.
23 Tests: The contractor shall be solely responsible for carrying out the mandatory tests required for quality control in support of the work acceptability of the Works executed under the contract.
24 If the Contractor breaches the contract, the Department reserves the right to award the remaining work to new bidders at the defaulting contractor's expense immediately after the notice of breach has been served on the defaulter. In the event of a breach of contract by the Contractor, the Performance Security will be forfeited along with the contract termination. Furthermore, on the first default, the defaulting contractor will be barred from participating in future R&B Department Bidding Processes for a period of one year. Any Subsequent Breach shall result in process of irrevocable cancellation of Registration.
25 Fundamental breach of contract will include:
• Continuous stoppage of Work for a period of 28 days without authorization of Engineer in-charge.
• Contractor is declared bankrupt.
• Any evidence of involvement of contractor in corrupt practices.
• If the contractor indulges in willful disregard to the quality control measures put in place by the department.
• Contractor delays the completion of work beyond stipulated time of completion.
• Contractor fails to start/complete the work, within the stipulated time period.
26 Major Labour Laws applicable to establishment engaged in building and other construction Work:
• Workmen compensation Act 1923.
• Payment of Gratuity Act 1972.
• Employees PF and Miscellaneous Provision Act 1952.
• Maternity Benefits Act 1951.
• Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act 1970.
• Minimum Wages Act 1948.
• Payment of Wages Act 1936.
• Equal remuneration Act 1979.
• Payment of bonus Act 1965.
• Industrial disputes Act 1947.
• Industrial employment standing orders Act 1946.
• Trade Union Act 1926.
• Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986.
• Inter State Migrant workmen's (Regulation of employment & Conditions of service) Act 1979.
• The Building and other Construction workers (Regulation of employment and Condition of service) Act 1996 and the Census Act of 1996.
• Factories Act 1948.
• Compliance with Labour Regulation Laws of J&K State.
• Specification/Quality Control: All items of works shall conform to specifications as per MORTH and to be followed strictly as per J&K Macadamization (Execution & Quality control) and DLP enforcement manual (Govt. Order No. 42-PW(R&B) of 2022 dated 03-02-2022.
27 Insurance: Insurance cover to Labour / Machinery / Work / Plant material / Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory.
28 Laws Governing the Contract: The contract shall be governed by Laws of the land. Special Conditions regarding Specifications and Quality control for Machine laid B.T. Works:
• All work components shall be executed strictly in accordance with the specifications laid out in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways publication "Specifications for Road and Bridge Works" and any amendments made up to the date of issuance of N.I.T.
• A periodic sieve analysis of each type of aggregate, as well as a periodic check of aggregates at the gradation control unit, shall be performed to ensure that the specified proportion of aggregates is complied.
• Conducting mandatory quality control tests in the lab and/or field for various components of the advertised work, such as thickness tests, impact value tests, stripping, flakiness, gradation of aggregates, determination of Binder content in bituminous mix, density tests, Viscosity test, and other tests as prescribed in MORTH at the frequency recommended therein, will be the sole responsibility of the contractor, as will the correct execution of the work.
• The location of the Hot mix plant of adequate capacity capable of yielding a mix of proper and uniform quality, from which bituminous macadam is to be transported to the site in clean, tarpaulin covered vehicles/Tippers, and shall be placed in such a way that the manufacturing/laying/spreading and rolling temperatures are kept within the specified limits.
Instead of :-
The terms and conditions as mentioned / advertised in the NIT No. 181/ R&B/Div./ Magam of 2021-22 Dated: 22/03/2022 & NIT No. 182/ R&B/Div./ Magam of 2021-22 Dated: 22/03/2022
All other terms & conditions will remain same as already advertised.
No: R&B/9407-9401

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Sub-Division Magam,

DIPK-71/22

Youth Forum Organizes Event On Drug Abuse

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Youth Forum organized an event on rising menace of drug abuse at Natipora area of Srinagar.

The seminar was addressed by doctors, senior citizens of the locality and top police officials. Several youth and elderly persons participated in the event.

Aijaz Bhat Secretary Masjid Taqwa Azad Basti, Ghulam Mohammad Hafiz President of Masjid Umar Azad Basti and Dr Bilal Ahmad Wani and Dr Manzoor Ahmad from Zonal Medical Officer (ZMO) office Batamaloo spoke during the event.

Superintendent of Police (SP) South, Lakshay Sharma and Station House Officer (SHO) Chanapora GM RATHER also participated in the event.

SP South while speaking on the event said that the drug menace has caught the society and the people need to support the law enforcing agency to eradicate the menace from the society.

Sharma also said that the drug addicts need to be treated as victims, but the drug dealers have to be dealt with strictly as per the law.

“Youth need to change their behavior. They need to indulge in sports activities. Run at least five kilometers a day on a regular basis, which will help them to stay away from the drugs,” he said.

Shakir Riyaz Khan, President of Youth Forum while welcoming the people on the occasion, said that the group of youth have started working on drug menace and they will ensure that at least their locality is free from the drugs.

Public Notice

My DOB has been wrongly written in school records as 15-01-2009 while my correct DOB is 10-11-2011 which needs to be rectified. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Middle School Mulshulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Tajamul Gulzar
Gulzar Ahmad Ganie fko



KO Photo Abid Bhat

7 Houseboats Reduced To Ashes In Midnight Blaze At Nigeen Lake

Agencies

Srinagar: At least seven houseboats were gutted in a midnight blaze that broke out in Nigeen Lake on Monday. Three wooden sheds were also damaged in the blaze.

The residents of the nearby areas said the fire broke out at around 2:30 PM.

As the people saw the houseboats catching fire, the people swung into action and tried to douse the flames till the fire fighters reached the spot.

The blaze was brought under control, but till then seven houseboats and three wooden sheds were damaged completely.

An official from Fire and

Emergency Service (F&ES) said that a massive blaze broke out in the intervening night of Sunday-Monday at Nigeen Lake, engulfing seven houseboats and three wooden sheds.

The seven houseboats including Royal Paradise, India Palace, Jersey, Lily of the world, New Maharaja Palace, Young Swift and Flora were damaged completely, he said, adding that there was no loss of life or injury during the incident.

Locals said that the property worth crores of rupees got damaged during the blaze and appealed to the administration to assist the affected families and help them in repairing their houseboats. (KNO)

Farooq Abdullah Asks Admin To Reach Out To Affected

Observer News Service


Srinagar: National Conference President and Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah on Monday expressed profound anguish over a massive night blaze in which seven houseboats were gutted in the Nigeen Lake.

While expressing sympathies with the affected, Dr Farooq prayed for fortitude at this difficult time. He prayed for the speedy revival of all the affected.

He asked the divisional administration to reach out to the affected with relief and compensation. “House boat owners are already reeling under economic slump. There is no way these people can carry the reconstruction on their own. It is therefore imperative for the government to step in with a helping hand in terms of subsidised wood, compensation, waving of pending electricity and water bills, and free ration for at least 6 months,” he added.

Public Notice

The Date of Birth of my Daughter Zainab Jan has been wrongly written as 06-12-2019 while her correct DOB is 03-12-2019 which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Police Staton Qaimoh within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Aadil Ahmad Lone F/O Zainab Jan rna
R/O Sursona Bijbehara



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-NIT No: -IUST/EW/ELE/22/TEND/DG/02, DATED: 04-04-2022.

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, J&K State, E-Tenders (in two cover system) are invited on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. / CPWD / Railways or other State / Central Govt. Departments for the following work.

TENDER DETAILS	
Name of work.	SITC OF 250KVA DIESEL GENERATOR WITH CONTROL AND AMF PANELS.
Advertised Cost of Work.	Rs. 26,32,000.00/=
Cost of document.	(Non-refundable) Rs. 2,000/- in shape of DD Only.
Earnest Money Deposit (2% of advertised Cost)	Rs. 52,640.00/= in shape of CDR/FDR/BANK GUARANTEE only.
Class of Contract.	Class “A”
Time Allowed for Completion of Work.	60 DAYS.
Date of Issuance of Tender.	04-04-2022.
Document Download Start Date.	04-04-2022.
Bid submission Start Date.	04-04-2022.
Bid submission End Date.	18-04-2022 Up to 6:00 Pm
Date of Submission of DD. (Hard Copy)	19-04-2022 Up to 4:00 Pm
Time, Date & Address of opening of Technical Bids.	Bids shall be opened at Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora on 20 -04-2022.
Time, Date & Address of opening of Financial Bids.	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed
The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of FINANCE OFFICER IUST Valid For 45 Days Beyond DLP (DLP Period Shall be 03 Years)	As per time specified in SBD. (Standard Bidding Document)
Availability of Tender document.	Tender document can be downloaded from website (https://iktenders.gov.in)
Position of Funds.	Available.
The site for the work.	Available.
Bidding process.	On-line.
Bid Validity.	120 Days.

DIPK-NB-55/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, IUST Awantipora.

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**
03 Ramazan
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 48
ZUHR	12:34
ASR	5:05
Magrib	6:57
ISHA	8: 20

This Day In History

- 1609 - Daimyo (Lord) of the Satsuma Domain in southern Ky sh , Japan, completes his successful invasion of the Ry ky Kingdom in Okinawa
- 1648 - Spanish troops and feudal barons strike down people's uprising in Naples
- 1739 - French emperor Karel VI sign secret treaty
- 1751 - Adolf Frederik of Holstein-Gottorp crowns himself king of Sweden
- 1792 - George Washington casts 1st presidential veto
- 1804 - High Possil Meteorite: The first recorded meteorite in Scotland falls in Possil
- 1806 - Isaac Quintard patents apple cider
- 1812 - British storm Badajoz fortress in Extremadura, Spain, held by French & Spanish
- 1814 - Netherlands Bank issues its 1st banknotes
- 1815 - Mount Tambora in the Dutch East Indies, has its first violent eruption after several centuries of dormancy
- 1816 - In the Battle of Maipú, Chile's independence movement - led by Bernardo O'Higgins and José de San Martín - win a decisive victory over Spain, leaving 2,000 Spaniards and 1,000 Chilean patriots dead.
- 1865 - Battle at Amelia Springs, Jetersville Virginia (Appomattox Campaign)
- 1879 - Chile declares war on Bolivia and Peru, starting the War of the Pacific.
- 1881 - Transvaal regains independence under British suzerainty
- 1897 - The Greco-Turkish War, also called "Thirty Days' War", is declared between Greece and the Ottoman Empire.
- 1900 - Attempted assassination of Edward Prince of Wales in Brussels, fails
- 1901 - Under threats from the Ottoman Turkish Government, Bulgaria is forced to arrest the leaders of the Macedonian Committee
- 1908 - British Prime Minister Henry Campbell-Bannerman resigns
- 1915 - French begin Woëvre-offensive
- 1916 - French troops occupy Bois de Caillette
- 1919 - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi orders a General Strike
- 1939 - US & UK agree on joint control of Canton & Enderbury Is (Pacific)

From KO Archives

Co-Sponsored By Kashmir Observer Biscoe Holds Annual Cross Country Run

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Tyndale Biscoe School today had its annual cross country run Amidst great enthusiasm and excitement among the students, teachers and staff as also the parents of the boys taking part in the annual event. The students dressed in their House colours (red, yellow, blue and orange) added colour to the event.

The cross country run of the Biscoe students was co-sponsored by The Kashmir Observer, which offered trophies for the "best runners" in three different categories.

From early morning students trickled in along accompanied by their parents who also had a day off because of the holiday in connection with the urs of Hazrat Shah Hamadan. By 7.15 a.m. the entire school campus was full with people, staff, students and the parents. The security check at the entrance had no effect on till the unexpected announcement that the chief minister Farooq Abdullah was on way to flag off the run. Entire campus was virtually cordoned off and security personnel in strength deployed with the Residency Road, where the school is located, declared out of bounds for vehicular traffic. No vehicle, even those of the newsmen who were to cover the event, was allowed to go beyond Regal Chowk and Clock Tower.

The chief minister accompanied by his MP son, Omar Abdullah, arrived at 7.25 a.m. sharp just five minutes before the scheduled start of the event. The cordon was tightened around the school, but it hardly mattered to the students who were lost in the excitement and quest for glory. Abdullah was given the customary Biscoe standing ovation by the students.

The show started soon with the chief minister raising the flag for the first batch of students which comprised those of class XI and XII, followed by the senior department, the middle, the junior and lastly the lower primary department.

But the real excitement was on the way. The students raced with each other raising slogans to encourage their House mates. The partly wet road and the muddy and slippery track made no impact on their high spirits. The gods also seemed to be kind as the weather was clear and sunny. Although it was a long and tiring one, the run joined by over 1500 students, was completed in less than two hours.

The first boy to return was Ather Latif of junior school and for this achievement he was offered a "biscuit" by the chief minister who was still present when latif came back, after completing the run successfully. Soon the students started coming back and all of them were greeted with applause by the parents and teachers. The most concerned were the. House masters who virtually had their pride at stake. However it was the Yellow (Haramukh) House, that emerged the winner with a tally of 538 pts, followed by Green (Mahadev) with 502 pts, Red (Kolahi) with 494 pts and Bally the Blue (Tatakoti) with 489 pts.

The students and teachers of the victorious house were seen hugging each other. The parents were as eager as students and teachers for the final result. It was heartening to see young buds and young men running for the pride of the institution and also to involve themselves in other activities apart from studies (Kashmir Observer, 05 April, 1998)

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvserver.net

K O V I E W

Deja Vu in Pakistan

Sunday was full of successive dramatic developments in Islamabad. When National Assembly gathered for the no-confidence motion, Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri who is from the ruling party rejected the no-trust motion against Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan amid uproar in Parliament. Suri said the motion was being moved at the behest of a foreign power as alleged by Khan who blamed America for acting behind the scenes to topple his government. Khan has claimed that assistant secretary of state for south and central Asian affairs Donald Lu was allegedly involved in the "foreign conspiracy" and had sent a threatening message to him through Pakistan's ambassador to the US Asad Majeed.

After the rejection of the no-trust motion, Khan advised Pakistan President Arif Alvi to dissolve the national assembly which he did. The president also called for elections in 90 days. Imran Khan has reportedly been appointed as an interim prime minister for fifteen days following which a caretaker administration comprising all parties will be formed until elections are held.

Pakistan Army has so far acted neutral in the deepening constitutional crisis. Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar told the media that the military had nothing to do with what happened at the National Assembly on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Supreme Court has taken suo moto notice of the rejection of the no-trust motion. The court is set to rule on it on Tuesday after adjourning the hearing on Monday. The situation as a result has become very uncertain in the country. It remains to be seen what order the court passes and that will determine the future course of action for the political parties including Khan.

However, the constitutional crisis that the country has been plunged into is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon. Khan's allegations against the opposition parties are of a very serious nature. He has built up a strong case that they were acting at the behest of a foreign country. And the communique he waved at a rally in Islamabad has also been discussed in Pakistan's National Security Council. The US has meanwhile denied that it was involved in any conspiracy to engineer a regime change in Pakistan.

Khan has cast himself as the champion of an independent foreign policy for Pakistan which he alleges the US wants to change. Earlier, he had praised India's foreign policy at a public rally in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Khan lauded India for importing crude oil from Russia despite American sanctions. Ever since he has spoken at one more major rally in Islamabad and also addressed the nation several times on television to mobilize public opinion against the opposition.

Going forward, the situation looks very uncertain. The best way out of the constitutional logjam for the country would be for the political parties to go back to the people and hold fresh elections. The alternative to this is the lingering political turmoil and a deeper constitutional crisis.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Special Access

Even in the complex, nuanced world of global diplomacy, a photograph can sometimes say more than a thousand words. So it was on Friday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov. A day earlier, Britain's foreign secretary, Elizabeth Truss, was in New Delhi. Over the past 10 days, the foreign ministers of China and Mexico, the national security adviser of Germany and the deputy national security adviser of the United States of America have all visited the Indian capital. Like Mr Lavrov, all of them were focused on Ukraine and India's delicate tightrope walk over the war. None of them got an audience with the prime minister. That Mr Modi met Mr Lavrov alone out of the bevy of diplomatic guests who have thronged Raisina Hill in recent days marks a significant shift in New Delhi's tone from this time last year. When he had visited in April 2021, Mr Lavrov was denied a meeting with Mr Modi. A slip of the tongue from India's external affairs minister, S. Jaishankar, only made things worse for the veteran Russian diplomat. On that trip, Mr Jaishankar mistakenly mentioned the "India-US" relationship when speaking of the warmth and the trust in the India-Russia partnership.

Yet if Mr Lavrov appears to have received special treatment out of the recent visitors who have crowded India, the West, which is trying to pull New Delhi away from Moscow, has only itself to blame. In fact, India shares many of the concerns of the US and Europe over the war in Ukraine. While it has not directly condemned Russia, it has argued for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be respected. That the war has increased Russia's dependence on China has only hurt India's interests. But nothing riles New Delhi like threats and public pressure from foreign powers. Daleep Singh, the deputy NSA of the US, told reporters while in New Delhi that there would be "consequences" if India goes ahead with an increase in oil imports from Russia and if it establishes a rupee-rouble payment mechanism with Moscow to circumvent Western sanctions. Ms Truss got into a heated exchange with Mr Jaishankar at a panel discussion, where the Indian minister suggested that there was a "campaign" to pressure New Delhi. While the war in Ukraine has revealed the limitations of India's relationship with Russia, the West's response shows just why New Delhi will not be breaking up with Moscow anytime soon.

Telegraph India

So What If Putin Likes Dostoyevsky?

Hamid Dabashi

Vladimir Putin adores Fyodor Dostoyevsky," I recently read in an article. "A close reading of the legendary author's texts reveals the feeling might have been mutual."

Before long I also read that in Italy a university had cancelled a literature course on Dostoyevsky over the Ukraine crisis. If the world were left at the mercy of such acts of juvenile lunacy, we will sooner lose the moral parameters of our earthly existence than we do the environmental conditions of human survival. What has Dostoyevsky to do with Putin? We might as well ban Faulkner because we oppose the Ku Klux Klan – or stop reading Emile Zola because we do not like Marine Le Pen. What sheer sophomoric puerility is this?

People around the world aghast at the barbarity of Putin's invasion of Ukraine (as they were with Bush's invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq) must be very careful not to fall into this trap. "A plague on both your houses," we should instead say both to Putin and his nemesis as we reach for our copies of the masterpieces of Russian literature to reread in protest, beginning of course with Dostoyevsky.

Years ago, I was a member of the jury at a film festival in St Petersburg, Russia, on which occasion a Russian colleague generously gave me a tour of the neighbourhood in which Dostoyevsky had lived when writing Crime and Punishment (1866), a book I first read when I was a poor undergraduate student in Tehran, not too dissimilar to the main character of the novel, Rodion Raskolnikov – minus, of course, murdering any pawnbroker Iranian counterpart of Alyona Ivanovna.

I was walking through that neighbourhood like a pilgrim retracing every inch of it graced by the memories of a lasting monument to a man's literary genius, a novelist whom Nietzsche had praised as "the only psychologist from whom I had something to learn", the towering moral figure on whom Freud wrote his iconic essay, "Dostoyevsky and Parricide".

Maligning a whole civilisation

Extract Dostoyevsky from our moral memories and we will be one step closer to Dante's Inferno. Dostoyevsky is irreplaceable. Please leave him alone.

The issue however is not just Dostoyevsky. There is an alarming, positively pathetic, rise and resurgence of Russophobia in Europe and the United States – almost instantly following Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Blame Putin for Ukraine, as you blame George W Bush for Afghanistan and Iraq or anywhere else on his map of the "War on Terror".

Take Putin, Bush, Bashar al-Assad, Benjamin Netanyahu, and a whole gang of kindred thugs together, put a leash around their necks as you dispatch them all to the International Criminal Court and charge them with war crimes, and crimes against humanity. But this juvenile demonisation of an entire culture is pathetic.

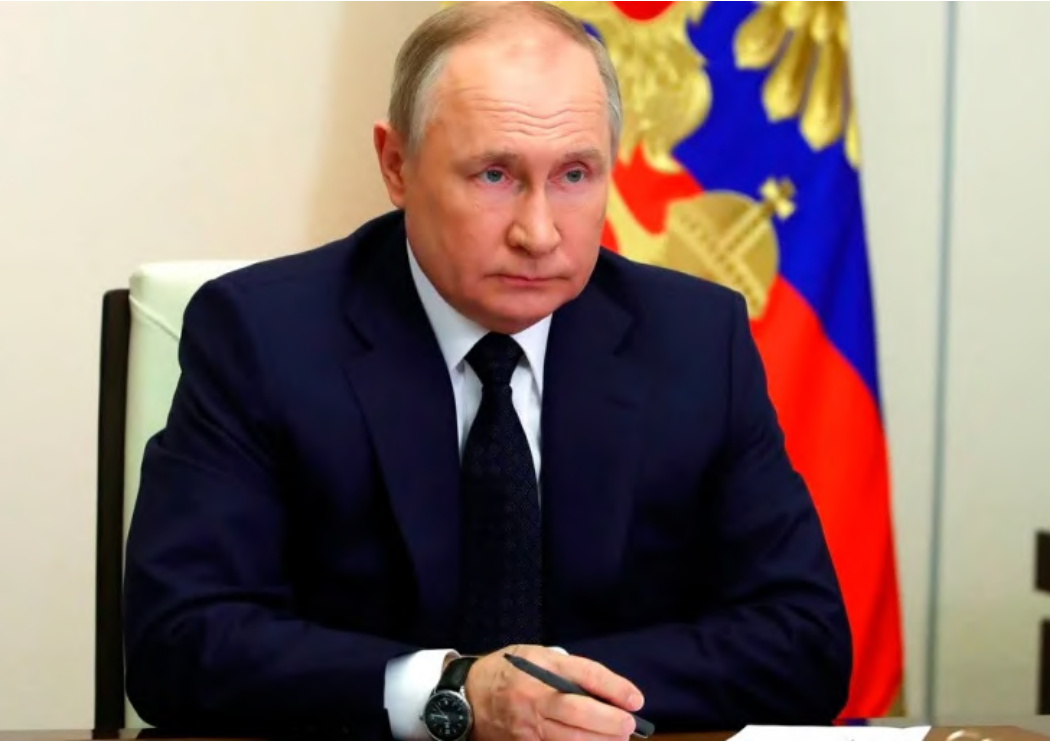
I recall how back in January 2020, US President Donald Trump threatened to bomb 52 Iranian sites, including many that are considered world heritage monuments. The barbaric mentality that just a while ago was targeting Iran and Islam, has now turned to Russia.

It is one thing for European and US media to shed their thin veneer of journalistic neutrality and be utterly vulgar in their partisan coverage of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is an entirely different thing for the classic European and American Russophobia to rear its ugly head and reconnect to its fascist roots to demonise Russians with dizzying speed and insidious tenacity. We Muslims, still struggling against Islamophobia in Europe and the US, are woefully familiar with the mechanism of how this renewed Russophobia is acting itself out.

We denounce Putin's murderous invasion of Ukraine, and we love reading Dostoyevsky's novels, watching Andrei Tarkovsky's movies, and marvelling at Mikhail Bakhtin's philosophical brilliance. Repeat these few phrases three times a day and leave the world be.

Politics of propaganda

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a naked act of military aggression straight out of the American playbook. With all its brutality and vulgarity, the Russians have done nothing that the US and its European and regional allies have not done for decades and centuries – most



There is an alarming, positively pathetic, rise and resurgence of Russophobia in Europe and the United States – almost instantly following Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Blame Putin for Ukraine, as you blame George W Bush for Afghanistan and Iraq or anywhere else on his map of the "War on Terror"

recently in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere – or what their client Arab states like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have not done in Yemen. So what is the big deal? Everything is in order when they do it to Black and brown people around the globe. The world is coming to an end if someone does the same thing to white people with blue eyes and blonde hair.

None of this justifies Putin's military adventurism in Ukraine – but the US and its European allies are the last entities on planet earth with any moral authority to point fingers at Russia. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has rightly achieved the highest admiration of people around the globe for staying put and leading his country in a battle of survival against Putin – but this is the same man who is a solid Zionist fully behind the continued Israeli theft of Palestine and murder of Palestinians. Wherefore this failure to see the larger global picture?

If we were to remain free of the political propaganda of both sides and focus on the human costs of such follies, the demonisation of regional and global cultures is revealed for the nonsensical gibberish that it is. The best of Russia is the best of our humanity. The worst of Russia has an uncanny similarity with the worst we have seen of Europe and the US. We did not stop reading Mark Twain, Toni Morrison, Franz Kafka, Charles Dickens or Jane Austen when the US and its European partners unleashed their barbarism on Afghanistan and Iraq. We will not stop reading Leo Tolstoy or Ivan Turgenev or Nikolai Gogol now that Russia has done the same in Ukraine.

The malignant (generic) anti-Russian sentiments in Europe and by extension the US goes back at least to the Napoleonic Wars when Russia was pictured as the barbaric antithesis of "Europe". The fictitious document known as "The Will of Peter the Great" (forged early in the nineteenth century and repeatedly revived any time there is a war in Crimea) has attributed to the Russian emperor the desire to conquer Europe and subjugate its people. The same delusional phobia would later be recycled for Arabs and Muslims "reconquering Europe".

No doubt there are zealot Russian nationalists who want to expand the territorial domains of their former empire. But how is that different from the nefarious Project for New American Century of neanderthal neoconservatives like William Kristol and Robert Kagan who under Bush plotted to conquer the whole planet under the US flag? Delusional Europeans and their American counterparts are very limited in their conspiratorial imagination and not so clever in making up newer fearful fantasies so keep recycling the old ones. According to them, Arabs want to conquer Europe, Muslims want to conquer Europe, Turks, Africans, Russians, ad absurdum, want to conquer Europe – all the while they do not seem to notice that they are the ones who are bombing Asia and Africa at will.

Hollywood at work

It is impossible to exaggerate how gullible a whole spectrum of Americans is at such moments, drinking the proverbial Kool-Aid without the slightest doubt or hesitation, acting like robots commanded in one direction or another. "Russian Restaurants Feel War's Impact," reports The New York Times, "most owners are antiwar, and many of them are from Ukraine. But customer numbers are down all the same." What did Beef Stroganoff, Borscht, or Pirozhki do to you anyway? They are delicious. Much better, in fact, than the ghastly hamburgers that McDonald's has evidently decided to stop feeding the Russians in retaliation for Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Like many other cultures around the world, American culture cannot understand itself except by demonising a constellation of others. A fictive white interlocutor stands at the epicentre of all these systematic acts of alienation and tireless demonisation of others. All that is needed is a hint to trigger the machinery into action.

Over the course of its history, Hollywood has emerged as the main barometer of American propaganda, consistently marking and targeting the presumed enemies of "the American way of life". From Hollywood blockbusters like the Rocky series and Diehard to spy thrillers of successive generations, Hollywood thrives on demonising Russians.

"In Hollywood," Michael Idov recently wrote in the Los Angeles Times, "the 'evil Russian' stereotype isn't back. It never left." Nina Khrushcheva, a scholar of cinema at New York University even makes the perfectly plausible claim that Putin's self-image is in fact influenced by Hollywood's portrait of evil Russians. In the movie Equalizer (2014), the chief Russian villain is called Vladimir Pushkin. Any relation to Alexander Pushkin perhaps – the greatest Russian Romantic poet and playwright of all time?

Any time Hollywood as the chief propaganda machinery of the US and Europe goes low, the world must go high. Today is the best time to rediscover the masters of Russian Cinema: Sergei Eisenstein, Dziga Vertov, Andrei Tarkovsky, Sergei Parajanov – and countless other masters are all waiting for you. While you are at it, get to know a few Ukrainian artists too. Begin with Taras Shevchenko, their glorious Kobzar – then discover their many other poets, artists and folklorists. As Russia is not just Putin, Ukraine is not just Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

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

The author is the Hagop Kevorkian Professor of Iranian Studies and Comparative Literature at Columbia University



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Fire Fury

Fire accidents have immensely gripped the valley since the past few months. Recently, five days ago, fire destroyed eight shops in Zainakadal, in another incident 22 houses were gutted and 4 people were injured after fire broke out in a neighbourhood of Noorbagh. And very recently, last night, 7 houseboats were destroyed in a massive fire outbreak in Nigeen

Lake. The cause of most of these incidents has been found out to be short circuits and negligence of people.

The extent of irresponsibility and irrationality is that, in the Nigeen houseboat fire incident, reportedly, the initial blaze was caused by a tourist's hookah.

According to the Fire and Emergency Services, there were 2,342 fire incidents in the year 2021 in which

property worth Rs 70 crore was damaged.

Negligence can be very dangerous, as much as it could destroy years of hard work that you put in making that house of yours. We must be very keen about using electrical appliances and also keep a check on our electric supply. We should not overload the electric supply as it could result in a short circuit. Beside that, elec-

trical and heating appliances should be used very carefully. Domestic gas leaks could also result in a fire outbreak, we must never leave our stoves on recklessly. The more alert we are, the less likely the incidents are. A single flame can destroy your present and future, be alert and safe.

Tufail Hamid

HOW SHOULD I BREAK MY FAST?



Haitham Ahmed

THIS is my most common patient question this week. As 2 billion Muslims start fasting for Ramadan, I'll answer here from my perspective as a doctor & cardiometabolic researcher. Hopefully you'll find takeaways to enjoy a Ramadan Mubarak.

First and foremost a disclaimer that I'll be answering from a scientific standpoint, not as a religious expert.

You may see, though, that much of the medical reasons here coincide perfectly with the sunna or tradition of Prophet Muhammad PBUH (not surprisingly).

Now to answer the question.

The best thing to break your fast with are dates.

Dates are full of key ingredients that are very helpful after a long fast. First, they're high in fructose & glucose which helps rapidly restore low blood sugar.

Early in Ramadan, much of the dizziness and headaches that occur are due to caffeine withdrawal and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).

Three dates can quickly provide you with 30-45g of sugar which helps restore blood glucose after a long fast.

There are several other essential vitamins & minerals such as potassium, which is particularly important here.

As for what to drink, the best is Water.

Not tamarind drink, not Tang mix, not soda. All these spike sugar without the benefits above. In fact, they rapidly expand the stomach, cause bloating, affect the rest of the meal afterwards, and don't have additional nutritional value.

So the best is just a few sips of water. This was also, in fact, the preference of the Prophet PBUH when he didn't have dates.

"What about after that?"

Take a break. There are several reasons for this:

- 1) After a long fast, your stomach is smaller and less able to accept a full meal quickly.
- 2) For digestion: Once you eat a few dates, that sparks a whole digestive cascade of events. Your stomach starts producing gastrin which stimulates secretion of digestive juices.

As the dates get digested enterogastrone is secreted and helps regulate blood flow. This is important preparation for the remainder of the meal that follows.

If instead you eat a massive meal all at once, too

much blood gets shunted to your gut & away from your brain. Food coma!

3) For satiety: the initial pause after breaking your fast helps modulate your "hunger hormones." Ghrelin is a hormone also released by your stomach when you're hungry. It's highest right before breaking your fast and goes down when you eat.

Once Ghrelin is down it signals to your brain that you're full. This usually takes 45-60 minutes so the added delay after breaking your fast makes it less likely to overeat beyond your stomach's capacity - a phenomenon way too common in Ramadan.

So if you're fasting, following this process of taking a brief pause, and paying attention to food quality then you shouldn't gain weight during Ramadan. If you find yourself gaining despite 14 hours of fasting and with everything else being equal then something's wrong.

In that case, you must explore what you're eating and the way you're eating.

So what did the Prophet PBUH do? He used this time to pray Maghreb, the sunset prayer. This prayer can be brief. No need to extend it. The time for longer prayers is after Isha (Taraweeh/Qiyam prayers).

And now you're ready for the rest of your meal! I urge you to again pay attention to quantity and quality here.

In terms of quantity, the Prophet PBUH reminds us to not be gluttonous.

As for quality, a common mistake is having high

fat meals at the expense of vegetables. You do need some fat, but too much will cause spikes in triglycerides, increase cholesterol, and make you miss out on other vital macro and micronutrients.

You need enough protein for cellular functions and to ensure you don't break down muscle during your fast (catabolism).

You need carbs for energy and virtually every physiologic process in your body.

You need vitamins & minerals which largely come from fruits & vegetables.

There are a million opinions and diets out there and no single correct path, but whatever you choose just make sure to have balance and moderation.

I like the concept of thirds: Split 1/3 of plate for vegetables (cooked or salad), 1/3 for protein (meat or beans), 1/3 for carbs.

If you ensure at least a third in vegetables it becomes harder to miss out on important nutrients and you end up having less space for fatty/processed foods.

Finally, an often neglected but vital part of the discussion is suhoor (dawn meal). This should not be skipped.

In terms of timing, suhoor should be delayed for two reasons. 1) The closer it is to dawn, the shorter your fast will be. 2) This extends the time from your last large nighttime meal which gives you time to digest and regulate hunger cycles.

For suhoor, focus on foods that give you satiety so you feel full for longer, without spiking your sugar, and without causing you to feel thirsty.

A great choice is Greek yogurt. Hummus or beans (eg Fava) are also good but you need to mind the salt so you don't feel thirsty.

And of course be sure to hydrate adequately, especially if you'll be outdoors or perspiring during the day.

I hope you found this helpful! I wish you all a healthy month ahead full of forgivenesses, gratitude, and blessings. I pray for relief and peace to all those struggling through difficult times around the world.

The author is the Chair of Cardiology at Advantage Care Physicians, New York

HC quashes LOC against journalist, says issued in haste, allows her to travel abroad

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court Monday quashed a Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against journalist Rana Ayyub by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and allowed her to travel abroad, saying that the LOC was issued in haste and there was no cogent reason for presuming that she will not appear before the investigating agency.

The high court said a LOC is a coercive measure to make a person surrender and consequently interferes with the petitioner's right to personal

liberty and free movement. It is to be issued in cases where the accused is deliberately evading summons/ arrest or where such person fails to appear in court despite a Non-Bailable Warrant.

In the instant case, there is no contradiction by the respondent (ED) to the submission of the petitioner (Ayyub) that she has appeared on each and every date before the investigating agency when summoned, and hence, there is no cogent reason for presuming that the petitioner would not appear before the investigation agency and hence, no case is made out

for issuing the impugned LOC, Justice Chandra Dhari Singh said in a six-page order.

The court said it becomes evident that the LOC was issued in haste and in the absence of any precondition necessitating such a measure.

It said the LOC is liable to be set aside as being devoid of merits as well as for infringing the human right of Ayyub to travel abroad and to exercise her freedom of speech and expression .

For the reasons discussed above, the impugned LOC is set aside and quashed. However, a balance has to be struck qua the

right of the investigation agency to investigate the instant matter as well as the fundamental right of the petitioner of movement and free speech, the court said.

The court allowed the journalist's petition seeking quashing of LOC and imposed various conditions on her, including that she shall intimate her travel dates and detailed itinerary to the ED forthwith along with the address of the places that she shall be visiting.

The court directed her to deposit an FDR of Rs 1 lakh with the ED in Mumbai and said that she shall not attempt to tamper

with the evidence or influence the witnesses in any manner.

The petitioner shall return to India on the date specified, that is, April 11, 2022, and the petitioner shall give the undertaking to appear before the investigating agency immediately on her return and on dates that might be fixed by the investigating agency for interrogation, if any, after the travel period, it said.

The court's order came on Ayyub's plea seeking to quash a LOC issued against her barring her from travelling abroad.

The plea, however, was opposed by the ED which alleged

that she was involved in a serious offence regarding funds involving over Rs one crore and that there was an apprehension that she might not return to India.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju and lawyer Amit Mahajan, representing the ED, contended that the journalist has misappropriated funds collected in the name of relief work and that she had submitted fake bills and thus the money raised for relief work has been siphoned off.

During the hearing, the judge asked the ED as to how do you defend your LOC? It is an admitted fact that whenever a summons

was issued, she replied and she appeared before officers. How do you say that she is avoiding investigation? Because for LOC, evidence should be satisfactory. To this, the ASG said a person who wants to flee the country will always say that she will come back.

Look at her conduct. Despite repeated summons, documents have not been supplied. Fake bills have been provided. According to us prima facie, there is a case of cheating. The cooperation part is missing and appearance before the agency is not cooperation, he argued.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

CRPF Head

Earlier on Sunday, two residents of Pathankot, Punjab were shot and injured in litter area of Pulwama on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the killing of a CRPF personnel in a militant attack evoked strong condemnation from mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Unreservedly condemn the cowardly attack in Maisuma, Srinagar earlier in the day, in which one CRPF personnel lost his life. Our condolences go out to his family and friends. Prayers for the swift recovery of the one injured," the National Conference tweeted.

Party vice president Omar Abdullah also condemned the jawan's killing.

I add my words of condemnation to those of my colleagues & send my condolences to the family of the CRPF jawan killed in the line of duty. Prayers for the injured jawan in the hope that he makes a full recovery," he said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti tweeted, "Condemn attack on CRPF personnel in Maisuma this afternoon. This senseless violence doesn't yield anything apart from inflicting miseries on the innocent families of those killed. My condolences to the family and prayers for the injured."

JK Pradesh Congress Committee and the Apni Party also condemned the killing of the CRPF personnel.

2 Bihar Residents

Pulwama for treatment. Medical Superintendent DH Pulwama confirmed that they have injured two persons with firearm injuries.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that the condition of both the injured labourers is stable.

"Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and initiated investigation into the matter," he said.

The attack on Bihar residents came less than 24 hours after unidentified militants shot at and injured two Punjab residents in the South Kashmir district on Sunday.

Meanwhile, unknown militants shot at and injured a civilian in South Kashmir's Shopian district, third attack of the day on Monday.

35-year-old Sonu Kumar, son of Jankee Nath was fire upon by militants in his native Chotigam village of the district on Monday evening, officials said. Kumar, who received gunshot injuries in the attack, was removed to the district hospital for treatment.

His condition is said to be stable. Soon after the attack on Kumar, police, army and CRPF reached the village and launched a search operation. However, no reports of any arrests were received.

Court Martial Against

concerned in consultation with legal advisors for proceeding further."

"The Indian Army is committed to ethical conduct of operations," it had said.

The officials said the captain was facing court martial proceedings for violating the powers vested under the AFSPA and for not following the Do's and Don'ts of the Army as approved by the Supreme Court.

The Army had also called Mohammed Yusuf, the father of Abrar Ahmed, from Rajouri for deposing in the court martial proceedings. "I have been here for the last one week and the Army authorities have asked for the missing report about my son which I have provided. We are being looked after by the Army and I am confident that I will get justice," he said.

Immediately after the news about the fake encounter spread, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had constituted a Special Investigation Team which filed a charge sheet against three people, including Captain Singh, for "staging a fake encounter" in the higher reaches of Shopian district and killing three men.

The charge sheet had alleged that Captain Singh had provided wrong information to his superiors and the police about the recovery made during the staged encounter. The other two named by the police in its charge sheet are Tabish Nazir and Bilal Ahmed Lone, both civilians.

"By staging the encounter," the three accused "have purposefully destroyed evidence or real crime that they have committed and also have (been) purposefully projecting false information

as part of a criminal conspiracy hatched between them with the motive to grab" cash rewards, it said.

The Army had, however, denied that its captain staged the encounter for cash reward, saying there was no such system for its personnel for any acts in combat situations or otherwise in the line of duty.

"The evidence was destroyed by accused Captain Singh," the charge sheet said, adding he along with the other two accused set fire to a shelter where the encounter had been staged.

The SIT charge sheet gave details of forensic analysis of the crime scene which was photographed "from all possible perspectives". The FSL (Forensic and Scientific Laboratory) team recovered vital evidence that was seized.

The charge sheet submitted by the SIT listed 75 witnesses in support of its findings and also provided technical evidence, including call data records of the accused persons.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had visited the families in Rajouri in 2020 and conveyed to them Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message that the government stood with the aggrieved families, and they would be taken care of with all support from the government.

The identity of the three youths was subsequently confirmed through a DNA test. The bodies were handed over to their families in Baramulla in October 2020 and were later buried in their native village in Rajouri.

79 Foreigners Among

Two infiltration bids, one each in Kashmir and Jammu zones, were foiled along the Line of Control (LoC) this year, the Army said, referring to the infiltration bids foiled in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, and Poonch in the Jammu region in January.

While one Pakistani militant was killed and another captured alive in Kupwara during the failed infiltration bid on the first day of the new year, an attempt by a group of militants to infiltrate into this side from across the border in the Poonch district was foiled the next day.

In addition, the Army scuttled the third infiltration attempt from Pakistan on Monday when the alert troops shot dead a militant along the LoC in the Naushera sector of Rajouri district.

On militant initiated incidents, the Army said a total of 35 such incidents were reported in the first three months of this year. These included 27 militant initiated actions against security forces and eight atrocities committed against civilians.

The data also indicated that there was no ceasefire violation by Pakistan between January and March.

The Director-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have announced an agreement to uphold the ceasefire along the LoC from February 24 and 25 night in 2021.

The Army said no militant surrendered to the security forces during the past three months, while security forces recovered 23 weapons during anti-militancy operations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt Okays Rs 4,119

-sponsored schemes have been cleared.

According to officials, many bills that were pending since the past two years have also been cleared this time.

No bill for advance withdrawal at the treasury is pending now. Bills presented for the payments of salaries, pensions and gratuity have been cleared, Dulloo said, adding that the finance department also cleared pending claims of several projects.

PM To Visit J&K

the Centre abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution, and bifurcated it into union territories.

Govt Caps Trade

Oxygen concentrator, pulse oximeter, nebulizer, blood pressure monitor, digital thermometer and glucometer has been currently capped @70% Price to Distributors (PTD).

By this action, he said, MRP of more than 1000 brands of aforesaid medical devices has dropped up to 89%.

The spokesperson further said that it was informed that Old MRP of

Fingertip Pulse Oximeter FPO-95 was Rs 2499 which has been revised to Rs 1025, while Old MRP of Nebulizer 9M Mini was Rs 2500 and has been revised to Rs 1274, besides Old MRP of Digital Thermometer 9M MT-301 was Rs 325 and has been revised to Rs 105.

Similarly, he said, MRP of Glucometer (contour) was revised to Rs 870 from Rs 1775, Glucometer (Glucospot) to Rs 450 from Rs 1450, Blood Pressure Monitoring Device (A & DUA-611) to Rs. 2498 from Rs. 4200.

He said that the revised MRP is applicable with effect from 20th July, 2021.

"Further, a list of 1034 medical devices whose trade –margin stand capped has been provided to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir along with the details of pharma-company, brand name, old MRP and revised MRP. The list is also available on the official website of NPPA," he added.

It is worthwhile to mention here that under clause 20 of the Drugs (Price Control) Order 2013, no pharmaceutical company can increase the MRP more than 10% annually.

The spokesperson further said that consumers are advised to go through the list of medical devices and pay only the price that has been fixed by NPPA.

"In case anyone charges above that price, consumers should register the grievance with NPPA or Legal Metrology Department for swift and proper legal action," he said.

"Retailers, private- hospitals and nursing homes are required to keep the revised MRP list available at their trading premises for favour of information of customers," he added.

Panel Begins Two-Day

first sitting in J&K, the commission heard people from all districts of Jammu region on Monday at the Convention Centre, Jammu, while a similar public sitting for Kashmir region will be held at SKICC in Srinagar on April 5, 2022.

The commission began meetings at the Convention Centre here with members of the public, civil society and political parties from all districts of the Jammu region.

It has met 20 such delegations and members of the public from Ramban, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Kathua and Doda districts and heard them and received their representations, the officials said.

The members of the public and elected representatives raised various demands in terms of carving out new segments of assemblies and also raised objections about the draft in which various areas have been merged with other areas of assembly and parliamentary constituencies.

The people from Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Rajouri and Poonch districts participated in the public sittings from 10.00 am while the people from Reasi, Samba and Jammu participated in the second half-sittings at the Convention Centre from 2.00 pm, they said.

As per sources privy to the matter, the commission has already talked to the people from these districts and has noted their suggestions and objections for further developments.

Subsequently, as per sources, after wrapping up their public program in Jammu, the Commission is expected to leave for Srinagar. On April 5, as per the commission's notification, the people from Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian will be part of the public sitting at SKICC from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon to share their objections or suggestions on the draft proposal.

Similarly, as per the notification, the people from Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla will participate in the public sitting from 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm on the same day at SKICC in Srinagar.

Notably, the Commission had earlier issued an order and notification on March 14, "inviting suggestions and objections to its draft proposals on the delimitation of assembly and parliamentary constituencies of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir by March 21, 2022."

As per the commission, it had received 409 suggestions and objections on the stipulated date on the draft proposal of the delimitation exercise that was carried throughout J&K.

As per data available with Kashmir

Observer, the J&K Delimitation Commission has received 18 general suggestions, 3 Parliamentary Suggestion & Objections, 45 suggestions and objections from Kupwara district, 6 from Bandipora, 8 from Doda including suggestions and objections from former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad, 62 from Jammu including former Dy CM Tara Chand and Davinder Rana's suggestions and Objections, 6 from Kishtwar, 14 from Rajouri, 2 from Reasi, 22 from Udhampur and 19 from Samba.

The data has further noted that 43 petitioners have submitted their suggestions and objections from district Anantnag, 10 from Budgam, 5 from Ganderbal, 15 from Kathua, 1 from Poonch, 21 from Ramban, 12 from Srinagar, 20 from Kulgam and 26 from Baramulla.

Besides these suggestions, the commission has already received suggestions and Objections from its five associate members on March 4, 2022. Earlier, they had submitted their objections to the Commission's initial draft on December 31, 2021 and then again to the commission's revised draft on February 14, 2022.

Besides these proposals, the suggestions and objections submitted by the five associate members: three National Conference Lok Sabha members (Farooq Abdullah, Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone), BJP MP Jugal Kishore and Union Minister Jitendra Singh were also put in public domain.

As per officials, the security arrangement in and around the Srinagar avenue of the public sitting has been fortified to maintain law and order and to wrap up things peacefully.

"All the necessary security arrangements are in place to maintain peace in Srinagar. Speculation should be avoided. Security forces have taken all the necessary steps to avoid any attempt to disrupt peace in wake of the commission's stay in Srinagar. No one has to worry about it." A police official told Kashmir Observer.

It is pertinent to mention here that the J&K Delimitation Commission is headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, it has Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and the state election commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir as its ex-officio members. It was set up on March 6, 2020, with a one year term, however, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, its term was extended on March 6, 2021, by one year. The Commission on February 22 was granted a two-month extension upto May 6 to complete its work.

If the Delimitation Commission's proposal is cleared, the total number of poll constituencies will rise from 83 to 90, with 43 in the Jammu region and 47 in Kashmir, 24 seats will be kept aside for Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. In the current state House, Jammu has 37 members and Kashmir has 46.

Cong Stages

The commission headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai reached here on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. The delegation started interaction with delegations from across Jammu region on Monday morning and they are scheduled to visit Srinagar later in the day for a similar exercise on Tuesday.

Carrying placards and shouting slogans, the Congress activists led by Mir and other senior party leaders including former ministers and legislators assembled outside their party headquarters at Shaheedi Chowk in the heart of Jammu and staged a sit-in against the delimitation commission.

We are holding this peaceful protest against the delimitation commission over its draft report which is against settled norms, ground situations and containing large scale irregularities, Mir told reporters.

The Commission had invited claims and suggestions from all political parties, organizations and individuals from March 14-21 after putting draft report in public domain.

The Commission had received over 400 suggestions and objections which were in addition to those already received from five Associate Members including Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Jugal Kishore Sharma, both BJP MPs from Jammu division and Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone and

Hasnain Masoodi, all three National Conference MPs from Kashmir.

We have submitted a detailed objections to the commission and want the commission to hear us for the benefit of the aggrieved population. We have not been given any time that shows they are on a picnic and fulfilling the formalities to put a public stamp on their report made at the behest of BJP, Mir said.

Suggesting the commission to extend their stay in Jammu and Kashmir by one more day to give sufficient time to all parties especially Congress to explain its objections before it, Mir claimed that the report had given tension to the public as it was prepared in violation of the set parameters and rules like population, terrain and means of communication.

After downgrading J&K to a union territory, the report has now completely bulldozed the local units...What are they going to understand in a short time and by clubbing delegations? People are angry and there is nobody to listen to them neither the commission nor the administration, he said.

Terming the report as highly objectionable , Mir said several constituencies have less than 50,000 voters while others more than 1.50 lakh. He said Congress was hoping for one more Lok Sabha seat for Jammu region but the commission's readjustment of Anantnag Lok Sabha seat and inclusion of Rajouri and Poonch districts in it is most unreasonable and against the public interests and convenience.

There are several irregularities and violations which need to be fully reviewed and reconsidered but the Commission is merely doing an eye wash to complete the formality, he said. (PTI)

Congress Unleashing

shortly after meeting the members of the Delimitation Commission headed by Justice (Retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai at the convention centre here.

The delimitation commission assigned the task to redraw boundaries of assembly and parliament constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir started interaction with various delegations including political leaders and panchayati members from across Jammu region on its interim report which was made public last month.

Congress staged a protest here against the delimitation commission and later some of its leaders boycotted the meeting with the commission claiming that there was no mention of Congress as a party in the list of invitees and they were only invited in their individual capacity.

Talking to reporters after meeting the commission, Raina said Justice Desai led the commission with chief election commissioner Sushil Chandra and state election commissioner K K Sharma as its members have done a tremendous job and came out with its draft proposal after over two years of hard work.

"They are available to hear the grievances and are meeting various delegations including elected panchayat members, representatives of public and former legislators. People put forth their concerns and grievances and the commission heard them. We are hopeful that the commission will seriously look into the representations for redressal before preparing its final report, the BJP leader said.

Asked about Congress terming the exercise as an eyewash to put a stamp on the report allegedly made at the behest of BJP, Raina said the commission is an autonomous body and headed by former chief justice of Supreme Court.

Some political parties have lost their credibility in Jammu and Kashmir and are involved in such type of propaganda and Congress is one among them, he said.

The BJP leader said the commission is expected to submit its final report by its timeline of May 6 and we are hopeful that it will be followed by assembly elections which will take place within six to eight months as announced by the Prime Minister and Home minister.

Earlier, a three-member delegation of Congress -- chief spokesperson and former MLC Ravinder Sharma, former minister and general secretary Yogesh Sawhney and former MLA Ashok Dogra -- walked out of the venue and said we are boycotting the meeting with the delimitation commission as Congress

as a party has not been invited.

The name of the Congress party is missing in the list of the invitees ... Congress honoured the invitation extended to them as the Pradesh Congress Committee has filed a detailed objection to the draft report, he said.

Sharma said the party, however, allowed individual leaders from different assembly segments or districts to meet the commission and point out glaring irregularities in the report as the party believes that the report required drastic review in the interest and convenience of the general public.

The Congress leader also questioned the meeting of the commission with over 300 delegations in a couple of hours and said it is injustice with the people.

We expect no justice from the commission but want to meet it and give positive suggestions about all parts of Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Meanwhile, former minister and chairman National Panthers Party (NPP) Harsh Dev Singh also demanded that there are some discrepancies in the draft report which needs to be done away for the benefit of the public.

There are some anomalies with regard to redrawing of constituencies like Rajouri and Poonch districts were included in Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency and likewise there was change in some assembly seats and the people are not happy over it, he said.

Singh said the NPP delegation also raised the issue of reservation of constituencies and favoured rotational concept rather than reserving a constituency for years together. (PTI)

Speculation Rife

under the contentious AFSPA in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur from April 1, after decades.

There have been protests and demands for the complete withdrawal of the law from the Northeast as well as Jammu and Kashmir for its "draconian" provisions.

J&K Records

20 districts in the union territory did not report any fresh case.

There are 162 active cases of the disease in the union territory, while the number of recoveries has reached 4,48,903, the officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll in the union territory stands at 4,750 as no fresh fatality was reported in the last 24 hours.

The officials said there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus). (PTI)

Arms Cache

The hideout was unearthed during a joint search operation by the army and police in Noorkote village, the officials said.

They said the arms and ammunition seized from the hideout included two AK-47 assault rifles with two magazines and 63 rounds, one 223 bore AK shape gun with handgrip, its two magazines and 20 rounds and one Chinese pistol with a magazine and four rounds.

However, no one was arrested during the operation which was carried out late Sunday evening based on a specific information, the officials said. (PTI)

Woman Killed

the Srinagar-Jammu highway, an official spokesperson said Monday.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident and taken up investigation in this regard. (KDC)

ANTF Arrests

a Vehicle (EON) bearing registration number JK01S-1701, a team of ANTF apprehended the said person from Sonawar near GP Panth Hospital, Srinagar, a police spokesperson said Monday.

During his personal search, he said, 200 grams of heroin like substance was recovered from his possession.

"He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No. 17/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station CBK and investigation has been initiated and more arrests are expected.

Doda First To Achieve 100% First Dose Vaccination For 12-14 Yrs

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir's Doda becomes the first district in the Union Territory to achieve the landmark of administering 100 per cent first dose of COVID-19 vaccine among the 12 to 14 years, officials said on Monday.

The district achieved the feat within two weeks of the inoculation drive despite being the most difficult region with 55 per cent schools from primary to high school level located in inaccessible areas, the officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out the vaccine for the 12-14 age group on March 16.

The officials said the Doda district administration immediately formed a multi-dimensional strategy by constituting combined teams of the concerned teachers of all the primary, middle and high schools with health workers, paramedics and anganwadi workers besides appointing a nodal officer in every block. "The drive was carried on war footing in entire district from the very first day of the campaign and all the officials were asked to submit compulsory daily report from every school, which resulted in achieving the major feat of 100 per cent vaccination within two weeks," Nodal officer Vaccination Rana Aarif said. Block Medical Officer, Bhaderwah, Shakeel Ahmad Sumbria said it seemed like a herculean task as majority of



the primary and middle schools are located in far off and inaccessible areas, but the way "our teams carried out the vaccination drive while climbing hills every day is commendable." "The past experience of carrying vaccination drives of the population of 18 years and above was very handy and this is the one of the reasons that the drive ended so smoothly and in record time," he said.

As per the data shared by the district administration from Cowin Portal, against the total target population of 20,042 in the age group of 12-14 years, the first dose was administered to 20,280. The top three districts to administer Covid vaccine among children in Jammu and Kashmir are Doda 101 per cent followed by south Kashmir's Shopian at 89 per cent and border district of Poonch at 85 per cent. Meanwhile, Bandipore, Kishtwar and Srinagar remained at the bottom of the chart registering 11, 24 and 26 per cent vaccination, respectively.

Tarigami Demands Rescheduling Of JKPSCE Exams

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami has asked the authorities to reschedule the upcoming J&K Combined Competitive (Mains) Examination, which is slated to commence from April 8.

"JKPSC announced the dates for holding the second stage of one of the most coveted examinations merely a week before it was to be held, leaving the aspirants with little time to prepare. The aspirants should have been

notified at least a month before the examination, Tarigami said in a statement issued here.

Tarigami said that the sudden announcement of the examination has unsettled the aspirants and put them in a quandary as the dates clashed with other examination schedules. He said that the date sheet also suggests that there are no gaps between three papers, which are vital for last minute preparation.

He appealed to the JKPSC to reschedule the examination immediacy

Govt Forms Environmental Health Cells

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government on Monday constituted Committees or Environmental Health Cells for implementation of National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCCHH)/UT Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health (UTAPCCCHH).

A 11-member UT level committee, according to a government order, will be headed by Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department and its task is to oversee implementation of the UT Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health (SAPCCCHH). It has been also tasked to monitor the National Health Mission, J&K which will be the implementing agency for UT Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health (SAPCCCHH), the order reads.

It has been also asked to supervise the UT's Environmental Health Cell which will coordinate for execution of UT Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health (SAPCCCHH).

Similarly District Level Environmental Health Cell have been formed and shall be headed by Deputy Commissioner, the

order reads.

Its roles and responsibilities include preparing and implementing District Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health; conduct vulnerability assessment and risk mapping for commonly occurring climate sensitive illnesses in the district; maintain and update district database of illnesses identified in the district; assess needs for health care professionals and conduct sub-district/ CHC level training/ workshop and meetings for capacity building; ensure appointment of contractual staff and engage them in the assigned task of data management under the National Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health (NAPCCCHH) and maintaining district level data on physical, financial, epidemiological profile for these illnesses.

A Community Health Centre Level Environmental Health Cell has been formed and will be headed by Medical Superintendent (CHC Hospital).

"The Community Health Centre Level Environment Cell shall facilitate preparation and proper implementation of State Action Plan for Climate Change and Human Health," the order reads.



SENIOR CRPF OFFICERS inspecting a shootout site in Srinagar's Maisuma on Monday after militants shot dead a head constable and injured another. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

36 Schools In Bandipora Headless, Gurez Worst Hit

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As many as 36 higher secondary and high schools in north Kashmir's Bandipora district are without principals and headmasters, hitting the smooth functioning of these educational institutions.

According to reports, out of 26 higher secondary schools in the district, seven are without principals. And of 50 high schools, 29 are without headmasters from almost a year now.

Higher secondary schools without principals include boys higher secondary school Bandipora, Kilchay, Madwan, Dower,

Badugam, Badudab and Izmerg.

Locals said that the vacant post of the Principals in the government-run schools has affected the administration in the educational institutions.

In Gurez, five higher secondary schools out of eight are headless while seven high schools are without headmasters, thereby hampering the smooth functioning and also takes a toll on students.

"Gurez's education system has suffered for decades, be it staff shortage or infrastructure. It appears the government does not want our educational institutes to improve," said a teacher from Gurez.

He said that over the years, many schools have run out of staff and principals but nothing has happened so far.

"We have informed the administration about the shortage of staff across Gurez schools but nothing is happening yet," said Sarfaraz Ahmad, a local.

He said that the government should fill the posts in schools to avoid affecting the education of students.

Meanwhile, officials said efforts are being made to fulfil the vacancies in the future. "We have a keen eye on the education system of Gurez and steps are being taken wherever there is a shortage—(KNO)

ICCC Team Discusses Investment & Trade Opportunities In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A delegation of Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) on Monday visited Jammu and discussed investment and trade opportunities with thrust on exports from Jammu and Kashmir to Canada, an official spokesman said.

The delegation headed by President ICCC Ripudaman S Dhillon held a special session with officials and private stakeholders including principal secretary industries and commerce Ranjan Prakash Thakur and Managing Director J&K Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) Ankita Kar.

The spokesman said the JKTPO and ICCC will work in partnership for enhancing bilateral trade between India and Canada.

Described J&K as a hub of exponential opportunities and a virgin territory from the aspect of attracting global attention and investment, Thakur said J&K has huge potential in the sectors of hospitality and tourism.

Kar presented views, policies, incentives and potential export products of the Union Territory with specific focus on GI products.

President ICCC said the focus would be accorded on sectors like agriculture, hospitality, immigration, realty, information technology and infrastructure.

"All these sectors have incredible potential to become in-

ICAI Signs MoU With J&K To Promote Commerce Education

NEW DELHI: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed an MoU with Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK), for promoting Commerce Education among students of the Union Territory, said an official statement on Monday.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed for a period of five years during the outreach meeting held with principals of Kashmir valley, it added. The MoU has been signed for promoting commerce education amongst Government and Government aided Secondary and Higher / Senior Secondary school students, officials said.

"The commerce education plays an utmost important role in the inclusive growth of industry and the whole economy. With Kashmir having a rich pool of talent, the young students need to be nurtured in the proper way so that the young generation of today shall be able to contribute to the nation and society through its knowledge and skills," it said.

The ICAI had announced a 75 per cent course fee waiver for all levels of CA course for students from the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and for North-Eastern States. (PTI)

strumental in the growth story for enhancing trade relations between the two countries, Dhillon said.

He said growing interest of Indo-Canadian Diaspora into Make in India products will also encourage Canada to further strengthen their trade ties with India especially J&K's unique products having huge market and liking world over. He invited JKTPO to start a help desk in Canada.

The event focused on promotion of investment and exports along with facilitating business linkages and direct dialogue between the Indo-Canadian delegation and their extended network with industrial rep-

resentatives from J&K, the spokesman said.

He said the discussions revolved around promoting exports of traditional exportable products from J&K like Saffron, Basmati Rice, Pashmina and Kani Shawls, Carpets, Honey, Kashmiri Chilli, Walnuts besides innovative ideas like Medical Tourism.

On the occasion, women entrepreneurs, start-ups and exporters presented their products and services from sectors like education, handloom and handicrafts, agro-based and horticulture products before the delegation which received overwhelming response, the spokesman said.

AAP Holds Protest, Demands Removal Of Toll Plazas From Jammu-Pathankot Highway

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Aam Adami Party (AAP) held a protest here on Monday, demanding that toll plazas on the Jammu-Pathankote highway be removed, officials said.

AAP leader Advocate Manish Chopra along with 200 activists and lawyers took out a protest rally at the Sarore toll plaza, they said.

"The toll plazas in Jammu and Kashmir should be removed. There are no toll plazas in Union Territories. Jammu and Kashmir should either be given back the status of state or toll plazas should be removed," Chopra

told the reporters.

According to the policy of setting up of toll plaza by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, it should be erected after every 60 kilometres, he said.

"Two toll plazas have been set up in a span of less than six kilometres, which is illegal. This should be removed," the AAP leader said.

Hitting out at the BJP for "failure on all fronts" in Jammu and Kashmir, the AAP leaders asked the travellers not to pay toll at the plaza.

As a mark of protest, the demonstrators presented flowers to the toll plaza staff and police personnel during the rally.

Chairperson DDC Ramban Calls On LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Shamshad Shan, Chairperson, District Development Council Ramban on Monday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan.

During the meeting, the DDC Chairperson and the Lt Governor discussed various matters pertaining to the development of District Ramban.

Shan also submitted a memorandum of demands including strengthening and rationalization of staff of Education department in the district; proper utilization of local workforce by

Railway Construction company, besides demands of bus stands, Mini Secretariat, and more fire stations in Ramban.

The Lt Governor paid a patient hearing to all the demands put forth by the DDC Chairperson and said that the genuine demands and issues would be taken into consideration for their early redressal.

He further urged the Chairperson to continue her endeavors in highlighting and addressing the needs of the people as a vital member of the grassroots democracy. He assured her of all support from the UT administration.

All J&K Colleges To Start Skill Courses This Year: Kansal



JAMMU: The Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal said on Monday that all colleges in Jammu and Kashmir will start skill courses in the ongoing year.

"A good college strives to give employability to youth and its strength lies in its academic excellence. The quality and quantum of improvement it brings in lives is the true test of its impact on society," Kansal said, during e-inauguration of an additional block in Government Degree College Marh.

The Principal Secretary assured that construction of the college campus would be started in this financial year and it would be ready to move by early next year. The college runs from a pre-fabricated structure at present.

It was assured by the Principal Secretary that the UT administration would provide more pre-fabricated structures for the college in the present financial year.

It was also suggested that the college submit detailed project report, to Director Planning, for additional infrastructural requirement of the college.

During his address, Kansal lauded the college for attracting sizeable number of student admission particularly girl students. He called the feat 'signs

of a good college' and said that the college has been successful in fulfilling local aspirations and requirement of young students. He also appreciated the college for successful commencement of skill development and skill enhancement courses.

Among other things, the Principal Secretary directed colleges to prepare framework of courses to be provided under the National Education Policy and provide holistic development to young students. He also urged them to improve in rankings and get accredited under NAAC norms. With regards to the policy, the Principal Secretary announced that all government colleges would start giving skill development courses.

He called for giving students facility to provide feedback on quality of instruction through feedback system. In return, it would provide teachers a chance to improve and build on their strengths, said the Principal Secretary and added that set guidelines in this regard would also be introduced.

The Principal Secretary suggested for starting pre-admission and career counselling facility in colleges and advised them improvement of surroundings, cleanliness of common areas and toilets.

TRANSFORMING J&K | 200 Schools In Tribal Areas Being Converted To Smart Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government is continuously making efforts to protect the interests of tribal people, including their land, education and upliftment of their socio-economic status.

Last year, J&K government scripted history with Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, handing over individual and community rights certificates to the beneficiaries of Gujjar, Bakarwal and Gaddi Sippi communities under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

The initiative was hailed as a significant step with a potential to transform the lives of members of tribal communities across

Jammu and Kashmir.

Describing the occasion as "historic", Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making it possible to implement the Act in the Union Territory (UT), and said the move will usher a new era of empowerment and prosperity for the deprived tribal population here.

The tribal communities were not only provided rights on forest land, but they also got rights over minor forest produce. The government, in coordination with the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, will establish infrastructure for collection, value addition, packaging, and distribution of this forest produce.

In areas where community rights have been granted, Rs 10 crore is provided for infrastructure development including works on roads, power supply, Anganwadi centres etc.

The community had struggled for more than 14 years to get their rights, it was only in Manoj Sinha led administration, rights were conferred upon the tribal community through implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, keeping in mind the basic spirit of social equality and harmony as guided by the constitution of country and the Parliament.

For providing education on modern lines to Tribal children, the UT government's started

an ambitious project of transforming 200 Schools into Smart Schools in Tribal areas at a cost of Rs 40 crores. The modernization of Smart Schools initiative would be completed by March 2022.

Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Tribal communities for the historic beginning of the new era of educational empowerment of Tribals in J&K.

"Our priority is to secure the future of tribal children. Smart schools in tribal & remote areas equipped with modern facilities will develop scientific temper in children and make them future-ready, besides arresting the drop-out rate", the Lieutenant Governor said after the launch of the initiative.

J&K administration is collectively spending around Rs 104 crore to strengthen school infrastructure in tribal areas and establish a strong educational ecosystem for the tribal community. Besides Smart schools, Rs 8.50 crore were spent on the modernization of hostels of the Tribal Department and new hostels are being built at a cost of Rs 4 crores in July.

The UT administration has set up two Eklaya Model Schools in Rajouri, one each in Anantnag, Poonch, Kulgam and Bandipora.

For the welfare of the tribal population, J&K UT Govt implements and devises various programmes and schemes to fill critical gaps taking into account

the situation of STs through financial assistance and initiatives. These include economic, educational and social development through institution building in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes.

To ensure that Tribal youth excel in professional fields, 500 youth were selected for different professional courses with aid of Government.

"An annual outlay of Rs 30 cr has been earmarked for scholarships of tribal students. Fifteen hostels for tribal students were upgraded and modernized," an official said.

The government of India has also approved a project for Tribal Transit Accommodation at eight

locations to be constructed in Jammu and Kashmir at an estimated cost of Rs 28 crore.

For economic empowerment of the Tribal population, Tribal Affairs Department has rolled out a plan for the establishment of Milk Villages, Milk Chilling plants(MCP), Milk Product Processing and other facilities in tribal villages aimed to support milk production and supply chain in these areas. The project is aimed at providing employment to more than 1500 tribal youth and infrastructure creation in Phase-I which will be followed by expanded coverage of all districts.

Sixteen villages have been taken up in Phase-I for the estab-

JKSC & YSS Unveil Sports Calendar Under 'My Youth My Pride'



Kayaking race held from Zero Bridge to Downtown in Jhelum

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a colourful water sports event held on the banks of river Jhelum in Srinagar, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta unveiled the calendar of sports activities in Kashmir.

The race was flagged off by Chief Secretary, J&K in which around 100 participants including boys and girls participated. More than 800 athletes from various other sports disciplines also attended the function besides thousands who watched the race from the banks of river Jhelum along the entire course of the race.

Meanwhile in yet another function held in the historic MA Stadium Jammu, Principal Secretary to government, Youth Services and Sports department Alok Kumar unveiled the sports activities calendar in presence of mammoth gathering of around 3000 players and coaches. A cricket match for blind cricketers was also played during the event.

In Kashmir division, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta presided over the function as the chief guest, while as P.K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir was the guest of honour and District Commissioner Srinagar, Ajaz Asad along with Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other officers and officials from various other government departments including Department of Information, Health, SDRF, NDRF, Tourism, JKTDCC, J&K Police, Srinagar Municipal Corporation etc. were also present on the occasion.

While declaring the tournament open, Alok Kumar, stressed upon all the stakeholders especially coaches to play an important role in tapping the talent in the rural areas and that they should customize the coaching programmes to accommodate talent from such areas.

Dr. Mehta while terming it as a historic day in the sports of J&K as the event of Kayaking was being organ-

ised for the first time in the gushing waters of river Jhelum. He said, "scope of such activities will be expanded to still waters of Manasbal, Wular, Nigeen Lake and all other major water bodies of the union territory".

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta while addressing the participants said that after successfully involving more than 17 lakh youth in different sports activities last year, the government is aiming to double the figure this year.

Meanwhile, in Jammu Alok Kumar stressed providing every possible help to athletes from weaker economic backgrounds so that all talent is brought to the fore and reaches its deserved platform.

He also emphasized that government will engage maximum youth in sports and games and provide them a healthy environment to grow.

Earlier in the day, Nuzhat Gul Secretary Sports Council presented welcome address and vote of thanks in Kashmir. She thanked all the dignitaries and distinguished guests for sparing their precious time to encourage all involved in sports especially sports persons.

The welcome address in Jammu was presented by Dr. Zaffar Iqbal Chief Accounts Officer, Sports Council, who while welcoming the chief guest and other participants also gave gist of activities organized at the Panchayat level in both the regions of J&K. Moreover, the proceedings of the function were conducted by Ashok Singh Divisional Sports Officer, Jammu who also presented the vote of thanks in the end. Administrative officer, J&K Sports Council Sheikh Riyaz also interacted with the players and coaches.

Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir Nuzhat Farooq and Incharge J&K Sports Council Water Sports Centre Bilques Mir was also present in the function held in Srinagar along with other officials and coaches of the Sports Council. While as in Jammu, many officials from Sports Council including SP Singh, Manager MA Stadium, Satish Gupta, Manager Indoor Sports Complex, MA Stadium were also present on the occasion.

DC B'pora Hands Over Sports Items To YSS Officers For Gurez Youth



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad on Monday handed over various sports kits to ZPEO Gurez for onward distribution among various Sports Clubs and associations of Gurez.

The DC handed over sports kits worth 1.60 lakh including footballs, volleyballs, Nets, uniforms, shuttlecocks, rackets, cricket bats besides other sports equipment.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the district administration is keen to develop sports infrastructure in the dis-

trict under different schemes.

Dr. Owais urged the youngsters of the Gurez valley to spend leisure time in sports activities for their overall development. He said the people, especially youth of Gurez, need to do more physical exercise as they remain indoors during winters and the summer is high time for them to increase their sports activities.

Joint Director Planning, Imtiyaz Ahmad, ZPEO Gurez Nazir Ahmad, In-charge Activities Bandipora Nasir Hussain, In-charge activities Gurez, Shah Mohammad Dar and other senior officials of the district were present on the occasion.

DC Kulgam Inspects Progress On Khudwani Indoor Stadium

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Monday visited Khudwani area and inspected the pace of progress on under-construction indoor sports stadium, here.

The DC on the occasion directed executing agency to speed up the pace of the work in order to ensure

the completion of work on indoor stadium within stipulated time.

It was informed that the indoor stadium is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore.

Later, the DC also inspected various sites/places where administration has launched massive anti encroachment drives.

The DC was accompanied by ADC, ACR, DIO, DYSSO, Tehsildar Qaimoo and other officers.

U-17 Girls Athletics Meet Begins In Doda

Observer News Service

DODA: District Development Council vice Chairperson, Sangeeta Rani on Monday inaugurated the U-17 girls' athletic event here at Sports Stadium Doda under the ongoing Sansad Khel Spardha block level competitions.

In the 100 metre race Insha Banoo of Changa Block secured first place, while Shazia Banoo (of Gundana block) ended at 2nd place and Nadhiya Kousar (of Changa block) bagged the 3rd place.

In the 200 metre race, Shazia Banoo (of Gundana Block) won 1st prize and Kajal Devi (of Gundana) and Nadhiya Kousar (of Changa) got second and third places, respectively.

Similarly, in the 400 metre competition, Asma Banoo (of Chiralla) got 1st place, Nisha Devi (of Khellani) got 2nd place and Rozina Banoo (of MC Doda) bagged 3rd position.

The matches of U/17 Girls Volleyball, Kabaddi, and athletics shall culminate today.

IPL 2022

Rajasthan Face Royal Challengers Bangalore In Battle Of Royals

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Rajasthan Royals would aim to build on their promising start to the season when they take on Royal Challengers Bangalore, a side that is yet to unlock its potential, in the Indian Premier League here on Tuesday.

Rajasthan come into the game following their 23-run win over Mumbai Indians.

Bangalore, led by Faf Du Plessis, head into the match after a narrow three-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders and would be looking to be more convincing.

The Wankhede track has been aiding the pacers initially and both the teams can take advantage of it.

For Rajasthan, opener Butler is in sublime form and can pummel any attack to submission, like he did on Saturday en route to a memorable hundred. He would however, need support from fellow opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal and one-day Devdutt Padikkal, who would be itching to get among the runs.

After his half-century in the first game, RR skipper Sanju Samson was unable to convert the start against Mumbai Indians. Knowing his ability to hit sixes at will, Samson would be more than keen to find consistency and lead from the front.

Another important cog in



their wheel is West Indies batter Shimron Hetmyer, who has played useful cameos in the first two games. The top five, if they get going, can make things hard for the RCB bowlers.

On the bowling front, RR are unlikely to tinker with their combination. Trent Boult, Prasad Krishna and Navdeep Saini held their nerve against Kieron Pollard and were right on the money.

Eight overs of Ashwin and Chahal can turn the game on its head and their contribution could prove decisive.

For Bangalore, their bowlers led by Sri Lankan leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga performed their task with perfection against KKR.

While Hasaranga will be key

in stopping Samson and Co, pacers David Willey, Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj, who combined to take four wickets against KKR, would need to come good again.

Also death overs specialist Harshal Patel will have to be at his best if RCB aim to contain a powerful RR batting unit.

More than the bowling, batting has been a concern for RCB. While opener Anuj Rawat needs to show consistency, Du Plessis also will have to lead from the front and get a big score.

It is still not clear whether Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell will be available for the team's third game of the season.

Under Pressure After 3 Losses, Jadeja Lucky To Have Dhoni By His Side

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Ravindra Jadeja is feeling the heat at the start of his captaincy stint at CSK but he is glad to have the cool head of M S Dhoni to rely upon in high pressure situations, even allowing himself to field outside the circle.

The defending champions have lost all three of their matches this season.

Less than a week before the IPL opener on March 26, Dhoni had handed over the captaincy to Jadeja.

However, it appears Dhoni continues to be part of on-field decision-making from behind the stumps, allowing Jadeja, who is one of the best fielders in the world, to stand in the deep.

In the match against Lucknow Super Giants, it seemed Dhoni was calling the shots towards the end when he handed the ball to Shivam Dube in the 19th over.

"No, the last match (against LSG) was a high scoring game so there are chances of catches at deep mid wicket and our thinking was that it would be better a good fielder had to be there.

"So, I was not able to communicate with the bowlers much," Jadeja said at the post-match press



conference after his side's 54-run loss to Punjab Kings on Sunday.

"But Mahi bhai gives inputs, that is good, he is so experienced so we don't have to look anywhere else for advice. He's a legend, and has been captaining for so many years, that experience is there in our dressing room only so we are lucky to have his advice."

Despite a disappointing start to his captaincy stint, Jadeja insisted that he felt ready to lead the side when he was informed about his new role.

"I have been preparing for captaincy since I was told me a few months ago. Mentally I was ready to lead, I didn't have any

pressure on me, backed my instincts, just thinking and whatever thoughts come in my mind I go for it."

CSK slumped to their third defeat of the season, but Jadeja is confident that a win could change things for the four-time champions.

"In T20 cricket only one match is required to gain momentum and then the winning streak begins. We are searching for that one win.

"Once that comes, everyone is experienced in the team and know their roles. We are just working hard to get in the rhythm and waiting for our plans to click."

Swan Song: Ross Taylor Plays Last Innings For New Zealand

Agencies

HAMILTON: Ross Taylor made 14 for New Zealand against the Netherlands in the third one-day international on Monday, coming to the crease and leaving it to a standing ovation.

The match was Taylor's 450th and last for New Zealand before he retires at the end of a 16-year international career. The 38-year-old batsman played his last Test against South Africa earlier this year but decided to make this match on his home ground at Seddon Park his final bow.

His children MacKenzie, Jonny and Adelaide stood beside him during the national anthems and he came and went through an honor guard formed by Netherlands players.

Taylor played his first one-day international for New Zealand in 2006 and his first test the following year. He went on to play 112 tests, scoring 7,683 runs including 19

centuries, and 236 one-day internationals in which he made 8,593 runs. He also scored 1,909 runs in



102 Twenty20 internationals.

Taylor had a long wait for his last innings Monday. New Zealand batted first after winning the toss and a 203-run partnership for the second wicket between Martin Guptill and Will Young delayed his appearance until the 39th over. As soon as he appeared the crowd rose to its feet. Taylor hit a six among his 14 runs before mistiming a ball from Logan van Beek and offering the bowler a simple return catch.

He turned toward the changing room for the last time with a faint smile on his face. The opposing players formed up on

either side as he walked slowly from the field, acknowledging the long ovation of the crowd.

Taylor has long been a fan favorite for his steadiness, reliability and his ready smile. "For me it was just being a player that tries fight in as many situations as possible, gave it my all, played with a smile on my face and hopefully represented my country proudly and with a lot of respect," Taylor told Radio New Zealand.

"That's always what I wanted to do — play for my country. And hopefully that's something it'll be cool to be remembered for." (AP)

Pakistan Favourites In One-Off T20 Match Against Australia



Reuters

LAHORE: A buoyant Pakistan led by in-form skipper Babar Azam start as favourites against depleted world champions Australia in their only Twenty20 international on Tuesday in Lahore.

Azam proved why he is the world's top one-day batsman with back-to-back hundreds to help Pakistan win the 50-over series at the weekend and he is just as deadly in the shorter version of the game.

Azam's 276 runs in three matches, combined with opener Imam-ul-Haq's 298, helped Pakistan clinch the series 2-1, including chasing down a record 349 in the second game.

"We were on the receiving end of a couple of great knocks from Babar and Imam," said Australia skipper Aaron Finch.

Australia's interim head coach Andrew McDonald also singled out Azam as the danger man. "Pakistan has always been a handful in their own conditions," he said.

"Babar Azam has done incredibly well in the ODI series to

make it really difficult for us."

An injury-hit Australia will field just three players from the side that beat Pakistan in the semi-final of the Twenty20 World Cup in Dubai last year.

Australia went on to win the title, with Mitchell Marsh playing a starring role in the final against New Zealand. The all-rounder is out injured this time.

Pakistan have the edge in overall results, having won 12 of their 22 Twenty20 matches against the tourists. One match was tied and one produced no result.

McDonald-backed skipper Finch to return to form after back-to-back ducks in the last two ODIs, following just 23 in the first.

"He has that ability to work through these patches," McDonald said.

"Do we think he is still good enough to play at this level? 100 percent yes and that is as simple as it gets for us," McDonald said spinner Ashton Agar and reserve wicketkeeper Josh Inglis should be available for selection after missing the ODI series following positive tests for Covid.

Netherlands Coach Van Gaal Says He Has Prostate Cancer

Agencies

THE HAGUE: Netherlands national football team coach Louis van Gaal has revealed that he is being treated for an aggressive form of prostate cancer but still plans to lead the team at the World Cup in Qatar in November.

Van Gaal told Sunday night Dutch talk show "Humberto" that players in the team did not know about his diagnosis even though he was receiving night-time treatment during four training camps.

"You don't tell something like this to people you work with because it could influence their choices, their energy or whatever, and I thought, 'they shouldn't know,'" he said.

He said he has undergone 25 radiation therapy treatments.

"I have been to the hospital in the evening or night in every period, without the players knowing,"



the 70-year-old coach said. Van Gaal lost his first wife to cancer.

"It's part of life. I have experienced so much with disease and death, in my own family, my wife," he said. "I have probably been enriched as a person by all those experiences I have had with it."

Van Gaal is in his third stint as Netherlands coach. He led the team to the semifinals of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. He also has coached clubs including Barcelona, Manchester United, Bayern Munich and Ajax, leading the Amsterdam club to the Champions League title in 1995.

MATCHDAY: Benfica-Liverpool, City-Atléti In Champions League



Agencies

A look at what's happening in the Champions League on Tuesday:

BENFICA vs. LIVERPOOL

Liverpool will continue its quest for a quadruple of major trophies when it visits Benfica, considered one of the easiest teams in the draw for the last eight. Jurgen Klopp will have a full squad available for the first time since he took charge of the team in 2015. Right back Trent Alexander-Arnold was rested against Watford on Saturday in the Premier League after injury but is expected to return. Benfica is considered an underdog but has already finished ahead of Barcelona in the group stage and won in the last 16 against Ajax, another team with a free-flowing attack like Liverpool's. Benfica coach Nelson Verissimo also is expected to have all his players available for the first leg at the Estádio da Luz, including Morocco international Adel Taarabt, who had been out injured. Benfica had been unbeaten in nine straight matches in all competitions before losing at

Braga in the Portuguese league on Friday.

MANCHESTER CITY vs. ATLÉTICO MADRID

It's the first competitive match between two teams who are looking to win the Champions League for the first time. Both have reached the final, with Atlético losing to Real Madrid in 2014 and '16 and City beaten by Chelsea last year. City is heading into a crunch period of the season with the two legs against Atlético coming either side of a Premier League title showdown with Liverpool on Sunday. First-choice center back Ruben Dias is unlikely to play in any of those games as he recovers from a hamstring injury while right back Kyle Walker completes a three-match European suspension. Atlético is back in Manchester having beaten United 1-0 away last month to advance from the last 16. That's one of the six games the Spanish champions have won in a row — their longest winning streak since February 2018. The winner over two legs will face Chelsea or Real Madrid in the semifinals.