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P3 CITY

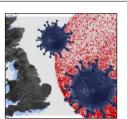
POST COVID PANDEMIC KASHMIRIS KEEP 'DATE WITH DATES'

After Covid pandemic affected the sale of dates for two consecutive years, this Ramazan, Kashmiris are keeping



1,000,000 DEATHS

people, visualizing what a million of anything looks like is an impossible task. The human brain just isn't built to comprehend such large



P7 STATE

Nearly 6000 flats are being constructed in different districts of Kashmir Valley to accommodate



Iftar Sehri FIQAH **HANAFIYA** 6:57 4:47 JAFARIYA

Quote! The antidote for fifty

enemies is one friend

- Aristotle

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Reports 12 New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: As many as twelve more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday while no fresh fatality due to the virus was reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, eleven new cases of Covid-19 More on P6

Teacher Suspended Over Corporal Punishment

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday suspended a teacher for allegedly inflicting corporal punishment to two girl students in Rajouri district of Jammu division. "A report has been received through More on P6

JK Wagf Board unairperson Meets PM

NEW DELHI: A delegation from Jammu and Kashmir, including its Waqf Board chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. Andrabi was recently elected the head of Wagf Board which manages Muslim community land More on P6

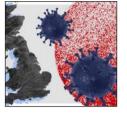
Teen's Body Retrieved From River

JAMMU: The body of a 16-yearold boy was fished out from the Ujh river in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Tuesday, nearly a week after he drowned while taking a bath, officials said. Abhi Kumar Bhagat, a resident of Phinter village, drowned in Ujh river near Panjtirthi on March 31, they said. A joint rescue operation to trace the boy was launched by the More on P6

a date with almost 80 varieties of dates including those



As of April 2022, there have been nearly 1 million confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. For most



5900 FLATS FOR KP EMPLOYEES COMING UP KASHMIR VALLEY: GOVT

thousands of Kashmiri migrant employees serving



'We're With You': How Fasting Muslims Stood By Their Pandit Neighbours

Auqib Javeed

ukhtar Lone was offering Magrib prayers on ▲4th April 2022 when a deafening din erupted outside.

In the melee-type of situ-ation created by some re-sounding gunshots, Mukhtar stepped out to see his village pharmacist—a Kashmiri Pandit—being rushed to a nearby hospital in an emergency condition.

Mukhtar others. skipped his meals to be at the

who had received bullet injuries on leg, arm and abdomen.

But while the fasting villagers of Choutigam, Shopian were trying to fathom the situation, the police in a statement said that militants fired upon a Kashmiri Pandit identified as Bal Krishan aka Sonu, 39, near his house at Choutigam Shopian.

He was immediately evacuated to a nearby hospital where he is recuperating fast. But as soon as the news



rushed to Sonu's home to share his family's grief.

"Whatever happened highly condemnable," told Observer hours after the incident sparked an overwhelming solidarity response.
"As a person and pharma-

cist, Sonu is very helpful who even attends a health emergency at midnight. The attack on him is an attack on us all."

A day after the attack, villagers in Choutigam were in a

deep shock - standing in solidarity with the grieving family.

Anil Bhat, Sonu's sibling, told Kashmir Observer that at around 7:15 on Monday, he and his brother were at their medical shop in Shopian when two "bike-born" assailants barged inside and fired upon Sonu-leaving him in the pool of blood.

"I was devastated as my brother was crying for help, Anil recalled.

"We've been living here for decades and never More on P6

Redrawing J&K's Political Map

Commission Takes Public Feedback In Srinagar

Assures To Consider Genuine Suggestions, Grievances In **Accordance With** The Act

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Delimitation Commission, which is on a twoday visit to Jammu and Kashmir to meet public and civil society groups for receiving suggestions and objections on its draft proposal, on Tuesday held discussions with scores of representatives and individuals here.

Scores of individuals and groups including from many political parties, and Panchayati Raj Institutions members, met the commission which has been tasked to redraw the boundaries of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Monday, the commission, headed by Justice (retired) Ranjana Prakash Desai, had meetings with public, civil society groups and political parties from all districts of the lammu region.

The commission met delegations in two sittings. The first was from 10 am to 12 noon where people from Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian met the



commission. The second sitting was from 12 noon to 2 pm during which people from Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla participated.

The members of the pubic and political parties 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.

Apni Party state secretary, Muntazir Mohi-ud-Din, who met the commission, said the commission's draft proposal has created inconvenience to people in many areas.

"Some areas have been cut off from their constituencies and joined with others, which has created problems for the

as to the Delimitation Commission and the Election Commission. We have raised the issue of many

areas being joined with far away constituencies across the UT. We want them to be reconsidered."

SOME AREAS HAVE BEEN CUT OFF from their constituencies and joined with

others, which has created problems for the people. We had already given representations

to the commission through the deputy commissioners of the concerned districts, as well

representations to the commission through the deputy commissioners of the concerned districts, as well as to the Delimitation Commission and the Election Commission. We have raised the issue of many areas being joined with far away constituencies across the UT. We want them to be reconsidered,' he said. The Apni Party leader said the party has also demanded an increase of an assembly constituency in Srinagar as the city has a huge population. He said the approach of the com-

mission was positive. "They had called us today to discuss those issues. We raised our issues, we feel the approach of the commission is positive and we hope that our issues will be taken care of," he told reporters outside the venue. More on P6

Grows 7.5 Pc In FY22

J&K Economy

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The economy of Jammu and Kashmir registered 7.5 per cent growth in last fiscal year on various initiatives undertaken by the finance department, an official said.

The department took various initiatives for completion of more projects than in previous years, enhancement of revenue collection, besides ensuring financial discipline for improving public spending and efficient treasury management to clear all the bills in a time bound manner.

The Union Territory recorded a significant hike of 25.38 per cent in tax revenue collection during 2021-22 over the last fiscal year.

"The economy of J&K has improved significantly and during the year More on P6

Chinese Troops In Eastern Ladakh **Learning Hindi**

NEW DELHI: Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops, stationed at the disputed Line of Actual Control with India in eastern Ladakh, have started learning Hindi language, indicating they are not moving back

CCTV-7, China's military TV network devoted to the PLA, has recently broadcast visuals of PLA soldiers deployed near Pangong Tso learning Hindi. It showed a notebook of a soldier which says: "Hum Chini Sainik hain. Yeh humare commander hain. Hum batcheet kare? (We are Chinese soldiers and this is our commander. Shall we talk)?" The state media broadcast

headline stated: More on P6

Kashmir Inc Meets PM, Submits 14-Page Memorandum

Demand Direct Flights To Saudi, Model Carpet Village; Waiver In GST Penalties



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A traders delegation led by Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) president Sheikh Ashiq on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and submitted a 14-page memorandum, se port for revival of the economy of the Valley.

The delegation included Hotelier Club president Mushtaq Chaya, JKHARA president Showkat Choudry and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kashmir chapter, president Baldev Singh Rana. The meeting was coordinated by Jammu and Kashmir Waqf chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi.

"We had a very good meeting with the prime minister and issues pertaining to trade, commerce and industry were discussed at length," Ashiq told PTI.

He said the delegation raised various issues pertaining to the revival of local business, economic reforms and the need for more international direct flights

Srinagar Sharjah, Dubai and Jeddah besides early establishment of the already announced model carpet village.

"The prime minister assured the delegation that necessary efforts will be made for the development of business in Kashmir and we are expecting some good announcement soon," Ashiq said.

In the memorandum, the KCCI called for direct flights from the Srinagar International Airport to Ieddah (Saudi Arabia) to facilitate smooth travel of 'Umrah and Haj' pilgrims and uninterrupted service between Srinagar and Sharjah-Dubai at least once a week.

The KCCI said the overall losses incurred over the years have resulted in unprecedented level of stress on the working capital and finances of local business establishments.

"Though there have been several interventions by the government for extending support, the continuous cycle of disruptions has failed their objectives. More on P6

We're Addressing Concerns Of **Small & Marginal Farmers: LG**

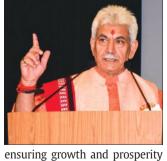
Says J&K Has Registered A Record Increase In Terms Of Area Covered Under Organic Certification

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Union Territory administration is addressing the concerns of small & marginal farmers, and instead of narrow silos, agriculture & allied sector is being developed to ensure farm sustainability for the farmers, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Tuesday.

He made these remarks while addressing the first Zonal Convention on Natural Farming at SKUAST-Jammu, an official spokesperson said.

two-day tion on the theme "Natural Farming: A National Priority for Human Health and Ecological Restoration" will focus on the major thrust areas of environmental safety, public health and agricultural sustainability towards



of the farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, the official spokesperson said, that the LG congratulated AGRIVISION and SKUAST-Jammu for organizing the convention on the relevant topic of

natural farming. Sinha, he said, also stated that such deliberations will help the policy makers, More on P6

Srinagar Records Warmest March In 131 Years

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: On the same day when the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) delivered a dire assessment and warning in its latest report released on Monday, Kashmir's independent weatherman released a report, which reveals that Srinagar has recorded the warmest March in the past 131 years.

Notably, the data compiled & shared by Faizan Arif, an independent weather forecaster operating Kashmir Weather, has revealed that the erstwhile state of J&K has witnessed record-breaking temperatures across the valley this March as many stations surpassed their all-time records of highest maximum temperature.

warmest since 2004, while the

mean minimum temperature

stood at 6.7°C, which was the

As per the data available, Srinagar recorded a mean maximum of 20.7°C, which was the

highest ever in 131 years. The overall figure, the data noted, for March was 13.7°C in 2022, and 13.65°C in 2004, thus surpassing the previous record set in 2004.

March 2022 was the warmest in Srinagar since at least 1892. Srinagar recorded a mean maximum of 20.7°C, which was the warmest since 2004. While the mean minimum temperature stood at 6.7°C, which was the highest ever in 131 years.

The data further notes that the overall figure for March was 13.7°C in 2022, and 13.65°C in 2004, thus surpassing the previous record set in 2004. Pertinently, as per the India Meteorological Data, Qazigund recorded a mean temperature of 12.6°C, the warmest since at least 1974. The mean maximum in 2004 was 20.6°C, in 2022 it was 20.4°C. A mean minimum of 6.5°C was More on P6

Attacks On Civilians Show Militants Frustrated: DGP

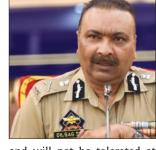
Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh on Tuesday said the recent attacks on civilians in the Union Territory have been orchestrated by Pakistan and are a sign of frustration of militant groups.

"These acts are simply due to the frustration of terror groups and diktats from their masters sitting in Pakistan. It will not deter us in discharging our duties and ensuring peace at all costs. The security forces are committed to this," Singh, the director general of police said.

He said such acts will not be tolerated and action against the perpetrators will be taken in due course of time.

'These attacks are condemnable and have been rightly condemned in the civil society. These acts are inhuman



and will not be tolerated at any cost," Singh told PTI after the wreath-laying ceremony for Head Constable Vishal Kumar of the CRPF, who was killed in a militant attack at Maisuma on Monday.

In two other incidents on Monday, two non-local labourers were injured in a militant attack in Pulwama while a Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper was injured

in a similar attack in Shopian. "The security forces -- CRPF, **I&K Police -- More on P6**



ازعدالت الكيزيكييومجسٹريث درجهاول (تخصیلدارانت ناگ) بااجلاً سعم گلزارصاحب

درخواست منجانب: لطیف احمدوانی ولدغلام محمدوانی ساکنه سرل بالا انت ناگ بغرض اجرائی تاریخ پیداکش سرٹفکئیک بنام نے محمد عسمان وانی ولد لطیف احمد وانی اشتهار بمرادا گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندرعنوان الصدر میں سائل /سایله مذکوره بلانے عدالت بذامیں ایک درخواست علنی بیان پیش کیا ہے سایل اسا کلہ کے پسر کا تاریخ پیدائش18/03/2017 ہے۔ ں ضمن میں سرٹفکہت پیدایش نکانے کا جواہ بےلہذ اسرٹفکیٹ مذکورہ کواجراءکرنے میں لرکسی شخص کوکوئی بھی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ ایک ہفتہ کےاندراندر دوران دفتری اوقات ں پیش کر بے بصورت دیگر کوی تھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ا گیز یکٹومجسٹریٹ درجہاول (تحصلیداراننت ناگ)

rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of CEE Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME:- Aijaz Ahmad Padder S/O:- Ab Rehman Padder R/O: - Khandi Phari Harnag

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Mrs: Haleema Bano W/o: Mohammad Yousuf Wani R/o: New Colony Parnewa Budgam (Transferor) of M Cycle. Vehicle



bearing registration number JK04E - 9385. Chasis number 39658 Engine no. 40173 Model 2019. in favour of Shri.. Mullah Arif Mohd Akhoon S/o. Mullah Gh Mohammad

R/o Hassan Abad Rainwari (Tranferee) as well as HPA cancellation with J&K Bank ltd B/u Budgam. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general

public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.45

Dated 05/04/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Mrs: Khati Begum W/o: Ghulam Nabi Parray R/o: Bonizanigam Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04B 8165 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J & K Bank B/U Beerwah .



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement 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.39 Dated 05/04/2022

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR **NOTICE**



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri: Farooq Ahmad Mir S/o: Abdul Gani Mir R/o: Jawalapora Budgam (Trans-



feror) of LMV Alto 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 8573. Chasis number 53722 Engine no. 32311 Model 2015. in favour of Shri.. Qaiser Ahmad Bhat S/o. Aftab Ahmad Bhat R/o Sonepah Beerwah 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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.37 Dated 05/04/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer **Budgam Kashmir**

Cell Phone Accessories

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G-mail-yardimiciunique92@gmail.com I.G: yardimci_multi_venture_ F.B: yardimci multiVenture

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10X MOBILE STORE

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TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.

Sannat Nagar Srinagar

Contact:-9149965005/9682370979



IANS

your health.

lose the blinds, draw the curtains and turn off all the lights

before bed because exposure to even moderate ambient light-

ing during night-time sleep can harm

According to researchers at North-

western University in the US, even dim light can harm cardiovascular function during sleep and increase insulin resis-

"The results from this study demonstrate that just a single night of expo-

sure to moderate room lighting during

sleep can impair glucose and cardiovas-

cular regulation, which are risk factors

for heart disease, diabetes and metabolic syndrome," said Dr. Phyllis Zee, chief

of sleep medicine at the University's

"It's important for people to avoid or minimise the amount of light exposure

The study, published in the journal

PNAS, tested the effect of sleeping with

100 lux (moderate light) compared to 3 lux (dim light) in participants over a

The investigators discovered that mod-

erate light exposure caused the body to

go into a higher alert state. In this state,

the heart rate increases as well as the

force with which the heart contracts

together with other cardiovascular pa-

rameters are lower at night and high-

tance the following morning.

Feinberg School of Medicine.

during sleep," Zee said.

single night.

and the rate of how fast the blood is conducted to your blood vessels for oxygenated blood flow. "Even though you are asleep, your autonomic nervous system is activated. That's bad. Usually, your heart rate

er during the day," said Dr. Daniela Grimaldi, research assistant professor

Sleeping With Even Low Light Is

Harmful For Health: Study

of neurology at Northwestern. Further, the investigators found insulin resistance occurred the morning after people slept in a light room. Insulin resistance is when cells in your muscles, fat and liver do not respond well to insulin and can't use glucose from your blood for energy. To make up for it, your pancreas makes more insulin. Over time, your blood sugar goes up.

"In addition to sleep, nutrition and exercise, light exposure during the daytime is an important factor for health, but during the night we show that even modest intensity of light can impair measures of heart and endocrine health." Zee said.

"These findings are important particularly for those living in modern societies where exposure to indoor and outdoor nighttime light is increasingly widespread," Zee said.

The results from this study demonstrate that just a single night of exposure

to moderate room lighting during sleep can impair glucose and cardiovascular regulation, which are risk factors for heart disease, diabetes and metabolic syndrome

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my driving license bearing Dl No: JK0320100014560 as Nadeen Ahmad Dar while the correct spelling is Nadeem Ahmad Dar which immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nadeem Ahmad Dar S/o Nisar Ahmad Dar R/o Herpora Batengoo Anantnag.

rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my Vehicle Bearing Regd No:-JK03-6343. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be en-

tertained. Name: - Abdul Rahman Dar S/o:- Habibullah Dar R/O:- Halmal Sangam

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my driving license bearing Dl No: JK1120010001228 as Muzaffar Ahmed Kheri while the correct spelling is Muzaffar Ahmad Khan which immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Muzaffar Ahmad Khan S/o Kalam Ud Din Khan R/o Khashi Teng Bijbehara

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT INSTITUTUE OF **EDUCATION AND TRAININGS, SRINAGAR**

E-mail: dietsgr@gmail.com

Date Sheet for Class 8th Private Examination 2 021

Date	Day	Subject
09/04/2022	Saturday	Mathematics
11/04/2022	Monday	Social Science
12/04/2022	Tuesday	English
13/04/2022	Wednesday	Kashmiri/Pun- jabi/Arabic/Bhoti
15/04/2022	Friday	Urdu/Hindi
16/04/2022	Saturday	Science

Note: The venue of the examination shall be GHSS Amirakadal, Srinagar. DIPK-104/22

Principal DIET Srinagar Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (P.H.E) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION SOPORE

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: - This office E-NIT No.78 of 03/2022, dt. 26-03-2022 S.No: 01. 02 & 03. issued under endstt No. 9203-26 dt 26-03-2022

As requested by President Contractors Association Sopore vide application No. 105, dt. 04-04-2022. the Bid submission end date and the date and time of opening of Bid for the works tendered vide above said ENIT is hereby extended as under:-

01	Bid submission end date	07-04-2022 upto 4:00pm
02	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	08-04-2022 at 11:00am

Rest of the terms and conditions of the said E-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No.EE/PHE/ 43-65 Dated: 04-4-2022

DIPK-112/22

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE **Division Sopore**

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD,

Hema Complex, Adjacent to Gauri Shanker Mandir, Channi Himmat, Sect 03, Jammu. (www.jkssb.nic.in)

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the posts of Assistant Compiler, (Finance Department), Divisional cadre Jammu / Kashmir and Care Taker, (Labour and Employment Department), UT Cadre, Item No 15, 16 and 71, in pursuance of Advertisement Notification No 04 of 2020 - regarding.

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board vide office notice no. SSB/COE/CBT/2022/2311-17 dated 07-03-2022 issued merit List of candidates for the posts of Assistant Compiler, (Finance Department), Divisional cadre Jammu / Kashmir and Care Taker, (Labour and Employment Department), UT Cadre, Item No 15, 16 and 71, in pursuance of Advertisement Notification No 04 of 2020. Keeping in view the need and object, to fill all requisitioned vacancies /posts, the candidates falling in consider-

ation zone and figuring in Annexure "A" to this notification are hereby called to appear physically for Document Verification before the designated Document Verification Committees at Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, Divisional Office, Sehkari Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu (Jammu Roll No Based Candidates) and at Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, Central Office, Zum Zum Building Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Roll No Based Candidates) as per the dates shown against each.

The candidates who fail to appear before the respective Document Verification committee(s) on the scheduled dates shall forfeit their claim for the post at a later stage. Further, the multiple items for which the candidates falling in consideration zone have been considered is annexed as Annexure "B" for convenience/reference of the candidates. The candidates figuring the annexures annexed herewith are required to carry the following documents in original as well as photocopies of the following documents i.e.

Copy of Online Application form. D.O.B Certificate (10th Diploma / Marks card).

10+2 Marksheet and Diploma.

Reservation category certificate, if applicable. Domicile certificate.

Bonafide certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the Controller /Registrar of the concerned University in respect of candidates, who have obtained degrees from the Universities/ Colleges/Institutes outside the State of J&K, other than Central Universities

Other documents as per prescribe qualification shown in the advertise-

Some candidates are figuring in reserved categories, based on the details they have incorporated in their data i.e., online application form. Their respective claims on this account are further subject to production of valid Reserve Category Certificate

DIPK-68/22

By Order.

No.SSB/COE/2022/3636-43

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS Controller of Examination Dated:-01-04.2022

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9 Butchers Booked For Violating Sanitary, **Hygienic Standards**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After complaints of unhygienic meat being sold to people, the Food Safety Department (FSD) on Tuesday launched a special drive in Srinagar and booked 9 butchers under FSS Act.

An official said that on the directions of the Comclude one baker and one meat processing unit were prohibited from carrying further manufacturing of their products as these units were found being run in violation of rules," he said.

He said that the inspection of butcher shops was conducted by a joint team of Food Safety Offi-

Furthermore, the drive to check the quality of eatables especially that of mutton, milk, dates, suji, fresh fruits and vegetables shall be intensified in the coming days

missioner Food and Drugs Administration, a special drive to check the quality of food items during the month of Ramazan has been initiated by the Food Safety Wing of Drugs and Food Control Organization.

He said that during this drive nine prosecutions have been prepared against butchers for violating sanitary and hygienic requirements of Food Safety and Standards Act and about 25 kgs of mutton, which was found unfit for human consumption was destroyed on spot.

"Moreover, during this drive two food processing units which incers and Veterinary Assistant Surgeons from Animal husbandry and Sheep husbandry departments under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar.

"Furthermore, drive to check the quality of eatables especially that of mutton, milk, dates, suji, fresh fruits and vegetables shall be intensified in the coming days."

He said that all food business operators are directed to refrain from malpractices and any deviation shall be dealt strictly as per the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act.

DPS Students Bag AFS Global STEM Change Makers Scholarships

Observer News Service

students of DPS Srinagar, Areen Afaq Ashai of Class 10th and Rahil Ayoub Thakur of Class 12th from DPS Srinagar have received the Global STEM Change maker Scholarship for 2022.

This new initiative aims to provide 5,000 young people worldwide with immersive learning experiences through global tence, and sustainabilityfocused intercultural exchange programs.

The scholarship aims to equip young people to face a changing world by inculcating in them critical knowledge skills in digital science, data science and wider STEM awareness to improve their critical thinking, intercultural awareness and team skills.

For young people, in the age group from 14 to 16, it commences with a virtual curriculum on global competence skills

and culminates in a twoday in-person workshop, focused on sustainable development and local impact. The 2022 workare scheduled shops to take place in Perth, Australia, Cairo, Egypt, Jakarta, Indonesia, Belgium & Italy.

Congratulating the

students, the Principal Shafaq Afshan said, "We are delighted that our students are not just competing on a global level, but also successfully competing to win scholarships. It is a tribute not only to the talent of our students, but also to our teachers who train them." The Chairman Vijay Dhar too congratulated the students, and said "At DPS Srinagar we have always aimed to nurture the talent in the community so that it can compete at all levels - local, national and international. We are constantly in the process of improving and exploring so that the students in the valley don't feel hampered by lack of exposure.



A Sahar Khan beats the drum to wake up residents for pre-dawn meals in the outskirts of Srinagar. KO Phto Abid Bhat

Post Covid Pandemic Kashmiris Keep 'Date With Dates'

Agencies

Srinagar: After Covid pandemic affected the sale of dates for two consecutive years, this Ramazan, Kashmiris are keeping a date with almost 80 varieties of dates including those imported from Medina and Iran.

This Ramazan, dealers selling various dates, recommend a special date variety, Mabroom-to people having diabetes. The other varieties are Medjool, Ajwa, Qalmi etc. Iranian dates are known as Mazafati dates that cost Rs 750 for a fivekg box. As per the dealers in Srinagar.

the costliest date variety is Medjool which is being sold at the rate of Rs 1300. "This variety comes from Jordan," said Adil Ahmed, a dealer. who sells dates in the Maisuma area of Srinagar.

He said that Ajwa dates are good for health which cost Rs 1200 per kilogram.

As the dealers dealing with dates have suffered losses due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, many of them have started home-delivery for the customers. "We will be delivering dates of any variety at the door steps of our customers who come within the six kilometer radius of the city. This is free of cost delivery. If the distance is more than six kilometers', we will charge Rs 50 per kilometer," said Minam Saqib, who sells dates at the busy Mahraja Bazar area of Srinagar.

He said people of Kashmir prefer Aiwa dates for breaking the fast and many others also like Mabroom and other varieties. "Mabroom is good for people having diabetes. Majority of dates come from Saudi Arabia. This year, we have some Iranian date varieties too. Besides, we also have dates from Jordan.

Adil Bashir, who breaks fast

with dates, said he bought Ajwa and Mabroom varieties of dates for himself and his family. "I have a diabetic patient at my home. After coming to know that Mabroom variety suits people with diabetes I decided to buy it," he said, adding that since this variety comes from the holy city of Medina, "let's hope it helps in reducing the sugar levels of my family members.'

Many sellers, however, complained that demand for dates is not that high but it seems to be picking up gradually. "People inquire about the various varieties of dates before buying. This year, we have a large number of varieties as far as dates are concerned. All dates are highly nutritious and keep the person who consumes them energetic throughout the day," said Ghulam Muhammad, another shopkeeper at Mahraja Bazar. (KNO)

DIAL-EMMA

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883



PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS FAJR 4: 47 **ZUHR** 12:34 **ASR** 5:06 Magrib 6:57 **ISHA** 8:21

This Day In History

- 402 Battle at Pollentia: Roman army under Stilicho beats Visigoten 1320 - The Scots reaffirm their independence by signing the Declaration of Arbroath
- 1327 Italian poet Petrarch 1st sets eyes on his beloved Laura
- 1362 Tard-Venus robber bands strike at Brignais, France 1385 John, Master of the Order of Aviz, is made King John I of Portugal
- 1516 A Willaert installed as singer of cardinal Ippolito I d'Este
- · 1664 France & Saxony sign alliance
- 1672 France declares war on Netherlands
- 1722 Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia, ends tax on men with beards 1859 - US recognizes Liberal government in Mexico's War of Reform
- 1869 1st plastic, Celluloid, patented
- 1896 1st modern Olympic games open in Athens Greece [3/25 OS] American, James Connolly, wins 1st Olympic gold medal in mod history
- 1905 Germany receives invitation from Sultan of Morocco to an interna®tional conference to discuss matters relating to Morocco
- · 1906 1st animated cartoon copyrighted 1912 - Electric starter 1st appeared in cars
- 1916 German parliament approves unrestricted submarine warfare
- 1919 Bavaria proclaims itself a soviet republic

From KO Archives

Liquor cinema, major tourist attraction

'We Have To Change With Times': Faroog

Observer News Service

rinagar- A 3-day conference on domestic tourism held rinagar- A 3-day connecence on donicous to a single in SKICC which is being attended by over a hundred delegates from outside the state didn't augur well for hundreds of local delegates as they were put to abject humiliation by chief minister Farooq Abdullah. The stunned 300 locals related with tourism, travel and trade, who had been invited as "honorable guests" were reduced to plebeians, sordid and unworthy creatures who had no choice but to swallow the insult before the "foreign guests".

It so happened that Abdullah started his inaugural speech in a usual dramatic style of his own. Calling Kashmir "A paradise lost which is gradually coming back after that hell towards better days", he wanted how should the tourist trade pick up "in the changing situation" and turned towards media who according to him "blow things out". But fortunate for them he reserved his quota of grievances for them and, the instead took on the "petty local guests" to spill his venom.

He advised them to change attitudes if they wanted tourists to come. "Some of our people are not cordial" he pointed out and then selectively "abused" everyone, from a pony walla to taxi driver. Shikarawala, a tourist guide, travel agent, house boat owner and a hotelier.

Pony wala he said starts his rate from Rs. 100 and ultimately comes down to Rs 25 for a ride. A house boat owner has all the praise for his house boat only and a travel agent whisks a tourist away with all the false claims of providing him the best. "He ridiculed local shopkeepers also for their behaviour towards the tourists. "We never realized that our attitudes have destroyed our tourism", he told the gathering.

Faroog called upon tourism related people to infuse confidence among the tourists that they were safe in "our hands". "No advertising will carry the day but the word of mouth", he emphasised. Expecting to get incentives, the local delegates had to get an admonishing from the Chief Minister for "misuse of electricity and failure to reimburse the dues". "He asked them to pay the tariff as the state was under heavy debt and owes Rs.600 crores to NHPC on power charges. He said his government could no more buy fifty paisa, the current rates in Kashmir. "Government is not here to dish out things", he grumbled. He asked Shikarawalas, hoteliers and house boat owners to declare the coming tourist season as the "season of reduced tariffs" Chief Minister laid special stress on opening of wine shops

and cinemas to attract tourists and revive the tourism.

He said that it was also necessary to meet the financial burden as "wine and cinema form the sources of revenue". Justifying this he said "India is a secular state. I have my religion. vou have your own. I may not drink but I cannot ask others not to do the same. He said Kashmir can't remain a "liquor-free" state and at the same time attract tourists. They should have wine, they want Abdullah added.

On the financial plausibility of the wine, Faroog drew from latest change of policies by Harvana and Andhra Governments who he said had to withdraw ban on liquor under monitory compulsions. He also recalled his father Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's stand when he had objected to ban on liquor in the state on the same logic.

"We have to change with times", Abdullah asserted adding, "wine shops and cinemas have to open for better revenue and comfort of tourists".

(Kashmir Observer, 06 April, 1998)

NIT Organizes Workshop For Field Workers Of KPDCL

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Electrical Engineering in collaboration with Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship Development (IIED) Centre, National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) Tuesday organized a safety awareness workshop and acclamation ceremony for field workers, electrical engineers of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL).

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal was patron of the event, while Managing Director, KPDCL Dr. Bashrat Qayoom (IAS) was the chief guest on the occasion

Dr.M.A Bazaz (Head, EED), Dr. Saad Parvez, (Head, IIEDC), and Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar (Head, T&P) were the Co-patrons of the workshop. Dr.Assadur Rahman (Asst. Prof. EED) was the coordinator for the program.

In his key address, Managing Director, KPDCL Dr. Qayoom said they will not compromise on the safety of field workers and stated that the department is providing training to its field workers, to overcome untoward incidents in

Dr. Qayoom emphasized that a formal MOU would be signed be-

tween the two organizations for assisting the field workers to inculcate a mindset of safety so that frequent accidents are prevented during repair and fault finding.

He also expressed his gratitude to Dr.M.A Bazaz (Head, EED), Dr. Saad Parvez, (Head, IIEDC) for organizing a workshop on a relevant topic, which is the need of the hour.

Dr. Qayoom said both awareness and training are key points on which KPDCL has focused over the past 2 years. Funds are being spent on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other Safety Devices for field staff working round the clock," he said.

Van Service Available For **Students At Bemina**

All the desirous parents who want to avail the van services for their children living in Bemina are requested to contact on following number viz. 7006967265

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in school records has been mistakenly registered as Mohammad Altaf Ganaie Instead of Altaf Hussain Ganaie S/O Tahir Hussain Ganaie R/O Shalina Budgam. now i have applied for its correction If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her obiction in the office of the Madina Public High School Gund Khaja Qasm within a perod of seven days from the date of publication of this be entertained.

S/O Tahir Hussain Ganaie R/O Shalina Budgam

Altaf Hussain Ganaie

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 under Below mentioned particulars

Name: Sayima Akther D/o Ghulam Mohi-din Malla R/o Uchilipora Details of Marks Certificate lost Secondary School Examination (class 10th)

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (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

Roll No 22402746 Session / Year Annual / Pvt. 2019-2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wronlgy written in my passport as Irfan Rehman S/o Abdul Raehman Ganaie While as my correct name is Irfan Rahman S/o Abdul Rahman Ganaie which need to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may fle his/her objection in the passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Irfan Rahman

S/o Abdul Rahman Ganaie R/o Kawoosa khalisa

BMG

Sub Office Magam

SRINAGAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,

BEMINA BY-PASS. SRINAGAR PHONES: 0194-2493191, 0194-2493199 FAX: 0194-2493180 TENDER NOTICE NO: 01/EE of 2022-23

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Development Authority, the Executive Engineer, Srinagar Development Authority, invites tenders by e-tendering system on item rate basis from Registered PWD contractors of J&K UT for below mentioned works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Amount of work	CDR Amount		Cost of Tender Docu- ment	Time of Completion
	Repair/Restora- tion of SDA Gutted Building A' Noor	Rs.6.19lacs	Rs.12500/-	(C&D)	Rs.300/-	(60) days

Position of Funds (Available)

Date of Publishing 30/03/2022.

The Bidding document can be downloaded from the website http://Jktenders.gov.in from 10.00 PM on 31/03/2022 to 18/04/2021 upto 4.00 PM.

a. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http:/jktenders.gov.)n from 06/04/2022 to 18/04/2021 upto 4.00PM. The bids received will be opened at 12.00 Noon on 20/04/2022 on line.^M

b. The complete bidding process will be on line. No: SDA/EE/205-08 Dated 04-04-2022

DIPK-NB-67/22

Executive Engineer Srinagar Dev Authority

OBSERVER 1

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KO VIEW

Spurt In Militant Attacks

ilitants carried out four successive attacks in Kashmir over Sunday and Monday killing a CRPF personnel and critically injuring four others including a Kashmiri Pandit businessman, another CRPF personnel, and two non-local labourers. Bal Krishan, a Kashmiri Pandit, received bullet injuries on his hand and leg. His condition is stated to be stable. Militants also shot at two CRPF personnel in Srinagar's volatile Maisuma area, killing one and injuring another. Two migrant labourers were also attacked at Lajoora village in South Kashmir.

The spurt in attacks has been a cause of concern for the security agencies, who can't protect each and every migrant or Kashmiri Pandit who is in the Valley. The attacks have also proved that militancy remains a formidable challenge for the security forces despite the killings of a large number of militants in recent years. According to an estimate, close to 500 militants, most of them the local youth, have been killed since the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. Though the new estimates have put the number of militants under 200 the first time the figure has fallen below this important psychological threshold - there has been little reduction in the levels of violence.

What is more, security agencies have already warned that the violence could once again scale up this year, with the local militancy expected to be reinforced by the influx of foreign militants - albeit, there have so far been no indications that this is happening. Militancy is largely led by the local youth who come from a demographic of 15 to 25 year olds.

The fresh attacks have been condemned by the major J&K politicians such as Omer Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, both former J&K chief ministers. Going forward, the situation looks unlikely to change for the better anytime soon. In fact, the omens for the future look grim, what with the Taliban back in power in Afghanistan which has naturally emboldened the militant groups. Security agencies have also time and again expressed these fears and warned about the influx of Afghan militants and their sophisticated weaponry into Kashmir.

This calls for New Delhi to change tack in Kashmir. In recent years it has excessively relied on a security-centric approach to Kashmir. But as things stand, its dividends are now increasingly wearing thin. In the process, it has alienated and antagonized a large section of the population. Hence the urgent need for the government to reach out to the people and initiate a political engagement. That certainly can make a redeeming difference.

OTHER OPINON

Questionable Covaxin

he World Health Organization's (WHO) decision to recommend a pause in the supply of Covaxin for export is worrying. This follows an inspection of the company's production facilities between March 14 and 22 that found "deficiencies" in the process to ensure that the vaccine produced is consistently suitable for use. Bharat Biotech, the makers of Covaxin, has said it is committed to addressing these 'Good Manufacturing Process deficiencies' and developing a "corrective and preventive" action plan that it will submit to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). WHO has told countries that for now they should "consider" alternative vaccines but it has also said that the data available with it suggest that Covaxin is safe and effective. The details of these lacunae are not public but Bharat Biotech has said that sophisticated equipment needed to "enhance the process stringency" were unavailable during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not the first time that Bharat Biotech has tangled with WHO. The global body sought information at least nine times from the Hyderabad company before approving it to be a global supplier of Covaxin. In March 2021, the Brazilian health regulator, Anvisa, pointed to several problems with Bharat Biotech's manufacturing plant ahead of an agreement by the company to sell 20 million doses of the vaccine to Brazil. This deal was ultimately terminated, but there has never been clear communication either by Bharat Biotech or the DCGI on the concerns raised by the Brazilian health body.

While India is no stranger to making and supplying billions of vaccine doses, it has historically done so with the benefit of time. The pandemic saw pulling out all the stops and the balance between safety and speed tilting towards the latter by both drug regulators, under pressure from their governments, and vaccine manufacturers, for whom gargantuan demand promised a financial windfall. Other companies, internationally too, have made mistakes in supply. AstraZeneca mistakenly supplied some volunteers who were being tested with the Oxford vaccine with half the required dose that led to surprising results. This was not disclosed until much after the trial results were made public and experts openly questioned the efficacy results. The defining characteristic of a vaccine is its safety profile and its acceptability is premised on its makers and the regulators being transparent about it at all times. Both the Government and Bharat Biotech should strive for better public communication on these fronts.

The Hindu



Ramazan Between Blessings and Responsibilities

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

✓ We should **spend** on the poor, weak and the marginalised; and as we get double reward for the good acts during this month, so we are doubly guilty if we ignore them. This month, among others, teaches us that "if we don't hold the hand of the weak and oppressed, we are abject criminals"

month in which the Qur'an was revealed and fasting prescribed (Surah al-Baqarah, 2: 183-85). Fasting (Sawm) in the month of Ramazan (9th month of lunar calendar) is one of the five pillars of Islam (Arkan al-Islam). Fasting is not just abstaining and desisting from food and drinks (from dawn to dusk), but it is one of the blessings of Almighty Allah which gives us many opportunities to come closer to our Creator; and to serve the Creation in best possible ways, with multifold rewards for every action and deed: from offering extra prayers to dhikr to helping poor and needy, and even uttering 'good word', as stated in a *Hadith:* "It is also charity to utter a good word" (Bukhari & Muslim). The fasting is an act for which the reward is unlimited, as a Hadith in Sahih al-Bukhari states: Allah said, "Every good deed of Adam's son is for him except fasting; it is for Me; and I shall reward (the fasting person) for it"

The Qur'an in Surah al-Baqarah (Q. 2: 183-85) states clearly that achieving Taqwa (piety/ righteousness, or God-consciousness) is the main purpose of the Sawm/ fasting. Moreover, these verses also make it clear that the Qur'an-'Guidance Unto Mankind" (Huddan lil-Nass) with clear 'signs' (Ayaat) for guidance and a criterion between right and wrong (al-Furgan)—was revealed in this very month. Thus, one notes that the importance of the month of Ramazan is the advent of the Revelation of the Qur'an, and it is through understanding, followed by action, of the Commandments (ahkam) in this Divine Book, that we can achieve Taqwa or God-consciousness. In Surah Az-Zumar (39: 28), it is stated clearly: "[It is] an Arabic Quran, free from any distortion—so that people may be mindful". To put it precisely, one finds an interesting and important triad of bliss, delight, and gladness here: fasting in the month of Ramazan, revelation of the Qur'an, and purpose of fasting to achieve Taqwa; and this blissful connection is possible, at its highest level, only in the month of Ramazan.

Ramazan is not only observed as a month of fasting, but it is a

month of 'Responsibilities': of giving charity, of goodness, of generosity, and helping each other. It is a month that fosters communal solidarity and individual piety. On 14th April 2021, Greater Kashmir in its Editorial ("The Month of Relationships") put it beautifully in these words: "The beauty of Ramazan is that it makes an individual look beyond one's self. The other becomes important. And in a world where the other is important, life is most beautiful". Sahih Bukhari reports a Tradition on the authority of Ibn 'Abbas (RA) which "The Messenger (SAAS) was the most generous of all people, and he used to become more generous in Ramazan". It is a month of 'unlimited' rewards as becomes evident from this Tradition of Sahih Muslim: Almighty Allah said: "Every deed of man will receive 10 to 700 times reward, except Sivam (fasting), for it is for Me and I shall reward it (as I like). There are two occasions of joy for one who fasts: one when he breaks the fast and the other when he will meet his Lord".

We should try our utmost to create an atmosphere of fellow feeling. We should spend on the poor, weak and the marginalised; and as we get double reward for the good acts during this month, so we are doubly guilty if we ignore them. This month, among others, teaches us that "if we don't hold the hand of the weak and oppressed, we are abject criminals".

Ramazan is a month which gives us an opportunity to recover, repair, and improve our relationship with Almighty Allah and with the humankind-described as the 'Crown of the Creation' (Ashraf-ul-Makhlugaat). Among other blessings of the month of Ramazan is that it "comes with the prospect of all our sins being forgiven, a night better than a thousand months [Lailat ul Qadr, Q. 97] and with the opportunity to become better and stronger, thus receiving Allah's promises in this life and in the Hereafter".

Ramazan gives an opportunity to tell the world that "we [the Muslims] care for the human race"; "we stand by the poor, by the oppressed, and by the exploited", irrespective of their religion, race, colour, language, culture, community, status, etc. Ramazan is the month of "universal goodness": doing good for everyone, poor, needy, weak, oppressed, deprived, destitute, etc. The Companion Abu Dharr (RA) reports that the Prophet (SAAS) said, "Help a poor person who has a family or do something for an unskilled person", Abu Dharr (RA) asked, "What if I lack the strength to do this?", the Prophet (SAAS) said, "Refrain from doing harm to people. This is an act of charity you do to yourself" (Sahih Bukhari).

Ramazan is a month which gives us an opportunity to come closer to our Creator, to think and care about humankind, and amid the current global crisis it is high time that we devote more and more of our time, energy, and devotion for this greater cause—to care about 'our relations with our Creator' as well as take care and do serve the 'denrived' humankind to $maintain\,a\,perfect\,balance\,between$ Huquq al-Allah (Rights and Duties towards Almighty Allah) and Huquq al-'Ibaad (Rights and Duties towards Fellow Humans) and "Connecting to God must translate into connecting to people. If this month doesn't create an atmosphere of fellow feeling, and if we don't rescue each other in this month, we lose the spirit of this month. ... Blessed are the people who do charity, and help those in need. There is no bigger act than making others happy' (GK Editorial, 14th April 2021).

It is high time that we turn to Allah, repent for our sins, and seek forgiveness, so that we can become more worthy of Mercy, Compassion, and Kindness of the 'Most Gracious, Most Merciful'—Rabb al-Alameen. May this Ramadan prove a blessed and wonderful month for us all! May Allah bring us all closer to Him and to each other! May Allah help us in attaining the spirit of this blessed month!

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

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, at GDC Sogam (Kupwara). Feedback at tauseef. parray21@gmail.com



OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Hogging isn't Fasting

amazan is upon us. It is a month of blessings and mercy. An integral part of Ramazan is restraint. We fast to restrict our impulses of excess. We fast to control our desires — physical, emotional and others. It is also a time when we reflect on our privileges and share these in the form of charity.

However, Ramazan has also been turned into a feast. More than worrying about our Ramazan goals, we worry about new dishes to cook. While it is alright to enjoy iftar with your family, this instance should not set a precedent as though Iftar is supposed to be lavish.

ed to be lavisn. Furthermore, hogging on food with no restraint is bad for your physical health as well. We make high sugar desserts with no concern for the science behind food, especially during ramazan. We then go on to share picture perfect Iftaar pictures on social media. It not only makes people desire food everyone can't afford,

it also makes people crave for company of family members they may have lost.

Let's show some restraint and be

Junaid Shafi

1,000,000 DEATHS

North Atlantic

Ocean

Lindsey Hasak Elizabeth Y. Toomarian

s of April 2022, there have been nearly 1 million confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. For most people, visualizing what a million of anything looks like is an impossible task. The human brain just isn't built to comprehend such large numbers.

We are two neuroscientists who study the processes of learning and numerical cognition - how people use and understand numbers. While there is still much to discover about the mathematical abilities of the human brain, one thing is certain: People are terrible at processing large numbers.

During the peak of the omicron wave, over 3,000 U.S. residents died per day - a rate faster than in any other large high-income country. A rate of 3,000 deaths per day is already an incomprehensible number; 1 million is unfathomably larger. Modern neuroscience research can shed light on the limitations of the brain in how it deals with large numbers - limitations that have likely factored in to how the American public perceives and responds to COVID-related

THE BRAIN IS BUILT TO **COMPARE, NOT TO COUNT**

Humans process numbers using networks of interconnected neurons throughout the brain. Many of these pathways involve the parietal cortex - a region of the brain located just above the ears. It's responsible for processing all different sorts of quantities or magnitudes, including time, speed and distance, and provides a foundation for other numerical abilities.

While the written symbols and spoken words that humans use to represent numbers are a cultural invention, understanding quantities themselves is not. Humans – as well as many animals including fish, birds and monkeys – show rudimentary numerical abilities shortly after birth. Infants, adults and even

rats find it easier to distinguish between relatively small numbers than larger ones. The difference between 2 and 5 is much easier to visualize than the difference between 62 and 65, despite the fact that both number sets differ by only 3.

North Pacific

Ocean

South Pacific

The brain is optimized to recognize small quantities because smaller numbers are what people tend to interact with most on a daily basis. Research has shown that when presented with different numbers of dots, both children and adults can intuitively and rapidly recognize quantities less than three or four. Beyond that, people have to count, and as the numbers get higher, intuitive understanding is replaced by abstract concepts of large, individual numbers.

This bias toward smaller numbers even plays out day to day

NORTH

Numbers are a useful, clear and efficient way to summarize the harms of the pandemic, but the truth is that the brain simply can't understand what it means that a million people have died. By abstracting deaths into impossibly large numbers, people fall prey to the limitations of the mind. In doing so, it's easy to forget that every single numerical increase represents the entire lived experience of another human being

in the grocery store. When researchers asked shoppers in a checkout line to estimate the total cost of their purchase, people reliably named a lower price than the actual amount. And this distortion increased with price – the more expensive the groceries were, the larger the

gap between the estimated and actual amounts.

BAD AT BIG NUMBERS

South Atlantic

Since anything bigger than 5 is too large a quantity to intuitively recognize, it follows that the brain must rely on different methods of thinking when confronted with much bigger num-

Indian

One prominent theory proposes that the brain relies on an inexact method whereby it represents approximate quantities through a sort of mental number line. This line, imagined in our mind's eye, organizes small

to large numbers from left to right (though this orientation depends on cultural convention). People tend to make consistent errors when using this internal number line, often underestimating extremely large quantities and overestimating relatively smaller quantities. For example, research has shown that college students in geology and biology courses commonly underestimate the time between the appearance of the first life on Earth and the dinosaurs - which is billions of years - but overestimate how long dinosaurs actually lived on Earth –

AUSTRALIA

millions of years. Further research looking at how people estimate the value of large numbers shows that many people place the number 1 million halfway between 1,000 and 1 billion on a number

line. In reality, a million is 1,000 times closer to 1,000 than 1 billion. This number line gaffe may visually represent how people people use words like "thousand" and "billion" as category markers that represent "big" and "bigger" rather than distinct

When grappling with numbers outside of everyday experience, precise values just mean

1,000,000 DEATHS

Numbers are a useful, clear and efficient way to summarize the harms of the pandemic, but the truth is that the brain simply can't understand what it means that a million people have died. By abstracting deaths into impossibly large numbers, people fall prey to the limitations of the mind. In doing so, it's easy to forget that every single numerical increase represents the entire lived experience of another human being.

This pandemic has been full of hard-to-comprehend numbers. The filtration efficiency of various face masks, the accuracy of different COVID-19 tests, statewide case numbers and worldwide death rates are all complicated concepts far beyond the brain's intuitive number processing abilities. Yet these numbers - and how they are presented – matter immensely.

If the brain were built to understand these kinds of numbers, perhaps we would have made different individual decisions or taken different collective action. Instead, we now mourn for the million people behind the number.

 $The \ authors \ are \ Doctoral$ Candidate in Developmental and Psychological Sciences, Stanford University and Director, Brainwave Learning Center, Synapse School & Research Associate, Stanford University respectively. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

Practical Tips to Safely Fast During Ramazan

Azra Chatur

he holy month of Ramazan is a special month of the year for Muslims around ne world. This is a time when Muslims connect more deeply with their religion, reflect on themselves, and give back to their

There are different kinds of Muslims and different traditions within the religion. When it comes to Ramazan, fasting is a ritual shared

Fasting during Ramazan involves not eating food or drinking water between sunrise and sunset for the entire month.

Ramazan provides the reward of selfgrowth and the opportunity to learn more about our religion and ourselves. These spiritual rewards require hard work and dedication to praying, a commitment to charity, and willpower when fasting.

Muslims follow a calendar based on the motion of the moon. Every year, Ramazan falls 15 days earlier than the last. Depending on where you live in the world, the days may be short or long. The month often begins with an optimistic

energy, and practitioners may set many spiritual goals. However, it can be easy to falter as you try to maintain your health while fasting and balancing your regular day-to-day responsibilities.

Here are some practical tips and tricks to support a safe, successful fast during Rama-

DON'T SKIP YOUR MORNING MEAL

There are only two opportunities to eat during Ramadan: in the early morning before sunrise (Suhoor) and after sunset in the eve-

The morning meal can be easy to skip, as it's difficult to have an appetite so early in the

However, Nazima Qureshi, RD, MPH and author of The Healthy Ramadan Guide, explains that it's extremely important that you don't skip this meal. The food choices you make will affect your energy throughout the

day.
"A lot of times people will turn to simple carbohydrates for the morning meal," says Qureshi. "But simple carbohydrates will not provide long-term energy."

Instead, she recommends eating whole grains paired with healthy fats and proteins as well as fruits and veggies. These include dishes such as:

- Savory oatmeal
- Power pancakes

many health benefits.

Strawberry-chocolate overnight oats

Drinking water is vitally important and has

Not drinking enough water can result in

energy levels and memoryTrusted Source. manage chronic health conditions and has a role in preventing and treating headachesTrusted Source, migrainesTrusted Source, kidney stonesTrusted Source, and constipationTrusted Source, as well

There's also some evidence that staying hydrated lowers appetite. This is especially useful when you can't eat for the entire day! But how do you stay hydrated when you can't drink water between sunrise and sun-

Use the time before sunrise and after sunset as an opportunity to rehydrate and meet the recommended water intake. Keep a water bottle close throughout the night and drink

It can also be helpful to pay attention to the foods you're eating. While sweets during Ramadan can be very tempting, try to choose foods with high water content instead.

Qureshi recommends integrating waterfilled fruits and vegetables into your evening meal, such as:

Strawberries



poor moodTrusted Source and increased tirednessTrusted Source. This can affect

Maintaining water intake can also help as maintaining blood pressureTrusted

whenever possible.

The month often begins with an optimistic energy, and practitioners may set many spiritual goals. However, it can be easy to falter as you try to maintain your health while fasting and balancing your regular day-to-day responsibilities

- Watermelon
- Cantaloupe
- Cucumbers Zucchini Bell Pepper

Tomatoes

If Ramadan falls during a warmer season, dress cool and try to avoid direct sun.

BE CONSCIOUS OF PORTIONS Traditional foods are very important for

Muslims, especially during Ramadan.

I love the traditional foods offered at gatherings during special religious holidays such as Eid and Navroz. However, my family and I always try to be mindful of portions, as our cultural foods can be very oily and heavy. Even though it tastes amazing, I feel exhausted and tired the next day if I overdo it. Ramadan isn't a one-day event, it's a

month-long event. While breaking the fast is a celebration, eating traditional foods every evening may not be the best idea. After a whole day of not eating and feeling hungry, overeating is also common. This may lead to morning tiredness and weight gain over the month.

Qureshi recommends breaking the fast by eating a date, some fruit, and drinking some water. At this point, she recommends pausing and completing the evening prayer before diving into any food.

"The natural sugars from the fruit will allow your body to register that you have had food. You won't feel like you're starving, and you're less likely to overeat," Qureshi ex-

For the evening meal, Qureshi recommends using your plate as a guide. Try to distribute your food as follows:

- Carbohydrates: Quarter of a plate. If you do choose to eat refined carbohydrates, be mindful to keep it to a minimum.
- Protein: Quarter of a plate.

UNDERSTAND YOUR HEALTH

Having a chronic medical condition doesn't mean that you aren't able to fast. It does mean that it's essential to plan ahead and make the necessary adjustments, though.

Wasem Alsabbagh, BScPharm, PhD, a licensed clinical pharmacist and assistant professor at the University of Waterloo, explains that most medications can and should be continued while fasting.

However, the time you take them should be adjusted to fit the fasting schedule of the

evening meal and morning meal.
"If fasting worsens the medical condition, even after modifying the medications' schedule, patients should not fast," Alsaba-

This includes critical illnesses like those requiring hospitalization, diabetes that requires consistent supply of food and drink to manage blood sugars, and certain cancers.

People with common medical conditions such as diabetes and hypertension can still fast as long as their conditions are stable and controlled. However, they'll need to closely monitor blood sugars and blood pressure, ensure adequate hydration, and adjust the

timing of their medications. Above all, Alsabaggh encourages an open and communicative relationship with your healthcare professional to ensure that it's safe for you to fast. You should also discuss

adjusting medications. If fasting doesn't align with your health during Ramadan, not to worry. Ramazan can still be honored by making up fasting days later or through charity.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Ramadan is a time for celebration and spiritual growth. It's also a challenging time as Muslims undertake the trial of fasting for the month.

Use these tips to stay energized while fasting during the day and enjoying cultural foods when the sun goes down.

The author is BSc Pharm, is a freelance writer based in Edmonton, Canada. Passionate about writing, she strives to use $her \, evidence$ -based $pharmacy \, knowledge \, to$ promote health and wellness. The article was originally published by Healthline

Govt orders blocking of 18 Indian, four Pakistani YouTube-based news channels

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed the blocking of 22 YouTube-based news channels, of which four are from Pakistan, alleging that they were spreading fake news that could impact national security, foreign relations and public order.

This is the first time that action has been taken against the Indian YouTube-based news publishers since the notification of the IT Rules, 2021 in February last year, it said.

In an official statement, the ministry said that it issued an order on Monday to block 22 YouTube channels, three Twitter accounts, one Facebook account and one news website

With this action, the ministry

has, since December 2021, issued directions for blocking 78 YouTube-based news channels and several other social media accounts on grounds related to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, public or-

Through the recent blocking order, 18 Indian and four Pakistan-based YouTube news channels have been blocked, the ministry said, without naming

The blocked YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of over 260 crore, the ministry said in an official statement, adding that they were spreading fake news and coordinated disinformation over social media on subjects sensitive from the perspective of national security, India's foreign relations, and

According to the ministry, YouTube channels multiple were used to post fake news on various subjects such as the Indian Armed Forces, Jammu and Kashmir, etc.

The content ordered to be blocked also included certain anti-India content posted from multiple social media accounts operated in a coordinated manner from Pakistan. It was observed that a sig-

nificant amount of false content was published by the Indian YouTube channels related to the ongoing situation in Ukraine, and aimed at jeopardising India's foreign relations with other countries, it said.

The ministry said that the blocked Indian YouTube channels were using templates and

logos of certain TV news channels, including images of their news anchors to mislead the viewers to believe that the news was authentic.

False thumbnails were used, title and thumbnail of the videos were frequently altered to increase the virality of content on social media. In certain cases it was also observed that systematic anti-India fake news was originating from Pakistan,

The Government of India remains committed towards ensuring an authentic, trustworthy, and safe online news media environment, and thwarting any attempts at undermining India's sovereignty and integrity, national security, foreign relations, and public order, the ministry said.

Several meat shops shut as south, east mayors call for prohibition on sale during Navratra

NEW DELHI: The south and east Delhi mayors on Tuesday asked meat shops in their jurisdictions to remain shut during Navratra, saying that "most people do not consume nonvegetarian food" for nine days, even as there was no official order issued by the civic bodies.

Following their statements, several meat shop owners in these areas of the national capital kept their establishments

closed, fearing action by officials. However, in some markets of the city meat is anyways not sold on Tuesdays as this day of the week is considered auspicious by many Hindus.

Though mayors of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) have made calls for shutting of these shops during the nineday festival, there has been no such word from the North corporation, which like the other two is also ruled by the BJP.

While East Delhi Mayor Sunder Aggarwal Shyam claimed that during Navratra "90 per cent people do not consume non-vegetarian food", his south counterpart Mukesh Suryan said there was "no need to open meat shops" during the festival as "most people do not consume non-vegetarian food' during this period.

As the move triggered sharp reactions on social media, BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, however, not only supported the call by the mayors, but said such restriction should be imposed all over the country during Navratra.

On closing of meat shops in areas under the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), a senior official of

the civic body said, "I have not come across any such proposal relating to the NDMC"

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah hit out at the SDMC mayor, tweeting, "During Ramzan we don't eat between sunrise and sunset. I suppose it's OK if we ban every non-Muslim resident or tourist from eating in public, especially in the Muslim dominated areas. If majoritarianism is right for South Delhi, it has to be right for J&K (Jammu and Kashmir)."

Meat shops in several markets in south Delhi, including at INA and at Jor Bagh, remained shut on Tuesday, fearing action by authorities.

There are around 40 meat shops in the INA market, and some owners said that the decision to keep shops closed was taken after Suryan's remarks.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

'We're With You'

faced any threat. Even yesterday, all of our neighbours were with us and many stayed with us for the whole

The village Choutigam has only two Kashmiri Pandit families, who didn't leave the valley during 1990's because of the "peaceful atmosphere and community cooperation".

"We never thought of migration due to the cooperation between the two communities," Sunita Bhat, Sonu's sister, consoled by dozens of village

Among the visitors who turned up at Sonu's home to enquire about his family was a village head, Ghulam Rasool Mir.

The elder had a clear message for Sonu's family: "We're with you!"

Commission Takes

A civil society delegation from

Budgam said they received a good response from the commission on their

"I represent Halqa Gudsuthra A and B. The halqas have been clubbed with Chrah-e-Sharief by the commission. But, we are nearer to Chadoora constituency, so, we requested them to club with Chadoora rather than Chrar-e-Sharif. We have got a good response from the commission," Ghulam Mohammad Mir, from Budgam, said.

However, many individuals said they were not allowed inside the venue despite being invited for the discussions. Ali Mohammad, Sarpanch from Litter area of Pulwama said while he was called for the meeting, but he was not allowed inside the venue. "They do what pleases them, this is just for formality," he said. The Commission was set up on March 6, 2020, with one year term. However, in the wake of the COVID-19 nandemic, its term was extended on March 6, 2021, by one year.

On March 14, it put its report in the public domain and invited objections and suggestions from people. The commission has published its report in the gazettes of India as well as Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, an official spokesperson said that the Commission met around 400 delegations from different parts of J&K during its two day public sittings at Convention Centre, Jammu and SKICC, Srinagar.

The Commission, he said, informed the participants that the Delimitation exercise of Jammu and Kashmir has been carried out by the commission in a record time of two years despite the prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic in

"It further noted that the entire exercise has been carried out as per the provisions of the Delimitation Act 2002 and the J&K Reorganization Act 2019, keeping in view population, public conveniences, communication facilities, geographical compactness of the areas as well as the existing administrative boundaries while delimiting the constituencies," he said.

"The Delimitation Commission assured the delegations who called on the Commission in Jammu as well as Srinagar that the commission shall consider their genuine suggestions/ grievances sympathetically in accordance with the Delimitation Act," he

added. **J&K Economy**

2021-22, J&K registered a growth of 7.5 per cent over financial year 2020-21," Additional Chief Secretary, Finance

Department, Atal Dulloo said. Dulloo said the tourist footfall in J&K has also remained the highest, contributing towards enhancing livelihood of the people associated with the tourism sector.

"To improve livelihood of people, more than 15 lakh people were covered under various financial inclusion schemes which include business revival scheme, PM-SVANidhi, GECL and

others." he said. Dulloo said more than Rs 2,000 crore were disbursed to over 65 lakh individual beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer (DBT) which include old

age pensioners also, whose livelihood depends on the monthly financial support from the government.

He said that during the last financial year, despite facing COVID challenges, the finance department undertook

various initiatives to spur growth. The Union Territory during 2021-22 witnessed significant growth of 25.38 per cent in tax revenue collection against the collection made in the pre-

vious year, he said. 'The total collection of indirect taxes like GST, Excise duty, Stamps and Tax on motor spirits have been registered to the tune of Rs 15,179.42 crore against Rs 12,105.95 crore collected during previous financial year 2020-21". he said.

Dulloo said the collection on account of Goods & Services Tax alone was to the tune of Rs 11,163.95 crore against Rs 9,020.00 crore in 2020-21.

"If we see the tax collected on sale of motor spirits during 2021-22, it is to the tune of Rs 1,829.73 crore against Rs 1,459.92 crore collected during 2020-21, thereby registering a growth of 25.33 percent.'

The stamp duty collection grew 56.12 per cent to Rs 425 crore against Rs 272.22 crore recorded in 2020-21, he added.

Collections under excise duty were to the tune of Rs 1,760.74 crore against Rs 1.353.81 crore collected during 2020-21.

Dulloo said the impressive tax revenue generated during 2021-22 indicates revival and recovery of the business and trade activities in the Union Territory.

He said proper tax planning, effective monitoring and efficient implementation of the tax statutes with initiatives aimed at bringing transparency and accountability in contributed towards scaling up the momentum of revenue collection in

Dulloo said the finance department has played a pivotal role in bringing the economy on the right track after the pandemic

He said treasury management was remarkable in the previous financial year, and that all the verified bills of contractors have been cleared and paid in a timely manner.

"Besides, all pending claims of projects sanctioned under JKIDFC (languishing projects) have been cleared. All the bills of centrally sponsored schemes have been cleared - both central share and matching UT share," he added.

Chinese Troops

"Mastered Hindi in 4 months! He negotiated with foreign troops on the front line of border defence.'

This clearly stated that Chinese soldiers, deployed at disputed locations in eastern Ladakh, have started learning Hindi and they are there to stay.

On his recent visit to India, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during his talks with Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, had stated that China and India should not let the border issue define or affect the overall development of the bilateral relationship.

He reiterated China's stated position that the LAC standoff should be placed in its "proper position" while the two sides take forward ties in other

To this, both Jaishankar and Doval, in their separate meeting with Wang, sent a clear message that the disturbed situation will continue to hold up normalisation of bilateral relations and asked for speedy disengagement of troops at all friction points in Ladakh sector in order to set the stage for deescalation along the LAC.

Jaishankar said that 15 rounds of military talks and eight rounds of diplomatic talks had resulted in disengagement at several friction points but more needs to be done.

'This needs to be taken forward since the completion of disengagement is necessary for discussions on de-escalation to take place. I would describe our current situation as work in progress, obviously at a slower pace than desirable and my discussions with (Wang) were aimed at expediting the process," he had said.

Jaishankar said he was "very honest" in conveying "our national sentiments" that tensions created by China's troop deployments since April 2020 "cannot be reconciled with a normal relationship between two neighbours".

Kashmir Inc Meets

For accounts, which are NPA post 2014 and need revival package, it is suggested that deep restructuring which converts their principal liability into a term loan with waiver in the unapplied interest similar capital infusion up to 20 per cent with moratorium of two years," the memorandum read.

It demanded soft loans for five years for the business sector for revival and rehabilitation. "GST penalties for the period of Covid should be waived so that they can work properly and engage more people for work," the memorandum stated.

The KCCI requested early setting up of the model carpet village in the valley as a demonstration centre of local craft to visiting tourists and also promote local carpet industry globally. Highlighting the problems being

faced by exporters due to geographical disadvantage in logistics, the memorandum advocated freight subsidies to help increase export and make local products competitive in the international market.

It also called for attractive schemes for the youth inclined towards export industry, exemption of taxes on all handmade items like pashmina shawls, carpets, papier mache, crewel, chain stitch and wood carving

The KCCI asked the government to give all the benefits to Kashmir handicrafts and declare it as a Special Economic Zone.

"Due to slow down in the global market since 2014 the Jammu and Kashmir government should take up this matter vigorously with the Reserve Bank of India so that our exporters and manufacturers are relieved as their exports collection is very slow. They should be allowed to get back their goods so that a lot of complaints are taken care of," it said.

The KCCI said the handicraft sector of Kashmir could receive a huge boost if the central government would reserve a minor percentage of central government purchases as well as urge states to purchase of kashmiri handicrafts products including shawls and silk handmade carpets.

This would also greatly support the liquidation of a huge pile up of inventory in this sector for which the KCCI has also pushed for special funding to the tune of Rs 500 crores.

It also demanded a three-year full GST waiver for travel and tour operators, interest free or soft loans for survival and revival of the tourism

Highlighting the issues of the hotel industry, the KCCI demanded threeyear GST waiver and extension of land lease at the famous hill resorts of Pahalgam and Gulmarg to the owners who have suffered huge losses due to

"unavoidable circumstances". It also called for a special package for tourist taxi operators, house-boat owners and industries.

"the lack of budgetary assistance and abolition of toll tax without formulation of any substituting protective mechanism has severely impacted the local industries...measures like providing of working capital at concessional interest rates and waiver of interest for the period of lockdown are urgently required to provide sustenance to the

local industries," the KCCI said. The memorandum also highlighted the need for adopting the Himachal Pradesh model for the welfare of the farming community and a relook of the MSME scheme, claiming that it was not being followed by the financial institutions.

We're Addressing

planners, and farmers to focus on increasing the sustainability of farm livelihoods, environmental safety, and human health.

The spokesperson said that the LG also asserted that J&K UT is giving major impetus to natural and organic farming and has registered a record increase in terms of area covered under organic certification in a sustainable manner.

"Today, J&K is amongst the major organic producing States/UTs in the country. We are methodically developing a robust ecosystem by extending financial assistance, technological and marketing support for better realization of prices to farmers," the LG said.

"With the combination of market linkages, large scale mechanization, organic farming, and farmer-centric reforms, we have made significant achievements in increasing our farmers' income, wherein J&K ranks third in the list of top five states in terms of relative income of farmers. Our agriculture sector is going to contribute substantially towards realizing the goal of a self-reliant India," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG observed that in the long run, organic farming with technology based assistance will reduce the input cost and usher in rural prosperity.

"Natural & organic farming can effectively tackle the challenges posed by climate change and soil degradation. We are addressing the concerns of small and marginal farmers, and instead of narrow silos, agriculture & allied sector is being developed to ensure farm sustainability for the farmers," Sinha said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson expressed gratitude to Prime Minister prendra Modi for making organic farming a mass movement and urged the farming community to pay more attention to diversification along with shift to organic farming.

Sinha, he said, also stressed that this integrated approach in agriculture can only facilitate sustainability and growth, thereby achieving Gram

Swaraj and Anna Swaraj. He further said that the LG also underlined the importance of harnessing the full potential of organic farming, and utilizing local resources, besides developing the infrastructure keeping in mind the requirements of the national and international markets.

"This year's budget of the UT has a huge allocation of Rs 2835 crore for the agriculture sector and Rs 646 crore for the horticulture sector. For the development of the dairy and sheep sector, Rs 392 crore has been allocated to bring positive changes in the lives of the farming community." the LG said.

The LG, according to the spokesperson also noted that collective efforts are being made to bring down the usage of fertilizers.

"Subsidy is being provided to the entrepreneurs under One District One Product, and dairy industry, besides nine lakh farmers will be provided with improved quality seeds. We also aim to add another two lakh metric tonnes into the food processing and storage capacity," the LG said.

On the occasion, the spokesperson said, the LG called upon the officials and agricultural scientists to consistently disseminate relevant and authentic information to the farmers regarding the organic farming so that small and marginal farmers can also take advantage of it.

"Whilst the incentives of government facilitate move towards sustainability, our agricultural scientists must look forward to develop technologies that enhance productivity and at the same time maintain the fertility of land, besides focusing on increasing production of oilseeds, expansion of micro-irrigation facilities and use of high yielding seeds on priority basis," Sinha said.

He also advised scientists to publish their research findings in vernacular languages making it easily accessible for the local farming community and

maximum percolation of knowledge from universities to farms.

According to the spokesperson, Prof. J.P. Sharma, VC, SKUAST-Jammu in his address lauded the Lt Governor led government for promoting innovation, incubation, start up, national saffron mission, high density plantation, custom hiring, central machinery bank, value addition, processing, marketing and transportation of perishable agriculture produce at reasonable rates for hand holding and increasing income of the farmers of the UT.

"It is time to take big steps, take agriculture out of labs, and associate it

with nature," he added. **Srinagar Records**

recorded in 1975, while 4.8°C was recorded in 2010, 2021 and 2022.

The data has further revealed that Kupwara saw the warmest temperatures this March at 13.4 C since the official record-keeping began in 1978. Pahalgam recorded a mean temperature of 9.4°C in 2022 March, the data noted, while the highest ever record was 9.7°C set in 2004. Similarly, Kokernag had recorded its warmest March in the year 2004 at 12.6°C. While it was 12.3°C in March 2022.

Notably, the data has also revealed that Gulmarg in 2004 recorded a mean temperature of 6.7°C, while in 2022 it was 5.5°C. Jammu recorded its second warmest temperature since 1982. In 2004 the mean temperature stood at 24.4°C, while in 2022 it was 23.3°C.

For Bhaderwah, the data revealed, it was the warmest March since 1985 at least, recorded with a mean temperature of 16.0°C. The mean maximum for the month stood at 24.6°C, lagging behind the 24.9°C figure set in 2004. owever, at 7.4°C, the mean minimum temperature was the highest since

Just like Jammu City, Batote witnessed its 2nd warmest March. The mean temperature figure was 16.4°C in 2022, while it was 16.7°C in 2004. This March, Banihal tied its highest ever mean temperature record with March 2004. The mean temperature was 15.4°C in both Marches. Katra saw the highest temperatures since 2004. In 2004, the mean temperature was 22.6°C, while in 2022 it was 22.0°C.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Dr. Mohammad Muslim, assistant professor at the Department of Environmental Science, Kashmir University (KU) says that the repercussions of Climate Change on Kashmir's weather is quite visible this year.

"Just look at J&K....Srinagar is witnessing a seasonal variation. Winters had somehow become spring-like weather. Early spring felt more like summer this year. And if this latest report's data is to be believed then it's a serious threat for our environment. This means if March was the hottest in the last 100 plus years, then our glaciers may have already started to melt, which bores a massive threat to exis-

tence, especially agriculture." He further added, "Our local environment also modulates climate. There's a temperature variation in Gulmarg and Sonmarg but when we talk about figures, climate change has changed Kashmir's weather brutally. The temperature is gradually increasing above normal. It's dangerous, far

more vicious than what we think." **Attacks On Civilians**

are discharging their responsibilities. We pay our respects to our slain colleague and our best wishes for the injured colleague for speedy recovery," Singh said.

The DGP said other incidents in which migrant labourers were attacked and a minority community member was targeted "are signs of barbaric and beastly acts".

Responding to a question, Singh said security forces have responded proportionately to the increased activity of over ground workers (OGW) of the militant groups.

"The OGW presence has always been there. When their presence increases, the action by police and security forces also increases accordingly. If you look at the statistics, we have eliminated 42 terrorists in the last three months and a higher number of OGWs have been acted against as per law," he said.

The DGP said the local people of Jammu and Kashmir have been welcoming of the outsiders as they help in agriculture, horticulture and construction activities.

"That's why the civil society has condemned these attacks," he added.

J&K Reports 12

were reported from Kashmir Valley and a single case of virus from Jammu

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 10 new cases of Coronavirus while Bandipora detected one. The remaining 8 districts of the Valley, including Baramulla, Budgam, Pulwama, Kupwara, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian registered no new cases of Covid-19.

single new case of virus was reported from Jammu while no cases were detected in the remaining nine districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and

In the winter capital, officials said, a

Moreover, 15 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 1 from Jammu Division and 14 from Kashmir Division," they said.

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

Teacher Suspended

social media of beating of two young school girls of Middle School Khadurian Panchyat Dramman by a teacher namely Nisar Ahmed," reads an order issued on the direction by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri.

The corporal punishment is banned in schools, daycare, alternative child care institutions etc, the order underlined.

"Hurting a child amounts to a crime and can make a person liable for punishment under sections 323, 325, 352 & 506 of IPC.'

Section 23 of the JJ ACT, 2000 states that whoever having charge of the child, assaults a child, is punishable

with imprisonment which may extend to six months or fine or both, it noted. "Pending enquiry into the incident Nisar Ahmed teacher is hereby placed under suspension and attached with ADC Kotranka till further orders," the order reads, adding, "Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kotranka is

hereby appointed as Inquiry officer to

enquire into the incident." He has been asked to specifically look into the points as to whether it is true that the child was beaten; the specific reason for beating the child; the material used for beating the child (stick, rod, scale, hands, legs etc) and whether this is the first child beaten by the teacher or earlier other students were also beaten.

The inquiry officer is also required to mention the place of posting of Nisar Ahmed and tenure of posting in the particular school as well as the names of other teachers posted in the school and present at the time of incident.

JK Waqf Board

and properties. The Prime Minister's Office tweeted, 'Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of the JK Waqf Board and others called on PM Narendra Modi." (PTI)

Teen's Body

police, army and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), officials said.

After hectic efforts, search parties finally recovered the body of the deceased which was later handed over for last rites to his family after completion of legal formalities, they added.

BASEMENT PARKING VIOLATIONS

Budgam Admin To Launch Massive Demolitions Drive Soon



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The District Administration Budgam on Tuesday said that a massive demolition drive shall be carried out against the basement parking violations by Shopping Complex owners in Budgam Town.

These remarks were made by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Budgam Dr Nasir Ahmad during an inspection drive across the main town area.

He said that the drive shall be started from Ompora to Mirgund and action shall be taken against all offenders for violations of basement parkings, encroachments and other illegal activities.

The ADC was accompanied by ARTO, Dy. SP Traffic, Executive Officer Municipal Committee, SHO Budgam and Naib Tehsildar, other concerned officers and officials.

He said that a robust work plan is being implemented for the beautification of the Budgam Town and all efforts are on to ensure there are no traffic jams and other issues are reported.

During the drive, the ADC in-Bus Stands and instructed con- across the Town

cerned to ensure basement areas of all commercial buildings are

used for parking purposes only. Taking serious note of the violations, the ADC said that a massive demolition drive shall be taken out throughout the Town area against these violations.

He instructed that all encroachments be removed in a week's time otherwise the same shall be cleared during the demolition drive soon. He said as per the law no business activity or use of any space in the basement shall be used for any other commercial purposes other than parking.

The ADC said that those buildings which have been granted permissions for the business purposes illegally shall be taken with the relevant quarters for the investigation.

He said that misuse of basement parking is resulting in roadside parking, causing traffic snarls in the town and inconve-

niences to the general public. He instructed concerned to ensure there is no roadside parking and all encroachments spected basements of Commer- are removed on war footing to cial buildings at both Old and New ensure smooth flow of traffic

Ganie Assumes Charge As DIO Shopian

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Showkat Hussain Ganie (JKAS) on Tuesday took charge as District Information Officer Shopian, in presence of staff members of the District Information Centre Shopian.

Showkat Hussain is also serving as DIO Bandipora. On his joining as DIO Shopian, he was accorded a warm welcome by the staff of District Information Centre Shopian. He also held an introductory cum interactive session with the employees of the Information Department Shopian.

BUDGET 2022-23

Centre Allocates Rs 9289.15 Cr To J&K Jal Jeevan Mission

JAMMU: The Union government, in ply in rural areas, adequate quantiits objective to give a push to Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu and Kash- and long term basis at affordable mir, has allocated a whopping sum service delivery charges leading to of Rs 9289.15 crore to the UT under improvement in living standards of Jal Jeevan Mission 2022-23, which rural community. is Rs.6412.71 crore more the previ-

nearly 4 times more than the preceding year 2020-21. This year the government has allocated a staggering amount which is nearly more than double to its previous year budget. This substantial increase in JJM budgets every year is reflective of the concern and seriousness of the government towards materializing its commitment of providing tap water connections to every household and capacity building of Water Quality Management through testing,

monitoring and surveillance". Jal Jeevan Mission has been envisioned to have drinking water sup-

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir contemplates "In 2021-22, the Centre had al- 'HAR GHAR JAL' Ûnion Territory by located Rs 2747 crore which was the financial year 2022-23. Out of total 18.35 lakh rural households in the UT, 10.39 lakh (57%) households have tap water connections.

In a significant achievement, Srinagar and Ganderbal districts have achieved the target of having 100% households with tap water connections. Efforts are also being made to ensure tap water availability for drinking, cooking midday meals, washing hands and usage in toilets in all schools and Anganwadi centres. As on date, 22,421 schools (100%) and 23,926 (100%) Anganwadi centres in J&K have been provided with tap wa-

ter supply.

5900 Flats For KP **Employees Coming Up** Kashmir Valley: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nearly 6000 flats are being constructed in different districts of Kashmir Valley to accommodate thousands of Kashmiri migrant employees antnag and Kupwara. serving the Jammu and Kashmir administration in the Valley, officials said Tuesday.

These details were shared in

a meeting chaired by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole regarding Transit Room Tenements and Migrant issues with respect to physical & financial progress of under construction migrant quarters, status of transfer of land, preparation for DPR for water, road, power and inclu-cerned officers of PWD, PHE sion of DPRs to regulate plans for Districts and State, couple of transfer of migrant employees nearer to cities till accommodation is constructed, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the meeting was attended by Secretary DMRRR; on identifying a single patch of Representatives of School Education, Kashmir; SWD, Kash- stead of scattered plots.

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Former PDP leader Su-

rinder Choudhary on Tuesday

joined the BJP along with his sup-

porters and accused Mehbooba

Mufti of ruining the party and pur-

Choudhary and his supporters

were welcomed into the BJP by the

party's National General Secretary

and in charge of Jammu and Kash-

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief

Ravinder Raina and other promi-

nent leaders including former dep-

uty chief minister Kavinder Gupta

and Devender Singh Rana, who left

"I have not betrayed the PDP

me," Choudhary, a former MLC

the National Conference last year.

suing the Pakistani agenda.

mir Tarun Chugh.

missioner J&K, JKPCC; CEs of PWD, PHE, KPDCL, and Addi- without causing any delay and tional Commissioners of Revenue of Pulwama, Kulgam, An-

He said that the Div Com reviewed physical status of work at proposed sites in districts for construction of towers for migrant accommodation.

On the occasion, the spokesperson said, Pole asked officers to complete tendering process within ten days and give work allotments even single contractor participates in bidding process under rules.

and KPDCL to include expenditure of approach roads, culverts, water and power in regular schemes including district plans, state plans and Centrally Sponsored Schemes," he said.

Pole, he said, also emphasized required land at one places in-

told reporters after joining BJP at

joined BJP for any personal ben-

efit, or under any fear or pressure.

"I am joining the party because of

its policies, love and respect and

to strengthen the nation... we will

work to ensure that the BJP forms

the next government in Jammu

and Kashmir." Hitting out at PDP

president Mehbooba Mufti, he

said. "Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

was a secular leader while the

Mehbooba-led party has not been

secular and was pursuing Pakistani

agenda." "Mehbooba Mufti speaks

one thing while in power and an-

other out of power. She has ruined

the party and stands exposed be-

Those who joined the BJP along

Choudhary said he has not

Former PDP Leader Surinder

Accuses Mehbooba Mufti Of Pursuing Pakistani Agenda

its headquarters here.

Choudhary Joins BJP

Relief and Rehabilitation, Com- complete acquisition and transfer of land on fast track basis address the issues if any within a stipulated time of one week," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the meeting was informed that over five thousand nine hundred flats are to be constructed at different locations including Marhama, Machbawan, Gohal, Odhina, Wandhama, Kulangam etc

"Meanwhile, Div Com directed officers of different departments including Education, Social Welfare, Revenue, Finance, "Besides, he directed con- Health, Rural development, PWD etc to issue transfer order of couple migrant employees to single district near cities besides migrant employees within ten days," he said.

"The meeting was informed that many applications have been received from couple migrant employees for transfer to nearby locations in single district and near cities." he added.

with Choudhary included block

development council chairman

Bodh Raj, National Conference

leaders S Gupta and Desh Roop

Raina and dozens of panches and

The Jammu and Kashmir BIF

chief, Chugh, welcomed social ac-

tivist Bharat Bushan and his sup-

face of PDP in Jammu and his join-

ing the BJP has finished the party

(PDP) in the region. The National

Conference has already lost its

face in Jammu when Rana left the

party last year and joined the BJP.".

Jammu region have decided not to support the NC and the PDP par-

ties which are "misleading" them

Chugh claimed the people in the

He said, "Choudhary was the

porters into the party fold.

sarpanches.

MUMKIN SCHEME

97 Vehicles Distributed Among **Beneficiaries In Kulgam**



Observer News Service

of Jammu and Kashmir to establish a sustainable livelihood line in transport sector by providing financial assistance for purchase of new commercial small vehicles used for transporting goods scheme to establish a sustain-(Mini trucks & Pickups) excluding three wheelers, a total of 97 vehicles have been handed over to beneficiaries under Mumkin that the authorities have also scheme of Mission Youth in district Kulgam so-far, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

Under the scheme, he said,100 percent financial assistance for purchase of small commercial vehicles was provided to the unemployed youth by Mission Youth and an amount of Rs. were approved by DLIC and 148 80,000 or 10 percent of the on cases were sponsored to banks road price of the vehicle was also and the process to benefit other provided by Mission Youth as applicants is a continuous prosubsidy share and equal amount cess," he added.

of Rs. 80,000 or 10 percent whichever is less was provided **KULGAM:** To facilitate the youth by the vehicle manufacturer also.

'These 97 beneficiaries got benefitted without paying any down payment or margin money, collaterals or Guarantor and availed the benefit of this able livelihood in the line of transport sector," he said.

The spokesperson further said informed that all the 97 beneficiaries were given discretion of choice of vehicle (Make and

"It was also given out by the authorities of the Employment Department that Under Mission Youth a total of 171 applications

J&K PSC Counters Misinformation Regarding JKAS Mains

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission date of exam commencement on Tuesday strongly countered the 'information being shared on social media as well as press statements issued by a number of political parties, seeking rescheduling of J&K Combined Competitive (Main) Examination proposed to be held from 8th April 2022 to 17th April 2022' and clarified its position with regard to conduct of J&K Combined Competitive (Main)

Examination, 2021. To set the record straight, dates and events relevant and leading to conduct of J&K Com- approached High Court on bined Competitive (Main) Examination from 8th April, 2022, terim orders which were conthe J&K PSC has reproduced the

factual details. The details describes that preliminary exam held on 24th Ocappeared in the examination; preliminary exam results declared on 13th November, 2021 and 4545 candidates declared Examination, 2021: first public

second notification inviting applications for mains was issued on 26th November indicating as 14th February, 2022; keeping in view the onset of 3rd wave of COVID-19 and conduct of Indian Forest Service Examination, 8th March, 2022 was fixed for commencement of J&K Combined Competitive (Main) examination, 2021.

However, this was revised to 10th March so as to facilitate candidates appearing in the IFoS examination by issuing a notification dated 22nd February.

J&K PSC further said that few unqualified candidates 21.02.2022 and obtained intested by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission. Due to these interim orders certain contingencies arose and tober, 2021; 20790 candidates resultantly exam had to be postponed on 9th March till further notice.

The High Court reserved the Judgment on 16th March, 2022 eligible for appearing in J&K and the same was announced Combined Competitive (Main) on 01.04.2022 and a public notice (date-sheet) was issued on notice issued on 13th Novem- 01.04.2022 itself for conduct ber indicating first fortnight of of J&K Combined Competitive February, 2022 as the likely date (Main) Examination from 8th of start of mains examinations; April, 2022 - 17 April 2022.

Attacks Aimed At Crippling Kashmir's Economy: Sajad Lone

but it was the PDP which betrayed fore the public," Choudhary said.

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone butchers seem to be hell-bent on Tuesday said the spurt in on destroying all that," he said. militant attacks in Kashmir was

The separatist-turned-mainstream leader said tourism and allied sectors in the valley were witnessing a steady growth after a long time, but inimical elements are hell-bent on destroying it.

pling the Kashmiri economy," Lone said in a statement here.

"After a long time, business other side," he said. seems to have resumed in hotels and allied sectors. And the

Apparently referring to the aimed at crippling its economy. attacks on migrant labourers as well as a Kashmiri Pandit in south Kashmir in the last two days, Lone said the targets were being chosen with the aim of scaring and chasing out people.

"Note the targets. The whole game plan seems to be to scare "The violence in Kashmir is not and to chase out. Whatever only senseless and barbaric but one's ideology may be, the also aimed at economically crip- least we can do is to under- sonnel dead and four people, instand the ideology of the other cluding two workers from Bihar side and the strategy of the and a Kashmiri Pandit, injured.

Lone said an economically prosperous Kashmir was antithetical to those indulging in violence. "There is an economic com-

ponent in the strategy of those indulging in violence. It is clear that a rich Kashmiri, an economically prosperous Kashmir is antithetical to the strategy of these violent thugs. Let us hope we understand that," he said.

Militants carried out three attacks in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, leaving one CRPF per-

Non-Local Hangs Self In Sonamarg

SRINAGAR: A non-local committed suicide by hanging himself in Shutkadi area of Sonamarg in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Tuesday.

Police sources said that a non-local whose identity is being ascertained allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself to death at Sheep Husbandry hut at Shutkadi area of Sonamarg.

A police team along with Tehsildar Gund reached the spot. Tehsildar Gund Javaid Igbal said that forensic experts have been called in to know about the cause of the death. (KNT)

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

No Visible Changes On The Ground: KHARA

Seek LG's Intervention To Address The Grave Issues Faced By Hoteliers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Association (KHARA) on Tuesday urged the Lieutenant Govenor, Manoj Sinha to address the issues faced by the business community from last four years, especially the outbreak of pandemic that has ruined everything and left with losses many fold.

In a reminder sent to LG, the association has also rued that no changes are visible on the ground regarding the "Ease of

Doing Business" Listing a number of issues the hoteliers are facing, the KHARA President says that the happenings since August 5, 2019 have been adverse to the community when an advisory was issued directing accommodation keepers to get their properties vacated from tourists and Amarnath

He said that the abrupt shutdown of this industry at the behest of the Government has

resulted in lay-off of employees -tourism being the largest employer in private sector. He said mounting recurring expenditure bills have turned, even the so called healthy hotels into sick ones besides bringing disrepute and humiliation to each one of us. "Now Coronavirus has ruined

everything left with losses many fold. But who cares?" he said. "As if the enforcement of

Advisory was not enough, immediately after its withdrawal various Govt. departments were unleashed after us, just to further harass and pressurize us," he added.

He said the hoteliers were facing difficulties on various fronts, including the Renewal of Tourism Registration for which they have to run from pillar to post for acquiring different NoCs.

"Pollution Control Board is not far behind for seeking erection of sewage treatment plants, whereas in various areas of Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and other tourist destinations, It

was the Govt. which had to create these common STPs in various areas but nothing has been done so far when even the funds were allocated for this purposes. Even a Govt. order was issued in this matter but remains unimplemented. We fail to understand why they should chase us, when the fault lies with them fairly and squarely," he said.

Besides it, the KHARA said, some hotels and restaurants, for reasons best known to the authority, have been sealed, which is totally unjustified in case of hotels and restaurants operating for past many a decades and had come up under proper building permissions issued by municipal authorities then.

"Such an action by municipal authorities is harsh and unjustified, depriving such establishments from Lawful business activities," he said.

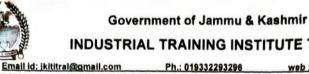
He further said instead of giving relief on power tariff, as in the case of Small Scale Industries, the concerned department is sent

after the hoteliers for collection of fees, when everyone knows the hospitality sector of tourism industry has been the hardest hit in these times.

"Sanitation fee is continuously hiked by the Srinagar Municipal Corporation every year arbitrarily, without taking the stakeholders on board, knowing that there is no tourism related business since 2014, either due to floods, strikes, or continues lockdowns," the KHARA said.

The present rate is Rs. 3000/-PM; which is totally unjustified in present situation and the Hotliers are not in a position to bear this burden. It is worthwhile to mention here that the Tourism Department has calculated only 120 days of the year as tourism season in the U.T.

The KHARA also alleged discrimination with Kashmir based Hotel/Guest House owners with regard to enhancement of boarding/Lodging charges of Estates/PHQ hired Hotels/Guest Houses.



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