

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Saturday 21 May 2022 | 19 Shawwal | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol:25 | Issue: 115 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹ 3

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P3 CITY

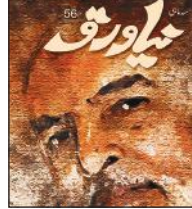
KOTHI BAGH POLICE STATION PARTIALLY GUTTED IN OVERNIGHT BLAZE

Kothi Bagh Police Station suffered massive damages after a fire incident took place during night. The fire incident took place two days after the Traffic Police headquarter in Srinagar was partially

THINK

NAYA WARAAQ: A PORTRAYAL OF EVERYDAY PUBLIC LIFE

'Naya Waraq' (The New Leaf), a quarterly literary magazine published from Mumbai is one of the Urdu journals having their unique identity. Founded by late Sajid Rashid in late nineties, the magazine is ably being run by his son Shadab Rashid who



P7 STATE

FRESH SNOWFALL IN UPPER REACHES, RAINS LASH PLAINS

Razdan top in Gurez valley has received fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains as well as the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, bringing down the



Quote!

An honest man is always a child

- Socrates

NEWS DIGEST

Four Held For Posing As ACB Officials

Srinagar: Four persons were arrested for allegedly impersonating as officials of anti-corruption bureau and extorting money from a brick kiln owner in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said here on Friday. Fake ID cards of Crime Investigation and **More on P6**

Lightning Strike Kills Man In Poonch

Srinagar: A man was killed after being hit by a lightning strike in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Friday. The deceased has been identified as Irshad Ahmed, son of Jalal Din of Satelaan village at Poonch Mandi. Officials said that Ahmed was at his home **More on P6**

Six More Covid Cases In J&K

Srinagar: Six more tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday while no fresh fatality due to the deadly infection was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, four new cases of Covid-19 were registered in Kashmir Valley **More on P6**

Govt Employee Held With Heroin

Srinagar: A government employee was arrested with 10 Kg heroin worth Rs 20 crore from Uri town in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said here on Friday. Acting on a specific information regarding smuggling of drugs, police at a checkpoint established in Uri intercepted a **More on P6**

24 Hrs On, 9 Workers Remain Trapped In Collapsed Ramban Tunnel



Heavy machinery was pressed into service on Friday to rescue the nine people trapped under the debris of the under-construction tunnel in Ramban that collapsed on Thursday night. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A labourer was killed and three rescued after a part of an under-construction tunnel collapsed on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district, officials said.

Nine workers continue to be trapped in the debris as rescue operations continue. However, their chances of survival are slim, the officials said.

"Around 10.15 pm on

Thursday, the audit tunnel of T3 on the highway near Khooni Nallah in Ramban collapsed, trapping 11-12 labourers of Sarla Company working there," a senior official told PTI.

The rescue operation on the national highway stretch between Ramban and Ramsu started at midnight and was going on in full swing with rock-breakers being used to reach out to those trapped, he said.

Divisional Commissioner

of Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh visited the incident site where a massive rescue operation is underway.

Union minister Jitendra Singh termed the collapse of a part of the tunnel "unfortunate".

"I am in constant touch with DC Mussrat Islam. Nearly 10 labour workers were trapped under the debris. Another two were rescued and **More on P6**

LG Monitoring Situation

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha is constantly monitoring the situation in Ramban where nine people are feared to be trapped under debris after an under-construction collapsed. The LG also chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials at the Civil Secretariat and discussed the progress of rescue operations, an official spokesperson said Friday. He said that the rescue operation was started Thursday night with District Administration, Police, NDRF, SDRF and **More on P6**

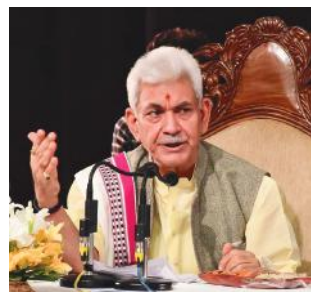
Issues Faced By KPs Working In Valley Will Be Addressed: LG

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the issues faced by Kashmiri Pandits working in the valley, including their safety concerns, will be addressed.

"I would not like to go into the statistics of now and then. You are from here and you know it as well that the situation now is better than before. But unfortunately an odd incident (of violence) takes place once every few months. We are working out a strategy with police and other security forces to tackle this," Sinha told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

He was responding to a



question about claims made by political leaders like National Conference's Omar Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party's Mehbooba Mufti that the security situation in the valley was deteriorating.

Sinha said the "unfortunate" killing of Rahul Bhat was being probed by the special investigation team (SIT). **More on P6**

Situation In J&K Getting Worse By Day: Omar

'Flights And Tourism Are Not Normalcy' Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that tourism activity and the number of flights to Kashmir cannot be considered as signs of normalcy, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the security situation was getting worse day by day.

Abdullah, the National Conference vice president, said the state of fear was such that Kashmiri Pandit employees were ready to leave

their jobs and run away from Kashmir.

Jammu and Kashmir has been witnessing protests by Kashmiri Pandits since the killing of community member and government employee Rahul Bhat by militants inside his office in Budgam's Chadoora on May 12.

"Flights and tourism are not (signs of) normalcy. Normalcy is that there should be no fear and terror. Kashmiri Pandits should not run away. They are ready to leave their jobs. Is this normalcy?" he told reporters at his party's office here.

He said that **More on P6**

6 IF AN EMPLOYEE BECOMES a target on his own seat in a busy office, or a cop gets killed at home, if this is the new face of normalcy, I cannot say anything."

J&K's New Political Map

Delimitation Panel's Orders Come Into Effect



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Paving the way for conducting the first assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir since it was made a Union territory, the Centre said the orders of the Delimitation Commission which re-drew electoral constituencies and provided six additional assembly seats to Jammu division and one to Kashmir would come into effect from Friday.

According to the orders of the commission, set up under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, the Union territory will have 90 assembly constituencies -- 43 in Jammu Division and 47 in Kashmir -- with nine of them being reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

It also brought areas of

Rajouri and Poonch under the Anantnag parliamentary seat.

The erstwhile assembly had 87 seats -- 46 in Kashmir, 37 in Jammu and four in Ladakh. In the reorganisation of the erstwhile state, Ladakh was declared as a union territory without an assembly.

In a gazette notification, the Law Ministry said the panel's two orders -- one of March 14 dealing with the number of constituencies reserved for various categories and the second of May 5 dealing with the size of each constituency -- will come into effect together from May 20.

With the recommendations having been accepted by the Centre, decks are now cleared for holding of the first assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir after it was downgraded **More on P6**

J&K BANK BUILDING CASE

CBI Grills Ex- Minister Drabu For 7 Hours

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Friday questioned former Jammu and Kashmir Bank chairman Haseeb Drabu in connection with a case related to the purchase of the bank's office building in Mumbai in 2010 in which it is alleged that there was a loss of Rs 100 crore to the financial institution's exchequer, officials said here.

The questioning of Drabu, a former finance minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was done by the CBI officials at their Srinagar office for seven hours, they said.

There was no immediate reaction from Drabu as he did not reply to SMS and messages sent on his WhatsApp.

Earlier this month, the CBI carried out searches at eight locations in Mumbai,



Srinagar and Jammu after the agency had registered an FIR in the purchase of the Akuti Gold Building for around Rs 180 crore by the bank for its integrated office in Mumbai on November 11 last year. The FIR was registered following a reference from the Jammu and Kashmir government.

The premises of the then bank directors **More on P6**

DGP Calls For Intensified Anti-Militancy Operations

Directs Officers To Strengthen Checkpoints, Night Patrolling In Sensitive Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh on Friday called upon his officers to intensify anti-militancy operations, besides strengthening checkpoints and carrying out night patrolling of sensitive areas to keep the militants and their associates under check.

Singh passed these directions while reviewing security scenario of North Kashmir's Baramulla District in an officers meeting held at District Police Office, a police spokesperson said.

The DGP, he said, directed the officers to evolve more and



6 OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE RESOLUTE and specific giving no room to any complacency. Proactive measures have to be taken to ensure peace and order," Singh said.

more effective mechanism and augment the security grids in border and **More on P6**

Vaishno Devi Stampede

Four Months On, Govt Yet To Receive Probe Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Over four months after a stampede at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra left 12 devotees dead, the Jammu and Kashmir government is yet to receive the report from the three-member panel constituted to probe the deadly episode.

In response to an RTI filed by Jammu based Advocate, Sheikh Shakeel on April 7 April this year seeking copy of the enquiry report from the Government of J&K on the circumstances leading to the stampede at the busy shrine, the General Administrative Department (GAD) has said that it hasn't received any enquiry report so far.

The reply to the RTI has been furnished by the Deputy



Secretary to the Government, Shuaib Mohammad Naikoo.

On January 1, at least 12 people died and over a dozen were injured in a stampede at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in

Jammu and Kashmir triggered by a heavy rush of devotees. The incident occurred outside the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine on Trikuta hills in the erstwhile state of J&K.

KO File Photo

Nilofar Khan Takes Charge As KU VC

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Professor Nilofar Khan on Friday took over as the first woman Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, a spokesman of the varsity said.

The order of Prof Khan being appointed as the vice chancellor was issued by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday. She will have a three-year term.

A distinguished academician and administrator, Khan has a teaching experience of more than 30 years and has served the Kashmir University's corporate life in several important academic and administrative capacities, including Dean College Development Council, Registrar, Dean Faculty of Applied **More on P6**



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China Plans World's 1st Nearby Habitable Planet Search With Space Telescope

Press Trust Of India

Chinese scientists have proposed a space project to survey the sky through a space-borne telescope to hunt for habitable Earth-like planets outside the solar system, about 32 light-years from Earth, the official media reported on Thursday. The project, named Closeby Habitable Exoplanet Survey (CHES), if carried out, will be the first space mission specially designed to search for habitable terrestrial planets around nearby Sun-like stars, the report said. The exploration of habitable planets outside the solar system is one of the key frontiers of fundamental research in astronomy. The CHES will observe about 100 Sun-like stars 32 light-years away on a long-term survey, and will hopefully discover roughly 50 Earth-like planets or super-Earths,



planets that are up to about 10 times the mass of Earth, state-run China Global Television Network (CGTN) reported. The CHES will offer crucial clues to the issues such as "Are we alone in the universe?" and "How can planets become the cradle of life?" according to Ji Jianhui, a research professor from the Purple Mountain Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who is the principal investigator of the CHES mission. Ji said more than 5,000 exoplanets have been discovered and confirmed so far, including about 50 Earth-like planets in the habitable zone, but most of them are hundreds of light-years away from Earth. "The discovery of the nearby habitable worlds will be a great breakthrough for humankind, and will also help humans visit those Earth twins and expand our living space in the future," Ji added.

Natural Immunity From Omicron Infection Weak, Limited, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Infection with the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 provides little long-term immunity against other variants in unvaccinated people, according to a study published in the journal Nature.

In experiments using mice and blood samples from donors who were infected with Omicron, researchers at Gladstone Institutes and University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) in the US found that the Omicron variant induces only a weak immune response. In vaccinated individuals, this response—while weak—helped strengthen overall protection against a variety of COVID-19 strains. In those without prior vaccination, however, the immune response failed to confer broad, robust protection against other strains.

"In the unvaccinated population, an infection with Omicron might be roughly equivalent to getting one shot of a vaccine," said Melanie Ott, director of the Gladstone Institute of Virology and co-senior author of the study.

"It confers a little bit of protection against COVID-19, but it's not very broad," Ott said in a statement.

"This research underscores the importance of staying current with your vaccinations, even if you have previously been infected with the Omicron variant, as you are still likely vulnerable to re-infection," said co-senior author Jennifer Doudna, a senior investigator at Gladstone, and professor at UC Berkeley.

As the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 spread around the globe in late 2021 and early 2022, anecdotal evidence quickly mounted that it was causing less severe symptoms than Delta and other variants of concern. However, scientists were not initially sure why that was, or how a weaker infection might impact long-term immunity against COVID-19.

"When the Omicron variant first emerged, a lot of people wondered whether it could essentially act as a vaccine for people who didn't want to get vaccinated, eliciting a strong and broad-acting immune response," said Irene Chen, co-first author of the study and graduate student in Ott's lab. The team of researchers first examined the effect of Omicron in mice. Compared to an ancestral strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the Delta variant, Omicron led to far



When it comes to other variants that might evolve in the future, we can not predict exactly what would happen, but based on these results, I suspected that unvaccinated people who were infected with Omicron will have very little protection

fewer symptoms in the mice. However, the virus was detected in airway cells, albeit at lower levels. Similarly, Omicron was able to infect isolated human cells but replicated less than other variants.

The team then characterised the immune response generated by Omicron infections. In mice infected with Omicron, despite the milder symptoms, the immune system still generated the T cells and antibodies typically seen in response to other viruses.

"We demonstrated in this study that the lower pathogenicity of Omicron is not because the virus cannot take hold," said Nadia Roan, an associate investigator at Gladstone.

That leaves other reasons which might explain why Omicron differs from other variants in terms of symptoms and immunity, including the lower replication seen with Omicron or the types of antibodies that the immune system generates in response to the virus. To gauge how the immune re-

sponse against Omicron fared over time, the researchers collected blood samples from mice infected with the ancestral, Delta, or Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2 and measured the ability of their immune cells and antibodies to recognise five different viral variants—ancestral (WA1), Alpha, Beta, Delta, and Omicron. Blood from uninfected animals was unable to neutralise any of the viruses—in other words, block the ability of any of the viruses to copy themselves. Samples from WA1-infected animals could neutralise Alpha and, to a lesser degree, the Beta and Delta virus—but not Omicron, the researchers said.

Samples from Delta-infected mice could neutralise Alpha and, to a lesser degree, the Omicron and Beta virus, they said. However, blood from Omicron-infected mice could only neutralise the Omicron variant. The team confirmed these results using blood from ten unvaccinated people who had been infected with Omicron—their blood was

not able to neutralise other variants.

When the researchers tested blood from 11 unvaccinated people who had been infected with Delta, the samples could neutralise Delta and, as had been seen in mice, the other variants to a lesser extent.

When they repeated the experiments with blood from vaccinated people, the results were different: vaccinated individuals with confirmed Omicron or Delta breakthrough infections all showed the ability to neutralise all the tested variants, conferring higher protection.

"When it comes to other variants that might evolve in the future, we can not predict exactly what would happen, but based on these results, I suspected that unvaccinated people who were infected with Omicron will have very little protection," said Ott.

"But on the contrary, vaccinated individuals are likely to be more broadly protected against future variants, especially if they had a breakthrough infection," she said.

انتقال پرملاں

خان نیوز ایجنسی کو صدمہ



احمد فردوس زوہیر فردوس احمد بٹ
ساکند بٹ مالو سرینگر 19 مئی
2022 بروز جمعرات کو اس دارالفانی
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مستزاد، خوش اخلاق اور صوم و صلوات کی
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سوگواراں

فردوس احمد بٹ (خان نیوز ایجنسی)
ساکند بٹ مالو سرینگر

فون نمبر:- 7006612118

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved

from one. Shri : Ghulam Nabi Wani
S/o: Abdul Rehman Wani
R/o: Gondipora Beerwah Budgam
(Transferor) of LMV (Swift). Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D-7135 Chasis number 75548 Engine no. 67802 Model 2017. in favour of Shri.Asim Mujtaba Nabi S/o. Ghulam Nabi Wani R/O. Gondipora Beerwah (Tranferree)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.905 Dated :25/05/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Mohsin Mukhdomi S/o: Ab Hamid Mukhdomi R/o: Friends Enclave Humhama Airport Budgam (Transferor) of LMV M 800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04A 5797 Chasis number 20801 Engine no.10776 Model 2006. in favour of Shri.Mohammad Yousuf Dar S/o. Mohammad Akbar Dar R/O.Guttipora Budgam (Tranferree)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.906 Dated :25/05/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mushtaq Ahmed Rather S/o Gull Mohamad Rather R/o Checkiwangund Qazigund Anantnag Tehsil doru shahabad have applied for E.W.S certificate if anyone have any objection please contact concern Tehsil office within 7 days after that no objection will be accepted
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skim

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I have lost the Number plate of my vehicle Tata Mobile 207 bearing Regd No: JK01Q-1993. 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 concerned Police Station or Concerned RTO Office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
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FRESH TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No. 42-MDB OF 2022-23/3079-99 DATED:- 20-05-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, Fresh e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earned Money Rs.1380/-	Time of completion 5 days	Class of Contractor DEE	M.H 3054-M&R
1	Construction of Diversion for damaged culvert on Machipora Khushpora road in KM 1st by way of Providing and Laying of GSB filling and RCC spun pipes.	0.69 lacs	200/-				

Position of AAA = Accorded, Position of TS = Accorded , Position of funds: Available/ Committed

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www .jktenders. gov .in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-05-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-05-2022
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20-05-2022
4.	Bid Submission End Date	26-05-2022 upto 4.00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	26-05-2022 at 4.30 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid) in shape of CDR/FDR/BG

No: EE/MDB/NIT/ 3079-99
DATED:- 20-05-2022

DIPK-2345/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Muffasil (R&B) Division
Budgam,

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla

Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM (CANCELLATION OF TENDERS)

Subject: - CANCELLATION OF e-NIT No. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06 & 07 of 2022-23

Reference: -This office e- NIT Nos. MDB/TS/e-Tender /01 Dated: 15-04-2022 (2022_PWDJK_166932_1) MDB/TS/e-Tender /02 Dated: 15-04-2022 (2022_PWDJK_166938_1) MDB/TS/e-Tender /03 Dated: 15-04-2022 (2022_PWDJK_166939_1) MDB/TS/e-Tender /04 Dated: 15-04-2022 (2022_PWDJK_166940_1) MDB/TS/e-Tender /05 Dated: 23-04-2022 (2022_PWDJK_166945_1) MDB/TS/e-Tender /06 Dated: 23-04-2022 (2022_PWDJK_167625_1) MDB/TS/e-Tender /07 Dated: 23-04-2022 (2022_PWDJK_167626_1)

Due to inadequate response from the bidders, the above mentioned e-NITs are cancelled ab initio. It is apposite to state here that e-NIT No's 01, 02, 03, 04 & 05 had been earlier extended vide No: - MDB /TS/e-tendering/228-32 dated: - 27-04-2022 but still the response from bidders remained totally inadequate.

DIPK-2293/22

No: - MDB /TS/e-tendering/359-65
Dated: - 19-05-2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Baramulla



Expression of Interest for hiring of building for University Guest House

Expression of Interest (EOI) is re-invited for and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) for hiring of building for the purpose of University Guest House at Srinagar. The interested bidders may submit their offers on the format which may be downloaded from the University website www.iust.ac.in and the same should reach to the Office of the Deputy Registrar, Estates, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora on all working days (Monday to Friday) by or before 3rd of June 2022 (Friday) upto 3:00 pm.
No. IUST/Est/EoI_Guest-House/22/173
Dated:19-05-2022

DIPK-NB-1008/22

Sd/-
Member Secretary



Erring Shopkeepers Fined Under COTPA

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Court of City Munsif in Srinagar imposed a fine of Rs.4400 on four shopkeepers for violating section 7 of Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003.

These complaints were submitted before the competent court by Food Safety Officers of District Srinagar against violators for selling cigarette packs without having pictorial warnings on 85 percent of the principal display

panel

In a statement it said, shopkeepers are directed not to sell cigarettes within the radius of 100 yards of an educational institution, in loose form and to minors below the age of 18 years.

“Moreover, they are directed not to sell any pack of cigarettes without having mandatory pictorial warning and other labeling requirements under Cigarette and other tobacco products Act 2003”, the statement added.

2 Mutton And Vegetable Shops Sealed For Overcharging

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The authorities on Friday sealed two mutton and one vegetable shops for overcharging customers.

The Enforcement squad of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department under the leadership of Assistant Director Enforcement sealed one vegetable shop and two mutton shops for overcharging during besides recovered a penal sum of rupees12700.00 from 18 erring shopkeepers for violation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The Enforcement squad took action against the erring during a mar-

ket checking drive conducted in various areas of Srinagar city including Kailashpora, Telbal, Shaheedgunj, Bemina Hamdaniya Colony Bemina SMHS Hospital Road and Iqbal colony Sonawar.

During market checking 64 business establishments were inspected and the erring were fined on the spot.

Moreover, the department has asked the shopkeepers to desist from overcharging customers.

“The erring lot has been reprimanded to remain careful in future. The drive will continue in the same passion in future as well and whosoever found violating the norms will be brought to justice”.



Kothi Bagh Police Station Partially Gutted In Overnight Blaze

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Kothi Bagh Police Station suffered massive damages after a fire incident took place during night. The fire incident took place two days after the Traffic Police headquarter in Srinagar was partially gutted in a blaze.

The Police Station Kothibagh is located adjacent to the Traffic Police Headquarters.

Officials said the cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Talking to Kashmir Observer,

an official of Kothi Bagh Police Station said the second floor has been completely damaged.

“The floor hosts office rooms which have been reduced to ashes”.

“Although it is too early to comment on the cause of the fire, it may have been caused by a short circuit” he said.

He further said Firefighters from the Fire & Emergency Services swung into action and brought the fire under control.

“The swift action of the firefighters helped prevent damages

on a large scale”, the official said.

One of the fire fighters identified as Ansar Ahmad Malla was injured while dousing the flames, he was referred to SMHS Hospital for treatment, where his condition is said to be stable”, Official added.

It is pertinent to mention, traffic Police headquarters was partially damaged in a blaze, which broke out in the wee hours on Wednesday. The fire damaged the top floor of the headquarters and all the high end equipment of the Traffic Control room was reduced to ashes.

Workshop On Advanced Experimental Techniques Kicks Off At NIT



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Seven-day-long training cum hands-on program on advanced experimental techniques for Materials Science began at the National Institute of Technology on Friday.

The program is organized by the P G Department of Physics, in collaboration with Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan under Synergistic Training Program Utilizing the Scientific and Technological Infrastructure (STUTI) and is supported by DST, Govt. of India.

The inaugural session of the workshop was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal, while Prof. M Chalkoo, from GMC Srinagar, delivered a lecture on new instruments for surgery.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Sehgal expressed his gratitude to the r. M Ikram Department of Physics for organizing such programs. He acknowledged and appreciated the collaboration of Banasthali Vidyapith University for such an initiative.

Prof. Sehgal urged participants to take advantage of such programs. If our students can do that then it will be their biggest contribution to the entire country, he said.

On the occasion, Prof. P A Alvi, Dr Negi and Saral PMU coordinator, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan gave a small introduction about the STUTI program and explained its importance one by one.

A team of professors from Banasthali who are collaborators spoke during the event and acknowledged the efforts of Dr.

Shah and his faculty.

“We are thankful to the Department of Science and Technology for the prestigious grant,” he said.

Dr. Saral K. Gupta, coordinator, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan presented some glimpses of the STUTI Program.

Dr. C. M. S. Negi, coordinator of Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan conveyed STUTI program message.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by the Co-Convenor of the event, Prof. Seemin Rubab. She expressed her gratitude to the guest expert and all participants, for making the event successful. Active participation of all faculty members Prof Prince, Dr. Vijay, Dr Zubair and Dr. Harkirat, scholars and students were acknowledged and appreciated.

Upgradation Works At YTC Panthachowk Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Friday visited to Yatra Transit Camp (YTC) at Panthachowk to take stock of the pace of works undertaken for facility upgradation during halt of Yatries expected to participate in annual Amarnath Ji Yatra (SAJY)-2022.

On the occasion, the DC inspected various works in progress including construction of prefab huts, public convenience facilities under construction, Sanitation, Water Management, installation of Stalls by local SHGs, etc. for the forthcoming annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2022. He reviewed

cleanliness and sanitation measures in the premises of the Transit camp.

The DC set a deadline of May 27 for completion of all upgradation works being carried out at the transit camp to facilitate the Yatries during forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2022.

The authorities of Srinagar Municipal Corporation were directed to ensure proper sanitation and adequate arrangements for public convenience facilities at the transit camp, besides deployment of sufficient staff at the camp for periodical cleanliness in and around the transit camp every day. He asked them to remove all weeds and unwanted grass from the premises.

Gasiyar, Hawal Residents Irked By Poor Drainage System

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Gasiyar, Hawal have urged the authorities to repair the drainage system in the area.

According to locals, the drainage system is defunct and all the unclean water gets accumulated in the lane.

Locals say there is a mosque in the locality and it is hard to make way for the mosque.

“The drainage problem has been there for years and is nothing new, it is sad that authorities have failed to repair the drainage” said

Dr Syed Mudasir who leads prayers at the Noor ul Huda Mosque.

The residents say they have brought the issue in the notice of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation a number of times but unfortunately they have failed to initiate any action.

Locals have appealed to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation to repair the drainage system in the area.

“It is high time the municipality repairs the drainage system otherwise we will be forced to pool money and repair it” they said.

DIAL-EMMA



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- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
19 Shawwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 48
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:23
Magrib	7:32
ISHA	9: 08

This Day In History

- 1260 - Hao Jing, envoy of Mongol leader Kublai Khan imprisoned by order of the high Chancellor of China, Jia Sidao at the Song Dynasty court of Emperor Lizong while attempting to negotiate with the Song
- 1420 - Treaty of Troyes: Henry V of England and his heirs would inherit the throne of France upon the death of King Charles VI of France
- 1809 - Battle of Aspern-Essling: Austrian archduke Karl beats Napoleon
- 1856 - Lawrence, Kansas, is captured and sacked by pro-slavery forces
- 1864 - Russia declares an end to the Russian-Circassian War and many Circassians are forced into exile. The day is designated to be the Circassian Day of Mourning.
- 1879 - Battle of Iquique: Chilean naval forces overcome Peruvian ships (War of the Pacific)
- 1911 - French troop enter Fez in Morocco to quell anti-European agitation
- 1918 - US House of Representatives passes amendment allowing women to vote
- 1920 - Mexican President Venustiano Carranza is executed by army generals after fleeing an armed rebellion in Mexico
- 1931 - Belgian government of Jaspar falls
- 1940 - Allied counter attack at Atracht, northern France
- 1940 - Reynaud forms French government

From KO Archives

Move To Shift Capital Sparks Debate

A M Sofi

SRINAGAR - Even as the proposal to shift the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir is yet to take off, controversy dogs the idea with debate raging for and against the government move.

Giving vent to the opposition to shifting of the capital, several political parties, including main opposition National Conference, said the massive expenditure needed for moving the secretariat and other offices could be diverted to building schools, hospitals and roads in the state.

"We need no new capital at an exorbitant expenditure of Rs 3.500 crore which could be utilized for the betterment of Kashmiris by constructing schools, colleges, hospitals and roads which are in a dilapidated condition across the valley," NC President Omar Abdullah told PTI.

Ridiculing the idea, another senior leader of the party Ali Mohammad Sagar said "instead of finding ways and means to mitigate the problems of the people the PDP-led coalition government is trying to squander the funds for unproductive projects." He asked the coalition government to desist from changing the capital for "petty political gains."

CPI(M), which supports the coalition government from outside, opposes the idea. State Secretary of CPI(M) M Y Tariq said "I don't think it is a very serious move yet."

The government complexes should be moved a little away from the market and the beautiful city but not relocated in any other place. Why go there (Parihaspora) to Lalitaditya. The kings are buried there let them rest in peace.

"It is wrong to assume that government wants to benefit villagers by moving the capital city. The government has in fact done very little for the upliftment of rural areas," he said.

Author of the proposal to shift the capital and Finance Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig said the basic objective behind a new capital was to decongest and develop Srinagar as an exclusive tourist resort 'with heritage villages and other amenities to make it among the most attractive tourist destinations on the globe.

The proposal for a new capital has received the Centre's nod which would be ready within next three years at an estimated cost of Rs 3.500 crores, he said. Opposing the idea, Chair-man of National Democratic Front and former MP Abdul Rashid Kabuli accused the government of not attending to the problems of Srinagar, a city of 15 lakh people. Shifting capital from Srinagar to Parihaspora and moving government offices to rural areas is like shifting of Union capital from Delhi to South India, Kabuli said. The city of great antiquity has had a chequered history which dates back to 2500 BC when king Ashoka founded Srinagar as capital which occupied the site of the present Pandrethan about five runs from Srinagar and named it as Srinagari.

The place was the venue of the Buddhist conference during the reign of Kanishka and Muslim preachers, Syed Sharifuddin Bulbul and Mir Syed Ali Hamdani chose this place to spread Islam, he said, adding the latter capitals of Kashmir founded by successive rulers lost their importance to the city.

It was during the Dogra rule (1846-1947) that Srinagar besides being the capital of Kashmir was elevated to the status, of the summer capital. Travellers and tourists have been drawn in numbers to see symbol of the paradise on earth and pilgrims and preachers have found the city a place for attainment of ultimate spiritual contentment.

(Kashmir Observer, 21 May, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Share certificate bearing Folio No: JKB037267. 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 JK Bank Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Nazneen Parveen
D/o: Ghulam Nabi Rangraz
W/o: Bashir Ahmad Dar
R/o: KhrewanChadder Kulgam

ma



The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Zonal Office Kashmir Central-1

Extension of Time

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22-Dt:-21-04-2022, issued by this office, regarding advertisement for premises for housing Off-site ATM Koker Bazar, Lalchowk, Sgr the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 6th of June, 2022. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link www.jkbank.com. The parties who have already applied need not apply again.

Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22-Dated:-20-05-2022.

DIPK-NB-1016/22

Sd/-
Zonal Head
ZKC-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Ghulam Mohamad Itoo S/o Abdul Gafar Itoo R/o Brinty Anantnag am holding 1000 Shares of J&K Bank under Folio No JKB006472 where my name has been inadvertently recorded as Gh Mohd Itoo and my parentage has been recorded as Ab Gafar Itoo both of which are incorrect. Whereas my actual name is Ghulam Mohamad Itoo and my parentage is Abdul Gafar Itoo in this regard I am applying for correction of name under my Folio, if anybody has any objection may contact the J&K Bank Corporate Office within 7 days from the publication of this notice after which no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Ghulam Mohamad Itoo
S/o: Abdul Gafar Itoo
R/o: Brinty Anantnag

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Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Budgam.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
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Twitter Talks



“Drug addicts, molesters, eve-teasers should face the full might of law. No leniency when it comes to child, girl safety“

@islahmufti

“A dissection of data makes it quite clear that most of the states raking up “women rights in Kashmir” are actually the ones where women ownership of a mobile phone is quite low – 46.5% for UP, 50.4% for Haryana, 50.1% for WB, 48.1% for Gujarat”

@Zaidbinshabir

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Iran’s Challenge

The capitalist West’s sustained campaign to whip up global hysteria about Iran’s nuclear programme appears to be suffering from a crisis of conviction in labeling it as a belligerent move, for no reliable monitoring body has certified that Teheran has plans to weaponize.

When their browbeating has repeatedly been rebuffed, the US and its allies now have no choice but to turn this stand-off into a negotiated process, if only to save face, and that is what brings the two sides face to face on a matter of principle. Teheran’s right to a peaceful nuclear programme has been conceded by fair-minded people all over, and it remains for it to convince its detractors that it has no ulterior designs in making advances in enrichment technology.

The tendency in the West and its surrogates in the Middle East to portray the regime in Teheran as an incarnation of evil is mainly born out of consternation that an alternative system has been made to work without being tied to the apron strings of global hegemony masquerading as a benevolent influence. The West’s military and economic preeminence has enabled it to lay down the law for the rest of the world which has fallen tamely in line in unquestioned acceptance of political concepts developed in alien contexts. After the collapse of the Soviet Empire, post-revolution Iran is perhaps the only nation to have stood up to and survived the bullying of the West, and in the process transformed itself into a self-reliant, highly viable state capable of taking up cudgels with exploitative forces. Ringed by totalitarian regimes sustaining on their servility to the US, Teheran has fashioned a credible republican system which lives on despite lethal blows like the liquidation of its entire leadership and a crippling, imposed war which it fought single-handedly against an international gang-up.

This resilience, due mostly to the rationality of its system and a just world vision, stands vindicated today when the so-called major powers have agreed to engage with Iran in dialogue on issues irking them. This acceptance, though reluctant and grudging, comes after futile bids to destabilize and unseat the revolution through devious and underhand means, including the now-admitted funding of internal forces categorized as terrorists even by the West.

This brings us to the rather imperious ways of Iran’s rulers to deal with dissent which often times is construed as opposition to the system the nation is experimenting with. The establishment’s concerns are understandable given the human and material costs the nation has had to pay in countering external conspiracies like the war and internal sabotage like the infiltration into the highest echelons of power. In historical terms, the revolution is still in its infancy, having weathered deadly blows right after its birth, and it is natural for its leaders to be wary of tendencies that threaten to undo decades of sacrifice and hard and painstaking work. But it is a mistake to equate genuine dissent to deliberate sabotage, as this can prove counterproductive in the course of time in promoting vested interests who could generate national paranoia merely for the sake of perpetuating themselves in positions of power.

One of the reasons that some in Iran are dissatisfied is that the clergy has almost appropriated many levers of power and wields influence beyond its call. If the leadership is not careful, the clergy may emerge as a vested interest in its own right to the detriment and resentment of forces more deserving of responsibility and authority. The results of this disillusionment could be damaging for a model that aspires to show the way of equity, balance and moderation to the world.

Commentators who know their business have often drawn a clear distinction between the natures and proclivities of the traditional clergy and the path-breaking leaders of the revolution including Ayatollah Ruhullah Khomeini and his successor. It must be emphasized that Imam Khomeini departed from the then-entrenched theological doctrine of a hands-off approach from issues of statecraft and governance, and set an example in shaping a model relevant in contemporary times. This is not necessarily the vision suffusing the general clergy, in Iran or elsewhere, who unlike Khomeini, keep modern thinking and temperament at an arm’s distance.

But so far, Teheran has brought the trained expertise of professionals to bear on critical matters and has set a premium on enlightened leadership. If continued, encouraged and promoted, this trend could deliver the country its goals of enduring stability and influencing the world towards a more just and promising tomorrow.

The article is an editorial from KO’s archives and was originally published on Jun 12,2010

Can We Be Modern and Muslim?

Amir Suhail Wani

An issue sprang up in the decade of the nineties which concerned the legal status of “half-widows”, a term peculiar and characteristic to the Kashmir context. Thanks to our classical texts of jurisprudence which had discussed the matter, though in some round about fashion,our Ulema could frame their judgment and decide the marital status of half widows.

However, the spectrum of questions which Muslims face in the modern world, be it Kashmir or otherwise, is not limited to Half Widows. There are issues and challenges arising out of the times we are living in which find no historical precedent and therefore call for fresh interpretation and explication of Islamic Jurisprudence in the light of permanent and timeless guiding principles of Islam.

Are one’s prayers valid in Bermuda shorts or skinny jeans? Does makeup invalidate ablution? Are formal mixed gatherings halal? Which Crypto-currency is halal and which isn’t? How about insurance policies? How shall Muslims conduct themselves with non-Muslim majority and what bearing does Shariah have on the issues we confront in isolation and congregation that are specific to modern times? Questions like these represent tip of the iceberg – the iceberg which accompanies the question of being a Muslim in modern times. Is it possible to be a Muslim in the modern world? Can Islam accommodate modernity? Are they mutually exclusive?

The question of Islam and its contemporary relevance has been debated across ages and each epoch has tried, in accordance with its epistemic and ethical prerogatives, to discover the meaning and relevance of Islam. The elan – the internal force of Islam has steered it successfully throughout ages and has guided the Muslim conscience and collective imagination to the shores of spiritual and material wellbeing. The claims of Islam to perennial relevance and the assertion of its timeless nature has been tested time and again, and history bears witness to the fact that the internal dynamics of Islam has never failed it in meeting the challenges posed to it by each passing day and each passing era. The illustrative works of the likes of Al Ghazali, Shah Waliullah and Muhammad Iqbal demonstrate amply, the self-updating intellectual spirit of Islam which time has failed to dull or rust.

The day and age we are living in, has once again sandwiched Muslims between their timeless religious truths and changing situations of the day. This age’s pace is like no other in human history. Understandably then, the challenges have assumed the form of incessant shower, dropping over Muslim imagination and intelligentsia without any respite. To strike a balance between the flux of everyday life and the permanence of religious verdicts has turned out to be the most daunting intellectual challenge for modern day Muslim scholarship.

How to be Muslim and modern at the same time is a question that looms large over the Islamic horizon. The same can be restated to ask whether Islam and Modernity are compatible at all.

It must be stated here that by “modernity” we do not imply the intellectual and academic descriptions or allusions of the term, but imply by it the modes and mores of life that have become characteristic of modern times and modern man.

That the spirit of Islam is timeless and perennial in nature and holds within it the capacity



to meet any intellectual, ethical or civilisational challenge emerging anywhere at any point of time is a claim that stands quite strong. But what irks Muslims as a pressing concern is to see these timeless teachings and principles playing out in practical life, in their daily issues, in issues they have to face day and night, the issues which are omnipresent and can’t be evaded as long as one breathes in this world. These issues confront a practising, and for that matter a professing Muslim in both the macro and micro aspects of his life.

It is not that the Muslim scholarship has wholly turned its face away from the cluster of issues arising out of modernity, but the absence of a comprehensive framework and the lack of unified theory has at times dissipated,the otherwise worthy efforts of Muslim scholars.

While we confront a phenomenon of any order and complexity, the desired response is to devise a parallel or counter-narrative which will by itself take care of the issues of lesser importance within the system. This is to say that a response should be principle driven which can be tailored and applied to the changing circumstances without having to start from ground zero.

The general and dominant response to western and by extension to modern modes of life from Muslim scholarship has been either of total denial or uncritical disdain. Whatever finds itself associated with modern/ity is tagged as anti-Islamic, immoral, a corruption of faith or put under such other categories. This has multiplied the ideological confusion and practical chaos among Muslims, who, like other people, find it impossible to enter the business of life without simultaneously addressing the hundred thousand issues of attendant modernity.

In a world heuristically described as a “global village”, our relationship with people of different belief systems and participation in their joys and sorrows has become another issue, with most of the scholarship out rightly condemning any such participation. A “Merry Christmas” to a fellow christian is met with a harangue of objections, an answer to which is not easily accessible.

The Muslim conceptualisation of “the Other”, to summarise this problem, lies at the heart of the debate. Perhaps the point has not been too

well recognised on part of Muslims that world order has undergone a paradigm shift and a total change in character during the past few centuries. The power equation and power dynamics between Muslims and the rest of the world has inverted since the time when Islamic jurisprudence was formulated which governed and regulated Muslim relationships with the rest of the world. To think that our relationships with other nations and civilizations can still be rooted in the same conditions and clauses which we abided by some seven centuries ago is an unpardonable error. Ours has changed the status from producers of goods and ideas to consumers thereof during the past few centuries and these changes demand to be reckoned with.

With World Fiqh Academy and other such institutions passing rulings on an issue or two, now and then, the problem is not going to see any sustainable solution and devoted Muslims will continue to linger in the midst of an Islam-Modernity Imbroglio.

The digital space is throwing up new challenges, not only in the form of online Nikah and divorce but with economic concepts like Bitcoin, not to speak of the ethical dilemma which the darker side of the internet has put us in. Here again, instead of looking for bitwise solutions, an overreaching and a total defining solution shall be the aim and agenda of our scholars.

No doubt, the issues will continue to catch attention and receive proper treatment as they crop up but the priority should be placed on fixing these recurrent issues in the paradigm of all inclusive Islamic ideology – which may imply neither total denial nor the slavish acceptance. To live means to adjust, accommodate, accept, acknowledge and at times resist, reject and rectify the ideas and moors flowing from other people , cultures and civilizations and this is the task which Muslims and Muslim scholarship needs wake up to in an attempt to mitigate the challenges of modern life and modern world.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a Srinagar based columnist

The Global Hunger Crisis Is Here

SETA TUTUNDJIAN

DUBAI – Global food prices are soaring. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization’s Food Price Index – which covers a basket of basic food commodities (cereals, meat, dairy, vegetable oils, and sugar) – reached an all-time high of 159.7 in March, up from 141.1 the previous month. While it declined slightly in April, to 158.5, ongoing developments – not least Russia’s war in Ukraine – are set to keep driving prices to new highs, with devastating implications for global hunger.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility and dysfunctionality of the world’s food systems, with movement restrictions and supply-chain disruptions driving up prices, damaging rural livelihoods, and exacerbating food insecurity, especially for the poor. Now, the war in Ukraine is compounding these challenges, because both sides are major exporters of food, fuel, and fertilizer.

Moreover, climate change poses an even larger threat to global food security. Already, extreme weather like heatwaves, floods, and prolonged droughts has triggered shocks to agricultural production and food availability. As temperatures rise, these shocks will become increasingly frequent and powerful. If global warming crosses the 1.5° Celsius threshold (relative to Earth’s pre-industrial temperature), they are likely to become catastrophic.

As the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report shows, avoiding the threshold will require immediate and drastic action. But mitigation is only part of

the challenge. Large-scale investments in adaptation will also be needed to protect vulnerable communities from the warming that is already locked in.

Even under the most optimistic mitigation scenario, global warming is expected to hit the 1.5°C threshold in a decade, before receding. This will result in shifts in climatic zones, rising sea levels, and disruptions to the water cycle that increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather. Beyond raising economic and health risks, the resulting disruptions to food and water supplies are likely to drive social and political upheaval, fueling a vicious cycle of poverty, hunger, instability, and even conflict, accompanied by sharp rise in migration.

A more resilient, sustainable, and equitable food system must be a pillar of any climate mitigation or adaptation agenda. But the barriers to building such a system should not be underestimated, especially for countries and regions where soil is poor, land has little agricultural value, other natural resources, such as water, are limited or degraded, and socioeconomic conditions are difficult.

Given the low productivity of their agricultural land, such marginal environments are unable to support the sustainable production of sufficient food to meet local

people’s nutritional needs. In fact, while marginal environments are home to less than 25% of the global population – an estimated 1.7 billion people – they account for 70% of the world’s poor and most of its malnourished.

Poverty and hunger can lead farmers to overuse fragile environmental resources in order to ensure their short-term survival, even at the cost of long-term depletion of their lands and impoverishment of their households and communities. Those living in remote areas with minimal infrastructure, few alternative economic opportunities, and limited market access are particularly likely to make such choices.

Given this, countries with significant marginal lands rely on food imports – in some cases for more than 80% of their needs. But pandemic- and war-related disruptions, together with the price increases they have fueled, have shown just how vulnerable such countries are. According to the FAO’s State of Food and Agriculture 2021 report, an additional 161 million people were affected by hunger in 2020, compared with 2019. And the World Food Program is now cautioning that the combination of conflict, COVID, the climate crisis, and rising costs has pushed 44 million people in 38 countries to the edge of famine.

With countries struggling to secure enough food to meet their populations’ nutritional needs, many are now re-evaluating their food dependencies and seeking to expand local production. But unless sustainability is taken into account, efforts to increase short-term resilience by shortening supply chains could undermine medium- and long-term resilience by further depleting agricultural resources like soil and water.

Sustainability isn’t cheap. Efficient production amid biophysical and climate constraints requires investment in costly technologies. But poor governance structures, limited growth prospects, and high debts pose major challenges for many countries. The pandemic has placed massive strain on public budgets, and debt crises loom for many governments, as loans taken out to address the pandemic come due.

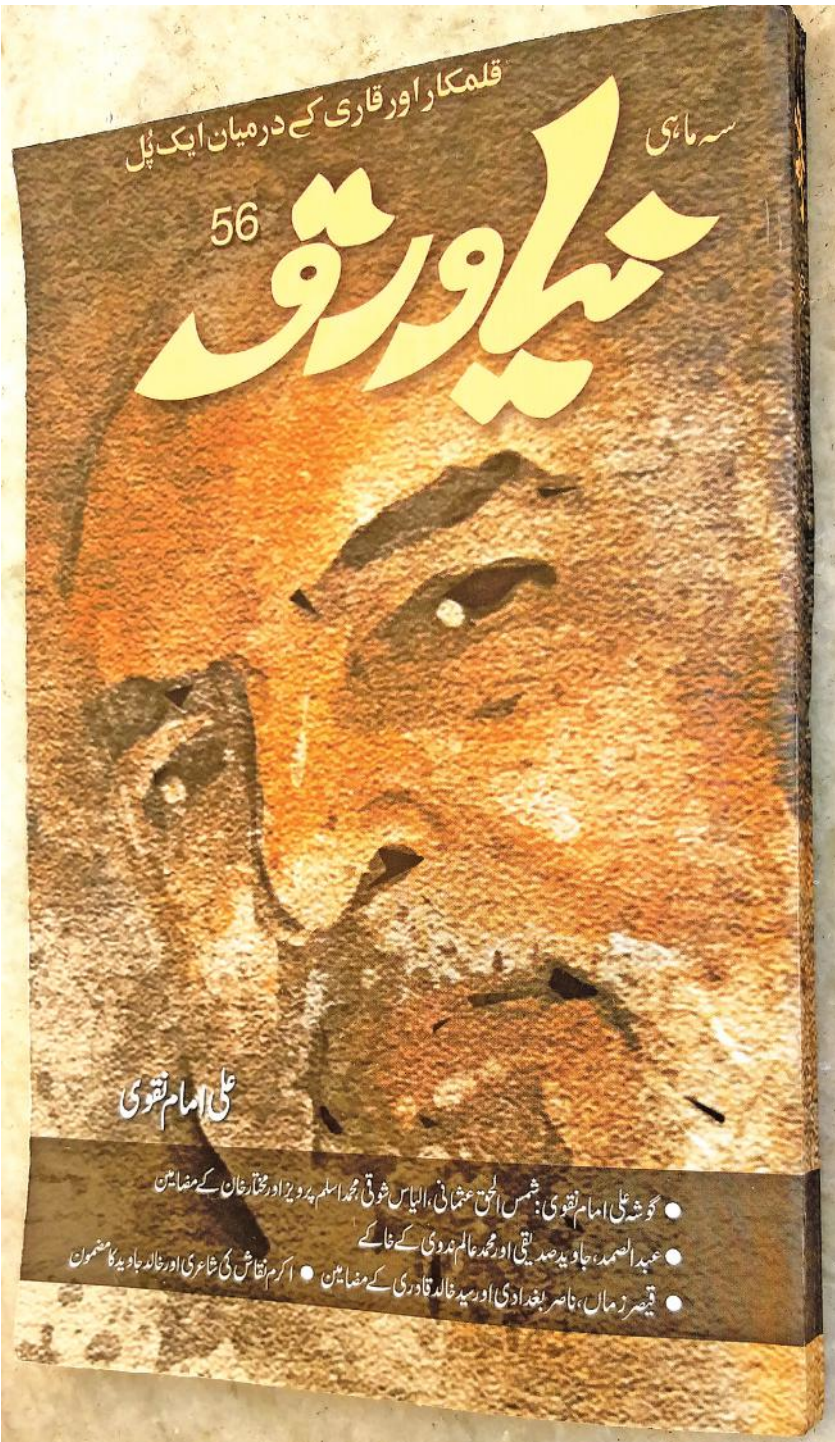
Poor and vulnerable countries cannot be expected to address the myriad interconnected challenges they face, from pollution and biodiversity loss to hunger and poverty, without help. To bolster long-term food and nutritional security, we must look beyond country-level solutions to regional and international ones that consider the needs of communities living in marginal environments. Otherwise, there will be no escaping destabilizing cycles of hunger, migration, and violence.

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 Project Syndicate

Naya Waraq: A Portrayal of Everyday Public Life

The current issue of the magazine viz 'Naya Waraq-56' contains fiction, poetry, articles on various literary topics, book reviews and more

Editor: Shadab Rashid
Pages: 240
Price: Rs. 100/-



Mohd. Tasleem Muntazir

'Naya Waraq' (The New Leaf), a quarterly literary magazine published from Mumbai is one of the Urdu journals having their unique identity. Founded by late Sajid Rashid in late nineties, the magazine is ably being run by his son Shadab Rashid who has been taking ahead its tradition of providing literature of worth to readers.

The current issue of the magazine viz 'Naya Waraq-56' contains fiction, poetry, articles on various literary topics, book reviews and more. The contents are mostly the portrayal of everyday public life thus having the potential to touch the feelings of readers.

There are eight well-knit short stories reflecting different shades of life. 'Murda Dhoop' (Dead Sunlight) by Sajid Rashid ripples through various dimensions of human relationships. Our feelings, hidden or exposed, towards one another and a hidden bond of affection between husband and wife, the intensity of which is manifested when they find their spouse weakened or in pain and distress, are beautifully depicted in this story. Five-page analysis by Mus'haf Iqbal Tausifi on this short story is also included in the issue.

'Dongarwadi Ke Giddh' (Vultures of Dongarwadi) by Ali Imam Naqvi revolves around the custom of last rites of Parsis. The sudden disappearance of the vultures that consume corpses as their food has caused a wave of concern among the Parsi community as to where their vultures have gone. This multi-layer short story has also been included in Sahitya Akademy's bimonthly English journal 'Indian Literature' and Muhammad Omar Memon's compilation of Urdu short stories translated in English. Moreover, a special section on the life and works of Ali Imam Naqvi (1945-2014) is included in this issue (of Naya Waraq).

'Ek Anokha Sapna' (A Strange Dream) by Jitendra Billu is about an educated young man who travels from Lucknow to London for fulfillment of his dream and after passing through different phases of hard work becomes successful owner of a restaurant there; but couldn't succeed in motivating two girl friends to marry him. The story sym-

bolizes that a determined person can make a dream come true with his hard work and that every wish of a person of status may get fulfilled, it is not necessary.

Munira Surati's 'Boo Jaan' is the story of a widowed mother and her son. The emotions of 'Boo Jaan', the lifestyle of those living in cramped houses, the sphere of their thinking; all these are well illustrated in the story. The story also hints at the psychological aspect that one's repressed desires (according to Sigmund Freud) are manifested in different ways and that such a person tries to satisfy those emotions or desires when finds a medium in one way or the other.

'Eye Contact' by Anwar Mirza is a story on human thinking swinging between highs and lows. A young girl Afsana is attracted to a married man Jaazib and wants to marry him; but sequence of events compels Afsana to change her will when she meets Jaazib after a long time and learns that Jaazib's wife Arshi, who has died in an accident, has donated her eyes to Afsana's daughter Monto who has also lost her eyesight in an accident. Afsana, who too was a widow at that time, tells Jaazib, "Sorry... I won't be able to marry you. Your house is very high and I am afraid of heights...!"

'Mera Qusoor Kya Tha' (What Was My Fault) by Nusrat Shamsi is the story of a boy with girl-like passions who eventually decides to commit suicide out of frustration with his family's negative attitude towards him. The last lines of the letter he wrote to his mother from the hospital bed were, "I can't make you a killer. Let me make your job easier. I don't want to say anything to you, I don't want to ask anything... just tell me what was my fault?"

'Doosra Janam' (Rebirth) by Wasim Aqeel Shah is about the hard-hearted owner of a garment factory Mr. Patil whose wife is a religious woman and strongly believes in reincarnation. She is firm on the belief that man has to pay for his good or bad deeds in the next life if not in this life but her words have no impact on Mr. Patil. Mr. Patil who apparently has a strict attitude towards his employees in order to uphold his principles, makes the widow of a company employee and later his young daughter the victim of

his lust. Echoes of the curse of victim have such an effect on Patil's nerves that when he regained consciousness, found himself in a hospital bed and seems to have inclined towards her wife's belief.

'Chennur Mein Parcham Kushaai' (The Flag-raising in Chennur) is the fiction of Tamil writer Charvakam, real name Hariharan Srinivasan, translated into English by Krishna Sobti and from English into Urdu by Zakia Mashshadi. Clash of the attitude of present day workers and feelings of a freedom fighter on the occasion of flag hoisting ceremony on Independence Day is the main focus of this story.

Among the articles are Qaiser Zaman's 'Lutf-ur-Rahman's 'Tanqeed: Ek Baazdeed' (Lutf-ur-Rahman's Criticism: A Revisit), Nasir Baghdadi's 'Jadeediyat Aur Jadeed Urdu Afsana' (Modernity and Modern Urdu Fiction), Syed Khalid Qadri's 'Zubair Rizvi Ki Yaad Mein' (In Memory of Zubair Rizvi) and Ali Ahmad Fatmi's 'Mithaas Se Bhari Kahaniyaan' (The Stories Filled With Sweetness). The issue also includes reviews on four books and three sketches. The poetry section is excellent in which Poems of Iqbal Nazir, Shahid Mahuli, Farooq Rahib, Rafiq Jafar, Saleem Ansari, Misdaq Azmi and Ghazals of Noman Shauq, Munir Saifi, Nisar Ahmad Nisar, Badr Mohammadi, Muslim Nawaz, Jamaluddin Jamal, Mehran Amrohi, Obaidi and Qureshi Tahir Naeema are included.

Akram Naqqash's poetry and Khalid Javed's essay on his poetry 'Akram Naqqash Ki Shaa'iri: Be-Sahar Raat Ka Chamakta Sitara' (Akram Naqqash's Poetry: Shining Star of the Night Having No Dawn) are included in this issue. Arundhati Subramaniam's ten English poems (Urdu translation by Farhan Hanif Waris) are also part of the poetry section. Readers will like to keep this magazine in their regular reading after reading 'Naya Waraq-56'.

The author has been in the line of literature for more than forty years and his writings, prose and poetry, have been published in magazines and newspapers of Jammu and Kashmir and outside

“ (Dead Sunlight) by Sajid Rashid ripples through various dimensions of human relationships. Our feelings, hidden or exposed, towards one another and a hidden bond of affection between husband and wife, the intensity of which is manifested when they find their spouse weakened or in pain and distress, are beautifully depicted in this story. Five-page analysis by Mus'haf Iqbal Tausifi on this short story is also included in the issue

Read and Relish | Five ways to help your child develop a love for reading

Isang Awah

Love for reading can be hugely valuable for children. The benefits of leisure reading include increased general knowledge, a positive impact on academic achievement, enhanced reading ability and vocabulary growth.

Indeed, research suggests that time spent reading for pleasure could be a key indicator for the future success of a child – even more important than their family's socio-economic status. It is therefore not surprising that many parents are interested in getting their children hooked on books.

But certain reading practices used by parents and teachers could end up putting children off reading. On the other hand, though, there is compelling evidence that children who may not want to read for pleasure can be influenced to take it up.

My PhD research, which explored the reading habits of a group of children in a book club aged between nine and 12, uncovered ways to entice children to develop a love for leisure reading.

READ ALOUD (AND MAKE IT EXCITING)

Reading aloud fosters a love of books in children, and helps children get hooked on books as they associate reading with pleasure.

My study supports this. Each day, a staff member at the book club read aloud to the children. Most of the children said that they enjoyed being read to, and that having someone read to them stirred their interest in the book. A boy in my study said his parents regularly read aloud to him when he was little, and that this led to his love for reading.

However, some children pointed out that how books are read aloud could affect their enjoyment of the reading. It is important that the reading be done in an enthusiastic way that children find engaging.

ENSURE ACCESS TO BOOKS

Children who have easy access to engaging texts do more reading.

Although there were a few excep-



tions, the children in my study who had many reading materials at home and at school did more leisure reading and were more engaged readers than those who had challenges in accessing books. A little girl said she loved comics but could not get hold of them easily. She believed she would do more reading if she could readily get the books she liked.

Parents who may not be able to buy books for their child could take the child to a public library and assist the child in borrowing books. Another option could be downloading suitable free e-books for children to read.

CREATE A SPACE FOR READING

It is important to establish a comfortable space and conducive atmosphere for reading as well as set aside time for leisure reading.

The reading engagement of the children in my study was affected by environmental factors such as noise, heat, disruptions, and uncomfortable seats. The findings also show that children are likely to read happily and for a longer time when they are in a reading environment.

To enable children to fully engage with and take pleasure from read-

ing, parents should create a comfortable and quiet space for reading. This could be as simple as a corner in a room which could be decorated as the reading space. This will encourage children to pick up a book and spend some time in the reading corner.

LET CHILDREN CHOOSE BOOKS

In my study, the children better enjoyed reading and did more leisure reading when they chose their books. When forced to read a book selected by a parent or teacher, they did not always enjoy the reading and sometimes did not read the books. A

girl complained that she usually did not like the books her class teacher selected for leisure reading. "Sometimes I manage it, sometimes I don't read it," she said. Other children had similar complaints.

The freedom to select books leads to a positive attitude towards reading, better engagement with the book, and a more enjoyable reading experience.

Additionally, children should be allowed to read whatever materials they find interesting, be it comics, magazines, or poetry. Doing otherwise may reduce their potential to

engage in recreational reading.

TALK ABOUT BOOKS

Having discussions about books is another way to spark children's interest in reading and in books. However, these should centre on books that might appeal to the child rather than on the books you as an adult find engaging.

“

Parents who may not be able to buy books for their child could take the child to a public library and assist the child in borrowing books. Another option could be downloading suitable free e-books for children to read

Many of the children in my study said that book discussions with parents, friends, and staff members of the book club had led them to read certain books. Some of the them reported that they enjoyed reading the books recommended by one staff member or the other.

Children who may not be interested in reading will have subjects and topics that they are excited about, such as sports, movies or animals. Discussing books on a topic or subject that the child finds exciting will likely whet their appetite for that book.

When children find reading fun and enjoyable, they are likely to repeatedly spend time with books, become engaged readers, and gain the benefits of leisure reading.

The author is Project Manager in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, University of Oxford. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with

China's Bridge In Pangong On Illegally Occupied Land: MEA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India on Friday said that a second bridge being constructed by China on Pangong lake is in an area that has been under illegal occupation of that country since 1960. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India has never accepted such illegal occupation of India's territory.

"We have seen reports of a bridge being constructed by China on Pangong Lake alongside

its earlier bridge," he said.

"Both these bridges are in areas that have continued to be under the illegal occupation of China since the 1960s," Bagchi said.

He was replying to media queries on the matter.

"We have never accepted such illegal occupation of our territory, nor have we accepted the unjustified Chinese claim or such construction activities," the spokesperson said.

"We have made it clear on

several occasions that the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral part of India and we expect other countries to respect India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he added.

In order to ensure that the nation's security interests are fully protected, Bagchi added that the government has stepped up development of border infrastructure especially since 2014, including construction of roads and bridges.

"The government remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas to not only meet India's strategic and security requirements but also facilitate the economic development of these areas," he said.

The spokesperson said the government keeps a constant watch on all developments that have a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

24 Hrs On 9 Workers

hospitalised with injuries. Rescue operations are going on in full swing. Civil administration and police authorities are monitoring the situation," he said.

Those trapped inside the tunnel are natives of Jadav Roy (23), Gautam Roy (22), Sudhir Roy (31), Dipak Roy (33) and Parimal Roy (38), all from West Bengal, Shiva Chouhan (26) from Assam, Nepali citizens Nawaraj Chowdhury (26) and Kushi Ram (25), and Jammu and Kashmir residents Muzaffar (38) and Israt (30), officials said.

Two of those hospitalized are identified as Vishnu Gola (33) of Jharkhand and Ameen (26) of Jammu and Kashmir. The third person, whose name has not been disclosed, has been taken to the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu, police said.

All of them were employed by a company tasked with auditing the tunnel, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Ramban Massaratul Islam and Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma are at the spot along with the deputy inspector general of police, supervising the rescue operation.

Kumar, the divisional commissioner of Jammu, said the rescue operation is likely to consume more time as rock-breakers are being used to create space in order to reach out to those trapped.

Though officials claimed that the audit tunnel is only three to four metres, Kumar said, "It is not known whether they (those trapped) are inside it or outside the tunnel area. There is debris all-around."

LG Monitoring

Army personnel on the ground.

The Lt Governor, who is monitoring the situation from a control room, was briefed about intermittent shooting stones, which have been obstructing the rescue operation," he said.

The spokesperson said that the LG expressed concern over the incident and said rescue operations will continue on war footing till the last person is reached.

"The Lt Governor had directed Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar; ADGP, Jammu, Mukesh Singh, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mussarat Islam and Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma, last night to supervise the rescue operation," he added.

Infiltrator Killed

from the spot; however search is going on to trace him.

According to the spokesperson, the killed militant's body has been recovered and the ID-card recovered from his possession identified him as Mohd Nazeer resident of Athmuqam area of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

"Huge cache of narcotic substances and arms/ammunition including 10 packets of Heroin, 02 AK rifles, 02 AK magazines, 02 Pistols and 04 Pistol magazines have been recovered from his possession," he said.

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered FIR at Police Station Karnah and further investigation is in progress," he added.

India Slams

remarks, which symbolises nothing but a pavlovian response aimed to misuse any forum, and every topic, to propagate false and malicious propaganda against my country, Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Rajesh Parihar said.

India exercised the Right of Reply at the Security Council open debate on Maintenance of International Peace & Security - Conflict and Food Security' organised by the US, the Council President.

The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were, are and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India. This includes the areas that are under the illegal occupation of Pakistan. No amount of rhetoric and propaganda from any country can deny this fact, Parihar asserted.

The only contribution that Pakistan can make is to stop state sponsored terrorism. As regards to his other remarks, we will treat it with the contempt it deserves, Parihar added.

The Pakistan foreign minister, who is on a maiden visit to the US, also raked up the Kashmir issue while responding to questions during a press conference in New York on Thursday.

"As far as the question of our relationship with India is concerned, it is particularly complicated" by their recent actions in Kashmir - firstly the August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the recent decision by the delimitation commission on Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

He said that these actions "have complicated this matter" and are an "assault" on the United Nations, the UN Security Council resolutions and the Geneva Convention. Bilawal said, "such actions make it very difficult for us to hold a dialogue" with India.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have spiked since New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties

and expelled the Indian envoy.

Delimitation Panel's

to a Union territory on August 5, 2019.

The three-member delimitation panel was headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, a retired judge of the Supreme Court. Then Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra (now retired) and Jammu and Kashmir Election Commissioner K K Sharma were its two ex-officio members.

Five Jammu and Kashmir Lok Sabha members -- three from the National Conference and two from the BJP -- were associate members to the commission.

The panel submitted its final report on May 5, just a day before its two-year tenure was to end.

In its report, the commission did not reserve any seat for either Kashmiri migrants or refugees from West Pakistan.

The Delimitation Commission had said in its 240-page report that while they found substance in the grievances of Kashmiri migrants as their plight was unparalleled but it was not possible for the panel to reserve or direct the government to nominate their members to the legislature or Parliament as "such legal provisions are absent here".

"However, we feel it appropriate to recommend to the government for sympathetic consideration" for providing at least two seats, including one for a woman, for the community of Kashmiri migrants in the Legislative Assembly at par with the power of nominated members of the Puducherry Assembly under which a member has a right to vote.

The commission, which was entrusted with the work of delimiting the assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the basis of the 2011 Census, also recommended to the government to consider giving the displaced persons from Pakistan-controlled- Jammu and Kashmir some representation in the assembly through nomination.

The population of Jammu region is 53.72 lakh and Kashmir division 68.83 lakh, according to the Census of 2011.

Out of the 90 assembly constituencies, nine have been reserved for Scheduled Tribe -- six in Jammu and three in the Valley.

While there was no immediate reaction from the political parties on Friday's development, the National Conference, the PDP and other Kashmir Valley-based parties had opposed it earlier saying that the delimitation panel was "illegal".

The National Conference had said, "No amount of gerrymandering will change the ground reality which is that whenever elections are held the voter will punish the BJP and its proxies for what they have done to JK over the last 4 years."

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had said that there was nothing more to add as "we have always maintained that the Delimitation Commission was meant only to execute the political game plan of BJP in Jammu and Kashmir and divide people on communal lines".

Names of some assembly seats have been changed keeping in view the demand of local representatives and public sentiment.

The commission was set up in March 2020 after the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill in Parliament in August 2019 and was asked to complete its work within a year which was extended by a year due to COVID-19.

It was granted another extension of two months and its term was to end on May 6.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a meeting with Jammu and Kashmir leaders on June 24 last, had said the ongoing delimitation exercise has to happen quickly so that polls can be held to install an elected government that gives strength to its development trajectory.

CBI Griils

M I Shahdad and Vikrant Kuthiala, and former executive director A K Mehta were also searched on May 10. The four were members of the estate committee of the bank, the officials said.

"... Incriminating documents, articles and electronic evidence, several bank account details and bank locker keys have been recovered during searches," CBI spokesperson RC Joshi had said after the searches.

The CBI has alleged that the bank had entered into a deal for its branch office at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) with Akruiti 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 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, requiring 20,000 sq ft 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 sq ft, Ashapura Builders on July 28, 2009, made an offer for its building's third floor of 30,000 sq ft built up area at Rs 22,500 per sq ft chargeable area.

"The application was processed and submitted to the 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 sq ft and residential flats in or around Andheri (15 single BHK 600-800 sq ft and 10 double BHK 1000-1200 sq ft) it said. The offer was responded to by 23 builders.

"Ashapura Builders again quoted the lowest rate Rs 25,000 per sq ft 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 sq ft for nine floors having total chargeable area of 63,776 sq ft. 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 sq ft and 20,000-30,000 sq ft respectively in response to which, the rates offered by Ashapura Builders were Rs 25,000 and Rs 22,000 a sq ft," 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.

Situation In

Kashmiri Pandit employees met leaders of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) seeking justice. "PADG leaders went to Lieutenant Governor to ensure that they don't leave valley. It is not normalcy," he added.

Abdullah, replying to a question on the government's claim that normalcy has returned to Kashmir as there is a heavy rush of tourists and flights amid decrease in stone pelting, said that his government had also brought stone pelting under control several times.

"If an employee become target on his own seat in a busy office, or cop gets killed at home, if this is new face of normalcy, I cannot say anything," he added.

"We feel sorry that innocent people are being killed one after another. Minorities are being killed. Police persons are being killed. Civilians are getting killed in cross-firing and targeted killings," he said.

Taking a dig at the government over its claim that the situation would become normal after Article 370 was scrapped, he said, "Two-and-half years have passed, where is improvement in the situation? Targeted killings had stopped (in the past). I cannot remember when the circle of targeted killings took place last time. Today, people are not feeling secure in Kashmir."

He said militancy was returning to the places which had earlier been cleared of militants, particularly Srinagar and its adjoining areas and those in north Kashmir.

"There has been a lot of difference between what is said and what is done by the government. The situation is getting worse day in and day out," he said.

Asked whether the targeted killings started after the release of 'The Kashmir Files' movie, he said such incidents took place even before and referred to the killing of chemist Makhan Lal Bindroo and Akash, the son of the owner

Schneider Electric brings Green Yodha Initiative for J&K to Build Sustainable Healthcare

Srinagar Schneider Electric organized the 'Building Sustainable Healthcare, Together' session as a part of the flagship Sustainable Healthcare Conclave, in Srinagar.

This event, which was aligned with the company's Green Yodha initiative, is a call to action for healthcare leaders to join forces and collaborate to drive the Green Yodha movement and digitally transform the healthcare industry.

The initiative aims to unite conscious citizens, businesses, and institutions to take collective action to adopt energy efficiency, renewables and solar, automation, digitalization, and a new world of electricity to meet both individual and corporate sustainability goals.

Highlighting the need for digital transformation of the healthcare industry during the event, Choudhary Muhammad Yasin, Mission, Director, NHM & CEO, State Health Agency, said,

'Digital Health is the need of the hour. We are focusing on eHealth, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission to transform healthcare in J&K.'

Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta, Director, AIIMS Jammu, while sharing his thoughts said, "We are focusing on building a holistic healthcare infrastructure in AIIMS Jammu in which digital innovation is going to play a major role. Our focus is to make sustainable healthcare infrastructure which is resilient."

of the popular food joint Krishna Dhaba in Srinagar, last year.

Abdullah said it is for the people to decide whether the movie has contributed to improving the situation or worsening it.

Replying to another question on the ban on loudspeakers in Jammu, he said the authorities should adopt a middle path so that sentiments of the community are not hurt.

Issues Faced

Bhat, who had got the job of a clerk under the special employment package for migrants in 2010-11, was gunned down by militants inside the tehsil office in Chadoora town of central Kashmir's Budgam district last week.

"The SIT is investigating the matter. Once the report comes, we will examine it. Every resident of Kashmir, including minorities and Kashmir Pandits, have a right to remain safe and we are making efforts in this direction," he said.

Sinha said the Kashmiri Pandits living the valley should not leave as the local residents of the valley also want them to stay.

"We will take care of all concerns of the Kashmiri Pandits including their security. My request to them is to have patience. People of Kashmir also want that the multi-religious culture and harmony should continue. We will try to resolve whatever problems that have been brought to my notice," he added.

DGP Calls For

hinter land to ensure public safety.

The police chief, he said, maintained that the "cowardly attacks" on innocent civilians shows the "frustration of terror handlers" and stressed for stringent action against the elements inimical to peace and perpetrators of violence.

"He said that collective efforts are required to defeat saboteurs and enemies of peace. He stressed on the importance of maintaining close synergy between the forces to meet the security challenges," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the DGP said that the militant outfits are attempting to create a sense of "fear and terror" among the general public and stressed upon the officers to remain extra vigilant and alert so that their evil attempts are foiled.

Singh, he said, also stressed upon the officers to ensure high alertness and preparedness to thwart the mischievous attempts of anti-national elements.

"Our efforts should be resolute and specific giving no room to any complacency. Proactive measures have to be taken to ensure peace and order," Singh said.

The DGP, as per the spokesperson emphasized upon the officers to strengthen night domination and Naka check points besides plugging the gaps with strict security measures so that no room is available to the enemies of peace.

Singh, he said, also stressed for night patrolling of sensitive areas to keep the militants and their associates under check.

Earlier, the spokesperson said that the DGP interacted with the policemen and officers who were part of operation in which five militants involved in recent Baramulla grenade attack were arrested.

Appreciating the team for cracking the militant module in quickest possible time, Singh, he said, directed for speedy completion of the case and framing of charges against the accused.

"The DGP directed for meticulous investigation for logical conclusion of the case. He stressed for using the modern and scientific tools to ensure exemplary punishment to all the perpetrators," he said, adding that the DGP directed for sharing the weekly progress report with the PHQ.

According to the spokesperson, the police chief also directed the officers that the action against militants and their helpers must continue and all the suspicious elements be kept under check so as to foil their ill designs aimed at disrupting normal lives of the people.

"He stressed for more intensified anti-terror operations," he added.

The meeting was attended by DIG North Kashmir, Udaybhaskar Billa, SSP Baramulla, Rayees Mohammad Bhat, DySP Headquarters Baramulla Sajjad Bukhari, SDPO Pattan Mohammad Nawaz Khanday and other jurisdictional officers.

Four Months On

unfortunate incident," Shakeel said, adding "Besides this, the enquiry report will also demystify the identity of the guilty persons or any department."

He further said, "An enquiry report is the only way to provide justice to the 12 deceased innocent civilians. However, it looks as if J&K Government is least bothered about bringing culprits to justice. The deceased are non-J&K people. Some were from Madhya Pradesh, some from Uttar Pradesh and others from Gwalior. For their families, locals of the J&K are the only way to justice. But, the way our Government is acting, I can't see any justice for these families."

Shakeel further said, "J&K LG had promised that the enquiry will be wrapped in a week but it's almost been five months and there's no headway into the enquiry". Flagging more of his concerns, he added, "Something is being

concealed. J&K LG keeps reiterating that his administration will uphold rule of law in J&K but why hasn't law been upheld in this horrifying incident?"

Notably, a copy of the response from the administration has also been sent to the Under Secretary to the Government, Rameshwar Kumar.

Nilofar Khan

Science and Technology and Director Institute of Home Sciences, the spokesman said. She also holds the distinction of being the first woman Dean Students Welfare of the university and founder-director, Centre for Women's Studies and Research, he said.

Khan took the charge of vice chancellor from Prof Talat Ahmad after a contingent of university police presented her a ceremonial guard of honour in the premises of the New Administration Block, the spokesman said.

Soon after taking the charge, she thanked Lt Governor Sinha for giving her an opportunity to serve the university as its first woman vice chancellor.

She said the welfare of the students and the implementation of the NEP-2020 would be among her topmost priorities.

The doors of my office will always be open for our students and research scholars. I shall be frequently interacting and engaging with them to address their needs and requirements vis-a-vis academics and research.

Khan said all key stakeholders in the university system -- faculty, officers, non-teaching staff and students -- will have to play a collective role to further boost academics and research in the varsity with a sustained focus on academic endeavors.

This, she said, will help the varsity to further improve upon its NAAC and NIRF rankings and also in developing university's linkages with reputed institutions in the country and abroad.

The implementation of the new National Education Policy-2020 (NEP) in our university and its affiliated colleges will be my another key area of focus and concentration, alongside exploring all areas where we can focus on tie-ups with reputed international institutions, in line with the new guidelines of the University Grants Commission, Prof Khan said.

She sought active cooperation of all stakeholders in realising these objectives in a time-bound manner.

While all academic disciplines will get equal attention, special emphasis shall be laid on gender studies, innovations, incubation and skill development to secure the future prospects of our youth, Khan said.

"We will also further develop and strengthen our satellite campuses in the larger interest of students from far-off areas," she said.

Four Held For

Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), besides cash amount of Rs 24,000 was also seized from their possession, police spokesman said.

"On May 15, Police Post Janglatmandi received a complaint from Javid Ahmad Dar of Mirgund Khanabal, an owner of brick kiln stating there in that four persons impersonated as ACB officials came to his brick kiln situated at Bulbul Nowgam Anantnag and demanded Rs one lakh and later he gave them Rs 20,000 on which they agreed," a police spokesman said.

He said a case under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Anantnag and investigation was set into motion.

"During the course of investigation, a police party from Police Post Janglatmandi after utilising all available means were able to arrest four accused persons identified as Shariq Mohi ud Din Sheikh, Ameer Hassan Naiikoo, Subzar Ahmad Parry and Mozin Nazir Bhat," he added.

The vehicle which was used in the commission of crime was also seized, the police spokesman said. (PTI)

Lightning Strike

when lightning struck on Friday morning.

He was taken to the hospital in the area where doctors declared him brought dead. (KNO)

Six More Covid

on Friday while the remaining two were detected in the Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 454176.

Also, the officials said that 13 more Covid-19 patients recovered— 11 from Jammu division and 2 from the Valley.

The officials further said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4752 in J&K, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

Govt Employee

vehicle driven by Mohammad Zaid Shah Geelani, an employee of Rural Development department, a police spokesman said.

During checking, 10 Kg of heroin worth around Rs 20 crore was recovered from his possession, police said.

"He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody," the spokesman said, adding a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Uri.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Arrangements For Hajj-2022

Calls For Close Synergy Among Departments For Hassle-Free Arrangements



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Friday chaired a meeting of officers to review the arrangements for smooth departure of Hajj pilgrims for Holy Journey this year.

The meeting was attended by DIG Police, SSP Traffic, SSP Security, Representatives of Div Com Ladakh & Jammu; Commissioner, SMC; Executive Officer, Hajj Committee; MD SRTC; Dir Health Services Kashmir; Director Airport Authority and officers of district administration, customs department, immigration department besides branch manager of Bombay Mercantile Bank, Srinagar.

The meeting was informed that 6700 pilgrims will proceed to the annual Hajj from Srinagar International Airport from May 30 for which two flights shall operate on each day.

On the occasion Div Com asked officers to notify timing for pilgrims to report five hours before the flight departure time at Hajj House Srinagar to complete the necessities of customs and immigration on time so they do not have to face any inconvenience. He emphasized for wide circulation and publicity of the timing of the entire schedule.

He directed concerned officers to make boarding and lodging arrangements for the Ladakh and Jammu based pilgrims at

Haj House Srinagar who shall have to report there to proceed on journey.

Meanwhile, the Div Com directed for vaccination of Pilgrims at district headquarters while Srinagar based hajj candidates shall be vaccinated at Hajj House Bemina. Besides, he informed that pilgrims must get a negative RTPCR report within 72 hours before flight departure.

He also directed concerned officers for ensuring uninterrupted facility of power and water at Hajj House Bemina.

Further, he directed for proper security arrangements at Hajj House besides issuing of security cards to officials to be deployed for facilitating pilgrims. Div Com also directed for deployment of homeguards, Red Cross Volunteers to facilitate hujaj.

MD, SRTC was asked to provide buses for transportation of pilgrims and luggage during the entire activity.

Moreover, he directed for stationing of Fire Tenders at Haj House and Airport besides replacing of existing fire extinguisher with new ones and asked BSNL to ensure internet connectivity.

Further, he called for close synergy among departments to ensure hassle-free arrangements and directed for constitution of teams consisting of members from related departments for clear communication and coordination.

One Killed As Car Rolls Into Gorge In Doda

Agencies

JAMMU: One person was killed and three others injured when a private vehicle they were travelling met with an accident in Assar area of Doda district on Friday.

They said that the driver of the private vehicle—Swift (JK06-9064) apparently lost control over it near Assar, leading to the on the spot death of one Rattan

Singh son of Suneet Singh of Thalsara (Bhalla) and injuries to three other persons—Ranjeet Singh son of Bharat Singh, Jagjeet Singh son of Diwan Singh and Balbir Singh son of Maan Singh, also residents of Thalsara (Bhalla).

The injured were shifted to hospital by locals and police later, they said. A police officer confirmed it to a local news agency GNS and said that a case has been registered.

Govt To Re-Advertise Rehbar-e- Janglat, Zirat, Khel Posts Through SSB

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government has decided to re-advertise Rehbar-e-Janglat, Rehbar-e-Zirat and Rehbar-e-Khel posts through Service Selection Board with "additional weightage and age relaxation" to be given to those engaged on these posts.

According to a communication to Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Forest Ecology and Environment Department, Undersecretary to Government states that matter regarding the issues of Rehbar-e-Janglat was placed before a Committee, constituted vide Government order (No. 294-JK(GAD) of 2020) dated 27.02.2020.

"The committee has recommended that all the posts shall be re-advertised through SSB and additional weightage and age relaxation can be considered to Rehbar-e-Janglat candidates, so that they can apply afresh against re-advertised posts through SSB."

The recommendations of the Committee, the order states, have been accepted by the Competent Authority.

In this connection, the government directed Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment Department to "implement the recommen-

dations of the Committee in letter and spirit."

It is learnt that similar communication has been made to concerned authorities regarding Rehbar-e-Zirat and Rehbar-e-Khel.

However regarding National Youth Corps (NYCs) Principal Secretary to the Government, Youth Services & Sports Department have been informed that Committee has observed that NYCs are working on voluntary basis. "The similar scheme is also at the Government of India level. The scheme in the UT of J&K shall continue to be voluntary and the volunteers will be henceforth governed by the guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time w.e.f. the date of issuance of the Government Order," a separate communication, reads. "Till then, no further engagement shall be made by the Youth Services and Sports Department."

The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Competent Authority, the communication underlined.

Principal Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department has been directed to implement the recommendations of the Committee in letter and spirit under an intimation to this department." (GNS)



A VENDOR ARRANGES his umbrellas during heavy rainfall in Srinagar on Friday.

Fresh Snowfall In Upper Reaches, Rains Lash Plains

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Razdan top in Gurez valley has received fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains as well as the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, bringing down the temperature further across the Union Territory.

However, the Meteorological department here has predicted more rains/snow, informing that a western disturbance is affecting Jammu and Kashmir in between May 22-23.

Reports said that several areas across Jammu and Kash-

mir including Srinagar, the summer capital of the Union Territory, have received moderate rainfall.

Razdan top in Gurez valley has received fresh snowfall today.

Deputy Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that a western disturbance is affecting Jammu and Kashmir in between May 22-23 during which light to moderate rain could occur while some higher reaches may also experience fresh snowfall.

"The wet spell as predicted already would likely continue till tomorrow (May 21) follow-

ing which another WD would affect J&K," he said.

"People need to take appropriate precautions and avoid visiting the places where the gusty winds can prove fatal. A few days back, the tourists were rescued from Dal Lake when the gusty winds started and thus when people observe changes in the weather conditions, they should not visit such places," he said.

Pertinently, intermittent light rains continued from the last two days in Kashmir breaking the prevailing heat wave conditions across Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt's Dedicated Focus To Tap J&Ks Tourism Potential: LG

Inaugurates Flower Show-2022 At Srinagar's Botanical Garden

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated Flower Show-2022, a platform for growers, at Botanical Garden, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor reiterated the government's commitment to promote commercial floriculture in Jammu and Kashmir, making it more remunerative, besides expanding its scope and increasing employability in the sector.

J&K's unique geo-climatic setting and its unmatched natural beauty have made the UT one of the prime tourist destinations across the globe, observed the Lt Governor.

We are strengthening the network of gardens & parks, introducing new technologies, extending handholding to the Growers to eliminate socio-economic imbalance, and creating market linkages for floriculture products at Domestic & International circuits, added the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor enlisted various policy measures initiated by the government to bring fundamental changes in culture, tourism, and floriculture sectors.

The Lt Governor congratulated the Floriculture, Garden, Parks Department and all the growers for setting a new record during the Tulip Festival this year.

Today, tourists, in record



numbers, are coming from all over the world to witness the pristine beauty of J&K and understand its rich culture & historical heritage, he added.

The Lt Governor urged all stakeholders associated with agriculture, horticulture, and floriculture, especially the youth, to reap the benefits of government-run schemes.

He further asked the Floriculture Department to run awareness programs and organize Buyer-Seller meets to ensure maximum profits for the farmers.

Highlighting the interventions made to restore the pride of Jammu and Kashmir, and bring the cultural heritage and history of the UT on the world map, the Lt Governor said that the government is giving dedi-

cated focus to tap the tourism potential of J&K, especially in the areas that remained neglected for decades.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, during his address lauded the efforts of the Floriculture department in generating income for floriculturists.

Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens in his welcome address spoke on the development of various parks and gardens in Jammu and Kashmir. He informed that around 3.60 lakh tourists visited Tulip Garden during the Tulip festival.

Later, the Lt Governor inspected the stalls displayed by various flower growers and also interacted with them.

Northern Army Commander Reviews Security In South Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi arrived here on Friday on a three-day visit to assess security situation along the Line of Control and in the hinterland in the Kashmir Valley.

"Lt Gen Dwivedi arrived in Srinagar on three days visit to Kashmir from 20-22 May, 2022. He would be visiting forward posts on the Line of Control and the hinterland to review the overall security situation in the Kashmir Valley," a defence spokesman said here in a statement.

The Army commander accompanied by Chinार Corps Commander Lt Gen A D S Aujla visited various locations and formations in south Kashmir on Friday, he said.

The spokesman said Lt Gen Dwivedi was briefed on counter terrorism grid, development work and operational preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra.



"The Army Commander during his interaction with the troops over tea complimented the soldiers for the conduct of just operations with precision, ensuring zero collateral damage. He was appreciative of the excellent Soldier-Citizen connect activities, which have resulted

in overall reduction in the terrorist recruitments," he said.

The Army commander arrived at the Chinार Corps headquarters later in the day. He was briefed by Lt Gen ADS Aujla on the overall security situation and measures instituted to counter adversaries' design, he added.

Delhi Police Chief Invites J&K Students To Join YUVA Initiative

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana on Friday invited a group of students from Jammu and Kashmir to join the force's YUVA initiative and assured them of all assistance.

He also offered two of them whose family members got martyred jobs on the completion of YUVA programme.

The police chief, along with senior officers, interacted with the students at the Delhi Police headquarters.

According to an official statement, a total of 172 children of age group from 11 to 21 years from Reasi and Bandipora districts of Jammu and Kashmir are on a Bharat Darshan tour organised by the J&K Police under goodwill measures of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"I want to offer the two students from Jammu and Kashmir whose family members got martyred to join the YUVA programme of the Delhi Police and we will look after them and will provide them jobs," Asthana said.

"We can take permission from the government and reserve some seats in YUVA for those children of Jammu and Kashmir whose parents got martyred or who need some kind of support," he said.

YUVA, a flagship community policing initiative of the Delhi Police, was launched in 2017 in association with the National Skill Development Corporation.

The Delhi Police also organised a dog show and a band performance for the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Asthana appreciated this gesture of J&K Police and thanked the children for accepting Delhi Police's hospitality during their foray in exploring the nation.

"These are your formative years and whatever you see and learn during this period will make you become better human beings, he said.

In the statement, Asthana underlined the importance of sports and music and said, Such hobbies not only make you stress free, but they also motivate you by bringing your natural self out.

"Wherever you stay or travel across the globe, the needs, desires and enthusiasm of individuals remain same; and when we join hands in pursuance of our dreams, the results are always good for the country, he said in the statement.

He also invited the children to join the Delhi Police YUVA scheme and assured that the Delhi Police would provide all possible help to JK Police in implementing such community outreach initiatives to help the local youth gain professional training and get handsome jobs, the statement said.

The Police Commissioner wished them success in their sojourn and hoped to meet them in future as successful citizens of the nation, it said.

Ashfaq Alam, Deputy Superintendent in J&K Police who has come along with the students, said, The programme organised by the Delhi Police was very good. The students also get a chance to speak here. They are happy as they got an opportunity to see the national capital. It is brilliant initiative by the J&K Police.

The students will stay in Delhi for three days and visit places such as National Police Memorial Chanakyapuri, Parliament House, India Gate. They will then proceed to Chennai and Bangalore for the rest of the tour, the statement said.

Govt Working To Bring Sweet Revolution In Country: Tomar

Inaugurates Honey Testing Laboratories, Processing Units In J&K

Observer News Service

NARMADA: Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar said on Friday that under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the Government is working very seriously to bring Sweet Revolution in the country

Tomar inaugurated an Exhibition at the venue of event as well as Honey Testing Laboratories and Processing Units at Pulwama, Bandipura and Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir, Tumkur in Karnataka, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Pune in Maharashtra and Uttarakhand in a virtual mode from Gujarat.

During interaction with Tomar and other dignitaries, the beekeeping farmers of different States said that their income has increased considerably due to this additional activity.

Tomar said that empowering small farmers is the goal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that about 55 percent of India's population is rural and the country will progress only with the progress of more than half of the rural population to transform it into a developed nation.

He said that the Government is working very seriously to bring Sweet Revolution in the country under the guidance of Prime Minister.

The Government of India has set up world class laboratories in the country; the centrally funded scheme, 'National Beekeeping and Honey Mission' aims to establish 5 big regional and 100 small honey and other Bee Products testing laboratories, out of which 3 world class state-of-the-art laboratories have been setup. Whereas 25 small laboratories are in the process of establishment. Efforts are being made that small farmers do not have to travel far for honey testing.

The Government of India is also providing assistance for setting up of Processing Units. More than 1.25 lakh metric tonnes of honey is being produced in the country, out of which more than 60 thousand metric tonnes of natural honey is exported. In order to bring qualitative upgradation of domestic honey to attract the world market, the Government of India and the State Govern-

ments are making concerted efforts and focusing on capacity building of bee keepers for production honey by adopting scientific techniques.

Tomar said that when Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he set new dimensions in the development of Gujarat.

"His government remained sensitive towards the development of poor and small farmers in Gujarat. In terms of poverty alleviation, employment generation, development of health facilities, adequate availability of means of irrigation to the farmers, Gujarat performed excellently under the leadership of Modi ji and got succeeded. The State has become a role model for its development among others," he said.

Tomar said that inequality should end in the country and there is a need to bring change in the standard of living of the poor to uplift there socio-economic status and the Government of India is committed to work in this direction. The structured programs and schemes one after the other are being implemented under the guidance of PM

The opening of Jan Dhan accounts paved the way for opening of accounts of more than 43 crore people in the bank as on date and associated with the banking system.

These accounts were opened on zero balance, in which Rs 1.46 lakh crore has been mobilized, which strengthened the economy of the country.

The Union Minister said that similarly, small farmers of the country have been focused on schemes like FPO and Honey Mission. A special package of Rs. 500 crore under self-reliant India campaign for beekeeping has been given.

The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kailash Choudhary said that the government has provided necessary resources along with new technology to the farmers through various schemes for beekeeping. The government is working on a mission mode to promote beekeeping, so that the income of the farmers increases. Choudhary said that Prime Minister Shri Modi has worked continuously for the betterment of the farmers, even during the Covid pandemic.

SP College Holds Annual College Road Race



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: S.P College Srinagar on Friday organised Annual College Road Race-2022 from Nishat Garden to Naseem Bagh, Hazratbal.

The race was conducted by Department of Physical Education and Sports in collaboration with College Sports Board as per the Annual Sports Calendar for the month of May 2022.

The race for Boys was flagged off on Friday morning by College Principal, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Khan, and was held from Nishat Garden to Naseem Bagh Hazratbal. Around 60 students of the college participated in the run via Foreshore road, Duck Park and culminated at Naseem Bagh covering a distance of 6 kilometres.

Mehraj-ud-Din finished first with the timing of 24:50 minutes followed by Suhail Ashraf with the timing of 26:40 minutes, while Suhail Bashir finished third with the timing of 28:30 minutes.

The prize distribution ceremony for the event was held at Naseem Bagh during which Vice Chancellor Cluster University,

Prof. Qayyum Hussain awarded trophies, medals and jogging shoes to winners.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor congratulated all the participants and assured them that the Cluster University is committed to develop required infrastructure for the overall development of sports.

Principal, S.P College Prof. Khurshid Ahmad Khan felicitated the participants and urged them to take part in co-curricular activities. The Principal also appreciated the members of Sports committee for coordinating the event successfully.

Prof Tariq Ashai, Secretary Sports Cluster University, on the occasion highlighted the importance of sports activities for achieving good health and building character.

Prof Bashir Ahmad Mir (HOD Chemistry), Prof Wilayat Rezvi (HOD Botany) and Prof Manzoor Ahmad Wani (Associate professor Botany), who also spoke on the occasion, briefed the students about the importance of sports and urged them to participate in more events to be organised throughout the year.

Defending Champions India Leave For Asia Cup Hockey



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: The Indian men's hockey team, led by Olympic bronze medallist Birendra Lakra, on Friday left for Jakarta to defend the Asia Cup title.

The Indian team will be up against Japan, Pakistan and hosts Indonesia in Pool A, while Malaysia, Korea, Oman and Bangladesh are grouped in Pool B.

India will kick off their campaign against Pakistan on Monday.

"The team is definitely excited. The Asia Cup is a very prestigious tournament and we will have quite a few players who will be experiencing this tournament for the first time so naturally the mood is quite upbeat

in the team," Birendra said in a Hockey India release.

"Our camp in SAI Bengaluru was quite tough and very fruitful. While we got to know more about each player's strengths, and improved our on-field communication, Sardar (Coach) was also very particular about our fitness."

Reflecting his thoughts on his team's prospects this year, Lakra said, "We just want to take it one match at a time, definitely there will be a lot of tense nerves ahead of the first match against Pakistan but we will focus on our own game and get on from there."

India had defeated Malaysia in the final to lift the title in the previous edition at Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2017.

I Will Play IPL Next Year: MS Dhoni

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Iconic two-time World Cup winning India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Friday said he will "definitely" play in the IPL next year as not doing so would be "unfair" to the city after which the Chennai Super Kings is named and which treats him like its own.

With this, the 40-year-old Dhoni put to rest speculations around his participation in the lucrative league next season.

"Definitely, I will play next year. It would be unfair not to say thank you to Chennai, to not play in Chennai. It won't be nice to the CSK fans," Dhoni said at the toss for CSK's final match of the ongoing season, against Rajasthan Royals.

"Whether 2023 will be my



last year or not, that is something we will have to see."

The former India skipper's fandom knows no bounds and some time back, a social media post of one admirer painting his house in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu in Chennai Super Kings' yellow colour, along with portraits of

Dhoni, had gone viral.

Two days ago, Dhoni's heartfelt reply to a distraught CSK fan's letter won hearts.

Four-time champions CSK endured one of their worst IPL campaigns, as they went out of reckoning for a play-offs spot quite early in the season.

GT's Wade Reprimanded For Code Of Conduct Breach



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Gujarat Titans batter Matthew Wade was reprimanded for breaching the IPL code of conduct during their game against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

"Mr. Wade admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.5 of the IPL Code of Conduct and accepted the sanction," the IPL said in a statement.

"For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the match referee's decision is final and binding," it added.

While the statement did not give any reason for the breach, Wade was livid after being adjudged LBW, in what was a controversial call and attracted empathy from Virat Kohli.

Wade was sure that he under-edged a sweep shot off Glenn Maxwell and took no time in reviewing the on-field decision, which was out.

However, despite a clear deviation in the ball's trajectory before it thudded on to the pads, the UltraEdge did not detect it and the TV umpire stayed with the on-field umpire's call.

The Australian was angry while going back into the dugout and displayed his anger in the dressing room too.

IPL 2022: DC Meet MI In 'Virtual Quarter-Final'

Will Arjun Tendulkar get a game finally?



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Delhi Capitals will have their fortune in their own hands as they aim to pull all stops against season's favourite whipping boys Mumbai Indians in what will be a virtual IPL "quarter-final" clash for Rishabh Pant's men.

While DC have everything to play for, MI will like to cap off the season on a winning note although it would count for little for the five-time champions, who suffered due to poor auction strategy.

In case of Mumbai Indians, the only area of interest is whether legendary Sachin Tendulkar's son Arjun finally gets a game after having warmed the bench for 27 straight games across two seasons.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has indicated that they would blood some new faces in the final game. So far 22 players have played in 13 games.

The equation is as simple as it can get for the Capitals (+0.255) as they simply need to beat Mumbai Indians to pip Royal Challengers Bangalore (-0.253) on better net run-rate.



While MI have endured their worst season this time, Capitals have been guilty of inconsistency with seven wins and six defeats in their 13 games.

In fact, it was their victory over RCB in the previous game that ensured back-to-back full points for them.

There have been days when Capitals have been extra-ordinary, with a David Warner (427 runs) or Mitchell Marsh (251 runs) or Rovman Powell (207 runs) upping the ante in batting. Spinners Kuldeep Yadav (20 wickets, 8.45), Axar Patel (6 wickets, 7.37) and Lalit Yadav (4 wickets, 8.33) have also done a decent job with the ball in a number of games.

As far as MI is concerned, the less said about this season, better it is for them.

Save NT Tilak Varma's emergence as a stylish batter, who could be the next MI legend alongside Tim David, who has taken over the mantle from Kieron Pollard, there is not much to write home about.

Skipper Rohit would certainly like this ordeal to get over and get some much-needed rest before the next tour of England.

Babar Azam Brings Brother For Net Practice, 'Politely' Reminded Of PCB Policies



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan's all format captain Babar Azam has been politely reminded about the policies of the Pakistan Cricket Board after he brought his younger brother to the high performance centre in Lahore and allowed him to have net practice.

Babar came under criticism after a picture was posted on social media that showed his brother Safer in the nets with Pakistan pacer Shah Nawaz Dahi-ani bowling to him.

The social media post caused a ruckus as the PCB policies governing its high performance centre clearly state that only Pakistan players, first class players or junior cricketers can use the facilities and staff at the HPC with permission of the authorities.

"Babar came to the centre three-four days back with his brother and this was before the condi-

tioning camp had begun. And his brother later held nets which was brought to the notice of the board," a reliable source in the PCB said.

He conceded that since no Pakistan player was allowed to bring any of his relatives or friends to the HPC for practice, Babar was politely reminded about his indiscretion and told to not repeat it again.

"He is our national team captain and the matter was handled in a manner where he was politely reminded about the situation and he agreed," the source said.

Babar has started having daily nets at the HPC in preparation for the coming international season with the PCB also inviting around 60 players in two batches to attend two week conditioning camps to prepare for the new season.

Babar's younger brother is yet to make any impact as a player at a higher level.

3 Covid Cases In New Zealand Camp At Brighton



Press Trust of India

BRIGHTON: Three members of the New Zealand touring party, including senior batter Henry Nicholls, are in isolation after testing positive for Covid-19 on the morning of the first Tour match against Sussex in Brighton.

Nicholls, pacer Blair Tuckner and bowling coach Shane Jurgensen have begun five days of hotel room isolation after producing positive Rapid Antigen Tests on Friday morning.

The remainder of the squad members have returned negative tests and will continue to be monitored and tested as required. "The four-day warm-up match will go ahead as planned," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement.

The Kane Williamson-led New Zealand are the ICC World Test Championship holders, having beaten India in the inaugural final last year.

The second and third Test matches will be played at Trent Bridge, Nottingham from June 10 to 14, and Headingley, Leeds from June 23 to 27.

New Zealand are currently sixth in the ICC World Test Championship 2021-22 table with 38.89 PCT, with two wins, three defeats and one draw.

England are at the bottom with 12.5 PCT (one win, seven defeats and four draws).

New Zealand have already named an extended 20-man squad for the tour: Kane Williamson (c), Will Young, Tom Latham, Hamish Rutherford, Devon Conway, Henry Nicholls, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell, Tom Blundell, Colin de Grandhomme, Rachin Ravindra, Cam Fletcher, Kyle Jamieson, Matt Henry, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Ajaz Patel, Blair Tuckner, Jacob Duffy, Trent Boult.

This will be the first series for new England coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes.

England on Wednesday named a 13-man squad for the series: Ben Stokes (c), Joe Root, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Foakes, Jack Leach, Alex Lees, Craig Overton, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts.

Bach Says Russia Ban Is To Protect Athletes, Not Punish Them

Agencies

GENEVA: Russian athletes and officials who have been banned from international sporting events because of the war in Ukraine are being protected rather than punished, International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said Friday.

Most sports bodies have followed the IOC guidance given on Feb. 28 — four days after Russia began its invasion — by taking teams and athletes out of their international competitions. In football, Russian teams were removed from World Cup qualifying for men and women.

Russian football is challenging those decisions and others at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and Bach's speech Friday will likely be echoed by defence lawyers at multiple pending hearings.

"Let me emphasize again that these are protective measures, not sanctions. Measures to protect the integrity of competitions," Bach told IOC members in an online meeting. "The safety of the Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials could not be guaranteed because of the deep anti-Russian and anti-Belarusian feelings in so many countries following the invasion."

Sanctions should only apply to "those responsible for something," Bach said, explaining why the IOC withdrew its Olym-



pic Order honour from Russian officials — though he did not say Russian President Vladimir Putin's name — and advised sports to relocate events that Russia was to host.

The severity of the reaction to Russia and Belarus has provoked questions — including to football governing body FIFA — of why other countries which waged wars and even genocides had not previously faced the same isolation.

"The war in Ukraine is different because it is a blatant violation of the Olympic Truce," Bach said of the modern revival of an ancient tradition to pause hostilities and give athletes safe passage before and after an Olympics.

Bach moved to protect Russia's active and honorary IOC members, who were allowed to take part online in Friday's meeting. They include two-time Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva, who is an officer in the Russian army.

The IOC has not suspended those Russian members who have not publicly criticized the war.

Premier League Finale: Title, Europe, Relegation All In Play

Agencies

LONDON: For the first time in Premier League history, the title, qualification for both the Champions League and the lower-ranked European competitions, and a relegation spot will all be decided on the final day of the season.

Here's a look at what's at stake going into Sunday:

TITLE RACE

It's simple: Manchester City will retain the title — its sixth in 11 years — by beating Aston Villa at home. City leads second-place Liverpool by one point and just has to match the result of Jurgen Klopp's team, which is also at home to Wolverhampton.

City has history on its side: no team leading the standings before the final round of the season has ever failed to go on to clinch the title. If Liverpool wins the league, it would complete the domestic treble and set up the chance to clinch an unprecedented quadruple in the Champions League final against Real Madrid on May 28.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFICATION

The fourth and final quali-

fication spot for next season's Champions League will go to either Tottenham or Arsenal, fierce rivals from north London. Tottenham is the big favourite as it occupies fourth place — two points ahead of Arsenal — and has one of the easiest fixtures possible, an away game at last-place Norwich, which has already been relegated.

Arsenal is at home to Everton, which secured its top-flight status on Thursday with a game to spare. If Tottenham and Arsenal finish tied on points, Tottenham is highly likely to be fourth because it has a superior goal difference of 15 to Arsenal.

RELEGATION

Burnley and Leeds are tied on points in their bid to avoid joining already-relegated Norwich and Watford in returning to the Championship. Crucially, Burnley has a superior goal difference of 20 compared to Leeds so realistically knows that a win at home to

Newcastle will ensure survival. Leeds, which dropped in the relegation zone after Burnley's draw at Aston Villa on Thursday, has also changed its manager this season by bringing in Jesse Marsch for Marcelo Bielsa.

Leeds is in its second season back in the Premier League, having previously not been in the top flight since 2004. Burnley was last in the second division in 2015-16.

TOP SCORER

Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah is leading the way on 22 goals but isn't certain to play against Wolverhampton after sustaining a muscle injury in the FA Cup final last weekend. Tottenham forward Son Heung-min looks to be the only player realistically capable of overhauling Salah and heads into the game against Norwich one goal behind. Manchester United striker Cristiano Ronaldo is on 18 goals for the season, four behind Salah, and then comes Tottenham striker Harry Kane on 16.

Australia Women Retain WC Winning Squad For CWG



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Australian women's cricket team has retained its World Cup winning squad for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, where it will open its campaign against India on July 29.

Australia have named the same squad for their T20I tri-series with Ireland and Pakistan as well.

The tri-series in Northern Ireland provides the ideal preparation for Meg Lanning's side, under interim head coach Shelley Nitschke, who will have to step up following Matthew Mott's departure. Mott took up the coaching role of the England men's white-ball coach.

Besides dominating the 50-over World Cup in New Zealand, Lanning's side are also T20 World Cup champions, and come off recent series wins in the format over rivals England and India.

"Outside of the squad, Tayla Vlaeminck (knee) and Georgia Wareham (ankle) continue their injury rehabilitation, though both are unlikely to feature for most of the Australian summer later this year," the ICC said in a release.

"Whilst picked in the squad, Ellyse Perry is yet to fully recover from stress fractures in her lower back, and is expected to play solely as a batter on the tour."

"Her availability to bowl will be dependent on her progress in the coming weeks and on the medical advice" according to team physio, Kate Beerworth."

Australia's Commonwealth Games Squad: Meg Lanning (C), Rachael Haynes (VC), Darcie Brown, Nicola Carey, Ashleigh Gardner, Grace Harris, Alyssa Healy, Jess Jonassen, Alana King, Tahlia McGrath, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Amanda-Jade Wellington