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P3 CITY

SMART CITIES PROJECTS TO MODERNIZE SRINAGAR AT RAPID PACE: GOVT

The Jammu and Kashmir government, under the Smart Cities Project aims at employing all resources to develop Srinagar city into world class modern, sustainable and vibrant cities.

P5 THINK

ISLAM AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development practice has been need of almost all nations and is practiced in various ways through governmental or non-governmental efforts. Main theme includes service provision and problem solution at grassroots level with maximum



P7 STATE

JAL JEEVAN MISSION, SBM TOP PRIORITY OF GOI, J&K ADMIN: LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen



Quote!

History is the study of the world's crime

- Voltaire

NEWS DIGEST

4 'Hybrid Militants' Held In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four hybrid militants and two over-ground workers from Srinagar and Pulwama districts of the Kashmir Valley. Acting on a tip-off about the presence of militants in Bemina, police and army's 2RR established a checkpoint at **More on P6**

J&K Adds Five More Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported five more cases of novel Coronavirus on Tuesday while no fresh fatality due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, three fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from Jammu division **More on P6**

Minor Girl Drowns To Death

SRINAGAR: In a tragic accident, a minor girl on Tuesday died after drowning in a pool in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. Eight-year-old Hameera Gulzar fell in the pool in her native Gulgam village of the district on Tuesday, reports said. She was immediately retrieved from the waters and taken **More on P6**

Man Arrested Over Social Media Post

JAMMU: Police have arrested a man for sharing a sensitive photograph on a social media platform in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said here on Tuesday. An information was received through reliable sources that a person named Prem, a resident of Budhal area, has uploaded a sensitive photograph on a social media **More on P6**

SHOPIAN ENCOUNTER ENDS

Injured Civilian Succumbs, Militants Escape



We Are Trying To Bring Some Change In Our Tactical SOPs: IGP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Militants managed to give slip to security forces during an encounter in Pandoshan village of Shopian on Tuesday. However, a civilian lost his life while another civilian and a soldier were injured during the initial stage of the encounter, reports reaching here said. Official reports said that a

civilian namely Shahid Gani Dar son of Abdul Gani Dar resident of Pandoshan, Shopian succumbed to his injuries at 92 base hospital Srinagar.

According to these reports two civilians were injured during the initial exchange of fire on Monday evening.

Besides Dar, two more injured, a civilian Shoaib Ahmad Mantoo and soldier Lance Naik Sanjib Das were also removed to the army hospital for treatment. The condition of both them was stated to be stable.

Police said that operation was called off as militants managed to escape during **More on P6**

2 Militants Killed In Anantnag Gunfight

Two local militants, who had escaped from the dragnet of government forces after killing a soldier last month, were slain in an encounter in South Kashmir's Anantnag district, police said Tuesday. The gunfight, according to officials, started when a joint team of police and army launched a cordon and search operation in Dooru area of the district on Tuesday evening on the basis of specific **More on P6**

IN SOME OF SUCH ENCOUNTERS MILITANTS MANAGED to escape from cordon but we have lost precious lives of civilians and security forces. We are trying to bring some change in our tactical SOPs,"

Govt Seeks Details On Pre-Mature Transfers Since Apr 2021

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday directed all its departments to furnish details of pre-mature transfers made since April 2021, within a period of one week.

Drawing the attention of all the administrative secretaries towards an order issued on July 28, 2010, that provides tenure of posting and also the provisions for making pre-mature transfers, the General Administration

Department (GAD) on Tuesday said that "...however, it has been observed that pre-mature transfers are being affected without following the provisions of the Transfer Policy and the procedure prescribed thereof".

The order issued by Shuaib Mohammad Naikoo, Deputy Secretary to the government, has asked the administrative secretaries to provide information to premature transfers with effect from April 2021 till date within a week's time positively. **More on P6**

J&K BANK 'SCAM'

CBI Raids Houses Of Ex-top Officials

The Searches Are Being Conducted In Connection With A Case Registered On November 1, 2021 On Allegations Of Irregularities In The Purchase Of Akruti Gold Building In Mumbai For ₹180 Crore.

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at the premises of former J&K Bank chairman Haseeb Drabu and some other former top officials in connection with the purchase of the bank's office building in Mumbai in 2010, and claimed to have recovered "incriminating documents".

The searches were conducted at eight locations in Mumbai, Srinagar and Jammu after the agency registered an FIR in the purchase of the Akruti Gold Building for around Rs 180 crore by the bank for its integrated office in Mumbai on November 11 last year, officials said.

The FIR was registered following a reference from the



Jammu and Kashmir government, they said.

The premises of then bank directors M I Shahdad and Vikrant Kuthiala, and former executive director A K Mehta were also searched on Tuesday, the officials said.

This is the second search

premises of then members of Estate Committee of the Board of Directors including then chairman of J&K Bank, then directors, then executive director. Incriminating documents, articles and electronic evidences, several bank account details and bank locker keys have been recovered during searches," CBI spokesperson RC Joshi said.

The CBI has alleged that the bank had entered into a deal for its branch office at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) with Akruti Gold at a much higher rate than offered by other shortlisted builders causing a loss of over Rs 100 crore to the bank.

The case was earlier probed by the Anti-corruption Branch of the **More on P6**

LG Discuss J&K Situation, Yatra With Army Commander



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday discussed prevailing scenario in the Union Territory, especially the security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, with a top army commander here.

The newly appointed

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 15 Corps, Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla and the LG discussed about various important issues relating to the security management in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, at the Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

He said that **More on P6**

Electricity To Get Costlier In Kashmir Soon

KPDCL Mulls 12.46% Hike To Increase Revenue By Rs 243.60 Crore

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: At a time when people are struggling to recover the losses caused by back-to-back lockdowns, the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has mooted an idea to hike the power tariff in Kashmir Valley by 12.46% during the 2022-23 financial year.

"The old tariff plan was for the year 2015-2016, since then there was no revision. This hike is due in five years," KPDCL Chief



Engineer Javid Yousuf Dar told Kashmir Observer on Tuesday.

He further added that this is a very "reasonable hike" and is going to be the lowest tariff in the country.

The department has put the power tariff petitions in the public domain for inviting objections and suggestions. The petition has been filed before the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Jammu and Kashmir.

"We will complete the exercise by the end of this month and thereafter the Commission will take a final **More on P6**

Hurriyat Man Charged For Selling Pak MBBS Seats

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A special court here on Monday framed charges against eight persons, including a prominent Hurriyat leader, for selling Pakistani MBBS seats in Jammu and Kashmir to fund militant activities.

Special judge NIA court, Srinagar, Manjeet Singh Manhas, framed the charges against Hurriyat leader and chairman Salvation Movement Mohammad Akbar Bhat alias 'Zaffar Akbar Bhat' and seven other residents of Kashmir for committing offences under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The case **More on P6**

'We Did It Again': Kashmir Celebrates Second Pulitzer In Three Years

Zaid Bin Shabir

As soon as the news of a Kashmiri journalist figuring in the 2022 Pulitzer winner list spread, all and sundry including the local political camp got activated to hail a young photojournalist for her global recognition.

Sanna Irshad Mattoo, 28, received the award for her last year's extensive Covid coverage. Her feat gave Kashmir the "journalism Oscar", second time, in three years.

The young photojournalist from Old Srinagar shared the award with her three colleagues in the Feature Photography category.

Before Sanna, it was Associated Press's Dar Yasin



and Mukhtar Khan—the former Kashmir Observer staffer—who were honoured with Pulitzer in

2020 for their Kashmir coverage. Ranging from ground-breaking news to in-depth

storytelling, Sanna's work concentrates on life in Kashmir and its different shades.

Her work has been published in newspapers and magazines around the world and has been screened and exhibited in various exhibitions and festivals. She presently contributes to Reuters as a Multimedia Journalist.

Her feat created a rousing reception in Kashmir with scribes leading from the front to hail it as an "exemplary achievement".

"Kashmir Rocks: Our girl Sanna Irshad Mattoo has won Pulitzer Prize in photojournalism. We are proud of you Sanna," said Sanjay Kaw, a Kashmiri journalist working with The Asian Age.

Sanjay's colleague Yusuf Jameel termed the award as a proud

moment for all the tribe across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond. "We did it again! I'm thrilled and feeling proud as well".

Sanna got the award for her photo of a healthcare worker administering a dose of the Covid vaccine to a shepherd man during a vaccination drive in Lidderwat, Anantnag district, on June 10, 2021.

Many senior scribes of Kashmir termed the feat as a boost to the tribe.

"It might be a single person's feat," said a senior journalist, "but it's a collective joy of all those journalists who are objectively working on the ground."

A veteran journalist termed the award as a shot in the 'Press arm'. "Moments like these uplift the morale of **More on P6**

Govt Approves Age Relaxation For JKCCE Aspirants

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday approved age relaxation for the ensuing Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCCE).

The decision was taken keeping in view the demands from aspirants and several delegations during a series of meetings with the Lieutenant Governor, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

Following meetings and representations from aspirants and delegations, he said, the LG on Tuesday approved age relaxation in the upper age limit of JKCCE candidates in all three categories.



@OfficeOfLGJandK Government understands the aspirations of youth and a decision has been taken to ensure JKCCE exams are conducted on regular basis unlike the past when these exams were held irregularly after a gap of many years."

He said that now, the upper age limit for Open Merit Candidates will be 35 years instead of 32 years, for Reserved Category & In-Service **More on P6**



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'Covid-19 Severity Among Elderly May Be Due To Genetic Reasons'

Press Trust Of India

Genetically pre-determined limit on the immune system may be the key to why Covid-19 has such a devastating effect on the elderly, according to a modelling study. Researchers at the University of Washington (UW) in the US noted that the immune system's ability to combat COVID-19, like any infection, largely depends on the replication



of the immune cells effective at destroying the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the disease. The study, published recently in The Lancet eBioMedicine journal, suggests that the body's ability to produce these cloned immune cells, which cannot be infinitely created, falls off significantly in old age. "When DNA split in cell division, the end cap -- called a telomere -- gets a little shorter with each division," said professor James Anderson, a modeller of biological systems at UW. "After a series of replications of a cell, it gets too short and stops further division. Not all cells or all animals have this limit, but immune cells in humans have this cell life," Anderson said in a statement.

The average person's immune system coasts along pretty good despite this limit until about 50 years old, the researchers said. That is when enough core immune cells, called T cells, have shortened telomeres and cannot quickly clone themselves through cellular division in big enough numbers to attack and clear the COVID-19 virus, which has the trait of sharply reducing immune cell numbers, they said.

According to Anderson, telomere lengths are inherited from parents. There are some differences in these lengths between people at every age as well as how old a person becomes before these lengths are mostly used up.

"Depending on your parents and very little on how you live, your longevity or, as our paper claims, your response to Covid-19 is a function of who you were when you were born," he said.

To build their model, the researchers used publicly available data on Covid-19 mortality from the Center for Disease Control and US Census Bureau and studies on telomeres, many of which were published by the co-authors over the past two decades.

Assembling telomere length information about a person or specific demographic could help doctors know who was less susceptible, the researchers said.

The doctors could allocate resources, such as booster shots, according to which populations and individuals may be more susceptible to Covid-19, they added.



Staying Away From Twitter, FB For A Week May Improve Wellbeing, Anxiety

IANS

Taking a break from social media sites, including Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, for at least a week may lead to significant improvements in wellbeing, depression and anxiety, finds a new study. The study, published in the journal 'Cyberpsychology, Behaviour and Social Networking', suggest that just one week off social media improved individuals' overall level of well-being, as well as reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety.

"We know that social media usage is huge and that there are increasing concerns about its mental health effects, so with this study, we wanted to see whether simply

asking people to take a week's break could yield mental health benefits," said lead researcher Jeff Lambert from the University of Bath.

"Many of our participants reported positive effects from being off social media with improved mood and less anxiety overall. This suggests that even just a small break can have an impact," Lambert added.

For the study, the researchers allocated 154 individuals aged 18 to 72 who used social media every day into either an intervention group, where they were asked to stop using all social media for one-week or a control group, where they could continue scrolling as normal. At the beginning of the study, base-

line scores for anxiety, depression and wellbeing were taken. Participants reported spending an average of 8 hours per week on social media at the start of the study. One week later, the participants who were asked to take the one-week break had significant improvements in wellbeing, depression, and anxiety than those who continued to use social media, suggesting a short-term benefit. Participants asked to take a one-week break reported using social media for an average of 21 minutes compared to an average of seven hours for those in the control group. Screen usage stats were provided to check that individuals had adhered to the break.

از نیابت کتزر

مضمون درخواست : حقیقتہً اللہ بابا ولد محمد اکبر بابا ساکنہ موضوعہ العلیہ برہہ

عطا گی DOB certificate بکن پسران سجاد احمد بابا و مومن حقیقتہً و

دکتر عائشہ حقیقتہً

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حقیقتہً اللہ بابا ولد محمد اکبر بابا ساکنہ موضوعہ العلیہ برہہ بیان کرتا ہے کہ اسکے

اولاد ان کی تاریخ پیدائش سجاد احمد بابا: 2005-1-2

و مومن حقیقتہً : 2009-4-1 و دختر عائشہ حقیقتہً : 2019-3-6

کو ہوئی ہے۔ اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا

اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی کے اندر پیش

کریں۔ یہ عذر کرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کنڑو az k

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Driving License of my vehicle Bearing registration No; 23431/MVD/ANG. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANT-NAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Malik Rahet Ahmad
S/o: Malik Basharat Ahmad
R/o: Nowgam Shahabad Doru Anantang

rma

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR NOTICE

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he/she has lost his University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s:-
Name: SAMIYA BANO Parentage: MOHD AMIN SOFI
Residence: BAZAR BATMALOO SRINAGAR
Reg No: 4043-VB-89 Certificate/s Lost: 1st year/2nd year
Roll No: 5577/45277 Session/Year: 1989/1992
Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of the notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled.
No. F/Dup/JM Cards/JKU/72 Sd/- Asstt. Controller of Examinations
Dated: 6/5/2022 inf (PG/UC/Prof)



The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars
Name: Mohammad Idrees
Father's Name Mohammad Latif
Mother's Name Naseema Begum
Roll No: 13215516 year 2021 session Bi-Annual



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
bmg Sub Office Sopore

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars
Name: Gh Mohi ud Din Lone
Father's name: Gh Mohi ud Din Lone
Mother Name : Jawahira
Roll No: 322468 Year 2008 Session Annual Private



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
bmg Sub Office Sopore

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my driving license bearing DL no: JK-0320090010978 as Peerzada Irshad Hussain While as correct name is Peerzada Arshad Hussain which needs to be corrected. 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.
PEERZADA ARSHAD HUSSAIN
S/o PEERZADA MOHD HUSSAIN
R/o NOWGAM SHANGUS

ma

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner.
Shri : Tawseef Ahmad Najar
S/o: Habibullah Najar
R/o: Khurtina Sonpah Beerwah Budgam as Transferor) & Sadiq Ali Najar S/o Ghulam Mohammad



Najar R/o Arwah Beerwah Budgam.as Transferee) for transfer of Mahindra Supro (Load Carrier) vehicle No.JK04E 5897 as well as HP Cancellation with Mahindra & Mahindra Fin.Ser B/U Srinagar.

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

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.800
Dated :10-05-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Baramulla

E - Tender Notice No. Dated		18 of 05/2022 10.05.2022						
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), e-tenders [in single cover system] are invited from the Registered PWD Contractors for the works mentioned hereunder: Total No. of works = (02 only) Position of funds = Available								
S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Tender Receiving Auth.	Cost of T. doc. (in Rs)	Position of AAA	Time of completion	Cost of EMD
1	Laying/ Fitting Successful Testing and Commissioning of 200/ 150mm dia D.I pipes in Gap portion from Head Site to S.R at Kangroos and from S.R Kangroosa to OHT Watergam; And repairs to various Sluice Chambers incl. Raising and Providing of M.S lids with all accessories W.S.S Watergam Behrampora under JKIDFC. Fresh to S.No. 02 of ENIT 01 of 04/2021	26.27 lacs	AYY/ BEE	Ex. Engineer PHE Division Baramulla	1000/-	Accorded vide Chief Engineer's No. 88 of 09/ 2019 dated 16/09/2019	45 days	Rs. 52540/-
2	Construction of Chain Link Fencing of 0.10 MGD RSFP at Malganipora including protection Bund, Commissioning/ charging of 0.10 MGD RSFP including some Balance work by way of laying fitting of Rising Main of OHT and Providing of walk way to PST, Stair cases at Malganipora for WSS Maleanipora under JKIDFC.	24.42 lacs	BEE/ CEE	-do-	1000/-	Accorded	45 days	Rs. 48840/-

Instruction/ Terms & Conditions:

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, bill of quantities [B.O.Q.] set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given hereunder:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-05-2022
2.	Date of Publishing	10-05-2022
3.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10.05.2022 (14.00 Hrs) to 19.05.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs)
4.	Bid Submission Start date	10-05-2022 from (14.00Hrs)
5.	Bid Submission End date	19-05-2022 upto (16.00 Hrs)
6.	Date and time of opening of bids [online]	20-05-2022 from (10.00Hrs)

- Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender documents/ Earnest Money of 02% of advertised cost of work in shape of TREASURY CHALLAN against account No. 0215 and CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer, PHE Div. Baramulla [tender inviting authority].
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bid shall be notified on website jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened on-line in the office of Executive Engineer, PHE Division, Baramulla.
- The Executive Engineer, PHE Division, Baramulla reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- No conditional tenders shall be accepted and such tenders are liable to be rejected even if rates quoted are the lowest.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- For item providing, laying and fitting/ successful testing commissioning of various dia's of pipes, the pipe shall be buried underground as per trench norms laid in the book of specification and as per direction of Engineer incharge at Site.
- The pipe material should be ISI marked galvanised mild steel tubes should conform to IS:1239 (PT-1) 2004 and the quality of the pipe material shall be supported by manufacturers quality and test certificate third party to be nominated by the department. Inspection certificate shall also be provided by the contractor at his own cost in respect of material provided and used by him. The same shall be approved by the departmental quality control committee. The pipe will be laid only after the certificate will be issued by the said committee.
- The pipe material shall be supplied from reputed manufacturers; the agency shall initially establish a store in the vicinity or at divisional store Khawajabagh, Baramulla whichever is approved by the Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla and will be binding upon the contractor before the same is issued to site after getting approved. The approval process shall be documented on material approval sheets duly signed by incharge engineer's quality control committee and contractor.
- The quantity of various dias of pipes as shown in the BOQ as available in the Divisional Store may vary (plus or minus) and the variation in the quantity of pipes shall have to be executed by the agency as the case may be.
- No payment on account of supply of pipes will be made to the contractor until the same are laid in the trench and proportional back filling.
- The contractor will be responsible for any prefrillage in the quantity of pipe and pipe specials and sufficient watch and ward has to be provided at his cost.

DIPK-1724/22

Sd/-

No. PHE/Adm/Bla/ 1093-1116
Dated: 10.05.2022

Executive Engineer
P.H.E Division Baramulla



Police Arrest Maid, Agent In A Fraud Case

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police have arrested a maid and an agent of a maid agency “Karishma Maid Bureau” involved in a fraud and recovered an amount of Rs 74,000 from their possession.

A written complaint



was received by Police Station Lalbazar on Tuesday wherein the complainant namely Muzamil Hayat son of Faiz-ur-Rehman resident of Qadeem Masjid lane, Lalbazar stated that they have hired a maid through a maid agency “Karishma Maid Bureau” via online platform.

He further stated that on 9th May 2022, at around

03:30PM, the maid agency sent the maid Archana Chauhan along with an agent namely Rajini Jha at their home. The complaint further reads that an amount of advance for one year amounting Rs. 74,000 was given to the agent. However, both the maid and the agent fled from the house in the wee hours.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR number 26/2022 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Lalbazar and investigation was set into motion. Various teams were constituted under the supervision of SDPO Hazaratbal and SHO PS Lal Bazar to nab the duo. Taking advantage of technical and human sources, both the maid and agent were arrested from the Qazigund area within hours along with the cash. The investigation of the case is going on.

The Police further requested the general public to contact the police for ascertaining authenticity of various maid consultancies running online or offline.

Assistant Registrar Posts:

Kashmir University Yet To Shortlist Candidates

Agencies

Srinagar: Years after advertising the posts of Assistant Registrar and Assistant Controller, University of Kashmir is yet to shortlist the candidates for the interview.

The Varsity advertised the seven posts of Assistant Registrars and Assistant Controller and held its preliminary examination in August 2021 and declared the result in September.

When the aspirants raised hue and cry alleging that the University administration tried to sabotage the recruitment process, it took Kashmir University over seven months to conduct Mains examination.

The Mains exams were scheduled on January 6, 2022, in which 150 can-

didates were eligible, but were not held as the University had postponed the exams.

University of Kashmir finally held the mains examination in the last week of March this year.

“The post was advertised three years ago on (24-10-2019) and yet the recruitment process is incomplete,” one of the candidates said.

The aspirants said that the LG Manoj Sinha who is also Chancellor of the University must intervene so that the interview is held and the posts filled at the earliest.

Despite repeated attempts, Prof.Mohammad Farooq Mir, Director of Admissions & Competitive Examinations could not be contacted. (KNT)



Paragliders enjoying their flight at Harwan in the city outskirts on Tuesday. KO PHOTO Abid Bhat

Smart Cities Projects To Modernize Srinagar At Rapid Pace: Govt

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government, under the Smart Cities Project aims at employing all resources to develop Srinagar city into world class modern, sustainable and vibrant cities.

Pertinently, Smart Cities Mission was launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on June 25, 2015, for the development of 100 Smart Cities across the country. Under the Mission, which is an innovative and new initiative aimed at driving economic growth and improving the quality of life of people, both the capital cities of Jammu and Kashmir were selected by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in the third round of competition held in the month of June 2017.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, after launching new smart city projects said that the new projects, once completed will strengthen urban infrastructure, improve city services, public aesthetics and ease of living.

Sinha observed that Srinagar smart city project has been

structured with a clear focus on improved urban governance, unlocking of latent creativity and vitality of this historical city. He maintained that his administration is taking effective steps to accelerate the mission for inclusive and sustainable growth in the cities and issued explicit directions to the concerned officials to ensure completion of the projects within the stipulated timelines.

According to official figures, 276 magnificent projects of economic importance have been approved in twin cities to bring remarkable transformation and significantly improve the quality of life of people.

For Srinagar city, the government envisions transforming Srinagar into an eco-friendly, resilient and socio-economically vibrant city that celebrates its natural and cultural heritage creating harmony and opportunities for all under Smart City Mission.

Srinagar Smart City aspires to leverage its natural and cultural heritage, tourism through innovative and inclusive solutions, and enhance the quality of life for its citizens. Besides, EV charging

stations, smart street lighting, multi-level parking, sports infrastructure, water transport system in Jhelum River, installation of ornamental LED lighting around Dal-lake, have been started under smart city mission in Srinagar. Development of Pathways along Jhelum River Bund is one of the projects which has been completed in Srinagar, so far.

Other projects which have been completed in Srinagar are Beautification along Jhelum Bund, Revetment and Embankments along River Banks, Improvement of Ghats along Jhelum, Area Illumination along River banks, Pedestrian Walkways and Footpaths, Boardwalks, walkways and cycle tracks, Boardwalks, walkways and cycle tracks, and Upgradation of Historical Markets Phase I at Maharaj Gunj.

Notably, Srinagar Smart City hosted the 5th National Smart Cities Virtual Conclave in November which witnessed discussions and idea-sharing on building smart, resilient and sustainable cities with participants from across the country.

Jamkash Vehicleades Kashmir Launches Next-Gen Ertiga



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jamkash Vehicleades (Kashmir) Pvt Ltd Srinagar, leading Maruti Suzuki dealership, Tuesday unveiled the Petrol variant of its popular model Ertiga.

The chief guest for the occasion was Sajid Yahya Naqash (RTO Kashmir). Irfan Ahmad Narwaroo Managing Director of Jamkash Vehicleades (Kmr) Pvt Ltd. and GMS, staff members and a large gathering of auto lovers were present on the occasion.

Introducing the Next-Gen Ertiga, Narwaroo, said that

Next-Gen K-series 1.5L petrol engine offers a peak power of 75.8kW@6000rpm and a max torque of 136.8Nm@4400rpm. Available in both Petrol and CNG options, Next-Gen Ertiga offers an incredible mileage of 20.51 km/1 (Petrol) and 26.11km/kg (CNG).

To further provide value-added options to the customers, the Next-Gen Ertiga S-CNG is available in Vxi and Zxi variants. There is also an introduction of a new Zxi+ variant with an option of Advanced 6 speed Automatic Transmission in the petrol variant of Next-Gen Ertiga.

Residential Colony At Shuthra Shahi Fast Turning Into Commercial Hub

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Shuthra Shahi, New Secretariat Road have appealed to the authorities to come down heavily on violators who allegedly have turned the residential colony into a commercial hub.

The Joint Coordination Committee Shuthra Shahi, Chairman Nusrat Beigh in a letter to the Press has appealed to the higher authorities to crackdown on violators who have turned the “quiet residential colony”

into a “noisy commercial neighborhood”.

The locals of the area allege that some people have turned their residential houses to commercial structures which is in violation of the orders of the Honorable Court. “In absence of a parking facility, the residential colony has turned into a mess with no space to walk” the local residents say.

Nusrat Beigh appealed to the LG Administration to crackdown on violators who have acted against the directions of the Honorable Court.

OFFICE OF THE JOINT ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR UT OF J&K AND UT OF LADAKH

Regd. Office: Ambedkar (Panama) Chowk, Railway road, Jammu (J&K)-180016

Email: - secretary-jercjkl@gov.in; jercjkl@gmail.com

Phone No. : 0191-2959191; 0191-2470160

Engagement of Individual Consultants on contractual basis

JERC for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh invites applications for engagement of individual consultants for assisting the commission in discharging its functions under Electricity Act, 2003 and Regulations made there under. Engagement of Consultant on contract basis shall be for period of two years, further extendable by another two years (on yearly basis). Candidate should possess minimum experience of 5 years in the fields of Regulatory /power sectors/ changes in power sector in India /various Legislations/ Regulations/ Govt. policies/ Tariff Policies/ National Electricity Policy/ directions of Hon'ble APTEL and Hon'ble Supreme Court relating to power sector and should be below 62 years of age as on 1st May 2022. The Consolidated monthly remuneration shall be Rs. 60,000/-.

Further details for Engagement of Individual consultant such as Scope of work, General Terms & Conditions, Application format etc. is available on the website of the commission i.e. www.jercjkl.nic.in. Applications along with copies of supporting documents in desired format are required to be sent through registered post at the following address.

Secretary,

Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for UTs of J&K and Ladakh, Railway Road, Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu (J&K) 180016

The last date for receipt of applications, in the prescribed format is 06-06-2022 (up to 5 PM). Applications received after due date/time or without supporting documents shall not be considered.

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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
09 Shawwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 57
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:19
Magrib	7:25
ISHA	8: 58

This Day In History

- 330 - Constantinople (Byzantium) becomes the capital of the Roman Empire
- 868 - The Diamond Sutra, the world's oldest surviving, dated, printed, book printed in Chinese and made into a scroll
- 1189 - Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa and 100,000 crusaders depart Regensburg for the Third Crusade
- 1310 - Fifty-four members of the Knights Templar are burned at the stake in France for being heretics
- 1421 - Jews are expelled from Styria Austria
- 1674 - Netherlands & Cologne sign peace treaty
- 1752 - 1st US fire insurance policy issued in Philadelphia
- 1784 - Britain & Tippu Sahib of Mysore sign peace treaty
- 1792 - Columbia River discovered & named by US Captain Robert Gray
- 1800 - French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck give a lecture first outlining his theories of evolution at the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris, France
- 1812 - Waltz introduced into English ballrooms. Some observers consider it disgusting and immoral.
- 1812- British Prime Minister Spencer Perceval is assassinated by John Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons, London. Ironically, descendants of both were later elected to Parliament at the same time.
- 1820 - Launch of HMS Beagle, the ship that would later take a young Charles Darwin on his famous scientific voyage
- 1867 - Treaty of London drawn, concerning Luxembourg
- 1907 - A derailment outside Lompoc, California, kills 32 Shriners when their chartered train jumps off the tracks at a switch near Surf Depot
- 1911- The United States becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1921- The Allied Supreme Council warns Germany to pay reparations or the entire Ruhr Valley will be occupied; Germany agrees
- 1924- Mercedes-Benz is formed by Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz merging the two companies.
- 1942- Japanese troops conquer Kalewa
- 1943- US 7th div lands on Attu, Aleutian, (1st US territory recaptured)
- 1944- Opposition group surprise attack post office Washer
- 1949- By a vote of 37-12, Israel becomes 59th member of UN

From KO Archives

US Blacklists HuM, LeT, JeM

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration has designated three Pakistan-based groups - Harkat ul-Mujaheddin (HuM), Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as "Foreign terrorist organisations", prohibiting US residents from extending material support to them.

This also denies individuals representing these groups from entering or doing business in the US. In all 42 groups, active in different parts of the world, figure in the list and its purpose is to identify and isolate these groups by encouraging friends and allies of the US to deter its citizens from supporting them, says the US State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism 2006, released in Washington on Monday.

Groups of Concern: The Department has designated another five organisations as "Groups of Concern". These include the Communist Party of India (Maoist), United Liberation Front of Assam (UEFA), Harkat-ul-Jihad-Islami (HUJI), Hizbul Mujahedin (HM) and Jamaat-ul-Mujaheddin (JUM). The report says Harkat-ul-Mujaheddin (HUM), an Islamic terrorist group based in Pakistan, is politically aligned with the radical political Party Jamaat Ulema-i-Islam's Fazlur Rahman faction (JUI-F), and operates primarily in Jammu and Kashmir.

"As in previous years," the US document points out, terrorists staged hundreds of attacks on people and property in India. The most prominent terrorist groups were extremists operating in Jammu and Kashmir, Maoists operating in the "Naxalite belt" in eastern, southern and central India and ethnic linguistic nationalists in the north-east. It notes that the Indian government blamed two prominent Pakistan-based organisations, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JEM), for several attacks in major Indian cities.

It also records Indian officials' complaint that terrorist infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir had increased in 2006. (Kashmir Observer, 11 May, 2007)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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W/O. MOHD SHAFI BHAT
D/O.HABIBULLA LAWE
R/O.HIRA NIWAS KHAN BOTTLE
STORE BHATTA KUFFAR KAMAL
SHIMLA HIMACHAL PRADESH

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KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Elusive Engagement

A month since assuming office, Shahbaz Sharif led coalition government in Pakistan has made no outreach to New Delhi as was expected. And one can understand it. Pakistan is too much hemmed in by internal turmoil and the economic problems that it is unlikely that Sharif would find time or in his interest to seek to rebuild relationship with India. So, there is apparently not much in store on this front. The new government in Pakistan has just sixteen months before the national elections are called in the country. That is if no early elections are held as is signalled by Pakistan's Army and even sought by the party of Maulana Fazlul Rehman.

But despite this, the exchange of letters between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sharif had created a faint hope of some engagement. In his speech to Pakistan National Assembly Sharif asked PM Modi to come forward and address "the Kashmir issue" so that the two countries could concentrate on tackling poverty and unemployment. Sharif also attacked his predecessor Imran Khan for not making "serious and diplomatic efforts" when India abrogated Article 370 in August 2019.

That said, 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 granddaughter. 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.

Would Modi-Sharif be able to pull it off? Chances don't seem bright enough. This is despite the fact even Army chief General Bajwa is reportedly in favour of resuming dialogue with New Delhi. But inherent limitations of the new ruling arrangement will make it difficult to reach out to New Delhi and institute a process of dialogue. But here's hoping that the two sides find a way out and engage sustainably and work towards a durable peace in South Asia.

OTHER OPINION

Fallen City

On Sunday, Beijing took its latest step towards slamming that door shut. John Lee, a former police officer hand-picked by the Chinese Communist Party to lead Hong Kong, was chosen as its chief executive after a sham election in which he had no opponent and ordinary residents of the city could not vote. Mr Lee, who was effectively the second-in-command under the outgoing Hong Kong chief executive, Carrie Lam, has been a central figure in China's attempts to crush pro-democracy protests in the city since 2019, and especially after Hong Kong's controversial national security law was enacted in 2020. Since then, the city government has forced independent media organizations to shut shop, arrested journalists and dissidents, and crushed all democratic opposition. After his 'election' on Sunday, Mr Lee again emphasized national security as the cornerstone of his governance plans. But trying to cage the Asian Tiger — as Hong Kong was known, along with Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, for its rapid economic development in the second half of the 20th century — could end up hurting China the most.

Beijing has been the biggest beneficiary of the 'one country, two systems' approach, which allowed Hong Kong and Macau to retain their British-era political, economic and legal models while belonging to communist China. This approach allowed Beijing to attract global industry, banks, law firms and media outlets otherwise wary of the mainland's opaque courts and regulations to Hong Kong (and so to China) without needing to institute reforms on the mainland. As China's economy has surged over the past two decades, Beijing appears to have concluded that it no longer needs the city as an attractive alternative to its State-led autocratic policies. Yet, it is the open, cosmopolitan and democratic character of Hong Kong that fundamentally turned it into one of the world's biggest financial and shipping hubs; not China's smart politics. Already, the curbs of the past three years, including strict Covid-19 restrictions, have sparked a mass migration from the city. Foreign businesses are rethinking investments in Hong Kong, where one of the busiest airports on the planet has in recent weeks resembled a ghost town. The rigged selection of Mr Lee will only reinforce fears of the demise of an iconic city and the death of a political model that served China — and the world — well.

Telegraph India



India Should
Lead Web 3.0

Srinath Sridharan

Web 3.0 is being shaped by the global developer community on the ideology of the decentralisation of internet. At least technically, with Web 3.0, the BigTech platforms can be disintermediated and might have decreased power over the outcomes. If we have BigTech currently, Web 3.0 would see more of DeepTech. The content creators will have power over their content, and not the platforms as they do have at present.

Between the 1970s-2000s, internet technology and allied businesses were largely dominated by companies from the developed nations. India then did not have the requisite policy muscle or the consumption heft to be involved in the development of policy development on internet governance and the global internet 'platform-isation' possibilities. We have come a long way from being body-shoppers to being a country with vibrant entrepreneurial energy and ideas chased by execution-capital.

With commercial applications still evolving, the current consumer and policy conversations around artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), natural language processing (NLP), internet of things (IoT), augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR) technologies, battery technology seem vague, confused, and in a state of disbelief about the actual potential and the impact they could have on the societal norms. The worries about singularity, the point at which technological growth will become irreversible and uncontrollable, and make serious changes to human civilisation, must be respected and factored into any regulatory thinking as we chug ahead.

The governments always have social-governance concerns, as well as the fears of 'losing control'. The policy worries are diverse. Will any of the Web 3.0 impair state control on regulating those entities? Will decentralising make it onerous for the State to regulate the internet? Will any of these technologies bring challenges of national security or cause any systemic issues? Will they further complicate consumer-protection issues and cyber-risk problems? Can any of the technologies be weaponised against any other state or cohort?

Policy formation for the 21st-century internet will not only be about technology or consumerism, but also about the concept of global strategic affairs. Nations will have to leverage digital for their growth, yet face the onslaught of faceless actors trying to hurt the very same growth. However, the policy-makers won't have the chance to ponder much, as the global development of Web 3.0 products and solutions is moving with great speed.

Policy formation for the 21st-century internet will not only be about technology or consumerism, but also about the concept of global strategic affairs. Nations will have to leverage digital for their growth, yet face the onslaught of faceless actors trying to hurt the very same growth. However, the policy-makers won't have the chance to ponder much, as the global development of Web 3.0 products and solutions is moving with great speed

Over the past few years, India has used technology in shaping its domestic socio-economic development. This technology has brought in greater inclusion and impactful societal outcomes. Be it Aadhaar, Jan Dhan, UPI, CoWin for vaccination, or the Digital Health Mission, India has built low-cost, high-impact tech-for-better-life innovation.

It is essential that India uses this opportunity to decide on the technologies it wants to use for social good. This is also where India should initiate global conversations, and participate in setting Web 3.0 standards and policy framework for its regulations. But, policy from only a 'control' perspective might just push the technologies into the 'dark-web', or even drive young entrepreneurs to other global markets, like what is being seen currently with the crypto confusion. The idea of NFTs brings to the fore the regulatory concerns on defining 'marketplace', identification and taxation of the seller and buyer, IP issues and acceptance in the market where the buyer is located, treating these as financial assets and related securities laws, money laundering, gambling laws and, in the case of geo-political economic sanctions, treatment of such assets.

With Metaverse, the concerns revolve around governance structures of these entities and how their IP would be governed. This newer and parallel digital universe is fast capturing the attention and interest of not just the youngsters, but also technologically clued-in non-millennials too. Celebrities and global brands have also shaped the usage of Metaverse with their presence in that new universe. If this is posing a comprehension challenge to policy-makers globally, yet making private investors fund large sums to get these off the ground, we should

gear up for further complicated technological outcomes in the decades ahead.

The Web 3.0 world, especially that of international relations, would have variables ranging from individuals, communities, and coalitions to nation-states, non-state actors, and even international bodies, many of them faceless and boundary-less. As a large democracy, India has to think of how these technologies would influence the public narrative, political ideologies, financial markets, global power structures, and social behaviour, and stretch the concept of morality, societal values and ethics.

So any rule-making around Web 3.0 has to happen now, if it has to be for the larger social stability and to uphold liberalism balanced with respect for sovereignty. In this 'webade' (Web 3.0 decade), India has to be at the table to shape the mainstreaming of Web 3.0: the future model of society that develops in the decentralised internet era. We cannot afford digital colonialism or authoritarianism by any country or bloc.

According to estimates, Web 3.0 has the potential to contribute over \$1 trillion to the Indian GDP by 2031. With over 845 million internet (out of 4.95 billion users globally) and 518 million social media users in 2021, and increasing base rapidly, India is the second-largest internet user in the world. Newer internet users are getting onboarded, thanks to 'Jiofication'. By 2040, the total number of Internet users in India is expected to cross 1.53 billion and yet the overall demographics will remain productive, with the median age of 35 years.

With such economic potential and a large user base, India needs to lead the setting of global policy for Web 3.0. Alongside, the Indian entrepreneurs need policy and regulatory clarity on what to build and what is not allowed. The soft power of our demographics has to be leveraged to shape the 21st-century digital economy. A proactive and robust Web 3.0 policy outreach by India with the other global sovereigns, both as domestic policy strategy, as much as robust foreign policy, can enable convergence of content, context, communities, commerce, core values, confidence of its entrepreneurs, and criticality of meaningful societal development. Winning the future and shaping our digital-destiny has to start now in the global corridors of digital narrative, with Web 3.0 policies

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

The author is Corporate advisor and independent markets commentator



OBSERVER
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Stop Domestic Abuse

The shocking domestic abuse incident in Baramulla which led to the death of a 28 year old woman shook everyone. The woman was a mother of two children. She was beaten up by her husband and in-laws and later she was taken to the hospital but succumbed to her injuries. This incident has shocked everyone across the valley, sent shivers down the spines of everyone especially women. It is very unfortunate that women are still being treated so inhumanely even in the 21st century.

Decades and centuries of women's miseries and struggles do not seem to end. Our society has still not developed the understanding that women are just as human as men and they are entitled to the same amenities, but instead our society is still struggling to treat women as humans and not animals. The oppressive culture of pushing our sisters and daughters into unhappy and abusive marriages needs to end. Families should support their daughters and not tell them to 'adjust' with their in-laws until she's beaten

to death or burnt alive. Unfortunately the law does not seem to be strict enough for these abusers and murderers. All of these abusers involved in the case must be dealt with strictly, in fact such stern action should be taken that nobody ever dares to raise their hand on a woman again. The extent of extremism is that even after we have already seen so many women die owing to domestic abuse, the society still hasn't learnt a lesson and neither have the authorities. Until and unless the police takes a stern initiative, un-

cultured beasts like this will continue to harass and abuse women. Our society has terribly failed to save their women in almost every sphere, and it is now the time to make amends in this matter. Women are not objects or possessions that can be beaten up or killed according to their husband's or in-law's choice, she is a human and as equal as a man is. Society cannot prosper unless men don't learn to respect women and treat them with regard.

Shameen Shafi

Islam and Community Development

“Islam is against injustice, inequality and discrimination. Social relationship among Muslims is based on the concept of sacrifice where they share some amount of their finances for virtue and they gain community consciousness feelings

M Ahmad

Community development practice has been need of almost all nations and is practiced in various ways through governmental or non-governmental efforts. Main theme includes service provision and problem solution at grassroots level with maximum participation of community people without any discrimination. Community development is the result of joint efforts of local community people for promoting their collective welfare and improving their lives. It means a philanthropical gesture or initiative that is made with a view to bringing a change for the betterment of the life of community. Community development focuses on solution of community problems and bringing positive changes. All initiatives of community development bring social changes and Islam also believes in it. Community development improves quality of life and Zakat is an ideal example of it in Islam. Religion Islam guides its followers to help the needy through various services and community development also emphasizes on service provision. Islam and community development encompass principles of self-help and social justice and bring stability and solidarity in the community. Community development practitioners need to get guidance from Islamic practices for better working in local communities. Islam brought real and practical changes in all walks of life i.e., social, economic, moral and political transformation. Islam guided for changes in the social set up to build a changed society overall. Islam gives very clear and comprehensive concepts to improve quality of life. Muslims are guided for hard-working to survive and fulfil their



needs which could improve their daily lives. Islam makes its followers responsible for themselves and for society too. The tools for equitable distribution of wealth in Islamic economic system for over all development of the Society can be divided into two categories i.e. obligatory institutions and non- obligatory institutions, contents of former are Zakat, whereas the latter consists of Waqf, Sadaqas, and Infaq, etc., Quran and Hadith both have given emphasis on it. Zakat is a religious institution to tackle poverty and promote welfare in the Society irrespective of religion. It is

a social pillar encouraging Muslims for bringing social justice and equity in communities. It improves quality of life of various types of community members. It is a beautiful and workable system of fair distribution of wealth among community members. Waqf also plays a vital role for enhancement of quality of life of poor communities. It is an important socioeconomic institution in the Islamic state and is a powerful institution for community facilitation which provides social, medical and educational initiatives in the community. Nevertheless, Islam remains as a clear outline of how those key

concepts and principles should be implemented. Participation from all members of the community is necessary. Man must do something good for the community and prevents any negative elements that might affect the community. In other way, it means that Islam generalizes the purpose of each concept, including the form of behavior which ultimately able to develop their communities by placing them as the best among other people. Meanwhile, Sadaqas (charity) has no fixed percentage and one is free to pay it as many times as one can afford or feel inclined to it. Infaq is ba-

sically pious spending in the way of Allah. It has a significant importance in Islamic economic principles, with reference to redistribution of wealth and elimination of poverty for the development of Society. Khums refers to the required religious obligation of any Muslims to pay one-fifth of their acquired wealth from certain sources toward specified causes. Islam is against injustice, inequality and discrimination. Social relationship among Muslims is based on the concept of sacrifice where they share some amount of their finances for virtue and they gain community consciousness feelings. The Holy Quran says "Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but righteousness is one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask for help and free slaves, establishes prayer and gives zakah; fulfill their promise when they promise; and patients in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous." (Surat Al-Baqarah, 2:177). Prophet Muhammad (SAW), said: "Charity does not in any way decrease the wealth and the servant who forgives, Allah adds to his respect; and the one who shows humility, Allah elevates him in the estimation (of the people)." (Muslim)

M Ahmad, Former Incharge Abhedananada Home-Higher Secondary Institution for Inclusive Education, Solina, Srinagar, J&K and can be reached at specialachivers78@gmail.com

Why your kid won't put down the smartphone – it's not your fault

Meghan Owenz

Nearly three-quarters of parents are concerned that their kids' use of mobile devices may be harmful to them or to family relationships – and that was from research done before the pandemic. But it's not parents' – or the kids' – fault. Every time a parent and child try to turn off a game or put a device down, they're not fighting each other – they're fighting the invisible army of behavioral design specialists who make technology experiences so hard to tear yourself away from. The people who create apps and games use insights from, and experts in, an area of psychology research called "persuasive design," whose scholars seek to understand how to create something that is next to impossible to put down. But it's important to be careful when seeking to hook kids on something, as psychologist Richard Freed and I explain in our analysis of the ethical issues involved in persuasive design for children and adolescents.

A QUICK PRIMER

Simply put, persuasive design combines behavioral psychology with technology to alter human behavior. It is the answer to the perennial question, "Why are kids so glued to devices?" The most basic summary is that there are three key mechanisms that together can change a person's behavior: create high motivation, demand little effort and frequently cue users to engage. Knowledge of these principles can have productive and useful purposes, like encouraging people to walk more or eat more fruits and vegetables. However, one common use of persuasive design is to increase the amount of time a person spends using a particular app or game. That boosts the number of ads the person will see and the possibility the person might buy something in the game, which both increase the revenue to the app designer. Adults are influenced by persuasive design, too. It's why they binge-watch streaming shows, endlessly scroll social media and habitually play video games. But since children's brains are so malleable, kids are uniquely susceptible to persuasive design strategies. Many parents have observed kids'



“But since children's brains are so malleable, kids are uniquely susceptible to persuasive design strategies. Many parents have observed kids' exceptional excitement at receiving stickers and tokens, whether physical or digital. This is because the ventral striatum, the brain's pleasure center, is more responsive to dopamine, the brain's reward chemical, in children's brains than in the brains of adults

exceptional excitement at receiving stickers and tokens, whether physical or digital. This is because the ventral striatum, the brain's pleasure center, is more responsive to dopamine, the brain's reward chemical, in children's brains than in the brains of adults. This excitement leads them to want

to repeat the behavior to experience the neurological rewards over and over. In 2019 survey research on adolescent screen time, three types of heavy users emerged from the data, all of which are influenced by persuasive design: social media users, video gamers and video viewers.

HOW IT WORKS

Social media sites like Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Snapchat are engineered to maximize the results of persuasive design. Using "like" buttons and heart emojis, those sites provide social signals, like acceptance and approval, which teens are highly motivated to seek. The

act of scrolling through the sites requires very little effort. And the apps trigger regular reengagement through continual notifications and prompts. Snapchat, for instance, urges users to send snaps at least every 24 hours to keep their Snapstreak alive. To avoid the stress of missing out on reactions or updates from their friends, kids check social media increasingly frequently. In video games, Fortnite lets players know how close they are to beating an opponent. This triggers the "near miss" phenomenon, encouraging people to keep playing because they were so close, they might win next time. This is just one of the ways persuasive design has been adapted from gambling systems for adults into digital video games aimed at kids.

ETHICAL CONCERNS

As a scholar of psychology, I am concerned that psychologists are helping technology designers use the principles of psychology to manipulate children and adolescents into increasing their use of a particular app, game or website. At the same time, other psychologists are researching the harms of these activities, including anxiety, depression, attention issues and obesity. Still other psychologists have opened treatment centers to treat internet gaming disorder and other mental health issues associated with excessive and problematic use, like anxiety and depression. In my view, the principles of one field should not both create and provide treatment for a problem. The American Psychological Association, the largest professional association for psychologists in America, has an ethics code requiring psychologists to do no harm, object to work that does not benefit people's well-being and take special care when dealing with young people because they are not yet fully mature. As such, I believe psychologists have an obligation to protect children from the influences of persuasive technology. Researchers who help social media sites and games may think they are just trying to help the companies make the most dynamic and engaging products possible. But the reality is they are turning a blind eye to the many psychological harms that research has shown these products cause. Parents and children are rightfully concerned about the degree to which games, videos and social media are engineered to exploit kids' impressionable minds. Psychologists could make an effort to explain to parents and kids how children's brains develop, and how persuasive design exploits that process. This can help families stop arguing with each other about spending too much time with their devices and recognize that the bigger threat is not the devices themselves but rather the companies that design these devices and apps to be so difficult to turn off.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Launcher Used In Mohali Attack Recovered: Punjab Police

Chandigarh: A day after a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at its intelligence wing headquarters in Mohali, the Punjab Police on Tuesday said it has recovered the launcher used in the attack and that a number of suspects have been rounded up.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the strictest punishment will be meted out to those trying to spoil the state's atmosphere.

Director General of Police (DGP) V K Bhawra said they have got a few leads and the case will be solved soon.

"A number of suspects have been rounded up and questioned. The launcher used in the attack has been recovered by the police and all leads developed in the case are being pursued meticulously," a statement issued by the Mohali police said.

The rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the third floor of the highly-guarded building in Mohali's Sector 77 at 7:45 pm on Monday, following which an

alert was sounded in Punjab.

A case under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Explosives Act has been lodged at Mohali's Sohana police station in connection with the incident.

The case was registered on the basis of the statement of sub-inspector Balkar Singh, the security in-charge of the intelligence wing headquarters.

In his statement, the sub-inspector said he heard the sound of an explosion on the third floor of the building and when he went there, he saw smoke coming out of room number 41.

He said a projectile, after hitting the wall and breaking the window panes, hit the roof of the room before falling on a chair.

Earlier in the day, the chief minister held a meeting with the DGP and top officials of the intelligence wing and directed the state police chief to probe

the matter thoroughly.

Mann said nobody would be allowed to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in Punjab, adding that a few inimical forces are constantly trying to foment trouble across the state, but they will never succeed in their nefarious designs.

During the meeting, the DGP apprised the chief minister that a few suspects have been taken into custody for interrogation.

"Some arrests have been made and more will be made," Mann said after the meeting, apparently referring to the people who have been rounded up for questioning.

"Whoever tries to spoil the atmosphere of Punjab will not be spared and the strictest punishment will be given to them, which their coming generations will remember," the chief minister said.

Later, after a meeting with senior officials at the intelligence wing headquarters, Bhawra told reporters in

Mohali that a projectile had hit the building and the explosive used in it seems to be TNT (trinitrotoluene).

"There was nobody in the room when the incident occurred. The impact was on the wall," he said.

"But it is a challenge and we are making all-out efforts to solve the case," the DGP added.

To a question on whether it was a terror attack or there was a Khalistani angle in it, Bhawra said whatever comes out of the investigation, "we will let you know".

"We have leads and we will soon solve the case," he said.

A preliminary investigation pointed towards the involvement of two men who came in a car and fired the RPG at the building.

The incident is being seen as a major intelligence failure as the building houses the state counter-intelligence wing, the special task force, the anti-gangster task force and some other units.

Police are also suspecting the involvement of gangster-turned-terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda, who is believed to be in Pakistan, in the incident.

Rinda has been taking the help of local gangsters to carry out anti-national activities here, police sources said.

His name figured when a terror plot was foiled recently with the arrest of four suspected Pakistan-linked terrorists in Haryana's Karnal. Rinda's involvement was also detected in a hand-grenade attack at the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) office in Nawanshahr last month.

The incident took place days after the arrest of the four suspected Pakistan-linked terrorists in Karnal and the arrest of two people that led to the recovery of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) packed with 1.5 kg RDX from Punjab's Tarn Taran district.

The explosion also came close on the heels of the recovery of an explosive device near the Burail Jail in Chandigarh on April 24.

Amidst Azaan vs Hanuman Chalisa row, K'taka issues directions on loudspeakers

Bengaluru: In the wake of Azaan versus Hanuman Chalisa row in Karnataka, the State government on Tuesday issued a circular with a set of directions on the use of loudspeakers and to remove them if they were not authorised by the 'designated authority.'

The circular was issued by an under-secretary to the government following a note sent by the State Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar to the Additional Chief Secretary Jawaid Akhtar, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department to tackle the issue.

The development comes following a row from Monday on the issue with some Hindu groups, mainly Sriram Sena, Bajrang Dal and Hindu Janajagruthi Samithi organising Bhajan-Keertan from pre-dawn to counter azaan from mosques.

As the controversy peaked, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai held a meeting on Monday, following which the Chief Secretary issued a note to Akhtar and later the

government issued a circular.

The circular, which would come into effect immediately, said all existing users of loudspeakers, public address system and sound-producing instruments should obtain written permission from the Designated Authority within 15 days.

Those, who do not obtain permission, should voluntarily remove loudspeakers, public address system and sound-producing instruments or else the same shall be removed by the designated authority within 15 days from the deadline given, it added.

The government ordered setting up committees at different levels to decide the application of loudspeaker or public address system.

In police commissionerate areas, the committee would comprise assistant commissioner of police, jurisdictional executive engineer of the city Corporation and a representative of the State pollution control board.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Injured Civilian

night hours taking advantage of darkness.

Meanwhile, police in a statement said that based on specific input about the presence of militants in Pandashan, Shopian, a joint cordon and search operation was launched on Monday evening by Shopian police and Army in the area.

"As the joint team was establishing the cordon around the area, the hiding militants started indiscriminate firing upon the search party. In order to save the civilians present in the area, the joint team while exercising maximum restraint started evacuating them. However, during evacuation process, the hiding militants targeted the civilians as well as the joint team in a bid to escape," the police spokesman said.

He said that although the civilians were evacuated to safer places, however, due to heavy firing by militants, one soldier Lance Naik Sanjib Das and two civilians namely Shahid Gani Dar and Suhaib Ahmad received gunshot injuries.

"All the injured were immediately airlifted to 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar for treatment. However, civilian Shahid Gani Dar succumbed to his injuries while the other injured civilian, Suhaib Ahmad and Lance Naik Sanjib Das are under treatment. After all medico-legal formalities, the body has been handed over to the family for last rite," the spokesman said, adding that taking advantage of the darkness and civilian presence, the militants managed to escape from the site of encounter and efforts are on to track them.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that it has been observed in some encounters recently in Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag districts that Pakistani militants started firing at civilians and security forces while laying an initial cordon to escape.

"In some of such encounters militants managed to escape from cordon but we have lost precious lives of civilians and security forces. We are trying to bring some change in our tactical SOPs," he said.

Meanwhile, defence spokesman in Srinagar in a statement said that based on an input of likely presence of militants in general area of Pandashan, located approximately 4 kms southeast of Chaudhary Gund, Shopian, a joint cordon & search operation was launched by Army and police at 7:45 pm on May 9.

"At around 8:30 PM, while own teams were establishing a cordon around the target house, the militants started firing indiscriminately in all directions in an attempt to breach the cordon, thereby putting the lives of civilians at a great risk," he said. "Sensing grave threat to the lives of the civilians, own teams commenced civilian extrication from the operation site despite being heavily fired upon by the militants. The militants sensing being cornered started firing on the civilians in order to create chaos to assist them in their escape bid."

He said that with complete disregard to own safety, the security forces were successful in evacuating majority of the civilians to a safe location, however, due to incessant and targeted fire from the militants, one soldier Lance Naik Sanjib Das and two civilians namely Shahid Gani Dar and Suhaib Ahmad received gunshot wounds.

"All the injured were immediately evacuated in an army helicopter to 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar. Despite timely medical intervention and best efforts of the doctors, Shahid Gani Dar succumbed to his injuries," he said.

Second civilian Suhaib Ahmad is reported to be critical, but stable. "He will be undergoing life saving surgeries. Lance Naik Sanjib Das is stable and out of danger," the spokesman said. "Taking advantage of cover of the dark, the militants managed to escape the operation site. Security Forces have intensified their search operations to nab these militants," he said.

2 Militants Killed

information about the presence of militants. They said the militants opened fire upon the joint team in a bid to escape from the village. In the retaliatory fire, the officials said, two militants were killed.

A police spokesperson identified the killed militants as Arif Hussain Bhat of Halsidar Dooru & Suhail Ahmad Lone of Awgam Kulgam.

Lone, he said, had joined militant ranks on the behest of active militant Raja Nadeem Rather of Ashmuji Kulgam.

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

"They were involved in killing of Army Jawan Nishan Singh during a search operation in Watnar Kokernag on 16-04-2022. The killed terrorist Arif Bhat was involved in killing of ASI Mohammad Ashraf son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar resident of Awantipora near Police Station Bijbehara on 22-12-2021, he was also involved in killing of HC namely Ali Mohd Ganie near his residential house at Hasanpora Tabeela on 29-01-2022," he added.

According to the spokesperson, IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar termed the operation as a big success and important in two aspects viz, it was the same group of militants who escaped from Watnad encounter on 16/04/2022 in which one soldier was martyred.

"Besides, the encounter site was very close to national highway so an imminent threat to NHW as well as upcoming Yatra was neutralized," Kumar said.

The encounter in Dooru comes a day after a civilian was killed and two others, including a soldier injured in the neighbouring Shopian

district.

CBI Raids Houses

Jammu and Kashmir Police, which had registered an FIR following a preliminary inquiry.

The inquiry report, now part of the FIR, had said an advertisement was issued by the J&K Bank on November 6, 2008, inviting offers for outright sale of integrated office premises at Bandra Kurla, Mumbai, requiring 20,000 sqft space.

Twenty-five builders had responded to the advertisement which were opened by the committee formed for the purpose and out of the offers received, eight properties Ashapura Builders (Hallmark Business Plaza), Topaz Akruiti, Crescenzo (BKC), Platin BKC, Naman Centre, Golden Homeland agencies (Wockhardt), Windsor and KRC Towers were shortlisted.

Of these eight, the rates offered by Ashapura Builders were the lowest at Rs 25,000 per sqft, Ashapura Builders on July 28, 2009, made an offer for its building's third floor of 30,000 sqft built up area at Rs 22,500 per sqft chargeable area.

"The application was processed and submitted to then chairman to take a decision but no decision was taken regarding finalisation of contract with Ashapura Builders' owners. A committee was constituted with approval of the chairman to take a view with regard to the offer received. The committee so constituted has done nothing in respect of offers received," the FIR had alleged.

The bank on the instructions of its corporate headquarters published another advertisement on January 14, 2010, seeking office space 25,000-30,000 sqft and residential flats in or around Andheri (15 single BHK 600-800 sqft and 10 double BHK 1000-1200 sqft) it said. The offer was responded to by 23 builders.

"Ashapura Builders again quoted the lowest rate Rs 25,000 per sqft it has been found that no heed once again was paid to the lowest rate..." the FIR alleged.

It has been found that in the board of directors meeting held on February 25, 2010, the director estate committee briefed board members about site inspections of the shortlisted properties conducted by the estate committee, it alleged.

"The members were informed that amongst the short listed properties, Akruiti Goki BKC meets requirements of the bank. He further informed the members that total chargeable area of the entire building was around 42,000 sqft at Rs 26,000 per sqft which roughly works out to Rs 109 crore for the entire building and Rs 73 crore for the proposed six floors," the FIR alleged.

It said the board members allegedly gave approval to the proposal and decided that the bank should enter into negotiations with the builders for purchasing the entire building. "Negotiations were held with Akruiti Gold BKC and finally the rate was finalised at Rs 26,000

per sqft for nine floors having total chargeable area of 63,776 sqft. A letter of intent was signed with the builder and a token money of Rs 25 crore was paid to developer Vishal Techno Commerce Limited," it alleged.

The FIR said there was sufficient space available with J&K Bank for functioning of its branch at Bandra Kurla, Zonal Office and Treasury and as such there was no requirement of purchasing any additional accommodation.

"The Zonal Office Mumbai, Branch Bandra Kurla and Treasury were already functioning in the bank's own buildings. The advertisements issued were for 20,000 sqft and 20,000-30,000 sqft respectively in response to which, the rates offered by Ashapura Builders were Rs 25,000 and Rs 22,000 a sqft," it alleged.

The CBI alleged that as part of a "criminal conspiracy hatched among the officers/officials of J&K Bank and the owners of Akruiti Gold BKC", officers of J&K Bank approved purchase of 65,065 sqft at Rs 26,000 per sqft on highly exorbitant consideration of Rs 180.57 crore "in blatant disregard to the tendering process with consequent loss to the bank exchequer."

Their actions allegedly caused a tentative loss of more than Rs 100 crore to the bank exchequer, it said.

LG Discuss J&K

discussions were also held pertaining to the prevailing scenario in J&K, besides security arrangements for the smooth conduct of upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to begin from next month.

"The Lt Governor emphasized on regular security review of all protected premises and vital installations to meet the challenges," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG appreciated the Army's sustained support to the civil administration & police and its contribution towards the well-being and security of the people of J&K.

Yasin Malik

Special Judge Praveen Singh will hear on May 19 the arguments regarding the quantum of sentence for the offences levelled against Malik in which the maximum punishment is life imprisonment.

The court, meanwhile, formally framed the charges against other Kashmiri separatist leaders including Farooq Ahmed Dar alias Bitta Karate, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Masarat Alam Bhat, Muhammad Yusuf Shah, Aftab Ahmad Shah, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Nayeem Khan, Mohammad Akbar Khanday, Raja Merajuddin Kalwal, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, and Naval Kishore Kapoor.

The charge sheet was also filed against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, who have been declared proclaimed offenders (PO) in the case.

Electricity To Get

decision on the proposed tariff hike," Dar said.

As per the existing tariff, the KPDCL charges Rs 1.69 per unit up to 100 units per month, Rs 2.00 per unit for 101 to 200 units per month, Rs 3.30 per unit for 201 to 400 units per month and Rs 3.52 per unit for more than 400 units per month.

However, it has now proposed Rs 2 per unit up to 200 units per month, Rs 4 per unit for 201-400 units per month and Rs 5 per unit for more than 400 units per month.

As per the petition, the KPDCL has mentioned that in the year 2019-20, the cumulative revenue gap was to the tune of Rs 1604.95 crore while the same increased to Rs 5890.76 crore in the year 2020-21.

Similarly, the gap further increased to Rs 9898.63 crore during the financial year 2021-22 and at the existing tariff the cumulative revenue gap will increase to Rs 13145 crore during the current financial year (2022-23).

On these grounds, the KPDCL has proposed an average tariff hike of Rs 12.46% with the mention that projected revenue billed for 2022-23 financial year at the proposed tariff is Rs 2199.20 crore. "The proposed tariff would lead to an increase in revenue by Rs 243.60 crore," the petition said.

However, the KPDCL has kept the proposed tariff for metered and unmetered categories of consumers as well as non-domestic and commercial consumers in line with that of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL).

1.15 Lakh Smart

privatization of power distribution and smart metering in the UTs, an official spokesperson said. He said that the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta participated in the meeting on behalf of UT Government.

At the outset, the spokesperson said that a detailed presentation was given by the Ministry of Power showing progress and status achieved in privatization of power distribution and installation of smart meters in the UTs.

"It was informed that 63,844 smart meters have been installed in the UT of J&K and the target of 1.15 lakh meters will be achieved by July as the process for the installation has been expedited across the UT," he said.

During the meeting, he said, it was also informed that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for six lakh meters was published on January 1, 2022, which is going to be finalized soon.

"Similarly, project proposal for remaining 14.95 lakh meters as per Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) guidelines is under formulation, the meeting was informed," he added.

On future course, the spokesperson said that Mehta informed that under Stage-I, a report has been got prepared highlighting advisory which include human resources policy and employee handbook compendium, peak hour and unrestricted energy demand forecast along with estimation of Capex requirement, besides the opening of balance sheet of two DISCOMs, sharing of common resources between Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and statutory compliance and options for future along with pros and cons of each option.

In the meeting, he said, it was also informed that Stage-II will be taken up after completion of Stage-I.

"Union Home Secretary expressed satisfaction that the UT administration is extending full support to the executing agencies for timely achievements of the milestones in the Schemes and assured all cooperation of the Union Government to ensure that the prepaid metering will be taken forward in a focused manner," the spokesperson added.

Hurriyat Man

was registered against the "unscrupulous persons" by the State Investigation Agency (SIA) on July 27, 2020. They were hand in glove with some educational consultancies for arranging admission of Jammu and Kashmir residents in MBBS and other professional courses in various colleges, institutions and universities in Pakistan, officials said.

Besides Akbar Bhat, others accused in the case are Fatima Shah, Altaf Ahmad Bhat (at present in Pakistan), Qazi Yasir (absconding), Mohammad Abdullah Shah, Sabzar Ahmad Sheikh, Manzoor Ahmad Shah (at present in Pakistan) and Mohammad Iqbal Mir, who was released on bail because he was suffering from a terminal disease, they said.

The court framed the charges after hearing detailed arguments from a battery of lawyers from the side of the defence and the counter arguments of the SIA, which was represented by a special public prosecutor, in 11 hearings spread over five months, an official said.

He said huge amount of money was received in lieu of such admissions from parents of students, and this was ploughed into supporting militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the course of investigation, searches in the houses of the accused persons and at other places were undertaken by sleuths of the SIA after obtaining search warrants from the court, the official said.

The documents and other material seized during the search were analysed and it was found that deposits in the accounts of accused persons were made on account of providing admissions in various technical and professional courses in Pakistan, including MBBS, he said.

'We Did It Again'

the entire fraternity," he said. "And I believe

it will only encourage the people-welfare journalism in Kashmir."

Govt Approves

candidates 37 years instead of 34 years and 38 years for Physically Challenged candidates. "Government understands the aspirations of youth and a decision has been taken to ensure JKCEE exams are conducted on regular basis unlike the past when these exams were held irregularly after a gap of many years," Sinha said in a Tweet.

4 'Hybrid Militants'

the Bemina crossing, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. He said that two individuals approaching the checkpoint in a suspicious manner were challenged by the joint party on which they tried to flee.

"However they were tactfully apprehended by the joint party," he said, adding that on frisking, one Chinese Tokarev Type 54 Pistol, one magazine and ten Chinese rounds each were recovered from their possession.

The police identified the duo as Tawoos Rasool Gada and Saleem Jan Bhat of Usmanabad, Bemina

On basis of their initial questioning, the spokesperson said that the duo disclosed that they were working as hybrid militants of TRF/LET and were involved in delivering pistols in the city to carry out "targeted killings at the behest of Pakistani Handlers"

On the basis of the disclosures made by the two individuals, he said, a cordon & search operation was launched at Hamdania Colony Srinagar and two more associates of the module identified as Abdul Hameed Rah alias Ali and Sajad Ahmed Marazi were arrested.

He further said that during checking two more Tokarev T54 pistols, two magazines and ten Chinese rounds were recovered from their possession.

"A case under the relevant provisions of law has been registered in Police Station Bemina and further investigation taken up," he added.

Also, the spokesperson said that two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested by a joint team of police and army's 50RR at a checkpoint established at Bafina Chowk, Pampore.

He identified them as Arshid Ahmed Mir of Tral and Muzaffar Ahmad Chopan of Khanmoh Srinagar.

"Incriminating materials including two hand grenades were recovered from their possession," he added.

The spokesperson further said that during preliminary questioning, the arrested duo disclosed that they had received these grenades from an active LeT militant Saqib Ahmad of Khanmoh to lob them on security forces in the area.

"A case vide FIR number 51/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Pampore and further investigation into the matter is in progress," he added.

J&K Adds Five

and one each from Srinagar and Kupwara districts in the Kashmir Valley, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 454118.

During the same time, officials said, three more people infected by the deadly diseases recovered in the UT.

The officials further said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4751 in J&K-2328 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir Valley, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

Minor Girl

to the sub-district hospital (SDH) Kupwara, where doctors declared her dead.

A police official confirmed the death of the girl to a local news agency GNS and said that a case has been registered.

Man Arrested Over

platform Monday night, they said.

The photograph has the potential to trigger enmity between different religious groups, the officials said.

A case under relevant section of law has been registered in Budhal police station and an investigation is underway, they said. (PTI)

Pak Returns Poonch Minor's Body

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Pakistani authorities on Tuesday handed over the body of a 12-year-old Indian boy who drowned in a river in his home town in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir last week and was swept away across the Line of Control (LoC) by the strong current, officials said.

Zamin Rasool, a resident of Surankote, drowned while taking a bath in Pulas river near S K Bridge on May 3 and his body could not be traced by the rescue parties, the officials said.

The rescue operation was

stopped Monday evening when the Pakistani Army informed their Indian counterparts about the recovery of a body from Tetri-note area in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (Pck), the officials said.

After confirming the identity of the deceased, the officials said modalities were chalked out and the body was handed over to Indian army in presence of civil officials at Chakan-Da-Bagh crossing point along the LoC in Poonch on Tuesday.

They said the body of the deceased boy was handed over to his family for last rites after completion of legal formalities.

Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Two-Day Int'l Conference On Coronavirus At SKUAST-K



SRINAGAR: Two day International Conference on the theme "Coronaviruses: Past, Present and Future" was on Tuesday inaugurated at SKUAST-Kashmir Shalimar by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Science and Technology/Earth Sciences/PM's office.

The inaugural function was also attended by Junaid Azim Matto, Mayor Srinagar, Prof N. A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir, Prof. J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu, Dr. Parvaiz Koul, and Director SKIMS Soura besides the others Divisional Commissioner Kashmir PK Pole, along with other dignitaries of National and international repute were present on the occasion.

The Conference happened to be the first Post COVID-19 gathering of stake holders including Medical Professionals across the region who converged at the Farm University to deliberate and discuss the Past Present and Future perspectives associated with Corona Virus.

The conference aimed at bringing together renowned experts, researcher, young scientists and academicians from around the world at common platform to discuss and deliberate on coronaviruses in a scientific manner.

The major sponsors of the conference are UK International Corona-virus Network Liverpool, Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Indian Alliance, DBT welcome, BBSRC, NAHEP, Bio Rad, Daskdan Innovations.

In his inaugural address, Singh congratulated the University, SKUAST-K for organizing all important international meet on Cornoviruses, post pandemic era. He also appreciated the univer-

sity vision with regard to the innovations and startups as he believed the India to be the Nation of startups that have really made a great impact on the Indian success story.

He also highlighted the different dimensions of Indian resilience emerging post covid era and support of Govt. agencies in keeping up to the rising expectations.

Singh emphasized on the need to have a joint collaborative approaches for solving most of the problems on sustainable basis. He stressed upon the role of greater interaction among the research academia and industry for an greater societal benefit.

Singh also threw light on futuristic strategies especially in the field of health and science that need to put to place to make India a world leader without any compromise to its roots.

The other dignitaries on the dais also spoke on the theme and hoped the conference would be a great success.

Prof. Nazir A Ganai, VC SKUAST Kashmir in his inaugural speech highlighted the achievements of University and put forth the Vision to be adopted in coming times.

Prof Nazir informed the gathering about the initiatives taken by the University with regard to the National Education Policy that stand acclaimed at the National level.

In his address Prof. Parvez Koul stressed on the importance of the evidence based medicine, the mankind has learnt during the Corona times with collaborative approach while Prof. J.P. Sharma highlighted the role of Agricultural and allied sectors during the tough times of covid crisis.

sary guidelines and instructions have already been passed on to Professional Institutes to sensitize all the stakeholders about this transition. All the designat-

ed partners of LLPs incorporated should complete this exercise in earliest possible time. Meanwhile, the meeting in this regard at Jammu was chaired by Sudhir Phaye and by Haamid Bukhari in Kashmir.

It was given out that this is a nationwide exercise across all the ROC offices in the country and will ensure proper identification of Designated Partners (DPs) who have incorporated themselves in body corporate form of LLP.

Youth Found Dead In Kulgam Orchard

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A youth was found dead inside an orchard in Yari-pora on Tuesday morning, according to news agency KNO.

A police team rushed to the area and took the body in its possession.

"Postmortem is being conducted to know the cause of his death and further investigations are underway," the official said.

Jal Jeevan Mission, SBM Top Priority Of Gol, J&K Admin: LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday reviewed the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) during a high-level meeting with the officials of Union Ministry and UT administration, at the Civil Secretariat.

At the outset, Ms Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti briefed the chair via a PowerPoint presentation on the status of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and SBM-Grameen in the J&K UT. Ms. Mahajan highlighted key implementation issues and proposed specific recommendations for further effective implementation of these flagship programs of Government of India.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor expressed his appreciation for the team of Ministry of Jal Shakti for providing valuable insights and recommendations to achieve the desired goals under the flagship missions.

Reiterating the UT administration's commitment to provide assured basic services to the people living in rural areas, the Lt Governor observed that the effective implementation of both these flagship schemes has a tremendous potential to transform the lives of ordinary citizens in order to make our villages self-sufficient and more sustainable.

The Lt Governor said that Jal Jeevan Mission and SBM is the top priority of Gol and UT administration. He issued explicit directions to the concerned officers to work on a mission mode to provide safe and adequate drinking water and sanitation to all citizens.

"Sufficient resources have been allocated to provide tap water supply to all households by December this year. We need robust institutional ar-



DDC Chairperson Budgam Calls On LG

SRINAGAR: Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairperson, District Development Council, Budgam called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here on Tuesday.

The DDC Chairperson expressed his gratitude to the Lt Governor for ushering in a new era of development in the UT, setting new records in project execution and ensuring the welfare of the people, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, Khan apprised the Lt Governor about the development scenario in his constituency. The DDC Chairperson, he said, also submitted a memorandum of demands which included the construction of various roads, bridges over Nallah

Sukhnag, augmentation of medical facilities at SDH Beerwah, new fair price shops and Anganwadi centres in different villages of Budgam, besides highlighting the issues pertaining to augmentation of power supply and promotion of religious tourism, among others.

"The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the issues and demands and assured the DDC Chairperson of taking up all genuine matters of public importance for their redressal on merit," the spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, urged the DDC Chairperson to continue his endeavors of public welfare and contribute actively in the developmental journey of the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

rangements to ensure benefit of common man," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor directed the Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Department to expedite the tendering and allotment process for different works under JJM. The Lt Governor called for better synergy between executing agencies to ensure its timely and effective implementation.

On Swachh Bharat Mission, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officers for identifying gaps in implementation and undertaking extensive IEC campaigns to promote various sanitation techniques and bring about a positive behavioural change in the society.

The Lt Governor directed officials to move towards expediting ODF Plus achievement in the districts by laying specific focus on implementing suitable mechanisms for village-level waste segregation, scientific solid waste management, grey-water management, imposition of ban on plastic use, and making cleanliness campaigns a 'Jan Andolan'.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta set specific timelines for the concerned departments with respect to the completion of targets under Jal Jeevan Mission and impressed upon the concerned officers to work with greater zeal for achieving the desired results.

Govt Asks Officials To Be Meticulous About Examining Issues

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government on Tuesday directed all officers and officials working in various government departments, autonomous bodies and boards etc. to process and examine all concerning issues thoroughly before submitting the same for consideration or approval of authorities.

"Organizational Efficiency is concomitant to the adaptation of prudent processes and procedures and alignment by the employees. The elements of speed as well as quality in disposal of official business being of paramount importance requires due diligence from the employees," reads a circular issued by the government,

adding, "However, it has been observed that a number of files are being processed/examined in a casual manner thereby delaying timely disposal of issues, as also sometimes leading to inappropriate/incorrect disposal and decision."

Such lack of effort and initiative on part of employees working in various government departments has been viewed seriously by the authorities, the circular underlined.

"It is accordingly, brought to the notice of all officers/officials working in various government departments/autonomous bodies/boards etc. to process/examine all concerning issues thoroughly before submitting the same for consideration/ap-

proval of authorities," it said, adding, "Further, a comprehensive summary of relevant portions of correspondence in the matter along with deficiencies and a clear-cut proposal for disposal shall be submitted."

The responsibility for any incorrect decision or delay in decision due to lack of due diligence in submission of notes or dereliction of part of any officer or official shall lie with the concerned officer or official, it said.

"It is also enjoined that every issue is thoroughly examined in light of relevant Rules/GFR/Guidelines/Instructions/Precedence in the matter," it reads further, adding, "These instructions are issued for compliance of all concerned." (GNS)

Hurriyat 'Sympathizer' Booked under PSA In Ramban

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An alleged Hurriyat Conference sympathizer from Ramban district, accused by Police of promoting enmity between two communities and being involved in anti-national activities, has been slapped with Public Safety Act (PSA).

Police sources told a local news agency KDC that a person identified as Mohammad Ibrahim son of Nora Gujjar, a resident of village Krawa, Tehsil Banihal, District Ramban has been arrested under Public Safety Act (PSA) by the Order of District Magistrate, Ramban.

"The accused remained involved in anti-national & anti-social activities and was creat-

ing law and order problem in Banihal," they said, adding that the accused tried to promote enmity between two religious groups which in turn could have spiralled a wave of violence and hatred between different religious groups.

"The accused was a notorious criminal and one of the sympathisers and a well-wisher of the outlawed J&K Hurriyat Conference and took part in anti-national activities within the jurisdiction of police station Banihal and the surrounding areas. The accused was instigating the people of Banihal area especially the youth against the democratically established Government of J&K and the Government of India due to his activi-

ties & instigations," they said.

They further added that the accused is a history-sheeter and is involved in a number of cases of police station Banihal.

"The oblique motive of the subject was to keep the pot of insurgency boiling. He entered into a criminal conspiracy as part of a larger game plan to disturb the peaceful environment and create regional tension. His activities had the potential of igniting the cycle of violence in the UT of J&K and breaching the security and peaceful environment of Banihal area, as such was detained under J&K PSA vide Order No. 12-PSA of 2022 and has been lodged in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal, Jammu," they added.

ADG BSF Reviews Security Along IB In Jammu Frontier

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU:Additional Director General (ADG) of BSF P V Rama Sastry on Tuesday reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness along the International Border (IB) in the Jammu Frontier. The visit comes in the backdrop of uncovering of a cross-border tunnel in the Samba sector recently.

Sastry is on a two-day visit to the Jammu frontier to review the security situation along the IB, a BSF spokesman said.

He visited Samba and Kathua sectors where he took stock of the security situation and operational preparedness of field formations. He also visited the recently detected tunnel site in the Samba area, the official said.

On the occasion, Inspector Gen-

eral (IG) of Jammu Frontier D K Boora flagged issues being faced on the Indo-Pak border, including detecting of tunnels and cross-border smuggling and dropping of weapons by drones, he said.

Boora also gave a detailed presentation to the ADG covering all the critical aspects of border security and domination along the IB in Jammu, the spokesman said.

He further described the general security scenario of the area of operation, covering the deployment pattern of BSF battalions and their robust domination aspects on the border.

ADG Sastry also interacted with jawans and praised them for displaying alertness in the recent detection of the tunnel as well as their dedication towards performing duty in a challenging scenario, the spokesman said.

Advisor Bhatnagar Reviews Performance Of JKRTC

Directs Officers To Utilise New Fleet Effectively For Generation Of Revenue

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the performance of J&K Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Transport Department, Hirdesh Kumar; Transport Commissioner J&K, Bhupinder Kumar; MD J&K RTC, Rakesh Kumar Srangal; Director Motor Garages, J&K, Malik Tahir Gani, senior officers of transport and other concerned officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar remarked that with the infusion of new fleet in the corporation, there is a huge potential for revenue generation now. He directed the management of the corporation to utilise the assets of corporation effectively and make it a profitable entity.

The Advisor stressed upon the management of corporation to make rigorous efforts for increasing profit per kilometer for its buses. He asked them that more profitable routes be identified for making the corporation more viable and profit worthy public enterprise.

While reviewing the status of other assets of corporation, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers that all the vehicles in workshop should come on road within one month besides action should be initiated against the officials who are involved in mismanagement of workshop of the corporation.

He asked the management of corporation that the vehicles in workshop should be operationalised in phased manner after assessing the age and mileage of each of them.

The Advisor further asked the management of corporation that steps should be initiated for generating the revenue for corporation through other means. He asked the officers that the feasibility of generat-

ing revenue through display of advertisements on JKRTC buses regarding various schemes of government departments should be looked into.

While reviewing the progress on implementation of Intelligent Transport Management System (ITMS), Advisor Bhatnagar stressed on the officers that all the customer service of the corporation should go digital by 1st June 2022. Taking serious note of delay in implementation of ITMS, the Advisor said that no lackadaisical approach will be entertained in this regard and strict action will be taken against erring officials hindering the process.

Reviewing other initiatives of corporation like online ticket booking facility, online bus schedule, smart staff management, Advisor Bhatnagar directed the officers of corporation that all these technological interventions should be implemented in the Corporation within one month to improve its work culture and management. He asked the officers that online ticket booking should be merged with the schedule of buses so that the passengers are allotted seats timely.

Stressing on making the corporation more profit worthy, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers that designated pickup points for buses should be established in the city alongwith the consultation of district administration and traffic police so that public is facilitated and attracted towards utilising the services of JKRTC buses.

The Advisor also stressed upon the officers that facilities and public conveniences should be established at all depots and stations of JKRTC across all districts besides the display of schedule of buses should also be made available at all stations.

During the meeting, MD, JKRTC gave a detailed presentation on the progress and achievements made on different aspects by the corporation.

Two Cops Hurt As Vehicle Overtakes

SRINAGAR: An escort vehicle of People's Democratic Front (PDF) chairman turned turtle on Tuesday afternoon at Khanshab area in central Kashmir's Budgam district, resulting in injuries to two security personnel.

Official sources said that an escort vehicle bearing registration number JK02AG-4769 of

PDF chairman Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen rolled down in an orchard near Degree College Khanshab in which two security personnel of his escort team were injured.

Both the injured personnel were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment and are said to be out of danger. (KDC)

Canines Kill 13 Sheep In Ganderbal

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As many as 13 sheep were killed and over a dozen injured in stray dogs' attack in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

Locals in Surfraw Gund village of Ganderbal district said stray dogs barged into the cowshed at night and killed 13 sheep.

The sheep belonged to Mubarak Ahmad Raina son of Sonallah Raina, a resident of Surfraw Gund.

"Stray dogs have killed 13 sheep and injured 14 others including lambs among which 4 are critical," the owner of the livestock said, as per news agency KNT.

Locals alleged that Municipal Committee has been doing nothing to check the stray dog population that has grown exponentially over the years.

"This was not the first incident of such nature. Earlier as well, stray dogs killed dozens of sheep in other villages of the district including Watlur and Gund," they added.

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