



P3 CITY

JUVENILE STABS 'CUSTOMER' AT QAMARWARI, APPREHENDED

A Stabbing incident involving a juvenile has sent shockwaves across Kashmir valley. Eyewitnesses said on Monday afternoon, a juvenile (name withheld), a resident of Bilal

THINK

ARE OUR MADARIS DOING ENOUGH?

The word Madrasa is an Arabic word for any educational institution whether secular or religious and whether a school, college, university. This concept is inherited from the Seljuk Turks. The Ottomans constructed



P7 STATE

SEHRISH RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS SKOCH AWARD FOR SAATH

Mission Director, Jammu & Kashmir Rural livelihood Mission (JKRLM), Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar on Tuesday received the prestigious SKOCH Award



11 TH RAMZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMORROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	7:02	4:38
FIQAH JAFARIYA	7:10	4:37



Widom Quote!

Sanity and happiness are an impossible combination

- Mark Twain

NEWS DIGEST

CBI Nabs Police Inspector With Bribe

SRINAGAR: The sleuths of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday arrested a police officer for demanding and accepting a bribe in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. A team of CBI officials arrested SHO Loran Police Station Ved Prakash after receiving information **More on P6**

J&K Sees Eight New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported eight fresh Covid cases on Tuesday that took the infection tally to 4,53,897, officials said. Of the new cases, one was reported from the Jammu division and rest from the Kashmir division, they said. **More on P6**

Mumbai Boy Falls Off Horse, Dies

SONMARG: An 11-year-old tourist from Mumbai died of head injuries after he fell off a horse at the tourist resort of Sonmarg here in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. A police official told a local news agency KNT that while enjoying a horse ride in Sonmarg an elderly woman **More on P6**

Arms Cache Recovered In Anantnag

SRINAGAR: The police have recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition from a vehicle abandoned by a person in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said here on Tuesday. During a routine night domination near Mehmoorabad Bridge in Dooru on Monday, a vehicle was spotted which stopped after noticing the police party, raising suspicions, officials said. **More on P6**

ILLEGAL BUNGALOW CASE

More Trouble F/or J&K Ex-Deputy CM

CIC Directs CBI To Apprise RTI Applicant Of Current Status Of Complaint

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Information Commission (CIC) has directed the CBI in Jammu to provide a revised reply within 15 days to an RTI applicant who had sought to know the status of his complaint seeking registration of an FIR against former J-K deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh and others over alleged illegal construction of a bungalow near an army ammunition depot here.

Disposing of the second appeal filed by advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmad, Information

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

Dry Spell Flares Massive Forest Fires In J&K Green Gold Goes Up In Flames, 100 Fire Incidents Reported In 15 Days

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As the continuous dry spell in the month of March and April across Jammu and Kashmir flared massive forest fires, a new data has surprisingly brought into fore that there have been more than 100 forest fires in the erstwhile state in the last 15 days.

Even though the majority of the fires were

brought under control within several hours by the staff members of the Forest Department and local villagers, experts say, there are serious threats of an existential crisis to the green gold if the dry spell continues.

As per NASA's Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS) data accessed by Kashmir Observer, in the



last 15 days more than 160 fires had raged in the green gold of J&K. The data notes that

most of the forest fires had been recorded in the woods falling under the Jammu region where approximately 70 plus incidents were recorded and most of them took place in Rajouri, Reasi and Udhampur districts.

In Kashmir, the data noted, in the last 15 days most of the forest infernos were recorded in the Uri and Khrew. In Srinagar,

there were approximately 9 infernos, 7 in Bandipora, 1 in Ganderbal and 17 in Anantnag.

Pertinently, in the last 24 hours, there have been 14 cases of infernos in J&K, that too, in the forests of Jammu. Three in Udhampur, two near Shaja, two in between Ramnagar and Tawi River, 1 in Katra, 1 near Gool GulabGarh, 2 in Doda and

1 in Baderwah, however, in Kashmir region only one forest fire—in Bandipora—has been recorded in the past 24 hours.

It is pertinent to mention here that most of the fire incidents recorded in the past 24 hours are still active.

Notably, several officials of the forest department have said that the unbroken spell of dryness is the main **More on P6**

Army Commander Tells Troops To Remain Alert

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday asked the soldiers posted along the Line of Control to remain vigilant and maintain the sanctity of the ceasefire line, a defence spokesman said here.

"Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, on the final day of his visit to Kashmir Valley, spent the morning hours interacting with soldiers at forward locations and reviewing the security situation along the Line of Control with the Formation Commanders," the spokesman said.

He said the Army Commander was accompanied by Lt Gen D P Pandey, GOC Chinor Corps during the visit.

"The local Commanders briefed the Army Commander on the security situation on the Line of Control, operational preparedness and measures instituted to thwart the adversary's designs. Local Commanders also briefed about the **More on P6**

Srinagar Airport Scripts History

102 Flights Operated On Busiest Day

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar International Airport marked the busiest day in its history, handling its highest number of per day passengers at nearly 15,200 on Monday, with 7,305 arrivals in 102 flights, officials said.

An official from the Airport Authority highlighted that the number of flights have increased to the only civilian airport in Kashmir due to an influx of tourists who are escaping the heat of the plains.

While the number of flights have been increasing steadily over the past two weeks, the airport had registered its busiest day in terms of passengers on Monday when 15,199 persons traveled through the airport.

"On April 11, our Srinagar Airport handled 15,199 which is the highest number of per day passengers and 102 flights handled at the airport on any given



day. And this is only the beginning of the Summer Schedule!" an official of the Sheikhul Alam International Airport told Kashmir Observer.

The official further said that 7,305 passengers arrived at the Srinagar airport on Monday in 51 flights while 7,894 passengers flew out on the same number of flights.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Director Srinagar Airport, Mr. Kuldeep Singh said that the Airport authority is optimistic that the number of flights operating from the airport will increase in coming weeks.

"Even though the rising number of flights is a good sign, we've received several complaints from **More on P6**

JKP To Buy Over 20K Bulletproof Jackets, Headgear

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir is all set to purchase over 20,000 bulletproof jackets and headgear as a security measure for their cops in the union territory.

Police headquarters have recently floated six e-tenders for the purchase of various items including bulletproof jackets, headgear (patkas), vehicles, glasses and podiums, officials said. E-tenders have been

floated to purchase 11,900 bulletproof headgear and 8,200 jackets to arm cops with protections, they said.

The bulletproof jackets are in three categories small, medium and large, they said.

Of the total 11,900 bulletproof headgear, 4,900 will be given to

J&K Police and 7,000 to CRPF troops, they said.

Besides, J&K Police have also placed tenders for the purchase of 20 bulletproof podiums, 281 bulletproof glasses, 2 bulletproof Scorpio vehicles and 15 bulletproof marksman vehicles, they said. The tenders have been from original manufacturers **More on P6**



KULGAM ENCOUNTER

Killed Pak Militant Was Active For 5 Years: Police

A Pakistani militant killed in an encounter with government forces in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday, was active for the last five years in south Kashmir and had a long history of cases, police said Tuesday. Jameel Pasha alias Usman Chacha of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) and his associate —Sameer **More on P6**

SKYROCKETING PRICES OF ESSENTIALS

Govt Constitutes Team To Curb Black Marketing

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday said that market checking committees have been constituted in view of the complaints regarding the selling of essential commodities at exorbitant rates in the holy month of Ramadan.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Director FCSCA Kashmir Abdul Salam Mir said they have intensified the market checking since the start of the month and have taken strict action against the traders who are involved in selling the items at exorbitant rates.

It may be noted that since the start of the holy month of Ramadan, the traders in Kashmir have been accused of selling the essential

commodities at exorbitant rates across the valley.

The market goers complain that prices of fruits, vegetables, meat and chicken in local markets have risen sharply during the holy month of Ramadan.

The sudden spike in prices has left the consumers at the receiving end. A number of consumers told Kashmir Observer that the market checking squads of the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCSCA) department are missing from the field.

When asked why prices of essential commodities shoot up in Ramadan, the

Director FCSCA said people need to introspect as a Muslim whether they should do it (selling the essential items on exorbitant rates) or not that too **More on P6**



A woman raises her hands in supplication inside the shrine of 11th century Sufi saint, Sheikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), popularly known as Dastgeer Sahib, on the tenth day of Ramazan in Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat



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Researchers Develop Sustainable Methods Of Soil Stabilisation Using Bacteria

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, have developed sustainable techniques for soil stabilisation using a harmless bacteria called *S. Pasteurii* that hydrolyse urea to precipitate calcite.

The process does not involve hazardous chemicals, and natural resources can be used sustainably. The study will help in designing microbial methods to improve soil shear strength at the field scale to protect the soil from erosion in hilly areas and during geo-disasters, the researchers claimed. The findings of the research team have been recently published in the journal "Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Engineering of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)".

Soil stabilization is the process of conferring long-term permanent strength to the soil by artificial means. It is used when construction work must be carried out on unstable grounds or to protect soil from erosion. Traditionally, mechanical processes such as compression and chemical processes such as the injection of chemical grout fluids into the soil are used for soil stabilization.

According to the team, in the past decades, an eco-friendly and sustainable soil stabilization technique Microbial Induced Calcite Precipitation (MICP) is being investigated worldwide. In this method, bacteria are used to produce calcium carbonate (calcite) within soil pores, which cements



Our study will be helpful in designing microbial methods to improve soil shear strength at the field scale, to protect the soil from erosion in hilly areas and during geo-disasters. We are also working on the microbe-driven production of construction material from quarry waste

the individual grains together, thereby enhancing the soil/ground strength.

"Our study will be helpful in designing microbial methods to improve soil shear strength at the field scale, to protect the soil from erosion in hilly areas and during geo-disasters. We are also working on the microbe-driven production of construction material from quarry waste," said KV Uday, Assistant Professor, School of Engineering.

"While there are studies worldwide on the development of MICP techniques for soil stabilization, the factors that affect the efficacy of the process are still not completely understood," he added.

The researchers used a harmless

bacteria called *S. Pasteurii* that hydrolyse urea to precipitate calcite. The use of urea is particularly attractive because it does not involve hazardous chemicals and natural resources can be used sustainably. Their experimental setup consisted of a column of sand through which was percolated a mixture of the bacteria and cementing solution com-

prising urea, calcium chloride, nutrient broth, etc.

"The Calcite Precipitation Efficiency (CPE) depends on a number of parameters including and not limited to the concentration of the cementing solution, its flow rate through the column, the supply rate, applied pore volume, and the sand grain characteristics. We set out to understand the effects of various parameters on the CPE," said Deepak Mori, research scholar, IIT Mandi.

Since there were numerous parameters involved, researchers used the Taguchi method to analyse the effects of these various parameters on the strength enhancement of soil by MICP. This method involves the use of orthogonal arrays to organize the parameters affecting any process and the levels at which they should be varied. The Taguchi method enables the analysis of many influential parameters without the corresponding need for many experiments.

"The team found that the amount of calcite formed is not as important as the size and location of the calcite grains formed in the pores during the process. The higher cementing solution concentration resulted in higher strength improvement. Similarly, the flow rate and the supply rate of the cementing solution also affected the enhancement of strength.

"There was an optimum value for these parameters that produced maximum calcite deposition and thereby best strength enhancement," Mori said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving license bearing DL NO: JK0320080005901 as Reyaz Ahamd Malik S/o Mohd Akbar Malik R/o Waltangoo Kund Qazigund Kulgam while as my correct name is Reyaz Ahmad Malik S/o Gulzar Ahmad Malik R/o Waltangoo Kund Qazigund Kulgam. 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.

Reyaz Ahmad Malik
S/o Gulzar Ahmad Malik
R/o Waltangoo Kund Qazigund Kulgam

rma

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Abdul Rashid Bhat S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o: Soibugh Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 7201 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Ser B/U Srinagar.



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.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.148
Dated 12/04/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Ghulam Ahsan Lone S/o: Ghulam Ahmad Lone R/o: Zohama Khanday pora Chadoora Budgam (Transferor) of LMV EECO. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 1029. Chasis number 14323 Engine no. 95472 Model 2019, in favour of Mind Tree Educational Services Prop. Mohsin Mehraj Shah S/o. Mehraj ud din shah R/o Tang Bagh Eidgah Ground (Tranferree) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Dadompura is also required.

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.147
Dated 12/04/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

The particulars of my ward in school records in class 2nd against admission No 2256 have been recorded as Mohammad Essa Parentage : Sheikh Abdul Hameed while as the actual particulars are Sheikh Mohammad Essa Parentage Sheikh Abdul Hamid . Now I Want To Correct It, Inthis Regard if any body having any objection may contact the Principal R P School Alamdar Colony Lalbazar Sgr. within a week.

Sheikh Abdul Hamid
F/o Sheikh Mohammad Essa

fko

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE (HYD) DIVISION BANDIPORE

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS FRESH E-NIT NO 02-PHE/HYD/BPR OF 2022-2023 2ND CALL

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are invited (in single cover system) on "item rate basis" from Reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other State Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	App Cost of Rest. (In Lacs)	Cost of T.D	Time of Comp lation	Class of Contract	M.H of Account	Position of Funds	Adm. Approval
01	Construction of lining wall including bed treatment of Garoora Khul near the house of Nazir Ahmad Lone from RD 6900 mtr to RD 6970 mtr	Rs.6.25 Lacs	700.00	21 Days	CEE/ DEE	AIBP	Assured	ACCORDED

01. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings (if any), book of quantities (BoQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

01	Publishing Date	12/04/2022 (1:00 PM)
02	Download date Starts	From 12/04/2022 (1:00 PM) to 18/04/2022 (4:00 PM)
03	Bid submission date starts	12/04/2022 from 1:00 PM
04	Bid submission date ends	18/04/2022 upto 04:00 PM
05	Submission of hard copies	Hard copies shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as 1 st lowest bidder (L1) at the time of opening of tenders. The cost of tender documents will be collected through e-Challan / receipt under head of account 0702. However, the unsuccessful bidders will submit the same separately after the opening of bids online.

NOTE:- All Bidders have to upload and submit Bid Security Declaration form as per Annexure "A" instead of Earnest Money (EMD) as per the Circular issued by Finance Department vide order No A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J/Dated 22/12/2020.

06	Date and time of opening bids online	19/04/2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipore
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02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document as specified in the table above and pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipore. The lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work. Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for six months after the opening of bid. Online bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipore on scheduled date. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Hard copy of bid documents shall be obtained from 1st and 2nd lowest whether needed.

03. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an email message on their e-mail address. The bids responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE (Hyd) Division Bandipore (Tender Receiving Authority)

04. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 Days reckoned from the date of opening of bids.

05. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:

a). Any bidder/ Tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b). Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required bidding documents and performance security within the specified time limit.

c). Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.

06. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS REGARDING E-TENDERING PROCESS

a). The interested bidders can download the NIT/bidding document from the website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>

b). To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act 2000 to participate in online bidding.

Contd on page 2nd

c). The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature and no proposal will be accepted in physical form.

d). Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in the para-1.

e). Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with Bid. Details of documents required available alongwith downloadable tender documents on <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>.

f). The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

g). All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.

h). The details of cost of documents specified in the tender documents should be the same, as submitted online (scanned copies) otherwise bid will not be accepted.

i). Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of the e-tendering process.

The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>

j). Nothing shall be paid to the contractor on account of construction of coffer dam, diversion bund and dewatering during execution of work extension if involved at site.

16. All other terms and conditions shall be same as are laid down in detailed general NIT and in PWD Form 25/33 double Agreement Form.

17. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

No:-PHE/Hyd/Bpr/225-237
Dt:- 12/04/2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PHE (Hyd) Division
Bandipore

DIPK-433/22

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been received from owner. Shri : Shaber Ahmad Dar S/o: Nisar Ahmad Dar R/o: Zolwa Chadoora Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Irshad Ahmad Wani S/o Mohammad Khaleel Wani R/o Dalipora Nagam Chadoora Budgam.as Transferee) for transfer of Tavera Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.1237/CC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04C -4548. as well as HPA cancellation with J&K

Satate Co-operative Bank B/u Chadoora.

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 146
Dated 12-04-2022

mcb

Phone No.2426819, Fax: 0194-2429014
Email: principal@islamiacollege.edu.in

Website: islamiacollege.edu.in

ISLAMIA COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND COMMERCE, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR- 190 002

UGC AUTONOMOUS (NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE-A)

EXTENSION TENDER NOTICE

Reference: This office e-Tender Notice No.17 of 2022 dated 30-03-2022 with e-tender reference No.ICS/3875-81/E-33 dated 30-3-2022 FRESH, ID 2022_HED_165696_1 for supply of Sports Items.

For the above reference NIT, the dates has been extended as under:

1.	Bid Submission end date	20-04-2022 upto 4:00 P.M
2.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	22-04-2022 at 02:00 P.M

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No: ICS/80-86/E-33
Dated: 12-04-2022

Sd/-
Accounts Officer

DIPK-NB-200/22



Police Asks All City Establishments To Install CCTV's

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday asked all the establishments in the district to install CCTVs as already instructed by deputy commissioner Srinagar.

In a Tweet, Srinagar Police said that non-compliance to the order may lead to penal action and registration of FIR against the violators.

It said that April 19 is the last date for compliance of this order, following which action will be taken.

"It is requested of all establishments in Srinagar to install CCTVs as instructed via DM Srinagar Order dated 5th April 2022. Non-Compliance of this order may lead to Penal Action and FIR. 19th April is the last date for compliance. CCTVs are for your own protection & deterrence," police Tweeted.

Beautification Of Boulevard Road Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the steps being taken for beautification of Boulevard road, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Tuesday convened a meeting of all the concerned agencies.

During the meeting DC reviewed steps taken so far regarding removal of encroachments, shifting of utilities and beautification on Boulevard Road from Dalgate.

On the occasion, the DC directed the officers of all line departments to work in synergy and in unison in implementation of the directions issued.

The DC directed the officers to ensure removal of all wild growth and bushes along Boulevard road from Dalgate. He also asked the SDM to issue notices to the property owners regarding removal of public nuisance along the road sides.

The KPDCL authorities were asked to remove unused electric poles along the road besides undertaking proper alignment of electric transmission and supply lines.



Doctors Felicitated For Their Work During Covid-19 Pandemic

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Divisional Covid-19 Control Room, Kashmir on Tuesday organized a ceremony to felicitate doctors, paramedical staff for their exemplary role during pandemic.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole was the chief guest at the felicitation ceremony.

Besides, the ceremony was attended by Director SKIMS, Director Health Services Kashmir, Principal Government Dental College Srinagar and Principal SKIMS Medical College Bemia and Principals of Government Medical Colleges of Kashmir division.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com appreciated the efforts of all the doctors and paramedical staff of the division who worked day in and day out during Covid-19 pandemic.

He enlightened the audience

about the approach that the divisional administration adopted to face and tackle this big challenge of pandemic besides formation of organizations like DCCRK headed by Incharge DCCRK Tahir Ahmad Magray and State Epidemiologist Dr. Talat Jabeen.

He also shared challenges which Covid-19 posed during first, second and third waves and containment measures implemented to combat deadly disease.

He said it was a herculean task to augment the Oxygen capacity of the division in a short span of time which did not let anyone to die due to lack of Oxygen supply in the division.

"Our preparations were meticulous throughout this pandemic and this is why I am hopeful that if any new wave of such magnitude will happen in future our Doctors and Paramedics are now capable

enough to handle such a situation", he stated.

On the occasion, mementos were presented to all the dignitaries for their organization's contribution during this current pandemic.

Div Com distributed felicitation certificates to all the CMOs, Medical Superintendents of various hospitals of Kashmir division and staff of DCCRK for their exemplary work during the pandemic.

At the end, DSHK, Dr. Mustaq Rather appreciated his doctors and paramedical staff for their extraordinary work in the time of crisis. He also thanked Divisional Commissioner Kashmir for his able guidance in this pandemic.

Lastly, vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Talat Jabeen to all the dignitaries who were present on the occasion, on the behalf of DCCRK.

Juvenile Stabs 'Customer' At Qamarwari, Apprehended

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A Stabbing incident involving a juvenile has sent shockwaves across Kashmir valley.

Eyewitnesses said on Monday afternoon, a juvenile (name withheld), a resident of Bilal Colony Qamarwari was selling watermelons on a cart. A customer namely Mohammad Siddique Matta, also a resident of Qamarwari approached him to purchase watermelons.

They reportedly had an argument over the 'quality of watermelons'.

As Matta refused to purchase

watermelons from the cart puller, the juvenile (name withheld) stabbed Matta in the chest, leaving him in a pool of blood.

His body was later taken to SMHS Hospital for specialized treatment.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, SHO Police Station Qamarwari Suhail Khan said on Monday Police Station received a call at around 02:30 in the afternoon that a stabbing incident had taken place.

"On receiving the call, we immediately rushed to the spot and started investigation" SHO Suhail said.

After verifying details, it came to forth that the juvenile (name withheld) had committed the crime.

"On the same day (Monday) we apprehended the juvenile. We presented him before the juvenile justice board on Tuesday".

He has been sent to two day remand and is presently lodged at Juvenile home, Harwan. The condition of the victim is stable. SHO Qamarwari Suhail Khan said.

An FIR no 91 under section 307 IPC has been registered at Police Station Qamarwari. Further investigation is going on in this case.

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir



NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Rahil Ahmad Dar S/o Nazir Ahmad Dar R/o Majeed Bagh Sanat Nagar Sgr (Transferor) of LMV bearing registration No. JK01AB- 0800 chasis No: 693835 Engine No: A08145 Model 2015 in favour of Humair Ahmad Dar S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar R/o Shopian Kmr (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 664
Dated: 10/01/2022
FKO

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir



Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir



NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Dr Shaika Farooq S/D/W Dr Altaf Ahmad Kawoosa R/o H.No16 Munt View Colony Zakura Sgr (Transferor) of LMV bearing registration No. jk01ad- 4227 chasis No: 358084 Engine No: 7822079 Model 2016 in favour of Ahmad Hussain Bhat S/o Akhtar Hussain Bhat R/o Upper Zaffron Colony Balhama Sgr (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 679
Dated: 12/04/2022
FKO

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir



NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Muzamil Najar S/o Nazir Ahmad R/o Takanwari Pora Noor Bagh Sgr (Transferor) of Alto 800 bearing registration No. JK01T-3689 chasis No: 171753 Engine No: 958838 Model 2013 in favour of Manzoor Ahmad Najar S/O GH Mohammad Najar R/O Narakra Budgam (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 665
Dated: 12/04/2022
FKO

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir



Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir



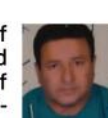
NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Javid Ahamd Posh S/o Mohammad Yousuf osh R/o Lane No 5B Firdousabad Bataloo Sgr (Transferor) of LMV bearing registration No. jk01W- 9676 chasis No: 540281 Engine No: 5323113 Model 2014 in favour of Mukhtar Ahmad Teli S/o Mohammad Rsmazan Teli R/o Buchwara Dalgate Srinagar (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned. No, representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 677
Dated: 12/04/2022
FKO

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir



ازنیات ایچریل بااعلاص منقوراحمدانی ناب تحصیلدار				
مضمون درخواست منجانب: افت مکت دختر شوکت احمد شیر گوری ساکنہ تیلوئی تحصیل ضلع نٹ ناگ				
بغرض حصول SC رتقلیت				
اشتہار برآء اگای ہر خاص و عام۔				
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC رتقلیت دختر بڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ کا کنیدہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔				
نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	شوکت احمد شیر گوری ولد محمد یوسف شیر گوری	40 سال	مزدوری	5000/=
02	رقت زوجہ شوکت احمد شیر گوری	38 سال	گھر بی کام	
03	مہک شوکت دختر شوکت احمد شیر گوری	20 سال	گھر بی کام	
04	افت شوکت دختر شوکت احمد شیر گوری	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	ایڑ شوکت دختر شوکت احمد شیر گوری	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
اسکے علاوہ مذکورہ افراد کنیدہ میں موجود ہیں۔ ساکان کے کنیدہ میں کوئی بھی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔ کنیدہ مذکورہ کا مکان ر ہائش و منجمن حد مقرہ سے کم ہے۔ کنیدہ کے زیر قبضہ کوئی رقیق آبی خانی نہیں ہے کنیدہ زیر قبضہ آگلن حد مقرہ سے کم ہے۔ لہذا رتقلیت اجراء کرنے میں کوئی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا ویکہ ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران بغرضی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیار گذر نے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔				
rna				
تحریر الصدو ناب تحصیلدار۔				

ازنیات انت ناگ بااعلاص انگریز کیمپلر جسٹس دیچاوال				
مضمون درخواست منجانب: ارجمند ظہور ارمنہ جان منورہ ظہور دختر ان ظہور احمد دوکڑو				
ساکنہ بذیل انت ناگ۔				
بغرض حصول EWS رتقلیت۔				
اشتہار برآء اگای ہر خاص و عام۔				
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول EWS رتقلیت دختر بڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکان کا کنیدہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔				
نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	ظہور احمد دوکڑو ولد محمد غلظل دوکڑو	58 سال	مزدوری	
2	شمیر اختر زوجہ ظہور احمد دوکڑو	51 سال	گھر بی کام	
3	ارجمند ظہور دختر ظہور احمد دوکڑو	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	ارمنہ جان دختر ظہور احمد دوکڑو	19 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	منورہ ظہور دختر ظہور احمد دوکڑو	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	
اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کنیدہ میں موجود ہیں۔ ساکان کے کنیدہ میں کوئی بھی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔ کنیدہ مذکورہ کا مکان ر ہائش و منجمن حد مقرہ سے کم ہے۔ کنیدہ کے زیر قبضہ کوئی رقیق آبی خانی نہیں ہے کنیدہ زیر قبضہ آگلن حد مقرہ سے کم ہے۔ لہذا رتقلیت اجراء کرنے میں کوئی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا ویکہ ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران بغرضی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیار گذر نے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔				
rna				
ناب تحصیلدار۔				

ازنیات رہبر پورہ بااعلاص غلامی الدین بٹ صاحب				
درخواست منجانب۔ فردوس اختر زوجہ ممتاز احمد خان، عائشہ جان دختر ممتاز احمد خان ساکنہ رہبر پورہ تحصیل منٹن				
بغرض حصول: RBA۔ رتقلیت				
اشتہار برآء اگای ہر خاص و عام۔				
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکان نے ایک درخواست رتقلیت دختر بڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جس کی نوار رپورٹ جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکان کا کنیدہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہیں۔ اور ساکان کے کنیدہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہیں۔				
نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	ممتاز احمد خان ولد محمد امین خان	48 سال	زمینداری	5000/=
2	فردوس اختر زوجہ ممتاز احمد خان	45 سال	ملازمت	5000/= (A.W.W)
3	عائشہ جان دختر ممتاز احمد خان	17 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	نہیرہ جان دختر ممتاز احمد خان	14 سال	زیر تعلیم	
اسطور ساکان کا کنیدہ 14 افراد پر مشتمل ہیں۔ اور ساکان کے کنیدہ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہیں۔				
ساکان مذکورہ کے کنیدہ کو کنیدہ میں رقیق تعدادی 5 کتاں موجود ہیں۔ جس کی سالانہ آمدنی 75000 روپیہ تک ہے۔ ساکان کے کنیدہ کی سالانہ آمدنی تمام زرعی سے 195000 تک ہے۔ اسطور ساکان RBA رتقلیت اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کوئی اعتراض ہوگا ویکہ ہفتہ کے اندر اندر پانچا عذر یا اعتراض دختر بڑا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد گذر سے معیار کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔				
rna				
ناب تحصیلدار۔				

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: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
11 Ramazan
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 36
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:10
Magrib	7:03
ISHA	8: 28

This Day In History

- 989- Battle at Abydos: Byzantine emperor Basilus II beats Bardas Phocas
- 1204 - Crusaders occupy Constantinople
- 1367 - Battle at Nájera Spain: Castile & England beat Aragon & France
- 1517- Ottoman army occupies Cairo
- 1759- French beat European Allies in Battle of Bergen
- 1796- First elephant arrives in US from India
- 1796- Battle at Millesimo Italy: Napoleon beats Austrians
- 1849 - Hungarian Republic proclaimed
- 1868- Abyssinian War ends as British and Indian troops capture Magdala and Ethiopian Emperor commits suicide
- 1869- Steam power brake patented (George Westinghouse)
- 1904- Battle at Oviumbo Africa: Hereros chase away German army
- 1904 - A squadron of the Russian fleet is decoyed out of Port Arthur by Japanese maneuvers, when they realize they are sailing into a trap; their battleship Petropavlovsk hits a mine and sinks, with a loss of 700 men
- 1919 - British troops open fire on demonstrators in Amritsar, India, killing 350
- 1940 - 2nd battle of Narvik; 8 German destroyers destroyed
- 1941 - Pact of neutrality between the USSR and Japan is signed.
- 1944 - Diplomatic relations are established between New Zealand and the Soviet Union.
- 1959 - USAF launches Discoverer II into polar orbit
- 1959 - Vanguard SLV-5 launched for Earth orbit (failed)
- 1960 - France becomes 4th nuclear nation exploding an A-Bomb in Sahara
- 1981 - Pulitzer prize awarded to Beth Henley for "Crimes of the Heart"
- 1981 Wash Post Janet Cooke wins Pulitzer Prize (later admits story a hoax)
- 1983 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1984 - 11th Space Shuttle Mission (41C)-Challenger 5-returns to Earth
- 1984 - India beat Pak by 58 runs to win 1st Asia Cricket Cup in Sharjah
- 1985 - "TASS" denounces US boycott of Moscow Olympics
- 1985 - Space Shuttle Atlantis ferried to Kennedy Space Center via Ellington AFB, Texas
- 1985 - Katrin Dörre wins 1st female World Cup marathon (2:33:30)
- 1985 - Ramiz Alia succeeds Enver Hoxha as party leader of Albania
- 1986 - Pope John Paul II meets Rome's Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff at Rome synagogue
- 1986 - Spanish Grand Prix decided by 0.014 of a second
- 1987 - Portugal signs agreement to return Macau to China (in 1999)
- 1992 - American Airlines reduce its 1st-class fares 20%-50%
- 1992 - Longest 2 undefeated baseball teams to meet (NY Yanks 5-0 vs Toronto Blue Jays 6-0); Yanks score 3 in top of 9th to win 5-2
- 1994 - Presidential guard at Kigali, Rwanda, chops 1,200 church members to death
- 1994 - Target date for Israeli complete withdrawal, doesn't occur

From KO Archives

Gone Are The Days When We Would Be Dismissed: Farooq

Observer News Service

JAMMU : Chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah today ridiculed threats of dismissing his government saying the National Conference was governing the state with massive support of the people who were the real fountain of power.

Nobody can; dismiss us, gone are such days, Dr. Abdullah declared at a largely attended rally organised to felicitate the newly elected member to Rajya Sabha, Mirza Abdul Rashid at Zanana Park here this afternoon.

Without naming Mufti Sayed's People's Democratic Party, the chief minister said some parties were roaming in villages saying that their stand on holding talks with militants has been vindicated. Truth is that decision of releasing Hurriyat Conference leaders was taken after consultations between the state and central governments". He said he was not against holding talks with anybody provided these are held within the constitution.

(Kashmir Observer 13 April, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Time to repair ties

In his first speech as Pakistan’s new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come forward and address “the Kashmir issue” so that the two countries could concentrate on tackling poverty and unemployment. Sharif also attacked Khan for not making “serious and diplomatic efforts” when India abrogated Article 370 in August 2019.

The PM Modi congratulated Sharif on his election and said India desired peace and stability in a region free of terrorism. The newly elected Pakistan PM tweeted back that the resolution of Kashmir was “indispensable.”

Sharif, younger brother of former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif was sworn-in as Pakistan’s 23rd Prime Minister on Monday after his predecessor Imran Khan’s government was ousted in a no-confidence motion on April 9.

The Sharif family is generally seen as friendly towards India and there is hope that the new Pakistan prime minister will take steps to restore some kind of a relationship with India. When PM Modi was sworn in 2014, Nawaz Sharif was among the invited regional leaders who had visited India for the ceremony. And later in 2015 Modi had made an impromptu visit to Lahore to attend the wedding of Sharif’s grand daughter. But the bonhomie between the two countries was cut short when the militants traced to Pakistan attacked an Army base in Pathankot. From thereon, the relationship went steadily downhill reaching its nadir when New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of constitution in August 2019.

The neighbors tried to pick up the pieces with the surprise re-affirmation of the 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control in February 2021. Ever since, however, they have failed to build upon the truce and restore the dialogue process between them.

Both the countries have been putting an onus on each other to take the first step towards resuming dialogue. Islamabad under Imran Khan had made any re-engagement with India conditional to New Delhi reversing the August 5 move. And New Delhi has been insisting on an end to cross-border terrorism before the talks could begin. Anyways if the last year’s figures for infiltration and the killings of foreign militants in Kashmir are anything to go by, Islamabad seems to have held back to a large extent from supporting the local militancy. New Delhi is not going to reverse the withdrawal of J&K autonomy. It remains to be seen whether it restores statehood anytime soon following the holding of elections later this year or probably early next year. But a sustained, meaningful dialogue between the two countries has the potential to lead to a positive outcome. So, the neighbours should restore it sooner than later. A new government in Pakistan offers a promise to reset the ties.

OTHER OPINION

The Third Shot

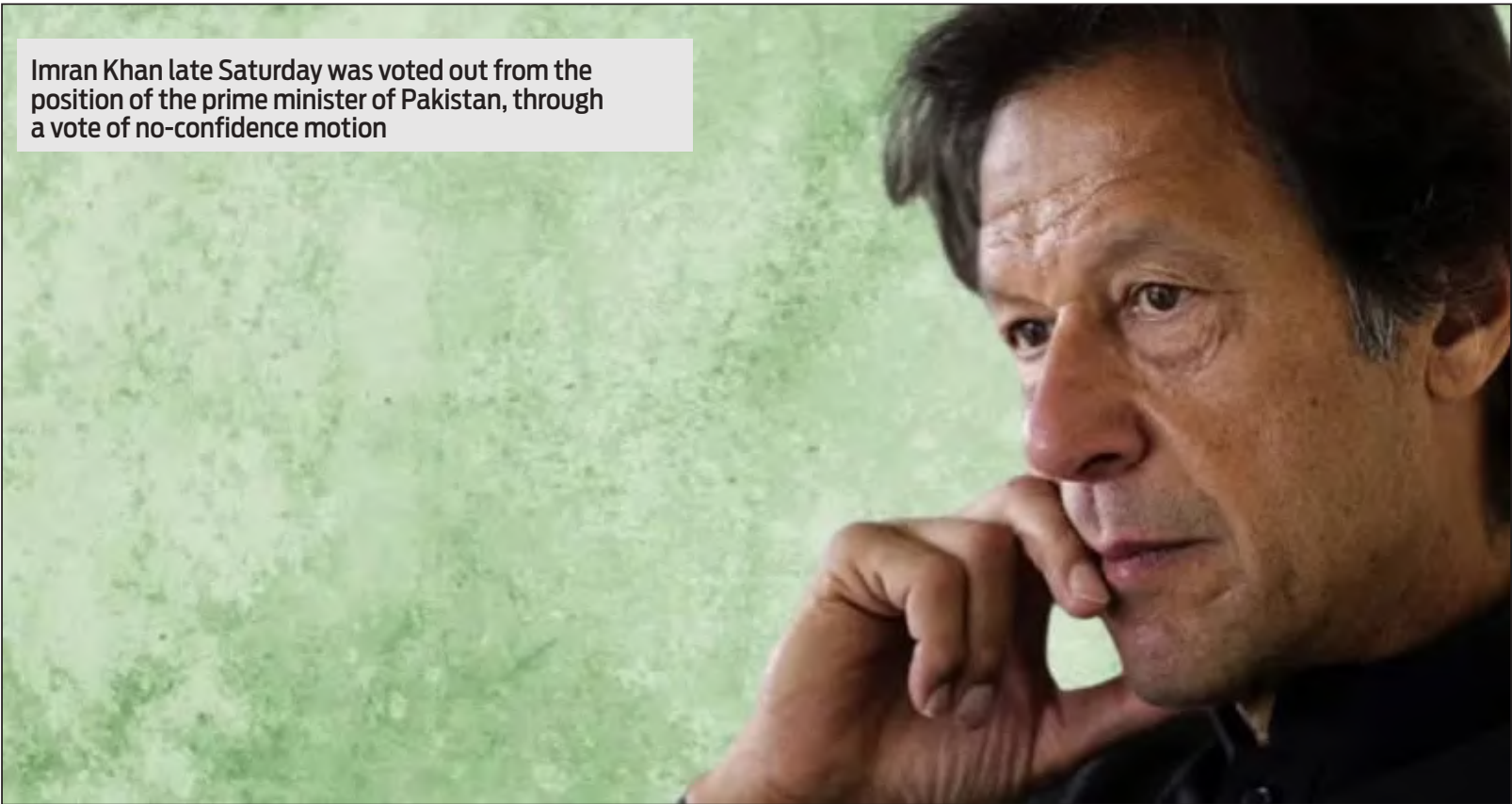
Though the SARS-CoV-2 virus is at its lowest ebb in the country, a number of states have relaxed safety measures and economic activity in most sectors is back to pre-Covid levels, the urgency to shield people more securely against the pathogen is far from over. A substantial body of literature and evidence from several countries attest to the efficacy of the third dose in boosting immunity against the contagion and preventing serious infection. A number of studies have also shown that the antibodies produced by the first two doses wane over a period of time. While the jury is out on whether a booster dose would confer lifelong protection against emerging variants, there is little doubt that such doses constitute a significant public health response against the virus. The latest extension of the country’s vaccination drive is, therefore, backed by sound science. An important question, however, remains: Has the government adopted the most potent strategy to take the precautionary dose to all sections of the eligible population?

Both government hospitals and private healthcare facilities were involved when the government launched the precautionary vaccination drive in January, for frontline workers, healthcare professionals and people above 60. But the people eligible for the shots after the government’s latest announcement will have to pay to get the jabs from a private hospital. This may not be a wise move for more than one reason. Since the private sector has a limited presence in the healthcare sector in large parts of rural India, the shots will be out of reach for a substantial section of the population. The third shot is, no doubt, priced much lower than the first two doses. However, initial reports suggest that the government does not seem to have worked out the economics to the satisfaction of all players in the vaccine supply chain. Private hospitals with unused stocks of Covaxin and Covishield have, for instance, expressed reluctance to administer the shots at the price fixed by the government – they had procured the vaccines at higher rates. The manufacturers of both vaccines have assured that they will compensate the hospitals for the price differential for the existing stocks. But by all accounts, the confusion does not seem to be over.

At least five homegrown or indigenously manufactured vaccines for adults have received the country’s drug regulator’s approval. Second generation vaccines such as Corbevax and Covovax have shown promise in clinical trials. However, they have not become part of the vaccination project largely because the mix-and-match approach – favoured by experts in several parts of the world – has not received much traction amongst the country’s policymakers. With the precautionary dose project still in infancy, the chance to use these potentially more effective vaccines must not be lost.

The Indian Express

Imran Khan late Saturday was voted out from the position of the prime minister of Pakistan, through a vote of no-confidence motion



Riyaz Wani

“The question in Pakistan is whether the no-trust motion was an organic political process or abetted by a foreign power. That had to be resolved first as that was the elephant in the room. But other than Khan and his party, no other Pakistani institution, let alone the opposition seemed to be bothered by it

Retired Hurt

The fundamental question in Pakistan is not whether Khan was a self-centered leader who hadn’t delivered the promised good governance but whether the no-trust motion was an organic political process

WHEN legendary cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan took guard as Pakistan’s 22nd Prime Minister in August 2018, he brought with him the vision of “Naya Pakistan.” The vision carried conviction as it came from a new leader with a heroic cricketing career - Khan led Pakistan to its only world cup victory in 1992 - and two decades of struggle as a politician. In his first address to the nation, he kept his focus on the internal challenges of Pakistan. He promised wide-ranging reforms with a focus on safeguarding Pakistan’s resources and their redistribution from the rich to the disadvantaged. He outlined an ambitious goal of getting Pakistan to stand on its feet instead of “begging foreign countries for loans.” But like all his predecessors, Khan couldn’t complete his term. Three and a half years on, he has been unceremoniously ousted from power through a no-trust motion, meeting the fate of his predecessors.

As things stood, Khan wasn’t succeeding in what he had set out to do. For the better part of his time, Khan’s idealism got ahead of himself, making him oblivious to the realities of Pakistan’s politics, the country’s many vulnerabilities, and the evolving geo-political situation. He pursued an independent foreign policy against heavy odds, in the process alienating Pakistan from its benefactors in the west, especially the US, still the sole superpower of the world. He tried to improve the country’s battered economy but failed miserably.

But should this have led to his ouster? Why not. But only if the no-confidence motion that was brought against him by Pakistan’s combined opposition hadn’t appeared like a regime change operation sponsored by a foreign power, this time publicly identified as the United States.

The fundamental question in Pakistan is not whether Khan was a self-centered leader who hadn’t delivered the promised good governance. The performance of most of the governments is a blend of good, bad, and ugly. The image of a government depends on what narrative you are able to build and how widely, forcefully and

even forcibly you are able to disseminate it through diverse channels of information.

The question in Pakistan is whether the no-trust motion was an organic political process or abetted by a foreign power. That had to be resolved first as that was the elephant in the room. But other than Khan and his party, no other Pakistani institution, let alone the opposition seemed to be bothered by it. Nor did they engage with the allegation made by the sitting prime minister of the country. The opposition made little effort to absolve itself or build a counter-narrative other than dismissing the letter, first as fake and then as routine communiqué from Washington. Instead, a steady focus was kept on

“But both are of no worth if the country’s strings are seen to be pulled by the other country which not only undermines a country’s democracy but more damagingly its sovereignty. The issue here is not whether there was foreign intervention in Pakistan’s internal affairs or not but to rule it out before you proceed with the no-trust motion against the incumbent government.

a result, no democratic leader has been allowed to grow to his full potential let alone realize his political vision for the country. Nor does it look likely that this will happen in the future. The Army is generally believed to be the only stable and powerful institution in the country and will likely be so in the future.

Does this mean that Khan’s turbulent political innings has come to an end? Unlikely so. That is, unless the system doesn’t see to it that he is kept out of circulation in the years to come. Khan out in the streets could be much more disruptive for Pakistan. He has used the run up to his exit to a great effect, creating a cogent narrative around foreign interference in Pakistan’s

affairs and mobilizing people. He has succeeded to a large extent in discrediting the new rulers whom he has accused of being American agents. This will make his opponents’ stint in the government difficult: their every move will be watched and more often than not read as a compromise dictated by the US.

What is more, in Khan, anti-Americanism which runs deep in Pakistan and has so far gone abegging for a political expression, has found its most recognizable face. Tapping into the deep reservoir of this sentiment, Khan could be expected to return to power with a landslide majority in the next election - that is, if the situation follows its logical and of course organic trajectory.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer’s name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and 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
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Horn Please!

TRAFFIC Jams have become a new reality of life in Srinagar. Day in and day out, hundreds of vehicles are stuck in jams and lurch forward to reach their destinations. Unfortunately, it takes hours before these jams are cleared and even essential service(s) vehicles, such as Ambulances, navigate with great difficulty through them. Therefore, steps must be taken to reduce the occurrence of jams in the city.

Before taking any steps, the authorities need to identify the potential causes of traffic jams in the city. It needs to be acknowledged that the number of vehicles entering the city is increasing as more and more people are purchasing them. However, the roads have not been widened or reconstructed to withhold such a volume of traffic. At several crossings, traffic lights are not functional, which leads to great chaos. In the city centre, Lal

Chowk, there are very few parking slots. On a busy day, people who are unable to find parking slots park their cars on roads running through Lal Chowk, thus, leading to jams. Nevertheless, the public should also be held accountable for these jams. People often drive vehicles on the wrong side of the road, overtake in a rush, which leads to traffic jams in the city.

To reduce traffic jams, both the authorities and the public have a

role to play. The authorities need to take into account the causes of jams, devise a plan and accordingly implement it. On the other hand, the public needs to understand that certain rules are necessary to follow while driving, and if they follow them, there may be fewer jams in the city.

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Are Our Madaris Doing Enough?



“All this said, we can’t scrape our Madrassas with the credit of keeping Islam alive in our society. Appreciation be to these people that all of us can read Qu’ran and know the proper procedure of Prayers. The necessity of Muftis is immense, from solving our religious conflicts to guiding people on every matter, we can’t imagine a perfect society without these elements

Madiya Mushtaq

The word 'Madrasa' is an Arabic word for any educational institution whether secular or religious and whether a school, college, university. This concept is inherited from the Seljuk Turks. The Ottomans constructed a madrasa within every mosque they built, as an integral policy of their conquest. This arrangement beautifully catered for both the religious as well as scientific needs of the society providing symmetrically for both aspects of human as well as societal needs.

According to Ibn-Sina, the renowned Persian scholar of the 11th century, Madaris or Madrassas were institutions of elementary level schooling, teaching students between the age of 6-14 years, Quran, Islamic Jurisprudence, Islamic metaphysics, Arabic Language, Literature, Islamic ethics and manual skills. This was followed by a secondary level of institutions which were named as 'Makt'ab' wherein the pupils were asked to choose between specific disciplines which included literature, trade, commerce, craftsmanship, geometry, preaching and other fields, a system that was open and evolutionary.

Such nuanced education system gave world the distinguished persons like

Nasir-al-Din Tusi, Al-Biruni, Al-Siyazi, Al-Battani, Ibn- Yusuf, Ibn-Rushd, Al-Ghazzali and numerous other scholars, who contributed in the field of mathematics, science, geometry, geology, chemistry, philosophy, literature, arts, geography and what not. The contribution of these scholars is the backbone of modern technology and advancement.

This tradition was geared both to the provisions of the necessary religious, scientific and educational services for the society as well as for training administrative and legal personnel for the state administration. This way, there were educated personnel for the society and individuals who were both knowledgeable in their areas of competence and at the same time able to perform their duties in terms of the requirement of Islamic Jurisprudence and customary practices.

In India this concept of madrasas has been inherited only partially as these places have been merely reduced to religious institutions where in the name of proper 'Islamisation', they have extirpated 'Western education' from these institutions. There are 25,000 madrassas all over the country and while most of them admit male students, they are affiliated directly or indirectly to Dar-ul-uloom Deoband where the syllabus of Darse-Nizami prepared by Mulla Nizami is still followed which dates

back to 18th century, and no major changes have been made ever since.

The major subjects that are taught in these madrassas are Arabic, Urdu, and Home Science (generally only taught to girls). The degrees sought from these institutions are not recognised by most of the institutions all over the country except for institutions like JMI or maybe AMU.

People passing out of madrassas have restricted job opportunities in mosques and Madraasas where they either work as 'Imam' or teachers in madrassas only. Sadly no concrete career skills are taught to these children leaving them handicapped for the contemporary world. These madrasas sadly show a negative reaction on developmental projects and this reluctance to change has proven to be fatal for Muslims looking for job opportunities in the job-market of contemporary world. This present day arrangement of Madraasas where the entire focus is on the religious theology and Islamic jurisprudence, cutting out the skill oriented education has intellectually subjugated the Muslim folk, the scientific know-how and their all round development.

A complete package of education which completes a human in the actual sense are missing from these institutions. Madrassas are sought to as a resort by the poorest Muslim folk,

which is at the lowest of the pyramid, unable to afford the education for their children. Children are sent to these madrassas where indeed the education is cheap but the absence of proper skill-development in addition to the religious knowledge leaves them further dependent and incapable of sustaining themselves. The proof being the endless knocks on the door for collecting funds for these madrasas during this month of Ramadan. The institution that should have taught us self-sufficiency have themselves become the begging bowls.

Muslims in India as per the census of 2011 constitute a population of 13% , but we have the lowest working ratio 32.6% in Govt sector, 23.7% in private sector 6.5% in public sector, only 8.8% in IAS, IPS, IFS and shockingly 4.4% in health sector and 6% in police. This is indeed a very sad scenario and needs massive attention. We are falling behind in the field of development and this has resulted in massive poverty amongst Muslims all over the country. We need to equip our youth with mastery in every field, with the competence to face the razor-edged competition.

All this said, we can't scrape our Madrassas with the credit of keeping Islam alive in our society. Appreciation be to these people that all of us can read Qu'ran and know the proper procedure of Prayers. The necessity of

Muftis is immense, from solving our religious conflicts to guiding people on every matter, we can't imagine a perfect society without these elements. But, how beautiful would it be to see these Muftis lead the world in every aspect from religion to science?

In the words of Allama Iqbal (R.A):

Murshid Ki Ye Taleem Thi Ae Muslim-e-Shourida Sar / Lazim Hai Rahru Ke Liye Dunya Mein Saman-e-Safar

The preceptor's teaching was, "O foolish Muslim! / Necessary preparations are incumbent on the traveler"

In the Holy Book of Quran, the second most used word is 'Ilm' (knowledge), after the name of Allah. Indeed, the Book is complete in itself, yet as Muslims have we done enough to explore every secret that this beautiful book beholds? How that we see the manifestation of the Quran, the Constitution in every sphere we embark on, in the diagnosis and prescription of doctors, in the teaching of teachers, in the construction of bridges and roads by the engineers, in the toil of laborers, in the adjudication of judicial matters. Quran can indeed be our guiding book in every sphere. Paradoxically if we go back a thousand years and live our lives on the principles of The Prophet(S.A.W) it would be a giant leap for mankind.

Lights in the Dark

Sleeping with even a little bit of light isn't good for your health, study shows

WILL STONE

Turning off the lights and closing the curtains isn't exactly a catchy, new sleep hygiene hack, but this common sense advice is gaining even more scientific credibility. Many Americans sleep in a room that's punctuated with some form of artificial light — whether it's coming from a TV, a jumble of electronics or an intrusive streetlight.

New research suggests that one night of sleep with just a moderate amount of light may have adverse effects on cardiovascular and metabolic health.

"I was surprised that even this fairly, I would say, small amount of light just getting through the eyes to the brain still had such notable effect," says Dr. Phyllis Zee, senior author of the new study and director of the Center for Circadian and Sleep Medicine at Northwestern University.

The findings tie into a broader body of evidence that indicates being exposed to light at night may be harmful in a variety of ways and could predispose people to chronic diseases.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF LIGHT

The small, 20-person study conducted by Zee and her team at Northwestern was designed to measure the physiological effects of 100 lux of artificial light on healthy adults while they were sleeping.

"This is about enough light that you could maybe see your way around, but it's not enough light to really read comfortably," says Zee. For the study, all the participants spent their first night sleeping in a mostly dark room. The next night, half of them slept in a more illuminated room (the light was placed overhead).

Meanwhile, the researchers ran



“Unlike those who spent both nights in the dark, the group exposed to the light had elevated heart rates throughout the night. They also had increased insulin resistance in the morning, meaning they had more trouble getting their blood sugar into a normal range

tests on the sleepers: they recorded their brainwaves, measured their heart rates and drew their blood every few hours, among other things. In the morning, they'd give both groups a big dose of sugar to see how well their systems responded to the spike.

The results, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this month, show several clear differences between the two groups.

Unlike those who spent both nights in the dark, the group exposed to the light had elevated heart rates throughout the night. They also had increased insulin resistance in the morning, mean-

ing they had more trouble getting their blood sugar into a normal range.

LIGHT CAN DISRUPT METABOLISM

Zee says there are multiple potential ways that being exposed to light at night could disturb our metabolism.

One possibility — supported by research — is that having the light on disrupts the quality of sleep, but surprisingly this study did not find that result while monitoring the people in the lighted room. In fact, the participants generally reported that they thought they slept fine.

The researchers also measured levels of melatonin, a hormone that helps with the timing of circadian rhythms and promotes sleep. Melatonin is typically suppressed during the day and rises at night.

Studies show artificial light at night can suppress melatonin levels, and scientists have found a link between the disruption of melatonin and several diseases, including cancer and diabetes. Though here, too, the study did not find evidence that melatonin levels were lower among the people sleeping with the light on.

"That probably means that the light level that was getting

through the eyes was not really bright enough to suppress melatonin," says Zee.

However, Zee and her team believe that this small amount of light was enough to activate the sympathetic arm of the autonomic nervous system — what's responsible for the body's fight or flight response. This is supposed to cool down during sleep as the body moves into a parasympathetic state, when the body's heart rate and respiration decrease.

The changes in cardiovascular function suggest the small amount of light was enough to shift the nervous system to a more activated and alert state.

"It's almost like the brain and the heart knew that the lights were on, although the individual was sleeping," says Zee.

The study is an important example of how even relatively dim light exposure can be disruptive to our sleep-wake cycle, says Dr. Chris Colwell, whose lab at UCLA studies the mechanisms underlying circadian rhythms.

He says the findings makes sense because the autonomic nervous system has a robust daily rhythm.

"There's a lot of coordinated actions that have to occur in order for us to get a good night's sleep and the autonomic nervous system balance regulates that," says Colwell.

This effect on the nervous system wasn't "dramatic" — not as if the people were awake — but Colwell says it's still concerning: "You don't want that going on when you're trying to get a good night's sleep."

INCREASED RISK OF CHRONIC ILLNESS

The study's findings that metabolic health suffered aren't entirely surprising.

Colwell notes there's already a solid pool of research, as well as large population studies, showing that disrupting circadian rhythms makes it harder to regulate blood glucose levels.

Some of these human studies have used a much brighter intensity of light — and not while people were actually sleeping. And while the findings of this study alone can't predict what would happen in the long term, Colwell suspects the harmful effects would be cumulative: "This was only one night, so imagine if you're living that way constantly?"

The body's "master clock," called the suprachiasmatic nucleus, is found in the brain, but organs and tissues throughout

the body have their own cellular timekeeping devices. Cells in the pancreas that secrete insulin are one example. Disrupting the sleep-wake cycle can affect their ability to appropriately secrete insulin, which in turn controls blood sugar.

"That's going to increase the risk of chronic diseases like insulin resistance, diabetes and other cardiometabolic problems," says Dr. Charles Czeisler, chief of the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and a professor at Harvard Medical School.

For example, a large observational study of more than 40,000 women found that sleeping with a TV or light on was associated with a 17% increased risk of gaining 11 lbs over the course of five years.

Czeisler's own research has looked at the metabolic consequences of disruptions in circadian rhythms for longer than just one night.

In a recently published study, he and his colleagues conclude that the negative effects on metabolism observed in their study participants over the course of three weeks were primarily because of disruptions to circadian rhythms — not necessarily because of sleep deficiency.

"When we did not increase their exposure to artificial light at night, we did not see adverse effects of chronic sleep deficiency on glucose metabolism," he says.

This is not to say that sleep deficiency doesn't also have major adverse effects on health — it does — but he says it simply underscores the far-reaching consequences of being exposed to light at nighttime.

"People think that as long as they fall asleep and are unconscious, it's not having physiological effects, but that's simply not true," Czeisler says.

NPR

Vehicles torched amid curfew in Khargone

Muslim clerics meet DGP, raise question over demolitions

Khargone (MP): In a fresh incident of arson, miscreants torched four vehicles and a garage in the curfew-bound Khargone city of Madhya Pradesh, where nearly 100 people have been arrested since violence during Ram Navami celebrations, police said on Tuesday, while Muslim clerics alleged their community members were selectively targeted by the state administration.

While the curfew is in force in Khargone since Sunday evening, some anti-social elements set ablaze three buses, a car and a garage in the city's Mechanic Nagar area on Monday night, Additional Superintendent of Police Neeraj Chourasia said.

So far, 95 people have been arrested in connection with the violence that started during a Ram Navami procession on Sunday and the law and situation was under control in the city, police officials said.

As an uneasy calm prevailed in the trouble-torn city, a delegation of Muslim clerics on Tuesday met the state DGP in Bhopal and alleged Muslims were selectively targeted by the administration after communal clashes in Khargone and Sendhwa towns on Ram Navami even though members of processions had put up saffron flags on walls of mosques and raised inflammatory slogans.

A stone-pelting incident was also reported during a Ram Navami procession in Sendhwa town of Barwani district.

The clerics alleged the Khargone district administration demolished many houses and properties belonging to members of the minority community in a hurried action without a probe, forcing over



100 Muslim families to migrate from the city.

The Muslim clerics led by Qazi-e-Shahar, Bhopal, Syed Mushtaq Ali, submitted a memorandum to Director General of Police (DGP) Sudhir Saxena.

The memorandum alleged, "atrocities are committed on the Muslim community by demolishing their houses and putting them in jails in a clear violation of the law of the land".

An attempt is being made in MP to create disturbance for quite some time. During the processions taken out on the occasion of Ram Navami festival in Khargone and Sendhwa towns, the members of the processions scaled walls of mosques and put up saffron flags on them besides raising inflammatory slogans, the memorandum said.

The "provocative" actions of these people resulted in communal violence in which police personnel and rioters targeted the Muslim community by demolishing and torching their

houses and shops, it alleged.

The memorandum alleged legislators of the ruling party are issuing provocative statements and urged the DGP to act in time to prevent a repeat of the situation elsewhere in the state.

Prominent Muslim body Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind sought Union Home Minister Amit Shah's intervention over the issue of alleged harassment of the minority community in Khargone and demanded a high-level judicial inquiry into the violence in the city.

The police were still investigating how the trouble started in Khargone city even as several eyewitness accounts emerged.

An eyewitness said a Ram Navami procession started from the Talab Chowk area with a DJ music system playing religious songs loudly. When the procession crossed a mosque located nearby, suddenly stones were pelted on the procession which resulted in the flare-up, he said.

Another eyewitness said the procession started late than the scheduled time. While the procession was passing by a mosque, someone hurled stones, he added.

Inspector General, Indore range, Rakesh Gupta said, It is a matter of investigation how the violence started and from where the stones were hurled first. It will be known once things settle." Khargone Collector Anugraha P said, The curfew is continuing in the city. People were given relaxation only for urgent medical needs. She said the exams of undergraduate and post-graduate courses in Khargone have been postponed in view of the curfew.

An official release said the administration has taken into custody some of those involved in stone-pelting. They are being questioned and their illegal properties, including shops and houses, are being demolished, it added.

MP Home Minister Narottam

Mishra spoke to Khargone SP Siddharth Choudhary, who had suffered a bullet injury in the violence on Sunday, and enquired about his health.

Talking to PTI, Choudhary said, After I got information about the arson and reached the Sanjay Nagar area, a youth holding a sword ran towards me. But, when I chased him and tried to snatch the sword from him, I suffered a thumb injury." "When I chased him again, an associate of the youth shot at me, injuring my left leg. The bullet passed through the calf on the other side. I did not require a surgery, and am recuperating at home, he added.

Meanwhile, a case was registered on Tuesday in Bhopal against senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh for allegedly promoting religious enmity after he tweeted a picture of a mosque in another state while commenting on communal violence at Khargone.

In a tweet on Monday morning, Singh posted a picture showing some youths hoisting a saffron flag at a mosque, and referred to the violence that broke out during Ram Navami celebrations in Khargone.

The former CM deleted the tweet later.

The case against the Rajya Sabha MP was registered by the Crime Branch police station based on a complaint about the tweet, Bhopal police commissioner Makrand Deuskar said.

After Singh deleted the post, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan took to Twitter, saying the Congress leader had tweeted a photo of youths hoisting saffron flag at a religious place which was not from Madhya Pradesh.

Carry out safety audit of all ropeway projects: MHA to states and UTs

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the Deoghar ropeway accident, the Centre on Tuesday asked all states to carry out a safety audit of each ropeway project and put in place standard operating procedures to deal with such emergencies.

In a communication to all states and Union territories, Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla also said that for each ropeway project, a maintenance manual and programme must be in place so that the safety standards conform to good industry practices and such incidents do not recur.

The entity operating the ropeways must maintain a record of all the activities undertaken as part of the maintenance programme, he said in the communication.

"The state government must engage an experienced and qualified firm or organisation for carrying out a safety audit of each ropeway project. The entity operating the ropeway must comply with all the issues arising out of the audit," the communication said.

Three people were killed while being rescued from cable cars in Jharkhand's Deoghar district after the ropeway connecting a hill malfunctioned on Sunday afternoon.

The home secretary said BIS standards prescribed for the operation and maintenance of ropeway projects need to be scrupulously adhered to.

He said the necessary guidance in this regard may be taken from the National

Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), which is the nodal organisation under the Ministry of Road, Transport, and Highways, Government of India.

Asking the states and union territories to review the condition of all the ropeway projects in their respective state, Bhalla said SOPs and contingency plans for operation and maintenance of ropeways, and system of safety audits must be put in place.

"It should also be ensured that mock drills, mock exercises for handling contingency situations involving ropeways are periodically conducted," he said.

The home secretary advised the states and UTs to designate a senior officer of an appropriate level to regularly review the preparedness measures in respect of ropeway operations as per the SOPs and contingency plan.

The mishap in Trikut Hills in Deoghar in Jharkhand occurred on April 10, leaving 18 trolleys carrying over 60 people stranded in the air.

After the efforts made by Indian Air Force, NDRF, Indian Army, ITBP, and local administration, the trapped people were rescued. However, three lives were lost during the rescue operation.

"This incident has highlighted the need to have a detailed SOP and a contingency plan on ropeway operations, so as to prevent the occurrence of any such incident in the future," the communication said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Dry Spell Flares

cause of fires spreading at this time of the season.

"However, in most of the cases, we've been able to save much of the forest as it is usually the dry grass and bushes that are caught up in the fire," says Irfan Rasool, Conservator of Forests, North Kashmir.

He further added that the sudden rise in forest fires this year especially in the month of March and April is mainly due to continuous dryness.

"Then there was a record increase in temperature in March and unfortunately less snowfall in the upper reaches during winter is another cause of dryness. The soil in this season would usually be damp, but that's not the case this year," Irfan Rasool told Kashmir Observer.

But besides these natural phenomena engulfing fires in the green gold, Irfan Rasool says that the man made fires have also damaged the woods.

"People grazing their livestock in these woods usually burn the grass in an attempt to give a chance for the fresh grass to sprout. But, this ground fire quickly spreads and burns down bushes and kairu which is an extremely combustible item. Hence, fire engulfed the whole forest and damaged it within a few minutes," says Irfan Rasool.

However, with an unprecedented increase in the forest fire, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has established around 250 fire control rooms across the erstwhile state for prevention and control of forest fires triggered by increasing temperatures.

Principal Chief Conservator of forests Mohit Gera said uncontrolled forest fires have not only caused resource degradation but has also contributed to global warming and climate change.

"The incidences of forest fires are increasing due to rising temperatures and dry conditions prevailing in J&K and most of the fires are triggered by human error. Hence, the forest department has established around 250 fire control rooms across J&K and involved PRIs and local people in prevention and control of forest fires," Gera said.

Army Commander Tells

development defence works being carried out at their respective locations," the spokesman said.

The Army Commander laid special emphasis on being vigilant and maintaining the sanctity of the Line of Control.

He was appreciative of the measures and standard operating procedures instituted by the units and formations to meet the challenges posed by the inimical elements.

The Army Commander appreciated the sharp vigil and alertness along the Line of Control and high morale maintained by the troops.

Later in the day, the Army Commander visited Radio Chinar, the Community Radio Station at Mazbug and interacted with youth employed at the Radio Station.

He appreciated the wide variety of programmes being broadcast, while meeting the aspirations of listeners of all age groups. He urged them to include more programmes, which would essentially benefit the youth of the area.

102 Flights

passengers that the compact size of our airport has caused an inconvenience to them because of the growing rush. My only worry is that if the number of flights operating from the airport increases, it will subsequently multiply inconveniences to the passengers," Singh told Kashmir Observer.

He further added that the airport currently has a capacity to hold only 2.5 million passengers in a year, that means, about 950 passengers per hour.

"But, the authorities have also decided to build a new terminal and six more aircraft parking stands with a cost of Rs 1500 crores to ensure a delightful experience for the passengers. With the new terminal, the annual passenger capacity will increase to 6.5 million from existing 2.5 million and augment peak hour passenger capacity to 3,000 from existing 950," Singh said.

Notably, on March 25, the authorities at the Srinagar airport had installed six new modern equipment including In-Line Baggage System (ILBS) in an attempt to enhance the air-navigation of the aircraft, passenger safety and security.

The six equipments installed include Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR), non-directional (radio) beacon (NDB), the instrument landing system (ILS), X-Ray Baggage Inspection System (XBIS), In-Line Baggage System (ILBS) and ETD.

"These newly installed modern equipment at Srinagar Airport will ensure an increase in rush, enhance a smooth conduct of flight operations and will provide a hassle free experience to the passengers," Director Srinagar Airport told Kashmir Observer.

It is pertinent to mention here that on March 28, the Srinagar International Airport had marked its busiest day in its history, handling 15,014 passengers who boarded 90 flights to travel in or out of Kashmir.

Want Peaceful

powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August 2019.

India's move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 outraged Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad.

India has said that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence. India has said the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility.

JPK To Buy Over

or their authorized dealers for the supply of these security items as per

Assistant Inspector General, Provision and Transport, police headquarters.

Killed Pak Militant

Ahmad Sofi of Amshipora, Shopian, a hybrid militant were killed in Khurbatpora area of Kulgam on Monday.

According to the police spokesperson, Pasha was active since 5 years in Kulgam-Shopian belt and had a history of "terror crime cases" including attacks on police and security forces, abduction of forces personnel, IED attacks, weapon looting and "civilian atrocities".

The Pakistani militant, he said, was also instrumental in recruitment of gullible youth into "terror folds".

The police spokesperson further said that Pasha and Sofi were part of the group that escaped after a brief gunfight in Chaki Samad area of the district on Saturday last.

Giving details of the operation, he said that a joint team of police and army was constituted on the basis of specific input about the movement of militants in a vehicle on Manzgam-Aharab axis.

"At about 1750hrs, a three-wheeler vehicle (Tempo) was spotted near Khur-Batpora moving in suspicious conditions which was chased and challenged," he said.

However, the spokesperson said that the militants travelling in the suspected vehicle jumped out and resorted to indiscriminate firing towards the joint team of forces. The militants' fire, he said, was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

"In the initial exchange of fire two police personnel got critically injured and were evacuated amidst the heavy firing and air lifted to Army's Base Hospital Srinagar where their condition is stable now," he said.

In the ensuing encounter, the police spokesperson said Pasha and an alleged Hybrid militant were killed.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 AK47 rifle, 03 AK47 Magazine, 36 AK 47 rounds, 01 Pistol, 01 Pistol Magazine, 05 Pistol rounds, 01 Grenade catch 86P, 01 BP Pouch and 01 weapon Oil Bottle have been recovered," he said.

All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes. Also the vehicle used in commission of crime has been seized," he added.

In this connection, the spokesperson said a Case vide FIR No 09/2022 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Manzgam and investigation has been initiated.

"People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at the encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

The spokesperson also quoted IGP appreciating the joint team for conducting a successful operation which led to elimination of most wanted

Pakistani militant.

More Trouble

taken on his complaint.

In his complaint filed on September 21, 2020, Ahmad had sought registration of an FIR under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the Indian Penal Code against Singh, a senior BJP leader, his wife Mamta Singh and officials of the J&K Government who allegedly facilitated the construction of the bungalow in contravention of Defence Act read with a notification issued on August 7, 2015 at Village Ban-Panjgrain in Jammu.

Taking a considered view in the matter since the appellant was not provided with a proper reply by the CPIO at the original instance, now since the action is complete on the averred complaint, the CPIO is directed to provide a revised reply to the appellant explaining the current status and the action taken on the complaint as referred to in the RTI application, Punhani said in his order.

He said the information shall be provided free of cost to the appellant within 15 days from the date of receipt of this order under due intimation to the Commission.

The CIC issued the order after hearing the second appeal filed by Ahmed as earlier the CBI officials concerned had rejected the RTI application dated October 19, 2020 on the grounds that the requested information is exempted under Section 8 (1) (h) of the RTI Act, 2005 and further CBI is included in the list of Intelligence and Security Organisations specified in the Second Schedule of the RTI Act, 2005.

Under Section 8(1)(h), information that could impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders is exempted from disclosure.

Section 24(1) of the Right to Information Act exempts intelligence and security organisations specified in the Second Schedule from information disclosure, except when it is pertaining to allegations of corruption and human rights violations.

After the denial of information, the complainant filed an appeal under RTI Act before the first appellate authority which on December 15, 2020 dismissed it and upheld the order of the CPIO, CBI.

The information seeker December 17, 2020 filed the second appeal before the CIC.

He contended that since the information sought was about alleged corruption and abuse of official position by the officers in allowing illegal construction near the Army's ammunition depot, the action of the CBI in refusing the information in corruption cases was unjustified.

The matter was heard at length through audio conference by the Information Commissioner with both advocate Ahmed and the CBI putting forward their arguments.

The bench observed that even though the information sought in the

RTI application clearly pertained to allegations of corruption, Section 24 of the RTI Act was erroneously invoked by the CBI to claim exemption from providing the information.

It said the CPIO additionally invoked Section 8 (1) (h) of RTI Act to deny the information which stood negated in light of the invocation of Section 24 of the RTI Act and, in other words, the CPIO, CBI cannot claim the exemption of Section 24 and that of the exemptions laid down under Section 8 of the RTI Act in conjunction.

Upon a query from the Commission, the order said, the CPIO did not deny the allegations of corruption pertinent to the matter.

He nonetheless stated that the complaint was examined by the competent authority and it was concluded that since the matter is pending before the High Court concerned, the complaint is to be closed at the end of CBI since the court was already seized of the matter.

Govt Constitutes

in this holy month.

"The non-Muslims during their festivals give special discounts to the people and will never cheat their customers," Mir said.

He said that they have intensified marketing checking across the valley and have imposed heavy fines on the traders, who react to such activities.

"Wherever the people complain to us, we impose the fine and then seal the shop/carts," he said, adding that the people need to co-operate and inform them about such activities.

He said they received several complaints regarding chicken wholesale dealers. The department had fixed prices of broiler chicken at Rs 152 per kilogram; however the poultry shops across the Valley sell chicken between Rs 160-Rs 170. "We asked them to shut the business"

Similarly, the price of mutton was fixed at Rs 490 per kilogram, last year but it is being sold at Rs 600 across the valley.

"A delegation of mutton dealers approached us to change the rates but we refused to do so," he added.

When asked how much fine has been recovered so far from the erring traders, he said, the department till April 9 has recovered a sum of Rs 25000 as fine across the valley.

While sharing the data, the department has inspected over 723 establishments across the valley as on 09 April and over 98 defaulters were penalized.

The director further revealed that over 547 defaulters were penalized in the month of March and over Rs 20000 have been recovered as a fine.

However, the consumers alleged that the Union Territory (UT) administration has not ensured enough measures to keep a check on the rising food prices.

"The shopkeepers have been taking undue advantage of the festival season and have been selling these essential commodities at varying prices on their

own," said Shafeeq Ahmad, a resident of HMT Srinagar.

The prices of some fruits and essentials which are being consumed by the people including dates, watermelons, bananas, meat and chicken have skyrocketed since the commencement of the holy month.

Watermelons are being sold at Rs 50 per kg while bananas are being sold between 100-120 per dozen.

Many consumers alleged that even after the various teams of FCSCA department can be seen in the field and taking action, however the erring shopkeepers and vendors but nothing changed on ground.

CBI Nabs Police

that the police officer was demanding Rs 10000 from a person to settle a land dispute, reports said Tuesday.

Prakash is said to be a native of Hirpur village in the border district of RS Pura in the winter capital.

J&K Sees Eight

Srinagar recorded five new cases followed by Baramulla district which registered two infections, officials said.

Seventeen of the 20 districts in the Union Territory did not report any fresh case.

There are 75 active cases while the overall recoveries has reached 4,49,072, officials said.

The COVID-19 death toll stands at 4,750. No Covid-related fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

There were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), they added.

Mumbai Boy

from Tamil Nadu along with a minor boy from Mumbai fell off the horse and sustained critical injuries. Both were taken to Primary Health Centre Sonamarg where Kartik (11) son of Shodakar Divdiga, a resident of Mumbai Dombiwali was declared dead on arrival by the doctors.

The woman from Tamil Nadu identified as Shashi Kumari Singh (63) wife of Ajay Kumar Singh was referred to SKIMS in critical condition. Police in this regard have registered a case at police station Sonmarg.

Arms Cache

"The police party challenged the driver of the vehicle by firing some aerial gunshots but he managed to escape taking the advantage of the darkness, abandoning the vehicle," a police spokesperson said.

During the search of the vehicle, a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including one AK-56, two pistols, two AK magazines, three pistol magazines, six hand grenades, 44 rounds of AK-47, 58 rounds of 7.9 mm and one sling were recovered, the official said.

A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered at the Doornu police station. (PTI)

Navin Reviews Preparations For National Panchayat Raj Conference

Discusses Themes For Stalls Of Departments To Be Established During Exhibition



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Agriculture Production & Farmers' Welfare, Animal & Sheep Husbandry and Horticulture Departments, Navin Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the preparations regarding the conduct of upcoming National Panchayat Raj Conference.

Director General Horticulture Kashmir, Director Sericulture J&K, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing J&K, Director Agriculture Jammu/Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu/Kashmir, Director Fisheries J&K, Additional Secretary Horticulture, representatives of SKUAST-Jammu/Kashmir and other concerned attended the meeting in person and through virtual mode.

The meeting discussed the contents & materials and space available for the exhibition from the Heads of the Departments to be displayed in their stalls to be established in the exhibition during the upcoming conference.

Also, the Principal Secretary enquired about the themes from all the respective heads of the department and asked them to come up with the themes where J&K has achieved a lot better.

He suggested the concerned to rope in Agripreneurs and Hortipreneurs who can be presented at the stall so that they would display their products during the exhibition on the National Panchayat Raj Conference.

While giving their inputs about the themes available for stalls of the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture (SKUAST), the representatives from both the universities of the Union Territory informed that they have chosen five different themes from innovation to entrepreneurship during the exhibition on NPRD.

Govt Launches App To Help People Lodge Complaints Online

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The rural development and panchayati raj department of Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday launched a mobile application to help people lodge complaints related to various schemes online, officials said.

The 'jan nigrani' app is an internet based solution for reporting and resolving grievances by the residents of the Jammu and Kashmir against various schemes of the department, they said.

The app has been developed as an e-governance initiative to provide a 24x7 platform to the people for redressal of their grievances.

Furthermore, the mobile app

would connect the residents and the officials via single platform, where a grievance once registered against a specific scheme would automatically be mapped to the authority concerned for its redressal, the officials added.

The officials said that the app would also facilitate accurate reporting of grievances using customised scheme-specific input forms to ensure minimal rejections on account of incomplete information.

The application has been set at the block level with a seven-day time slot to redress any particular grievance. It will also check bogus or false complaints and can be downloaded from Google play store of android software.

3 Complexes, Ashram Gutted In Midnight Blaze In Anantnag

SRINAGAR: A massive conflagration which broke out on intervening Monday and Tuesday night dealt substantial damage to at least three complexes, which included a shopping-cum-residential complex, besides a Pandit Ashram in Sherbagh area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Reports said that a fire broke in Sherbagh area at around 12:40 AM and soon after spread to nearby structures. Even as men and machinery arrived at the site, the fire had already spread to a larger area making it difficult for the department assisted by locals to the raging flames, according to news agen-

cy GNS.

As per preliminary reports, at least three complexes, a Pandit Ashram and a Floriculture Department hut suffered damage.

A Fire and Emergency Department official told GNS that soon after receiving intimation, they moved men and machinery to the site, however the fire had already spread to a vast area, which according to him, made it difficult to contain the fire.

"Few complexes and some other nearby structures have received damage in the incident", the official said adding "the total damage caused is however being ascertained and would be conveyed accordingly".

Jammu Records Season's Hottest Night; Day Temperature Drops Slightly

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu city recorded the season's hottest night, while the day temperature marked a slight dip on Tuesday to settle at 38.9 degrees Celsius, an official of the meteorological department said.

From 22.9 degrees Celsius the previous night, the minimum temperature in the city jumped to 26.6 degrees which is 7.4 notches above normal, during this part of the season, the official here said.

The maximum temperature, however, dropped slightly to settle at 38.9 degrees Celsius against season's high of 39.6 degrees Celsius on Monday.

Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed a sudden rise in the mercury, attributed by weatherman to 80 per cent deficient rainfall in the month of March.

The MeT department has predicted an appreciable drop in



the mercury owing to a weather system which is developing over the Union Territory.

A feeble western disturbance is most likely to cause light to moderate rain or snow (over higher reaches) during April 12-14. This will bring down the day temperature by 4 to 5 degrees Celsius, the MeT official said.

The summer capital Srinagar recorded a high of 25.7 degrees

Celsius (5.6 degrees above average) and a low of 11.2 degrees Celsius (3.6 notches above normal) against the previous days maximum of 28.9 degrees and minimum of 11.2 degrees Celsius.

Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, recorded a maximum of 35.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 22.2 degrees Celsius, the official said.

Skywalk, New Durga Bhawan To Come Up At Vaishno Devi Shrine



Record Breaking Number Of Devotees From India, Abroad Visiting Shrine: LG Sinha

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the newly constituted Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) here, which discussed and approved various proposals related to facilities for the devotees to make their pilgrimage

hassle-free, officials said.

The new facilities and upgradation works will ensure that pilgrims from around the world have access to state-of-the-art amenities and the connection between local economy and pilgrimage is further strengthened, the Lt Governor said.

He said efforts are being made to create modern facilities like skywalk, new Durga Bhawan, spiritual theme park and services such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag for devotees within a stipulated time-frame for the pleasant divine experience.

Sinha said the number of

devotees from India and abroad visiting the holy shrine is continuously breaking records.

Last month, the Lt Governor, who is also the chairman of the SMVDSB, reconstituted the board and nominated eight personalities, from various walks of life, as members for three years.

The eight members include AIMIL Pharmaceuticals Chairman K K Sharma, Mahamandaleswar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giri Maharaj of Mumbai, retired IPS officer Ashok Bhan, retired IAS officer Baleshwar Rai and retired judge Suresh Kumar Sharma of Jammu.

1.5 Lakh Free Dish To Be Distributed In Border Areas: Union Secretary I&B

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Union Secretary, Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Apurva Chandra on Tuesday visited far flung areas of Kangan Sub Division to assess outreach of DD Free Dish in the area.

During the visit, Union Secretary was accompanied by Joint Secretary, Union Ministry I&B, Vikram Sahay, Principal Director General News, All India Radio, N V Reddy, Director General, Doordarshan, Mayank Agrawal, Additional Director General, Press Information Bureau Srinagar, Rajinder Choudhry, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Inam-ul-Haq Siddiqui, Deputy Director News DDK Srinagar, Qazi Salman, SDM Kangan and other officers of district administration.

To achieve the goal of reaching out to people living in far-flung and border areas through the platform of DD Free Dish, Union Secretary said that the Government has proposed to distribute 1.5 lakh free Dish in such areas where cable service



is not available for which tendering is under process and will be completed soon.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Secretary complemented Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar for performing its duties efficiently despite many challenges in the past. He said that the Kendra is aptly representing the local culture and traditions through its programmes reaching the people with authentic information.

On the occasion, Union Secretary also interacted with the

people using DD Free Dish at Margund Kangan who shared their feedback about the programmes available on various channels especially DD Kashir. They thanked the government for providing free Dish Service which has become vital in developing and promoting regional languages and meeting the aspirations of the people especially those living in far-flung areas as it has wide range of channels including entertainment and news available free of cost.

Woman Arrested After Video Shows Her Beating 9-Month Baby

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A chilling video of a woman mercilessly beating her nine-month-old baby in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district went viral on social media, thereby prompting police to arrest her.

The netizens demanded police action against the woman

for the brutality, officials said. In the heart-wrenching video, apparently shot by a relative, the woman was purportedly seen thrashing, slapping and also throwing the child on a bed, they said.

Her husband along with Sarnam of Samba district's Bri Kamila area, Mukhtiyar Singh, who saw the video, immedi-

ately approached the police and a case was registered.

Following this, the woman has been arrested, SSP Samba Abhishek Mahajan said, adding the child has been handed over to her husband.

However, the incident is one month old and has been posted on social media and made viral by someone, officials said.

XE Variant Unlikely To Cause New Wave Of Covid-19: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With India reporting two cases of new XE variant, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Tuesday said it is unlikely to cause a new wave of Covid-19.

"The new variant is not a cause of concern for us and there is no need to worry about it," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"First detected in United Kingdom in January 2022, XE is a recombinant variant, which means it is a hybrid version of two most prevalent Omicron strains – BA.1 and BA.2," he said.

Dr Hassan said most of our population has already been exposed to these variants in the third wave which was triggered initially by BA.1 and later by BA.2. Almost all People have antibodies against these sub variants by way of prior infection

"With high vaccination rates and natural immunity, the possibility of having a wave due to this variant is less," he said

The DAK President said the fact that there has been no significant increase in the incidence of the XE variant since its detection 3 months ago shows that it is not something to be bothered about.

Omicron appeared in November 2021, and it was all over the world in 4-5 weeks and replaced Delta which caused the second wave in April-May last year.

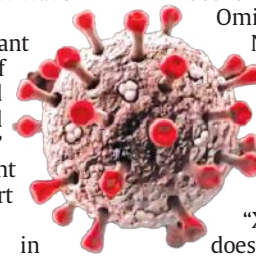
"XE has not done that. It doesn't look like we have to worry about it," he said.

"Recombinant variants are not an unusual occurrence, particularly when there are several variants in circulation," said Dr Nisar.

Two other recombinant variants – XD and XF which are combinations of Delta and Omicron have also been identified.

He said recombinants tend to last for lesser time. Virus fitness does not increase by a recombinant event.

"Frequent changes in genome structure are part of the natural life course of viruses and there is no need to panic," he added.



BJP Will Form Next Govt In J&K With Absolute Majority: Raina

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday said the party will form the next government in the union territory with an absolute majority and asked its cadres to work vigorously at the grassroots level.

He also criticised rivals National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party and the Congress.

Many communities in Jammu and Kashmir such as Gujjars and Bakerwals had suffered for 70 years because of discrimination under dispensations led by the NC, PDP and the Congress, he said, adding that people have now rejected these parties.

"Various schemes of the Modi

government...have benefitted every person irrespective of his or her community.

"BJP will win a clear majority in the upcoming assembly elections of Jammu and Kashmir. BJP will form the government on its own," Raina told a rally in the border belt of Nowshera in Rajouri district.

Raina said people have shown their confidence in the welfare policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the BJP would leave no stone unturned for the development of far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta also addressed the rally.

Sehrish Receives Prestigious SKOCH Award For SAATH

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar on Tuesday received the prestigious SKOCH Award for outstanding contribution towards the economic development of rural women under programme SAATH.

In recognition of the achievements by the JKRLM under the programme SAATH, the SKOCH foundation has conferred the prestigious SKOCH Award upon the JKRLM.

Commenting on this recognition, Dr. Sehrish said, "This award is a recognition of the efforts of the thousands of women in Jammu and Kashmir who are transforming the rural economy by becoming agents of positive change and growth. We will continue to work hard and strive for greater excellence and better opportunities in the goal of nation building".

Mission Director, JKRLM conceptualised and implemented the idea of SAATH by providing a platform to the Rural Women to enhance their livelihoods and add different verticals to the business possibilities for the rural SHG members.

This idea materialised into a full fledged program called 'SAATH' which was launched by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on 1st Sep 2021. SAATH is a rural entrepreneurship acceleration programme, helping rural women become self reliant. JKRLM had initiated a comprehensive mentoring, under "SAATH programme" for selected SHG members, who have set-up enterprises under the SAATH Programme.

Under the programme, SHG members are being exposed to various marketing processes which would enable them to transform their existing enterprises into higher order enterprises at a large scale. SHG entre-

preneurs are facilitated on value additions, marketing, branding, forward linkages, sales, business management in order to upscale their production and sales.

After extensive interviewing and observations, out of 5000 SHG members, 100 SHG women entrepreneurs have been identified who are being supported in developing higher level enterprises.

The initiatives have played a pivotal role in poverty alleviation, by federating about 5 lakh rural women into over 60000 SHGs, out of which 1 lakh rural women have been federated into SHGs during the Financial year 2021-22. As of now the Mission has facilitated capitalisation of about Rs 1161 Crores with strong emphasis on transforming rural economies.

In an effort to provide market linkage platform for about 5 lakh rural SHG members to exhibit their products and to connect directly with consumers as well as buyers, the first of its kind, UMEED women's Haat, was set up by JKRLM. UMEED women's Haat is a women empowerment initiative by JKRLM to bring the rural women SHG members under one platform where they can showcase their skills, sell their products and build connections with potential market players.

Furthermore JKRLM has initiated the process of providing Door To Door Banking Services in rural areas which are an important component of Financial Inclusion and ensuring sustainable development.

JKRLM has taken steps towards promoting digital transactions and providing door to door banking services among rural areas through Financial Inclusion Resource Persons. The Resource Persons enable Financial Inclusion to hitherto unserved areas and enable livelihoods for thousands of women.

Caringly yours



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