Thursday 26 May 2022 | 24 Shawwal | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol:25 | Issue: 120 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹ 3

www.kashmirobserver.net ● twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P3 CITY

CITY TO GET RID OF STRAY DOG POPULATION IN SEVEN YEARS: MAYOR

Srinagar Mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu on Wednesday said that the city will get rid of stray dog population within 6 to 7 years as the corporation is set to kick-start a sterilization process at a large

PLEASE, DON'T FORGET THE ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. escalating the Russo-Ukrainian War, which had started in 2014. With more than 6.5 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and a third of the population displaced, the invasion has triggered



PROTESTERS IN JAMMU SEEK RELOCATION OF **KP EMPLOYEES FROM KASHMIR**

A group of Kashmiri Pandits staged a demonstration here on Wednesday in support of the demand for the relocation of the community members employed in Kashmir under the



C Quote!

You should not honor men more than truth

- Plato

NEWS DIGSST

Soldier Injured In Landmine Blast

Srinagar: A soldier was injured on Saturday in a landmine blast along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mankote sector of Poonch district. The soldier identified as NK Ajay Kumar sustained multiple injuries on both legs when a landmine went off along LoC in Mankote sector of the district on Wednesday afternoon, reports said. More on P6

J&K Logs Five New Covid Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported five new Covid cases on Wednesday that took the infection tally to 4,54,212, officials said. Of the new cases, three were from Srinagar district and the rest from Jammu district, they said. There are 59 active cases while the overall recoveries has reached More on P6

Youth Killed After Car Falls Into Gorge

Jammu: A 26-year-old youth was killed and another injured when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and fell into a gorge near Mehari Kalakote in Rajouri district on Wednesday. Official sources said that an Alto car rolled down into the gorge after the driver lost control over it. One person Arjun Sharma (26) son of late Krishan Lal of More on P6

Govt Job For Grenade

Jammu: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday handed over an appointment letter to the daughter of a man, who was killed in a grenade attack by militant on a wine shop in north Kashmir's Baramulla district last week. Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal visited the residence of Ranjit Singh, the grenade attack victim, and More on P6

BSF Officer Dies Of Heart Attack

Srinagar: A Border Security Force (BSF) officer died of a heart attack in the Kashmir capital Srinagar. Sources said that a BSF Sub-Inspector complained of chest pain and was taken to BSF Hospital Humhama where doctors shifted him to SMHS Hospital. Sources at SMHS hospital said that the officer died in the hospital and the cause of death is attributed More on P6

Yasin Malik Jailed For Life



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Delhi court on Wednesday awarded life imprisonment to Muhammad Yasin Malik, one of the foremost separatist leaders of Jammu and Kashmir, in a militant funding case, saying the crimes were intended to strike at the "heart of the idea of India" and intended to forcefully secede J&K from Union of India.

Special Judge Praveen Singh

Court Verdict Will Fuel

More Alienation: PAGD

■he Peoples Alliance for Gupkar

termed "unfortunate" the life

leader Yasin Malik by a Delhi court in a

only fuel more alienation More on P6

Declaration (PAGD) on Wednesday

imprisonment awarded to Kashmiri separatist

militancy funding case and said it is a "setback"

to the efforts for peace. The court verdict will

awarded varying jail terms to Malik for offences under the stringent anti-terror law--Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the IPC, rejecting the NIA's plea for capital punishment.

He said the crimes for which Malik was convicted were of very serious nature.

These crimes were intended to strike at the heart of the idea of India and intended to forcefully secede J&K from UOI. The crime becomes more serious as it was committed with the assistance of foreign powers and designated militants. The seriousness of the crime is further increased by the fact that it was committed behind the smokescreen of an alleged peaceful political movement, the judge said.

The judge said the manner in which the crimes were committed was in the form of conspiracy whereby More on P6

Mobile Internet Suspended In Parts of Kashmir

obile internet was suspended in Kashmir as a precautionary measure after a court awarded life imprisonment to separatist leader Yasin Malik in a militant funding case on Wednesday, officials said. They said the mobile internet has been suspended Valley. However, the officials said, More on P6

Life Comes Full Circle For Yasin Malik

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: From a Pakistantrained militant to one of the prominent separatist faces in Kashmir, life has come a full circle for chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Yasin Malik who was in limelight for varied reasons over the past three decades of turmoil in the erstwhile restive border state.

The 56-year-old Malik, who has been sentenced to a life term by an NIA court here, has been in and out of jail several times dating back to his student activism days before the onset of militancy in 1990.

Having renounced the path of militancy and donned the political cloak in 1994, Malik, who is married to a Pakistani artist and has a 10-year-old daughter, had announced Gandhian way of protest after his release and was perceived to be a moderate voice in the separatist camp.

He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 militant-funding case registered by National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Born on April 3, 1966 in Maisuma locality in the heart of Srinagar, Malik is also facing trial in the much-publicized abduction case of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in 1989, and an attack by JKLF militants on IAF personnel in Srinagar that left four dead and many others injured in 1990.

Malik started his activities at a very young age in 1980s when he formed Tala party which was involved in an attempt to disrupt the 1983 cricket match between India and West Indies in the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar besides staging against the hanging of JKLF

3 Foreign Militants, **Cop Killed In** 'Chance' Encounter



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three foreign militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and a policeman on Wednesday were killed in a chance encounter in Kreeri area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said.

Police and army's 52 RR established joint special checkpoints in many places of Kreeri on Wednesday on the basis of information about the movement of militants in the area,

police spokesperson said. At a checkpoint near Shrakwara-Najibhat crossing, he said, the militants noticed the joint party and opened fire upon them.

The joint team, he said, retaliated to the fire leading to a chance encounter.

In the fierce gunfight, the spokesperson said, 3 foreign militants were killed and a police personnel Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh received critical gunshot injuries.

"The injured More on P6



Female TV Artist, Youtuber Shot Dead In Chadoora

in Chadoora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. TV artist Ambreen Bhat More on P6

Banihal's 'Miracle Baby' Dies At Srinagar Hospital

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A baby girl, who was declared dead soon after being born at a Ramban hospital but found alive an hour after her burial, died at a medical facility here on Wednesday, officials said.

Medical Superintendent of the government-run G B Pant Children Hospital Dr Nazir Hussain Choudhary said the baby died at 6.30 am at the neonatal intensive care unit.

She was found alive after her family had been forced to dig up her grave when local people in Hollan village objected to her burial at their graveyard.

The baby More on P6

Affordable Healthcare To Every Citizen Is Our Endeavour: LG

'People Of J&K Were Deprived Of Basic Health Services For Decades'

Observer News Service

Kakrya: Asserting that the government's constant endeavour is to ensure affordable healthcare to every citizen, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that in last three years his administration has made adequate investment for medical education & training to protect and promote people's health.

"It is our constant endeavour to ensure affordable healthcare to every citizen. Apart from an unprecedented increase in budgetary allocations to health sector, the government has tried to reduce inequalities in healthcare



in rural areas," Sinha said. He made these remarks during his address to the students of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing at Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

"Our focus is availability, quality and affordability to

bridge the health gap of people," the LG said.

During his address, the official spokesperson said that the LG congratulated the students embarking on a new journey, and urged them to improve the quality of life and quality of care with More on P6

J&K HC Grants Bail To PDP's Waheed Parra

Basit Makhdoomi

SRINAGAR: The Division Bench of J&K High Court Wednesday granted bail to J&K Peoples Democratic Party leader (PDP) Waheed ur Rehman Para and directed his immediate release provided he is not involved in any other cases.

Para had been facing incarceration since past two years in two FIR's registered against him. He was charged under section 13, 17,18,38,39,40 the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) alongwith section 120-B, 121A, 124-A of the IPC.

He had moved for his bail before the special court in 2021 which had been granted



in one FIR while in a subsequent FIR his bail plea had been rejected.

Waheed was challenging the said rejection order in an appeal before the Division Bench of the High Court.

After hearing the counsel of both sides More on P6

Mehbooba, **Lone Welcome Para's Bail**

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti welcomed Jammu and Kashmir High Court's decision to grant bail to party's youth leader Waheed Para who was arrested in More on P6

RELIEF FOR STUDENTS

Education Dept Asks Schools To Reduce Weight Of Bags

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Heavy school bags are a serious threat to the health and well-being of the students, the School Education Department, Kashmir, said on Wednesday as it directed the heads of educational institutions in the valley to reduce the weight of the bags.

Heavy school bags are a serious threat to the health and well-being of students. The heavy school bag has severe/adverse physical effects on growing children which can cause damage to their

vertebral column and knees, the department said.

As such, it said, heads of all schools of Kashmir Division (Government as well as private) are hereby directed to strictly adhere to the revised guidelines of School Bag Policy, 2020-released by the National of Educational and Training Council of (NCERT) to reduce the weight of school bags for students in primary, secondary and senior

secondary schools. School teachers should inform the students in advance

Central Forces Shifting From Rental To Permanent Spaces In J&K **Zaid Bin Shabir**

SRINAGAR: In an attempt to enhance the armed forces infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government of India (GOI) has granted an approval for the construction and upgradation of temporary camps for CISF and CRPF in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a reported by Economic Times, CISF has been sanctioned 2.725 acre of land at Sidhra near Jammu, while CRPF has been allocated 44.77 acre land at seven locations across North, South and Central Kashmir.

While talking to Kashmir Observer, PRO CRPF, Junaid Khan said that the decision was taken a long back by the Ministry of Home Affairs to



enhance the infrastructure & "Undoubtedly, there was a need security of CRPF deployed in to build better infrastructure for Kashmir valley. troops deployed in the region.

In recent times, we've seen several temporary CRPF camps in Kashmir being targeted by militants. But, with the centre's decision to acquire land and build a permanent camp for several CRPF battalions, which already reside in the valley on a rental basis, the threats of a militant attack will subsequently subside," said PRO Khan, adding that it's always better to have a permanent address over a temporary space.

Hypothetically speaking, he said, if there was any CRPF camp living on the rental basis in Pulwama, Shopian, Kulgam or any other district, the centre has allocated a specific area for setting up a permanent address for that bat-

talion in the given district.



If Not

Contact Circulation Incharge: 9797818919

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Kashmir Observer Srinagar | Thursday | 26-05-2022

'Antiviral Drugs May Reduce Monkeypox **Symptoms, Shorten Contagious Phase'**

Press Trust Of India

Some antiviral medications might have the potential to shorten symptoms of monkeypox and reduce the amount of time a patient is contagious, according to a study of seven patients diagnosed with the rare viral disease in the UK between 2018 and 2021.

The cases analysed in the study, published on Tuesday in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, represent the first instances of in-hospital transmission and household transmission outside of Africa.

The research also reported the patient response to the first off-label use of two different antiviral medications -- brincidofovir and tecovirimat -- to treat the disease.

The study found little evidence that brincidofovir was of clinical benefit but concluded that further research into the potential of tecovirimat would be warranted.

The researchers also report detection of monkeypox virus in blood and throat swabs.

As optimum infection control and treatment strategies for this disease are not yet established, data from the study could help inform global efforts to further understand the clinical features of the disease as well as transmission dynamics, they said.

"As public health officials are trying to understand what is causing the May 2022 monkeypox outbreaks in Europe and North America -- which have affected several patients who reported neither travel nor an identified link to a previously known case -- our study offers some of the first insights into the use of antivirals for the treatment of monkeypox in humans," said Hugh Adler of the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

"Although this latest outbreak has affected more patients than we had previously encountered in the UK, histori-



cally monkeypox has not transmitted very efficiently between people, and overall the risk to public health is low," Adler, lead author on the paper, said.

With international travel returning to pre-pandemic levels, public health officials and healthcare workers around the world must remain vigilant to the possibility of new cases of monkeypox, said Nick Price of Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, senior author on the paper.

Of the seven UK monkeypox cases analysed in the study, four were imported from West Africa with three further cases occurring due to human-tohuman transmission within the case clusters.

Monkeypox, a close relative of the smallpox virus, is a rare disease classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) by the UK Health Security Agency.

There are currently no licensed treatments for monkeypox and there is limited data on the duration of its contagiousness, with the incubation period ranging from five to 21 days.

The study authors observed clinical data alongside laboratory results from blood tests and nose-and-throat swabs to describe the duration and clinical features of monkeypox in a high-income set-

ting. Researchers also reported patient

response to antiviral medications de-

veloped to treat smallpox -- brincido-

fovir and tecovirimat -- which have

previously demonstrated some efficacy against monkeypox in animals. Between 2018 and 2019, four patients observed in the study were treated for monkeypox in HCID units in England.

Three of these cases were imported

from West Africa. The fourth case occurred in a healthcare worker 18 days after initial exposure to the virus and was the first example of monkeypox transmission in a hospital setting outside of Africa.

The initial three patients were treated with brincidofovir seven days after the initial onset of the rash.

The study found that brincidofovir did not have any convincing clinical benefit in treating monkeypox and alterations in liver blood tests were ob-

The researchers noted that it is not known whether brincidofovir administration earlier in the course of the disease or at a different dosing schedule would have yielded different clinical outcomes.

Despite this, all three patients, plus the fourth hospital transmission patient, made a full recovery, they said.

Three further cases of monkeypox were reported in the UK in 2021 in a family travelling from Nigeria, with two of these cases being the first examples of household transmission outside of Africa.

One of the 2021 UK patients was treated with tecovirimat and experienced a shorter duration of symptoms and upper respiratory tract viral shedding than the other cases in this cluster, the researchers said.

However, they note that conclusions are unable to be drawn on antiviral effectiveness against monkeypox in such a small cohort, calling for further research into antivirals to treat this neglected tropical disease.

"During previous outbreaks of monkeypox, patients were considered infectious until all lesions crusted over," said Catherine Houlihan, of the UK Health Security Agency and University College London, one of the co-authors of the paper.

"In these seven UK cases, viral shedding was observed for at least three weeks following infection. However, data on infectivity remains limited, and is an important area for future study," said Houlihan.

The authors acknowledge some limitations with this study, primarily its observational nature and the small number of cases analysed.

They were also unable to confirm positive monkeypox PCR test results with laboratory samples of the virus, meaning that ongoing shedding of contagious virus was unable to be verified.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri: Ghulam Mohammad Mir S/o: Ghulam Qadir Mir R/o: Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 9601 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S State Bank of India B/U RASMECC Sgr.



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

No. ARTO/BUDGAM.944 Dated 24/05/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

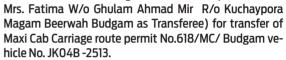
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Abdul Qayoom Wani S/o:

Sonaullah Wani R/o: Sodipora Beerwah Budgam as Transferor) &



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

No. ARTO/BUDGAM. 952

Dated 25-05-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the local permit of my vehicle bearing regd no: JKO3D-9983 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Nusrat Ahamd Sheikh

S/o Mohammad Shaban Shekh R/o Khanabal Anantnag

fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION KULGAM

E-mail:xenphekgm@gmail.com.Phone/Fax:01931295109 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS E-NIT No: 14 /PHEK/2021-22 Issued under No:PHK/1112-23 dated.25-05-2022

For & on behalf of the Governor J&K State, e-tenders are invited (in single cover system) "on item rate basis" from Registered contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules for the following

S. No	Name of work	Cost (Rs.in lacs)	Money	Class of Contract	Compl.	tender Document	MH of Account
1	Upgradation of PHE pipe network NHO Arif Ahamd sofi and other at sofi mohalla Ghat, NHO Nazir Ahamd Khar at Gund Abdullah mandoo Katoo Gali at Redwani payeen (under DDC /PRI/PRI capex)	0.80	1600/=	DEE	07 days		DDC/PRI/ PRI
	Repairment of water supply BWO pipes at hajam Mohalla, Deenda Mohalla, Chowdhary pora Nandimarg" B" Panchayat Halqa Nandimarg "B " under PRI			DEE	07 days	100/=	PRI
3	L/F of pipes 20,25,40mm dia at Yarikhah A panchayat Halqa Yarikhah " A "under PRI	0.56	1120/-	DEE	10 days	100/=	PRI
	provision of water supply pipes at panchayat Halqa Yarikhah "C" (under PRI)	0.68	1360/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	PRI
5	Impytts of water supply pipe fa- cilities in Dhpora A by providing new water supply pipes at differ- ent spots at Dhpora A panchayat Halqa Dhpora " A" (under PRI)			DEE		100/=	PRI
	water supply pipes for ganie Mohalla Panchayat Halqa Dhpora "B" (under PRI)		780/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	PRI
7		1.34	2680/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	DDC
8		1.16	2320/=	DEE	10 days	100/=	DDC

1. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: WWW.jktenders.gov.in As per the Schedule of dates given below:

		-	
	Publishing date of NIT	25-05-2022	9.am
Ш	Download start date	25-05-2022	9.am
Ш	Bid submission start date	25-05-2022	9.am
IV	Bid submission end date	06-06-2022	4pm
IV	Pid opening date	07-06-2022	1Óam

DIPK-2623/22

Executive Engineer Spl.PHE Division Kulgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle Bearing registration No JK03G-3301 Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

R/o: AMIRPORA NAMBAL MATTAN ANANTNAG

E-mail:- techrbpul786@gmail.com Phone:-01933-295302.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir(UT)

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No: 58/EEP/RNB/of 2022-23/2345-2355

Dated: 24/05/2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Cen-

9	S.	Name of Work	Adv.	Cost	Earnest	Time of	Class	Major	Administrative Ac-
ı	No		Cost	of T/D	Money	Completion	of Con-	Head of	cord Approval No:
			in (Rs.	(Rs.)	(Rs.) in the	in working	tract	Accounts	
			Lacs.)		shape of CDR/	Days			
L					FDR/BG				
1	l.	Construction of	176.65	2600/-	2% of Adv. cost	180 Working	Aay	FC-Grants-	DULB/Plg/592 of
		Office Complex				Days		2021-22	2021 dt: 23.10.2021
		Near Town Hall at							TS:CE(R&B)K/
		Khrew							TS/1150 of

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 scriedule of date given below						
1.	Date of Issue of Tender	24/05/2022				
	Notice					
2.	Period of downloading of	From 24/05/2022 10:00 A.M.				
	bidding documents					
3.	Bid submission Start Date	24 /05/2022 from 10.00 A.M				
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06/06/2022 upto 4.00 P.M				
5.	Date & time of opening of	07/06/2022 at 11:00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending				
	Bids (Online)	Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama Shopian HO: Pulwama				
6.	Submission of Perfor-	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has				
	mance Security (PS)	to provide 3% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape				
		of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 3%				
		Performance security.				

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama-Shopian HQ Pulwama.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Pulwama

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Technical Officer

Head Draftsman

DIPK-2648/22

Executive Engineer. R&B Division Pulwama

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the local permit of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK03D-7390 . Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Asif Saleem Itoo

S/o Mohd Saleem Itoo R/o Guree Bijjbehara Anantnag fko

The Jammu And Kashmir State **Board Of School Education**

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th &12th under Below mentioned particulars Name: Muzamil Oadir Malla

S/o Gh Qadir Malla R/o Kawoosa Khalisa

Details of Marks Certificate lost Secondary School Examination (class 10th)

Roll No 12411252 Session / Year Annual / Reg. 2020

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

Sub Office Magam

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

Contact:-0194-3550112 G-mail-yardimiciunique92@gmail.com I.G: yardimci_multi_venture_ F.B: yardimci multiVenture

ELECTRONICS

10X MOBILE STORE

All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar Contact:-7889657769

TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.



Sannat Nagar Srinagar

Contact:-9149965005/9682370979

Valedictory Function Of "Save Hokersar-Save **Srinagar" Campaign Held**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The valedictory function of 'Save Hokersar-Save Srinagar' campaign was organized by Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government, Wetlands Division Kashmir at Camping ground, Hokersar on Wednesday.

Commis-Divisional Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole, was the chief Guest on the occasion. Speaking at the event,

congratulated the department for smooth conduct of a 15 days long campaign and a cleanliness drive which involved mass efforts of 3750 personnel belonging to different Departments, Colleges, Schools, Municipalities, N.G.Os and other stakeholders.

It was informed that during the cleanliness drive 3750 Quintals of solid waste were lifted from near about 40 spots within the periphery of "Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve" and were disposed-off.

speakers Different speaking on the occasion highlighted the role of stakeholders in maintaining the ecological characteristics of this world

Shopkeepers Observe

Shutdown In parts Of City

famous wetland.

Mementos and Certificates of participation were awarded among various students other stakeholders who participated in a 15 days long campaign that was held under the banner 'TAWAZUN' from 7th to 21st May.

Rashid Yahiya Naqa-sh, Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)/Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir Region Srinagar thanked the Divisional administration, District Administration of Srinagar and Budgam, different departments, colleges, Schools, N.G.O's for their active involvement in the campaign.

He appealed to all the stakeholders especially senior citizens, school going students, youth and to those who are directly or indirectly connected with Wetlands to join hands with the department for the protection and perpetuation of the existing Wetlands in the valley "Hokersar especially Conservation Wetland Reserve

The function was attended by Athar Aamir, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation and other officials.



Mud, Potholes, 'Ill-Design' Making **Boulevard Sidewalk A Pestering Pathway**

Syed Mohammad Burhan

rinagar: Developed with much fanfare, the footpath alongside the famous Dal Lake is giving tough time to pedestrians and tourists.

People allege the walkway is ill-designed, filled with mud and

Authorities laid this stretch with non-skid vitrified tiles with grass patches along the lake in

The work was carried out by the Division 2nd of Roads & Buildings Department under the Smart

Srinagar: Srinagar Mayor, Junaid

Azim Mattu on Wednesday said

that the city will get rid of stray

dog population within 6 to 7 years

He also announced that mac-

Addressing a presser Mattu

adamization of Srinagar roads

will be completed within a period

said that the Srinagar Municipal

Corporation (SMC) has been taken

to new heights in the last counle

of years. "The corporators have

been elected to serve the people of

Srinagar after a gap of ten years.

We will meet all the challenges

and have met many challenges

so far which has helped in taking

Srinagar to 10th rank, which is a

proud moment for all the residents

last few years he tried to take the

SMC ahead of other civic bodies in

tion couldn't deal with some major

issues including stray dog menace

pains me. I have taken a decision

to form a multi-agency consulta-

tive board to deal with the stray

and the macadamisation process.

However, he said the corpora-

"The dog bite cases deeply

Mattu further said that in the

Agencies

of one month.

here," he said.

the country.

City Project.

"Pedestrian walkways along Dal Lake have been aesthetically built to provide neat and clean walking space along Dal Lake," notes the official website of Srinagar Smart City.

Then DC Srinagar Syed Abid Rasheed Shah had shared the project details on Twitter.

Nitizens back then had welcomed the move. The pathway took three to get completed.

But now, locals and tourists find it hard to walk on the stretch especially from Dalgate to Nehru Park which witnesses heavy tour-

"It's difficult to walk on the footpath as it's full of potholes and mud," said Shadab Abbas, a local. "Authorities should have gone with simple design."

A senior official of the R&B Department division told Kashmir Observer that the pattern of the tiles was approved at the higher

"Because of the heavy rush of locals and tourists on the stretch from Dalgate to Nehru Park, the grass patches on the footpath get damaged," he said.

'We will do whatever it takes to make the stretch friendly for pedestrians," he added

City To Get Rid Of Stray Dog **Population In Seven Years: Mayor**

Srinagar: Some areas of Srinagar witnessed a shutdown on Wednesday.

Shutdown was observed ahead of a Delhi court's verdict on the quantum of sentence for Yasin Malik, who was convicted in a "terror funding case" earlier this

Shops and other business establishments were shut in some parts of the city. However, the public transport and private vehicles were operating normally.

Securit were deployed in the sensitive areas of Srinagar to

avoid any law-and-order situation, officials said.

Malik on May 10 pleaded guilty to all charges, including those under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The Kashmiri separatist told the court that he was not contesting the charges levelled against him.

said that Malik had set up an elaborate structure and mechanism across the world to raise funds for carrying out militant and other unlawful activities in Jammu and Kashmir in the name of "freedom struggle'

as the corporation is set to kickstart a sterilization process at a The court had earlier large scale very shortly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

S/O:- Mohd Yousuf Naiar R/O: - Krangsoo Mattan Anantnag rna

CAVEAT NOTICE For General Public

BE IT KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC in large that I, Fehmeeda Akhter W/o: Farooq Ahmad Mir R/o: Kadlabal Pampore Distt: Pulwama (Caveator) It is apprehended that some private person (s) from General public may institute a case, suit, writ, application, appeal or revision on some false and frivolous grounds regarding my construction over the land measuring 03 Kanals and 08 marlas under survey no. 514-min situated at Kadlabal Pampore or against the order vide no. 06/DCP-SQ of 2022 dated 19-05-2022 against me in order to create unnecessary inconvenience and loss to me, before any Court as such caveator prayed that she may be given an opportunity of hearing, prior to granting of any kind of relief in favour of any person in the public

> Caveator through her counsel Adv. Malik Mohammad Mushtaq C/o Munsiff Court Pampore

CAVEAT NOTICE

For General Public

LAJK

LAJK

BE IT KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC in large that We, 1) Mukhtar Ahmad Masoodi S/o: Nizam ud din Masoodi 2) Shabir Ahmad Masoodi S/o: Gulzar Ahmad Masoodi both residents of Namblabal (Tulbagh) Pampore Distt: Pulwama (Caveators). It is apprehended that some private person (s) from General public may institute a case, suit, writ, application, appeal or revision on some false and frivolous grounds regarding our construction over the land measuring 02 Kanals and 10 marlas under survey no. 509-min situated at Kadlabal Pampore or against the order vide no. 11/DCP-SQ of 2022 dated 19-05-2022 against us in order to create unnecessary inconvenience and loss to us, before any Court as such caveators prayed that they may be given an opportunity of hearing, prior to granting of any kind of relief in favour of any person in the public at large.

Caveators through their counsel

Adv. Malik Mohammad Mushtaq C/o Munsiff Court Pampore



report within three months. It would be the biggest programme. he said, adding that he has invited SKUAST scientists and veterinary experts to start the process within a month to ensure that the people in Srinagar could heave a sigh of relief from the menace.

He added that the consultative board will meet next week and two meetings will be conducted in one week and he will personally monitor the progress. "If this programme succeeds, within six to seven years, we will get rid of the stray dogs' population in Sri-

He also termed the allegations of relocation of dogs from Srinagar to villages as baseless.

"The Corporation is facing a

this issue and start macadamization of lanes and bylanes within the period of a month," he said. About the enforcement, he said that there is no double standard on enforcement and no inter-

ference will be allowed. "We will try to ensure transparency and accountable governance," he said.

roads are in shambles and there is

no doubt over it. We had started a

process of macadamization in lanes

and bylanes at large scale in March

but the hot mix plants and contrac-

tors have decided not to bid for

these tenders at the current rates. I

have spoken to the Chief Secretary

personally and macadamization

rates are being revised in two to

three days. We are keen to resolve

W:https://jkhpmc.jk.gov.in/ T: 0194-2311312 (S) F: 0194-2311420 (S) T/F: 0191-2476079 (J)

Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government

Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

No: JKHPMC e-NIT 94 of 2022

E:jkhpmcltd@gmail.com

Dt: 24.05.2022

JKHPMC

Subject: Corrigendum 3 w.r.t RFP vide No. e-NIT No. 94 of 2022 dated 16-04-2022 - Extension of Last Date of Bid Submission.

JKHPMC has invited Online Bids (e-tenders) from prospective firms for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Equipment including Construction Work for a 5000 MT Controlled Atmosphere (CA-Store), under Greenfield at Behrampora, Baramulla, J&K. The details can be seen or downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in. Amendments in the e-Tender Document proposed are as following:

Decision of Bid Evaluation Committee will be final in the matter.

Activity	Original Date	Revised Date
Last date for Purchase of Tender :	28-05-2022, 6:00 pm	13-06-2022, 6:00 pm
Last date for submission of Tender (Online) :	28-05-2022, 6:00 pm	13-06-2022, 6:00 pm
Last date for Submission of Hard Copy of Techni-	30-05-2022, 6:00 pm	15-06-2022, 6:00 pm
cal Bid (Proposal Only)		
Technical Bid Opening Date :	31-05-2022, 3:00 pm	16-06-2022, 3:00 pm

All other conditions in the Tender Document and Corrigendum Documents shall remain the same. Bidders are advised to submit the bids well in advance and avoid any last-minute rush. JKHPMC shall not be responsible for any failure on the part of Bidders' to submit their bids within the prescribed time limits.

Managing Director, **DIPK-NB-1156/22**

DIAL-EMMA

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



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

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 43 **ZUHR** 12:28 5:25 **ASR** Magrib 7:36 9:13 **ISHA**

This Day In History

- 1961- USAF bomber flies Atlantic in a record of just over
- 1966- Guyana (formerly British Guiana) declares independence from UK
- 1969- Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth
- 1970- The Soviet Tupolev Tu-144 becomes the first commercial transport to exceed Mach 2.
- 1972- US President Richard Nixon & Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign SALT accord
- 1980- Soyuz 36 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Hungarian) to Salyut 6
- 1983- Space Shuttle Challenger moves to launch pad for
- 1983- NASA launches Exosat
- 1984-US President President Ronald Reagan rules out US military intervention in Iran-Iraq war.

From KO Archives

Israel Quickens Retreat: Lebanon Jail Stormed

THAYAM: Hizbollah fighters poured into Israel's crumbling occupation zone and villagers stormed a notorious prison Tuesday as the Jewish state hastened Lebanon the end of its bloody 22-year presence in south Lebanon The speed of the Is¬raeli pullout came as a surprise and hastened the collapse of the mainly Christian South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia set up as a buffer against guerilla at-tacks

"We will redeploy in the next few days on the international border," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said as the Muslim guer¬rillas moved on foot and in civilian vehicles into large swathes of the so-called security zone Is¬rael carved out of the hills of its northern neighbor.

Scores of detainees rushed out with tears in their eyes to embrace their liberators who fired volleys into the air. More than 100 villagers overran the prison at Khayam and

freed 130 Lebanese pris-oners held by Israelis for up to 15 years. SLA ON VERGE OF COL¬LAPSE: SLA men began giving themselves up in the eastern sector of the zone, their last bastion, witnesses said.

Militiamen also gave themselves up to the Lebanese army in the village of Hasbaya as Israeli warplanes destroyed bridges and heavy equipment aban-doned during their accel-erated retreat. Once the surrender is completed Hizbollah guerrillas were ex-pected to flow in and tighten their control over virtually all of the zone running from the Mediterranean Sea to the foot of the Golan Heights. Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said his men

would continue their war if Israel did not release Lebanese prisoners held as bargaining chips and give up an area of land known as Shebaa Farms. Israel has indicated it will hold on to the farms, at the foot of the Golan Heights, saying the land is Syrian and hot Lebanese Panic Among Christians: The Hizbollah advance sparked

panic in the Christian population and jubilation among Muslims. A stream of Christians and SLA members headed for the Israeli border seeking sanctuary. Some will be housed in a holiday resort on the Sea of Galilee

SLA commander General Antoine Lahd left Paris Tuesday for Tel Aviv to return to his crumbling army Despite the haste of their retreat, Israeli soldiers were clearly relieved to be out of a conflict that looked tin winnable

and was deeply unpopular with the Israeli public. At the Egel border crossing, dozens of returning soldiers gave the thumbs-up sign, unloaded their rifles and shed flak jackets. "In the end we took down the flag in haste and we sang the Tikva (national anthem)... so that we would have the good

feeling we aren't leaving with our tail between our legs," said

one soldier. He was in a convoy of 10 armored vehicles that had dashed to the border under cover of darkness. Israeli newspapers, however, likened the withdrawal to the U.S. rout from Saigon in 1975. One headline ran "Day of Hu¬miliation" — a sentiment that Hizbollah clearly felt as its years of struggle to drive Israel from Lebanon succeeded in dra¬matic fashion.

"This 18-year tragedy is over," Barar said, referring to Israel's 1982 invasion. Israel first crossed into Lebanon in 1978 to stop attacks by Palestinians who had been housed in refugee camps-since the creation of the Jewish state 30 years earlier.

Hizbollah took more than 20 villages in south Lebanon on Tuesday. Witnesses said guerril¬las established positions inside a cluster of villages, swiftly moving through abandoned posts, capturing suspected SLA members and seizing weapons and ammunition.

In Biut Jbeil, residents lined the streets, showering the guer¬rillas with rice and saluting them with V-for-victory signs amid shouts of Islam's rallying cry of Allahu Akbar (God is

(Kashmir Observer, May 26, 2000)

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

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Congress desertions

ongress has suffered another jolt with the exit of the senior leader Kapil Sibal. He has now been supported by Samajwadi Party in his nomination for Rajya Sabha. Talking to reporters, Sibal said he had quit the Congress on May 16, a day after the party's Chintan Shivir (Strategy Meet). He had been left out of the big meet and was no longer a part of the Congress' advisory groups. This is the latest high-profile exit from the Congress and the fifth in five months. And all of them were very senior leaders.

Sibal's resignation should certainly be a moment of deep reflection for the Congress. The party which ruled India for over fifty years after independence is now finding it difficult to even win state elections. For example, it was not even in the distant reckoning in the recent all-important election in Uttar Pradesh. And it had no chances in other four states which went to the polls. In fact, Congress even lost Punjab where it was expected to perform well. This is why a breakaway group led by Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma and calling itself G-23 is seeking serious reforms in the party. But this has split the Congress down the middle with Gandhi family supporters and opponents at loggerheads with each other.

However, G23's rebellion marks a break from the passivity of the last seven years with the party apparently seeming to have resigned to its current lot. But it won't also be easy to elect a non-Gandhi president. And the party has its own reasons for this: a Gandhi not being at the helm will run the risk of breaking the party up. Also, in the present circumstances, Congress doesn't boast of many a mass leader -albeit, there are many senior politicians who can be worthy successors to Gandhi. Gandhi's term at the helm has shown that he is not just up to the task.

It is now clear that the wave of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains alive and kicking. After a few reverses here and there over the last seven years, Modi's appeal has only grown stronger. He looks favourite to win many more Assembly polls, more so, the general election of 2024 unless wider opposition gets its act right. That is, if no credible opposition emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect that looks bleak. While Chintan Shivir was an important deliberation, its outcome will depend on how Congress implements it.

OTHER OPINON

Honouring ASHA

hen WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the names of six Global Health Leader awardees at the opening session of the World Health Assembly, over one million ASHAs and eight volunteer polio workers found themselves being counted amidst people leading from the front. The other awardees are Paul Farmer, co-founder of the NGO Partners in Health, Ahmed Hankir, a British-Lebanese psychiatrist, Ludmila Sofia Oliveira Varela, a youth sports advocate, and Y hei Sasakawa, WHO's Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination. Dr. Tedros who picks the awardees himself, said that the award recognises those who have made an outstanding contribution to protecting and promoting health around the world, at a time when the world is facing an unprecedented convergence of inequity, conflict, food insecurity, climate crisis and a pandemic.

The ASHAs were honoured for their "crucial role in linking the community with the health system, to ensure those living in rural poverty can access primary health care services...." These workers, all women, faced harassment and violence for their work during the pandemic, well documented in the media. While the pandemic rewrote the rules, creating danger where mere routine existed, it must be stressed that in general, their job, which takes them into difficult-to-reach places and hostile communities, confers a measure of privations. Even as they contribute to better health outcomes, this workforce continues to protest across the country, for better remuneration, health benefits and permanent posts. The eight volunteer polio workers of Afghanistan (four of them women) were shot and killed by gunmen in Takhar and Kunduz provinces in February 2022. Their work was crucial in a country where wild polio virus type 1 is still circulating, WHO recorded. Clearly, certain kinds of basic public health work are fraught with perils in several continents across the world. It is the duty of the governmental agencies that employ them to ensure their welfare, safety and security. While cheerleading about the award is rightfully reaching a crescendo, what matters is how the Indian government serves its last mile health workers who are its feet on the ground, once the dust raised by their unexpected recognition has settled down.

The Hindu



J&K Needs a National Law University

Ummar Jamal

Twenty one states in India have already established NLUs. J&K, despite being the 12th largest among the 37 State/UT in terms of geographical area and 19th in terms of population with more than 14 million people, is yet to have its own **National Law** University.

n 2018, people of J&K especially law students were hopeful when PDP-BJP coalition government, the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly passed the J&K National Law University Bill. After the act was passed by the legislative assembly, it needed the governor's nod. The then governor N. N Vohra raised certain clarifications over the legislative proposal, owing to which, no progress was made during his tenure. However, on October 1 2019, Governor Satya Pal Malik gave assent to the bill for the establishment of a National Law University in Jammu and Kashmir.

Soon after the bifurcation of the erstwhile State into two Union Territories, after some amendments in J&K National Law University Act, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs formally adopted the Act. There has been an interlude of nearly two years since the Act was formally adopted by Ministry of Home Affairs but due to the Government's dawdle, the establishment of National Law University in Jammu and Kashmir is still on the drawing board

Twenty one states in India have already established NLUs. J&K, despite being the 12th largest among the 37 State/ UT in terms of geographical area and 19th in terms of population with more than 14 million people, is yet to have its own National Law University.

It is pertinent to mention here that while Karnataka got its National Law University in 1988, J&K is yet to get one even after an interlude of 34 odd years after the establishment of the first NLU, the National Law School of India University (NLSIU).

Currently, there are a total of twenty three national law universities in India. Maharashtra has two National Law Universities; one in Mumbai and one in Nagpur. The state of Uttar Pradesh is set to establish its second National Law University. However, J&K is one of the eight disadvantaged (vis -avis legal education) states/UT in India including Arunachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Sikkim , Tripura, Mizoram ,Meghalaya and Manipur, which are yet to establish a National Law Universities.

The proposal for the establishment of National Law University in J&K traces its origin to the resolution moved by the "All India Law Ministers Conference" in 1995. It was unanimously resolved to establish a law school in each state modelled on the National Law School University for raising the standard of professional legal education across country. It ry and hardly give any training for mooting, debating and stuff. Their pedagogy and teaching method are antiquated. Here in most of colleges internship is an unheard concept. Thus ,J&k is in desperate need of an NLU

Studying in an NLU student gives a student an edge over a non-NLU students. When it comes to placement in big law firms, students who acquire education in NLUs are given preference. NlUs have finest infrastructure and sprawling campuses. They are far more student-friendly than traditional universities because student bodies in NLUs elected by students themselves help students

It is high time to improve legal education here in J&K. We need a National Law University to cater to the needs of the legal profession.

was done with the aim to make the states without National Law Universities much the same as with other states where they already had the national law universities

Presently, J&K has total number of three government Universities and seven private law colleges which offer the law course like LLB and BA.LL.B etc. Government universities include, university of Kashmir, University of Jammu, central university of Kashmir, and private law colleges include Kashmir law college, Vitasta School of Law and Humanities, Kashmir Creative Education Foundation (KCEF) Law College, Sopore Law college in Kashmir division and KC Law college, Dogra Law College and Ashoka Law College in Jammu division.

But the aforementioned government universities and private law college in J&K are in no way comparable with the National Law Universities. The government universities and private law colleges here are more focused on teaching theoto put their needs and demands before the administration.

It is high time to improve legal education here in J&K. We need a National Law University to cater to the needs of the legal profession.

Recently, in January, the result of 07 district judges posts was declared. None of the 217 appearing candidates from J&K were able to qualify the exam. This points towards the fact that the standard of legal education in J&K is not good.

It is an earnest request to the government of union territory of J&K to hasten up and set up a National law University here, in order to bring J&K at par with other states

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

The author is law student at Kashmir University. He can be reached at umarjamal968@



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

► MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Long Term Strategy for Digital Payments

nline commerce and digital payments are expanding all over the world. Recent years have witnessed a surge in the number of people handling digital payments. Digital payments in India have seen innovation in recent times. Digital banking is becoming more popular in India. The number of people using cashless transactions is increasing rapidly across the country.Covid-19 has played a significant role in accelerating the adoption of digital payments in India, as lockdowns and movement restrictions encouraged consumers to switch to cashless payment alternatives. Digital banking is being used by more than 20 crore Indians. India's rapid growth of digital payments has resulted in an innovative financial ecosystem that benefits ordinary people. The progress is the consequence of a mix of changes to the payment regulatory environment and extensive use of technol-

ogy to meet customer needs. According to a recent report, India ranks number 1 in recording the highest number of real-time payments in 2021 among businesses across the world. It made 48.6 billion real-time payments last year, surpassing China. To encourage digital transactions in rural and semi-urban regions, the reserve bank of India has unveiled a framework that allows offline payments of up to Rs200 per transaction, subject to a total limit of

Rs 2,000, without the need for internet access. India continues to push the boundaries of digital payments. According to experts, the value of digital payments in India will triple by 2026, reaching \$1 trillion. Newer technologies that assure digital payments in a more secure, safe and sustainable environment are badly needed to satisfy consumers.

Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Please, Don't Forget Rohingya Refugees

Kyaw Min

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, escalating the Russo-Ukrainian War, which had started in 2014. With more than 6.5 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and a third of the population



The international community's plea for repatriation to Myanmar must be louder, more visible, and more frequent. Bangladesh's government must continue to ensure that any transfers are entirely voluntary. Any long-term solution must take into account the local and national context. But flow of humanitarian assistance must be ensured till then because they need to fulfil their basic needs

displaced, the invasion has triggered Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II.

While the Bangladesh's Rohingya's plight has been overshadowed by the Covid-19 outbreak, Myanmar's military coup in February, Afghan refugee crisis, now the Ukraine crisis, the community remains in limbo, with many of its members missing citizenship and the rights that come with it. Around a million Rohingya refugees has been living in Bangladesh since 2017, while others have sought sanctuary in nations all over the world.

When the Myanmar military began a clearance operation against them in 2017, several members of the community were forced to flee. Rakhine state was particularly tense, with tales of rape and murder against Rohingyas abounding. The International Court of Justice has charged Myanmar with genocide over these atrocities. Meanwhile, the community's living conditions in refugee camps are deteriorating.

Due to the extended ambiguity surrounding their repatriation

to Myanmar, Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are becoming frustrated. Such ambiguity poses a significant risk because it tempts many people to engage in illicit activity.

Illustration credits: Ellie Foreman-Peck/TNH

Bangladesh confronts increasing difficulty in managing the displaced people as foreign support for the Rohingyas dwindle, with little hope of repatriation in the near future.

Following the ongoing Ukraine crisis, the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, which has already displaced millions of Afghans both inside and outside the nation, another humanitarian crisis has emerged.

While many in the world community have correctly condemned Myanmar's junta for deposing an elected government, the Rohingya's situation must not be overlooked. The international community must demand justice for the Rohingya in addition to a restoration to representative rule in Myanmar. Despite the fact that members of the Muslim Rohingya population claim generations of roots in the country formerly

known as Burma, Myanmar's ruling generals have long promoted the xenophobic stereotype that they are "outsiders" in the Buddhist-majority

Bangladesh is home to nearly 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas, the majority of whom arrived on August 25, 2017, following a murderous crackdown by Myanmar's army described as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing." International community should have always taken the safe repatriation of refugees seriously. Bangladesh's administration began diplomatic attempts to return them and negotiated agreements with Myanmar. However, even five years later, not a single Rohingya has returned to their homeland for fear of persecution. It appears that Bangladesh is paying the price for expressing sympathy for a persecuted minority community in another country.

Bangladesh wants to resolve the Rohingya situation through peaceful negotiations, and Myanmar and the international community should do the same. Myanmar has been attempting to mislead the international community in order to avoid fulfilling its duties for the repatriation and reintegration of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas.

The host country has done everything. It wants ensure Rohingya return through peaceful means, but nothing has worked out so far. It goes without saying that voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas is the most sustainable and long-term solution to the situation. However, because to the Rohingyas' lack of faith in the Myanmar government, repatriation attempts failed twice in November 2018 and August 2019.

Myanmar must ensure that Rohingya refugees are not persecuted upon their return in order to facilitate voluntary repatriations. To this aim, the international community and the United Nations should increase pressure on Myanmar to create a safe, secure, and dignified environment for the Rohingya refugees

to return home. World anticipate the international community should play a more assertive diplomatic role in pressuring Myanmar to return the Rohingyas.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, has stated recently during his visit to Bangladesh that while focusing on the "catastrophic disaster" in Ukraine, they must not forget about other challenging situations across the world, such as the Rohingya crisis, which require attention and resources.

Despite new financing to Ukraine in response to an "exceptional humanitarian situation," the US is committed to continuing to support Bangladesh in the Rohingya crisis, according to a top USAID official who visited Rohingya camps in Bangladesh in May 11, 2021.

"We are dedicated to maintaining our support for the Rohingya response," USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman told a small group of journalists at an American Centre press conference in the capital before ending off her 5-day visit to Bangladesh. She continued, "We have a very fundamental approach to humanitarian response, and ensuring that the refugees (Rohingyas) who are here receive the basic necessities to meet is a priority for us."

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, as well as Rohingya and other conflict-affected persons in Myanmar, will benefit from an additional €22 million in humanitarian help from the European Commission. Protection services, food aid, nutrition, health, and shelter will all benefit from the investment.

Since 2002, the EU has been actively assisting people in Bangladesh (since 2002) and Myanmar (since 1994), with a particular focus on disaster preparedness and emergency response activities, providing lifesaving assistance to Rohingya refugees, and funding emergency aid to people affected by natural disasters.

Rohingyas need more assistance of the international community. They've spent the last five years telling the world about their situation and repeating the same stories. They've gotten nothing but compassion and hollow promises in exchange.

With the world's attention focused on the migrants in Ukraine, we hope the world should not overlook the misery of 1 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

The international community's plea for repatriation to Myanmar must be louder, more visible, and more frequent. Bangladesh's government must continue to ensure that any transfers are entirely voluntary. Any long-term solution must take into account the local and national context. But flow of humanitarian assistance must be ensured till then because they need to fulfil their basic needs. They have right to survive with dignity because they are also human being. But peaceful and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas in Myanmar is the final solution. But till then, they need to survive! survive! survive! Please don't forget them.

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

The author is a writer and activist

Why Do We Mimic Accents?



Convergence refers to the shifts people make to their speech to approximate that of those around them. This is an intentionally broad definition meant to encompass all sorts of adjustments, whether intentional or inadvertent, prominent or subtle, or toward entire dialects or particular linguistic features Tave you ever caught yourself talking a little bit differently Lafter listening to someone

Lacey Wade

Perhaps you'll pepper in a couple of y'all's after spending the weekend with your Texan mother-in-law. Or you might drop a few R's after bingewatching a British period drama on Netflix.

with a distinctive way of speaking?

Linguists call this phenomenon "linguistic convergence," and it's something you've likely done at some point, even if the shifts were so subtle you didn't notice.

People tend to converge toward the

language they observe around them, whether it's copying word choices, mirroring sentence structures or mimicking pronunciations.

But as a doctoral student in linguistics. I wanted to know more about

how readily this behavior occurs: Would people converge based on evidence as flimsy as their own expectations of how someone might sound? Three years of experimentation and an entire dissertation later. I had my

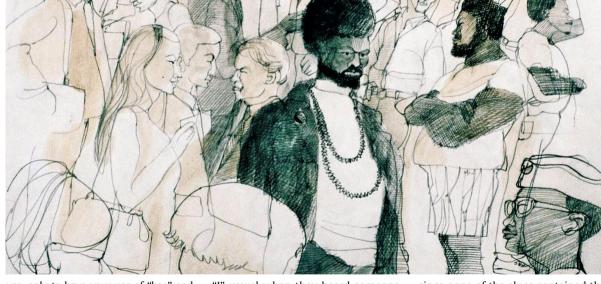
answer, which was just published in the academic journal Language. People do, in fact, converge toward speech sounds they expect to hear – even if they never actually hear them.

WHAT, EXACTLY, IS CONVERGENCE?

But before getting into the specifics, let's talk about what convergence is and how it's related to other speech adjustments like code-switching, which refers to alternating between language varieties, or style-shifting, which happens when a person uses different linguistic features in different situations.

Convergence refers to the shifts people make to their speech to approximate that of those around them. This is an intentionally broad definition meant to encompass all sorts of adjustments, whether intentional or inadvertent, prominent or subtle, or toward entire dialects or particular linguistic features.

You could imitate aspects of speech you actually observe. Or maybe you throw in some words you think kids these days



use, only to have your use of "bae" and "lit" be met with teenage eye rolls.

Code-switching or style-shifting can also be examples of convergence, as long as the shift is toward an interlocutor – the person you're talking to. But people can also shift away from an interlocutor, and this is called "divergence"

Code-switching and style-shifting can occur for other reasons, too, like how you feel, what you're talking about and how you want to be perceived. You might drop your G's more and say things like "thinkin" when reminiscing about a prank you played in high school – but switch to more formal speech when the conversation shifts to a new job you're applying to.

ARE EXPECTATIONS ENOUGH TO ALTER SPEECH?

To determine whether people converge toward particular pronunciations they expect but never actually encounter, I needed to start my investigation with a feature that people would have clear expectations about. I landed on the "I" vowel, as in "time," which in much of the southern U.S. is pronounced more like "Tom." This is called "monophthongization," and it is a hallmark of Southern speech.

I wanted to know whether people would produce a more Southern-like

"I" vowel when they heard someone speak with a Southern accent – and here's the crucial part – even if they never heard how that person actually pronounced "I."

So I designed an experiment, disguised as a guessing game, in which I got more than 100 participants to say a bunch of "I" words.

In the first part of the game, they

read a series of clues on their computer screen – things like, "this U.S. coin is small, silver, and worth 10 cents."

Then they named the word being

Then they named the word being described – "dime!" – and I recorded their speech.

In the second part of the game, I had participants listen to clues read by a noticeably Southern-accented talker and instructed them to respond in the same way. By comparing their speech before and after hearing a Southern accent, I could determine whether they converged

whether they converged.

Using acoustic analysis, which gives us precise measurements of how participants' "I" vowels sound, I observed that Southerners and non-Southerners alike did, in fact, shift their "I" vowels toward a slightly more Southern-like pronunciation when listening to the Southern-accented talker.

They never actually heard how the Southerner produced this vowel,

since none of the clues contained the "I" vowel. This means they were anticipating how this Southerner might say "I," and then converging toward those expectations.

This was pretty clear evidence that people converge not just toward speech they observe but also toward speech they expect to hear.

SOCIAL ASSET OR FAUX PAS? What does this say about he

What does this say about human behavior?

For one, it means that people perceive accents as coherent collections of different linguistic features. Hearing accent features X and Y tells people to expect accent feature Z, because they know X, Y and Z go together.

But it's not just that people passively know things about others' accents. This knowledge can even shape your own speech.

So why does this happen? And how do those on the receiving end perceive it?

First, it's important to point out that convergence is usually very subtle – and there's a reason. Overly exaggerated convergence – sometimes called overaccommodation – can be

perceived as mocking or patronizing. You've probably witnessed people switch to a slower, louder, simpler

speech style when talking to an elderly person or a nonnative speaker. This type of over-the-top convergence is often based on assumptions about limited comprehension – and it can socially backfire.

"Why are they talking to me like I'm a child?" the listener might think. "I understand them just fine."

For expectation-driven convergence – which, by definition, is not rooted in reality – such a faux pas might be even more likely. If you don't have an actual speech target to converge toward, you might resort to inaccurate, simplistic or stereotyped ideas about how someone will speak.

However, subtler shifts – in what might be called the "sweet spot" of convergence – can have a number of benefits, from social approval to more efficient and successful communication.

Consider a toddler who calls their pacifier a "binky." You'd probably be better off asking "where's the binky?" and not "where's the pacifier?"

Reusing the terms our interlocutors use is not just cognitively easier for us – since it takes less effort to come up with a word we just heard – but it often has the added benefit of making communication easier for our partner. The same could be said for using a more familiar pronunciation.

If people can anticipate how someone will speak even sooner – before they utter a word – and converge toward that expectation, communication could, in theory, be even more efficient. If expectations are accurate, expectation-driven convergence could be a social asset.

That's not to say that people necessarily go around consciously making these sorts of calculations. In fact, some explanations for convergence suggest that it is an unintentional, automatic consequence of speech comprehension.

Regardless of why convergence happens, it's clear that even beliefs about others play a major role in shaping the way people use language – for better or for worse.

By arrangements with The Conversation

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Yasin Malik

there was an attempted insurrection by instigating, stone pelting and arson, and a very large-scale violence led to shutting of the government machinery.

He, however, noted that the manner of the commission of crime, the kind of weaponry that was used, led him to a conclusion that the crime in question would fail the test of rarest of rare cases as laid down by the Supreme Court.

The court sentenced the JKLF leader to life in jail for two offences under section 121 (waging war against the Government of India) of IPC and section 17 (raising funds for terrorist act) of the UAPA.

During the hearing, Malik contended he had given up violence in the year 1994.

After the ceasefire in the year 1994, he had declared that he would follow the peaceful path of Mahatma Gandhi and engage in a non-violent political struggle. He has further contended that since then there is no evidence against him that in the last 28 years he had provided any hideout to any militant or had provided any logistic support to any terrorist organisation, the court noted from Malik's submission.

Malik told the court he had met all the prime ministers since the time of V P Singh till Atal Bihari Vajpayee who engaged with him and gave him a political platform.

Government of India had provided him all the platforms to express his opinion in India as well as outside, and government cannot be considered to be a fool to give an opportunity to a person who was engaged in terrorist acts. He has further contended that it has been alleged that he was engaged in acts of violence in the valley post the killing of Burhan Wani.

"However, immediately after the death of Burhan Wani, he was arrested and remained in custody till November 2016. Therefore, he could not have engaged in violent protests, the judge said.

On NIA's submission that Malik was responsible for the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits and their exodus, the judge said since the issue is not before the court and has not been adjudicated upon it cannot allow itself to be swayed by the argument.

I accordingly find that this case does not call for awarding death sentence as demanded, the judge said, rejecting NIA's plea for awarding Malik capital punishment.

On Malik's submission that he gave up the gun in 1994 and, thereafter, he was recognised as a legitimate political player, the judge said, In my opinion, there was no reformation of this

It may be correct that the convict may have given up the gun in the year 1994, but he had never expressed any regret for the violence he had committed prior to the year 1994.

"It is to be noticed that, when he claimed to have given up the path of violence after the year 1994, the government of India took it upon its face value and gave him an opportunity to reform, and in good faith, tried to engage in a meaningful dialogue with him, and as admitted by him, gave him every platform to express his opinion, the judge said

However, the convict did not desist from violence, he noted.

Rather, betraying the good intentions of government he took a different path to orchestrate violence in the guise of political struggle. The convict has claimed that he had followed Gandhian principle of non-violence and was spearheading a peaceful non-violent struggle

"However, the evidence on the basis of which charges were framed and to which convict has pleaded guilty, speaks otherwise, the judge noted.

The entire movement, he said, was planned to be violent.

I must observe here that the convict cannot invoke the Mahatma and claim to be his follower because in Mahatma Gandhi's principles there was no place for violence, howsoever high the objective might be. It only took one small incident of violence at Chauri Chaura for the Mahatma to call off the entire non-cooperation movement," the judge said.

He noted that Malik, despite the largescale of violence engulfing the valley, neither condemned it nor withdrew his calendar of protest.

The judge said, in the present case, the primary consideration for awarding a sentence should be that it should serve as deterrence for those who seek to follow a similar path.

The court awarded Malik 10 year jail term each under sections 120 B (criminal conspiracy), 121-A (conspiracy to wage war against the government of India) of IPC and sections 15 (terrorism), 18 (conspiracy for terrorism) and 20 (being member of terror organisation) of UAPA.

It also awarded five year jail term each under sections 13 (unlawful act), 38 (offence related to membership of terrorism) and 39 (support given to terrorism) of UAPA.

All the sentences will run concurrently. The court premises was under heavy secu-

rity blanket through the day, with police and paramilitary forces standing guard.

Before Malik was brought into the courtoom, personnel from the NIA, the anti-terror federal agency, pressed into service sniffer dogs and conducted a thermal scanning.

After the pronouncement of the sentence. a group of people raised the Indian tricolour and shouted slogans against Malik outside the

In Srinagar a spontaneous shutdown was observed ahead of the court's order.

Most of the shops and business establish-

ments, including in Lal Chowk, were shut. Small protests were witnessed and minor clashes erupted between supporters of Malik, the JKLF chairman, and security forces in Maisuma neighbourhood in Srinagar.

Court Verdict

and separatist feelings, PAGD spokesperson M Y Tarigami said in a statement here.

Besides the life term, Special Judge Praveen Singh on Wednesday awarded varying jail

terms for various offences under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Indian Penal Code to Malik, the chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). All the sentences will run concurrently.

The court also imposed a fine of over Rs 10 lakh on Malik. "Life imprisonment given to Yasin Malik is

unfortunate and a setback to the efforts for peace. We are afraid that this will further compound the uncertainties in the region and will only fuel more alienation and separatist feelings," Tarigami said.

He said the NIA court has delivered its verdict "but not justice".

The PAGD also suggested Malik to avail all legal opportunities to contest the verdict.

Hitting out at the ruling BJP and a section of the media, Tarigami said, "The triumphalism being displayed by the BJP and the corporate media is bound to prove counterproductive."

The PAGD is an alliance of six mainstream political parties, including the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party, in Jammu and Kashmir demanding restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state which was revoked by the Centre on August 5, 2019. The alliance is headed by NC president Farooq Abdullah.

Malik was convicted on May 19 in the case related to funding militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir after he pleaded guilty to all the charges framed against him.

Mobile Internet

internet services were working on fixedline, including fiber and broadband.

The officials said the decision to suspend the mobile internet was taken as a precautionary measure after Malik's sentencing by a court in

Life Comes Full

Mohammad Maqbool Bhat in Delhi's Tihar Jail on February 11, 1984.

After undergoing detention for months together on different occasions, Malik's activities increased after his Tala party was renamed as Islamic Students League (ISL) that campaigned vigorously for Muslim United Front (MUF) candidates in the 1987 assembly elections.

The MUF candidates including Mohammad Yousuf Shah lost the elections amid allegations of mass rigging. Shah alias Syed Sallahuddin is now the supreme commander of banned Hizbul Mujaĥideen based in Pakistancontrolled Kashmir (PcK).

Both Shah and Malik were prominent faces among many others arrested for several months in the aftermath of the elections without a formal charge.

After his release, Malik was among the first batch of youths who crossed the Line of Control (LoC) into PcK for arms training in 1988 to join

Malik along with Hameed Sheikh, Ashfaq Wani and laved Mir formed the core group of the IKLF. While Wani died in a gunfight with security forces in March 1990, Malik was captured in an injured condition in August 1990 and remained imprisoned till May 1994. Sheikh and six other JKLF militants were killed at Ali Kadal in downtown Srinagar on November 19, 1992, while Mir is now heading a separate faction of JKLF.

After his release on bail in May 1994, Malik declared an indefinite unilateral ceasefire to follow non-violent struggle for so-called "independence" of Jammu and Kashmir from both India and Pakistan.

Pakistan-based JKLF founder Amanullah Khan removed Malik as the president of the party in 1995. However, Malik in return expelled Khan from the chairmanship and enloyed support from his party colleagues in Pakistan and abroad.

He joined as a member of the powerful executive body of Hurriyat Conference, an amalgam of various separatist organisations, which was formed in 1993 but adopted a neutral stance when the conglomerate split between hardliners and moderates in September 2003.

He married Mushaal Hussein Mullick, an alumnus of the London School of Economics (LSE), in 2009 and the couple has a 10-yearold daughter, Razia Sultana, who lives with her

mother in Pakistan. Malik had an opportunity to meet world leaders including former prime minister Manmohan Singh and former Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf and also visited the US

for medical treatment in 2001. His sharing a dais with banned Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed at a protest in Islamabad in February 2013 against the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru was widely condemned in India.

He was also part of separatist leaders who visited PcK aboard 'Karvan-e-Aman' (peace caravan), a bus service started as a confidence building measure between the two divided parts of India and Pakistan on April 7, 2005.

Malik, who actively campaigned for boycott of elections, was arrested in 1999 under Public Safety Act (PSA) and released in 2002.

He was also in limelight for a campaign by his group, known as 'Safar-i-Azadi' (journey of freedom), in 2007 to garner support for the right of self-determination for the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

3 Foreign Militants,

was immediately shifted to nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries and attained martyrdom," he said.

The spokesperson said that bodies of all the killed militants were retrieved from the site. He identified the trio as Ali Bhai, Hanief Bhai and Shah Wali all the residents of Pakistan.

All the three, he said, were active in Pattan-Kreeri axis and were being tracked.

"Incriminating materials, huge cache of arms and ammunition and IEDs including 03 AK-47 Rifles, 15 AK-47 Magazines, 344 AK-rounds, 05 Chinese grenades, 03 IEDs have been recovered from the site of encounter," he said.

"All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. In

this regard, Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

The spokesperson further said that searches are on for a suspect who possibly escaped from

Talking to media persons at wreath laying ceremony at District Police Line Baramulla, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, termed the killing of 3 foreign militants as a big success.

Kumar, according to the spokesperson said that the group of militants was on their way to Srinagar for carrying out "terror attacks".

He said the IGP also congratulated the joint forces for their relentless work and great synergy on ground that led to elimination of 22 foreign militants during this year across the valley.

Kumar, he said, also stated that the elimination of foreign militants was top priority as they are responsible for luring the gullible youth to join "terror folds".

Referring to the killing of policeman in Soura on Tuesday, IGP Kashmir said that the two local militants of LeT (TRF) were involved in the incident. He identified them as Adil resident of Ganderbal and a newly recruited Aquib of Chadoora Budgam.

Female TV Artist,

and her 10-year-old nephew Farhan was injured when unknown militants appeared outside her home in Hishroo village of Chadoora on Wednesday evening and opened fire upon them, officials said. In the attack, Ambreen and her nephew sustained gunshot injuries.

Both the injured, officials said, were removed to the nearby Chadoora hospital for treatment. However, Ambreen, who had sustained critical gunshot injuries, was referred to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment. She died on way to the SMHS hospital.

was brought dead," Superintendent of SMHS hospital, Dr. Kanwaljeet Singh said.

The minor boy, according to reports, is being treated at the Chadoora hospital and his condition is stated to be stable.

Soon after the attack, government forces cordoned off the area and launched a a manhunt to nab the attackers.

J&K HC Grants

at length, the High Court bench in its detailed judgement pronounced that "When we view the instant case in the light of settled legal position, we find that the trial Court has not exercised the discretion in consonance with the settled legal principles on grant or refusal of the bail".

The court further observed that the even though the appellant is charged under Section 18 of UAPA Act read with Sections 120-B and 121-A IPC, but no material or evidence is brought on record by the prosecution to sustain the charge.

The order further observed that notwithstanding the investigations being complete and final report already submitted, neither the names of the conspirator are vividly given, nor any evidence of prior concert is indicated anywhere in the final report.

Elaborating further, the judgement says "While most of the statutes require recording of an opinion by the Court that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of the alleged offence, UAPA Act requires recording of an opinion by the Court deciding the bail that there are grounds for believing that accusation against such person is prima facie true. In the instant case the evidence assembled by the Investigating Agency and relied upon by the prosecution to prosecute the appellant even if accepted as it is without any denial or rebuttal by the appellant, is not such on the basis of which the Court can formulate an opinion that the allegations proved during the investigation are prima facie true. The evidence as is gathered by the prosecution is too sketchy to be believed prima facie true, that too, with a view to deny bail to the

With regard to the sedition charges under section 124-A framed against Para, the judgement applies the recent judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of S.G. Vombatkere vs. Union of India, 2022 LiveLaw (SC) 470, whereby the Supreme Court has directed that all the pending trials, appeals and proceedings with respect to the charge framed under Section 124-A of IPC shall be kept in abeyance.

On charges of Sec-38, 39 & 40 of UAPA which relates to membership of a terrorist organisation and raising funds for a terrorist organisation, the court was of the view that just because it is alleged that Para was seen in the company of one Yousuf Gadoora, an over ground worker of a proscribed outfit the final report has nothing believable on record to demonstrate that the appellant has supported any terrorist organization with an intention to further activities of such organization.

The court further elaborated that simply because the appellant has been seen on some occasions with a person with doubtful credentials cannot itself lead to the conclusion that the appellant is either a member of a terrorist organization or is lending support to such organization with an intention to further its activities and in no way goes on to attract the stringent UAPA laws.

Keeping in view the totality of circumstances, the court accordingly allowed his appeal and consequently set aside the order dated 20.07.2021 passed by the Special Judge, NIA Srinagar, and admitted Para to bail in connection with FIR No.31/2020 registered in Police Station, CIK Srinagar on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh with a surety of like amount.

The court also directed the Superintendent, Central Jail, Srinagar, to release Para, provided he is not involved in any other case.

Mehbooba, Lone

November 2020 by the National Investigation Agency in a militancy-related case.

Finally after almost two years, Waheed Para gets bail & I hope he walks out as a free man soon. Would like to thank his lawyer Shariq for fighting his case with such conviction & determination, Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone described the bail order as a good news.

What a good news that Waheed Parra has been granted bail. My ex jail mate and youthful friend. He has been through tough times. I am so happy for him and his family. May Allah bless him, Lone said in a tweet.

Lone and Para, along with others, were detained at a SKICC which had been turned into a sub-jail in the wake of the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

Affordable Healthcare

dedication and compassion.
"Nursing staff is the backbone of the healthcare sector. They are well trained to provide different levels of care in preventive, diagnostic and curative health services," Sinha said.

The LG, he said, highlighted the efforts of the government to transform the health sector in J&K and said that in the last three years, the administration has made adequate investment for medical education and training to protect and promote people's health.

As per the spokesperson, the LG observed that the lamp lighting and oath-taking ceremony is a perfect tribute to "Florence Nightingale"- the founder of modern nursing and congratulated the management, faculty and staff of College of Nursing on the occasion

Sinha, he said, also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for making sincere efforts to develop a strong healthcare ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

"People of J&K were deprived of basic health services for decades. Two AIIMS, two cancer institutes, seven new medical colleges, 15 new nursing colleges, and thousands of health and wellness centers, besides universal health insurance coverage for up to Rs. 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat-SEHAT have ensured that I&K has the best health care facilities," the LG

The LG, according to the spokesperson also appreciated the management of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Hospital for extending quality medical facilities to the people and creating a special 40-bedded ward for the treatment of SEHAT beneficiaries.

"He further highlighted various measures being taken by the Government for the welfare and better health of all sections of the society, especially those living in the remote & farflung areas," he said.

Sinha, he said, also also recalled many initiatives taken by the Shrine Board including online darshan, home delivery of Prasad, Call Centre, E-Library, Hi-tech Video Wall, Helicopter Service, Battery Car Service, Passenger Ropeway, Pony Service, besides water conservation and sanitation measures.

"The projects like Durga Bhavan, Sky Walk, RFID Project, Theme Park, and Shankaracharya Temple will make the pilgrimage of devotees of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi more convenient and memorable," the LG said, as per the official spokesperson.

On the occasion, he said, the LG presented awards to the best-performing students of SMVDCoN and SMVD Gurukul who excelled in academics and co-curricular activities during the past two years.

The spokesperson said that Suresh Kumar Sharma (Retd. Judge), Member of the Shrine Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the Nursing College, in his welcome address highlighted the achievements of the College in academics and extra-curricular activities. besides 100% placement of the passing out students in various renowned institutions.

"Earlier, on his arrival at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, the Lt Governor inaugurated a new 45-bedded General Ward of the hospital equipped with latest medical equipments and dedicated the facility to public," he added.

Banihal's 'Miracle

was admitted to the Srinagar hospital on Monday soon after she was found breathing, Choudhary told PTI.

"She was a premature baby, had low birth weight with respiratory distress and was admitted in the ICU at the hospital," he said.

The baby belonged to Basharat Ahmad Guiiar and Shameema Begum, who had a normal delivery on Monday morning at the sub-district hospital in Banihal, Jammu.

The baby was declared dead after being born, following which her family decided to bury her at Hollan village. However, when they were returning to the

hospital, local people objected to the burial, forcing the family to dig out the grave nearly an hour later. When the baby was taken out of the grave, she was found to be alive, and the family

rushed her to the medical facility, from where she was referred to Srinagar for specialised treatment The incident sparked protests by the family and others inside the hospital complex against

the "non-professional attitude of the doctors and the hospital staff". Banihal Block Medical Officer Dr Rabia Khan said an inquiry has been ordered into the

"We have already placed a junior staff nurse and sweeper working in the gynaecology section under suspension with immediate effect,

pending an inquiry," she said. Station House Officer of Banihal police station Muneer Ahmad Khan said an open FIR under relevant sections of the law has already been registered in connection with the incident.

"We are waiting for the outcome of the investigation ordered by the government and will act accordingly," he said.

The Directorate of Health Services, Jammu,

had on Tuesday constituted a four-member panel to probe a complaint against the Banihal community health centre where the newborn was allegedly wrongly declared dead just after

Headed by Sanjay Turkey, Assistant Director (Schemes), DHS Jammu, the committee has been asked to submit its report within two

Education Dept

books and notebooks to be brought to school on a particular day and frequently check their bags to ensure that they are not carrying unnecessary material, it directed.

The weight of the school bags, as per the policy, should be 1.6 to 2.2 kg for students of Classs I and II, 1.7 to 2.5 kg for Classes III, IV and V, 2 to 3 kg for Classes VI and VII, 2.5 to 4 kg for Class VIII, 2.5 to 4.5 kg for Classes IX and X and 3.5 to 5 kg for Classes XI and XII, the department said.

There should be no bag for KG classes and the teachers should take the responsibility of checking the weight of school bags of the students and any information about heavy bags should be communicated to the parents to re-

duce the weight of the school bag, it said. The department said it is the duty and the responsibility of the school management to provide quality potable water in sufficient quantity to all the students in the school so that they do not need to carry water bottles from their homes.

The files and thin/light exercise books should be preferred to thick/heavy ones, it said, adding, the instructions shall be strictly adhered to.

Central Forces Shifting

further said that earlier CRPF used to pay rent for possession of a place allotted to it by the J&K

Police on source basis. "There are certain limitations imposed by the centre on expenditure for developing the infrastructure of any battalion which is living on the rental basis. But now, several CRPF battalions which are living on a rental basis in North, South or Central Kashmir will have their own space without any rental charges. So, these locations have been identified and bought for CRPF to enhance the housekeeping and proper development of resources. After the completion of work, the CRPF will vacate the old rental places and shift to the new permanent address in its place of operations," the PRO

The CISF is responsible for security at airports and vital installations in Jammu and Kashmir and was planning to set up a zonal headquarters in the erstwhile state. Similarly, the CRPF is in charge of counter-insurgency operations along with the Army and the J&K Police. Besides this, CRPF has also been given access to more than 737 properties in J&K by the local administration over the years to station its men and perform its duties, for which it pays rent.

The 737 properties under CRPF's possession are residences of Kashmiri Pandits, hotels, cinema halls, agricultural land, industrial units, orchards, a school and a hospital as well, according to data shared by the force in March this year.

As per the data, 265 were private buildings, 333 government buildings, 26 industrial units & factories, 30 hotels, 71 agricultural land, 8 orchards, 2 cinema halls, one hospital and one Notably, in October last year, the

Administrative Council of Jammu and Kashmir chaired by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had approved the transfer of state land for various purposes including 65.5 acres of land transferred in favor of the CRPF. The approval was given to transfer of 524 kanal 11 marla of land in favour of CRPF for

setting up battalion camping sites at different eight villages in Anantnag, Shopian and Pulwama districts of south Kashmir. However, in November same year, the CRPF wrote to the MHA seeking to expedite the transfer of allotting 65.5 acres of land in J&K.

Asserting its need of maintaining law & order,

the force had also requested for more land. **Soldier Injured**

The injured soldier, reports said, was airlifted to the army's Command Hospital in

Udhampur for treatment. J&K Logs Five

4,49,401, officials said. The COVID-19 death toll stands at 4,752. No Covid-related fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, they said.

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

Youth Killed After

Dali kalakote died on the spot while another person Sanjay Kumar, 38, son Chaman Lal of Salyar Kalakote was injured and removed to GMC&AH Rajouri by the locals and police team. A police officer told a local news agency GNS that a case has been registered and further investigations taken up.

Govt Job For

handed over the appointment letter to his daughter Shivani Kumari under SRO 43, an official said.

Earlier, Kundal had provided ex-gratia assistance of Rs 1 lakh to Singh's family.

The official said the district administration is in constant touch with the victim's family for any kind of assistance.

On May 17, a burga-clad militant walked up to a newly-opened wine shop at Dewan Bagh in Baramulla and dropped a grenade inside through the porthole window, causing an explosion that killed Singh and left three others iniured.

BSF Officer Dies

to a heart attack. The deceased has been identified as 55-year old Vinod Kumar. (KNT)

1500 College Girls From J&K To Get Scholarships In Data Science, AI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: 1500 girl students from degree colleges across Jammu and Kashmir will be awarded scholarships to help them undertake high-quality and tech-driven online skilling programmes in cutting edge technologies like Digital Marketing and Data Science with Artificial Intelligence, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

He said that a proposal to this effect was jointly agreed upon by the Higher Education Department J&K and the upGrad Foundation - the philanthropic and not-for-profit division of Edtech company upGrad. The upGrad Foundation will be supporting this initiative through its 100 per cent fee waiver for tech driven programmes to help deserving and shortlisted female learners through its social impact initiative – Vidya Shakti Scholarships.

However, the initiative will not be confined only to online courses and scholarships but will aim to deliver an all-encompassing education experience with added benefits like one-on-one mentoring and learning and guidance through webinars and talks.

It will also offer strong placement support in the form of internships and job opportunities facilitated by the upGrad Foundation for enabling positive career outcomes for the learners. The initiative will educate and empower female learners coming from underserved sections and marginalised backgrounds and connect them with role models to guide and inspire them to follow in their footsteps. It will also provide 70 per cent scholarship for reputed PG courses in Management and Executive PG programme in Human Resource Management.

While access to Higher Education and focus on skills are among the major goals of the National Education Policy 2020, substantially increasing the number of youths with relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship will also significantly contribute towards the achievement versities as mentor institutions to Goals (SDGs), 2030.

With females being hit the hardest by the pandemic, the girl students especially in remote areas were facing challenges in terms of higher education and employment. The support of the upGrad Foundation in getting women learners to access the mainstream job market through digitization and upskilling will be a tremendous boost. The said initiative is initially being introduced in 16 col-

leges but can be expanded later on. This is one of the many initiatives of the Higher Education Department to improve access to quality education, skills and knowledge to remote and distant areas and especially to girl children. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Rohtak is already running an Entrepreneurial Internship programme focused on women learners for Jammu and

The department too is also promoting skilling initiatives on a large scale and has integrated skill education seamlessly with mainstream education. Add on skill courses will now be offered as 30 credit integrated courses in 12+ 18 format wherein 12 credits will be either embedded or as add on component while as 18 credits will be offered as Skill training by respective Sector Skill Councils under the certification of NSDC.

Infrastructure in the HEIs has been created in a Skill development infrastructure in the Higher Educational Institutions of J&K has been created in a Hub and Spoke Model and 15 Hub and 75 Spoke centers stand already established with a seed money of Rs. 10.00 Crore. The domains offered include Electronics, Computers & T , Horticulture , Agriculture, Phar-

macy, Paramedical, Food Science Technology, Fashion Technology, Epiculture, Sericulture, Veterinary Sciences, Financial Management, Engineering, etc.

The department is also planning to set up 15 centres for Innovation and Incubation to encourage start ups and help incubate promising ideas. It is also setting up Research and Innovation hubs in colleges and designating uni-Sustainable Development create an ecosystem of research and innovation

AG Reviews Progress Of Pending Litigation Cases Before HC, **Tribunals & Other Courts**

Observer News Service

al, J&K, D.C. Raina on Wednesday ernment intentions and highreviewed the progress/ status of pending litigation cases before ernment to reduce the litigation High Court of Jammu Kashmir and overcome the difficulties and Ladakh and Tribunals and for timely responses before the other courts during a meeting courts and implementation of held at Conference Room of Ad- the court directives in its right vocate Generals Organization, perspective. High Court Complex, here.

The meeting was attended by Achal Sethi, Secretary, Law Justice, Parliamentary Affairs the Govt. Counsels, the Advo-Department. The other partici- cate General issued certain dipants in the meeting were Addl. Advocate Generals, Deputy Advocate Generals, Government tive, transparent and responsive Advocates, Director Litigation work culture and to overcome Kashmir/ Jammu, Officers and the difficulties on this score. officials of Srinagar Wing.

The Advocate General took stock of the position in detail in /Govt. Counsels team and the the pretext of the National Law Policy and the directives of Ad- make a joint coordinated effort ministrative Secretary of Union to achieve the desired results Law Ministry and to ensure the for timely filing of replies and valuable observations of Chief to avoid personal appearances Justice with regard to ensuring of Government officers and better system of contesting the contempt petitions by timely pending court cases with due implementation of the orders/ Interests of the Government.

The meeting was also addressed by the Secretary Law, lighted programmes of the Gov-

After threadbare discussions, suggestions, problems faced by the Law Officers, as put forth by rections on the spot to ensure a better working system for effec-

It was also emphasised by the chair that the Law Officers Government officers have to rules on the subject matter.

Protesters In Jammu Seek Relocation Of KP Employees From Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A group of Kashmiri Pandits staged a demonstrasupport of the demand for the relocation of the community members employed in Kashmir under the prime minister's package, who are on protest following the killing of their colleague, Rahul Bhat, by terrorists earlier this month.

The protesters assembled under the banner of the newlyformed Kashmiri Pandits United Front (KPUF) in front of the statue of Maharaja Hari Singh, near the Tawi bridge in the heart of Jammu, raising slogans against the Jammu and Kashmir administration and demand-

"We have come here to support the protesting prime minister's package employees who tion here on Wednesday in are demanding their relocation till the situation improves in the valley," KPUF convenor Satish Kissu, a retired government officer, said.

He said the demand of the Pandit employees is genuine, keeping in mind the killing of Bhat, who was shot dead inside his office in broad daylight in the Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on

security situation in the valdent from the latest killing of

Amid anti-Pakistan and pro-India sloganeering, the protesters accused the government of holding the prime minister's package employees hostage in the valley.

"Bhat's killing was the result of the administration's failure He was killed because of a security lapse as his killers walked into his office and fled the scene without facing any resistance after killing him. The incident has sparked panic among the community," KPUF spokesperson Kuldeep Pandita said.

He alleged that successive Condemning targeted kill- governments used the Kashings by terrorists, Kissu said the miri Pandits as "scapegoats" and said, "We are not ready to ley is not conducive, as is evi-tolerate atrocities against our community anymore and will ing security to the community a policeman and injuries to his continue our protest to ensure members serving in the val-ley under the prime minister's house in Srinagar on Tuesday. the relocation of the prime minister's package employees."

No End To Bloodshed Till Govt Stops Its Muscular Policy: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday compared the judiciaries of India and Pakistan saying while six people accused in a lynching case were sentenced to death in the neighbouring country, people accused of the same crime here were released on bail and

In Pakistan, one man was lynched. They sentenced six to death and 12 others were Akhlaqs have been lynched here so far since 2015? No one

Forget about being punished, how this country is being run. the accused are garlanded. That is the difference between this judiciary and that judiciary, she said.

Interacting with the media, stoking communal sentiments. Muslims? she asked.



They don't have jobs for the youth, the price rise is uncontrollable and people are finding it difficult to get two square given life sentence. How many meals. They had said they will put Rs 15 lakh in people's ac-

In such a situation, targetof worship and raising Hindupeople of the country except what do you want to do with

Asked about the recent spate of killings in Kashmir, Mehbooba said unless the government stopped its muscular policy she does not see an end to the bloodshed.

They said once Article 370 goes, there will be no strike or killings. Why are people being killed now? What is the security forces doing? Unless they stop the policy of arrests and harassment, bloodshed in Kashmir won't stop, she added.

When asked about the impending verdict on JKLF chief Yasin Malik who is likely to get count. Instead they snatched a life sentence in a terror case, has been punished, Mehbooba food grain from the farmers at Mufti said Jammu and Kashmir told reporters in Kulgam after a cheap rate and distributed five is a political issue and such inkg free to each family. That's cidents in the past have been unable to resolve the problem.

People (from Kashmir) have ing Muslims and their places been hanged before as well but it has not resolved the issue. It Muslim issues is all they have. has only become more comthe former chief minister of However, I want to tell them if plex, I think the consequences Jammu and Kashmir said the you have any prescription like and results of adopting a mus-BJP has nothing to give to the Hitler, let it be known for all, cular policy will not be good. It will be contrary to expectations, she added.

'Faith Healer', Two Others Arrested After Woman's Death In Shopian

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A "faith healer" two other persons by police in was beaten up last night in the She was subsequently evacusouth Kashmir district, officials ated to District Hospital Kulgam said on Wednesday.

Quoting a police official, news official said. agency GNS reported that the

Hanjipora Kulgam, was beaten "apparent to exorcise some evil where she breathed her last, the

woman, Souby Jan wife of Muz- fied as Zakir Ahmad Naik of Sanzafar Ahmad Sheikh of Damhal gand Qazigund, police have arrested the husband of the deceased has been arrested along with up by the "faith healer" last night, woman. The other person arrested is said to be the disciple of the 'faith Shopian following the death spirit" at the her parental home healer' but official confirmation of a woman allegedly after she in Hanjipora Kachdoora Shopian. was awaited. All three of them are very young men, the official said.

> SP Shopian Tanushree when contacted confirmed the arrest of the 'faith healer' and said that fur-Besides the 'faith healer' identither investigations are underway.

RETIRAL BENEFITS To 389 'JKSRTC' EMPLOYEES

HC Warns 'Contempt' Proceedings Against Transport, Finance Secretaries

and Ladakh has given "last and fi-Transport and Finance Departments to comply with its 27 January 2021 verdict by virtue of 389 employees of erstwhile IKSRTC were held entitled to retiral benefits.

The High Court had passed the verdict, to be complied with within four months, on a petition filed by All J&K Workers Union SRTC through its Coordinator on behalf of 389 of its members mostly comprising Sweepers, Helpers, Cleaners, Bus Washers, Assistant Fitters, Fitters, Conductors and Drivers, seeking a direction to the officials to treat them as Government employees and, consequently, entitled to retiral benefits including gratuity, pension etc. as extended to employees who were earlier working in the erstwhile Government Transport Undertaking like JKI and other Corporations.

When the judgment was not complied with within the stipua as to why they be not punished for lated period, the All J&K Workers committing contempt of Court." Union SRTC was "constrained" to file the contempt petition.

Subsequently, the court issued notice to respondents in particular Commissioner Secretary to the Department of Transport.

"The Commissioner Secretary Transport came up with the plea that with a view to implement the judgment in its letter and spirit, the Department of Transport would require some to the Government Department money for which, it was claimed, the matter had been taken up with the Finance Department," a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar

Noticing the stand of the Commissioner Secretary, the court **SRINAGAR:** The High Court of J&K said that "one last opportunity of three weeks" was granted to nal opportunity" to Secretaries of both the Transport Department and the Finance Department to comply with the judgment or else Commissioner Secretaries were directed to appear in person on the next date (21 May 2022).

"Today the position remains the same and the judgment of this Court is not complied with nor has the Secretary to the Govt. Department of Transport or the Secretary to the Govt. Department of Finance come present," the court said as per an order, adding, "From the conduct of respondents (The Secretaries) it clearly transpires that these officers perhaps treat themselves above law and appear to be of the opinion that they are accountable to none."

In view of the above, the court said that it is of the considered view that it is a fit case for "framing Robkar and issuing show cause notice to both the Commissioner /Secretaries to show cause

However, on request of government advocate Sajad Ashraf, the court said, "one more opportunity is granted in the interest of justice to both the Secretaries to enable them to sit together and comply with the judgment by 27th May, 2022."

"It is made clear in case the judgment is not complied with, both the Secretaries i.e. Secretary of Transport and Secretary to the Government Department of Finance, shall appear in person on the next date," the court said and listed it on May 27. (GNS)

DIPR Employees Condole Demise Of Colleague's Mother

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Information and Public Relations, Akshay Labroo and the employees of department on Tuesday con-Assistant, who passed away af-

lences with the official, the Di- added

rector prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss, an official spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the employees doled the demise of mother of also expressed their deepest Mohammad Shafi, Information condolences with the official and prayed for peace to the departed soul and courage for While extending his condo- the family to bear this loss, he

ICAR Grants 'Grade A' Accreditation To SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The SKUAST-Kashmir added one more feather to its cap with its accreditation as "Grade-A" University by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, (ICAR), New Delhi. The accreditation process was

initiated immediately after taking- programmes and 22 Doctoral proover the reins of the varsity as Vice-Chancellor in December, 2021, a SKUAST spokesperson said. He said that all Directors and Deans of Subject Matter Faculties were mentioned in the accreditation process. Self-Study Report was followed by assessment by the "Peer Review Team" under the Chairmanship of Prof. A.K. Singh, former Vice -ChancellorBAU, Sabour (Bihar).

"The team conducted extensive visits of all the colleges for the campus ambience, availability of the physical infrastructure, strengths and weakand availability of the quality human the vision of SKUAST-Kashmir (Vi- in by the University Teaching & Nonsion-2050) withregard to orientation teaching staff and the students.

of its education programmes amid changing national and global scenarios," he said.

He further said that the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB), has granted accreditation to 06 undergraduate programmes, 31 postgraduate grammes offered by the University at

its 06 Academic Campii. Earlier on SKUAST-Kashmir has been rated as 6th best SAU in the Country by ICAR. Ministry of Education has rated SKUAST-Kashmir in "Band Excellent" category of institutions in innovations. The University is also the recipient of 2nd best in number of scholarships received by its students in Veterinary & Fisheries

The spokesperson said that the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai has expressed satisfaction nesses of the academic programmes over accreditation of the University with "Grade-A" and attributed this resource. The team critically observed achievement to the hard work put

J&K Received Investment Proposals Worth Rs 51000 Cr: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government receiving proposals worth over Rs 51000 cr for investment is a candid reflection of an alluring investment friendly environment in the Union Territory after the launch of New Central Sector scheme for industrial development here, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

He said that the J&K administration in January last year announced a new industrial developmental scheme with an outlay of Rs 28,400 crore to encourage new investment and take industrial development to the block level.

He said that the new policy, which will be applicable till 2037, also paved the way for bigger investors to

'These potential proposals are esti-

mated to generate 2.37 lakh employments', the official said, adding that the clearance process of these proposals has already been fast tracked.

The new central sector scheme provides four types of incentives including Capital Investment Incentive, Capital Interest Subvention, Goods & Services Tax Linked Incentive and Working Capital Interest Subvention.

Moreover, in order to boost industrial development in UT, the government of J&K has also notified the J&K Industrial Policy, J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy and J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has said that "Jammu & Kashmir, nestling in the lap of Himalayas, is on a mission to be country's fastest growing region. Government's prime objective is to extend trust with business conglomerate and strengthen existing regulatory policies to attract investments benefiting Citizens.'

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir had signed six agreements that will bring investments in the Union Territory's real estate, infrastructure, tourism, healthcare and manpower employment sectors among others at Dubai Expo 2020. Several UAE based businesses signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Jammu & Kashmir which included Al Maya Group, MATU Investments LLC, GL Employment Brokerage LLC, Century Financial, and Noon E-commerce. One Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed with Magna Waves Private Limited, Emaar Group and Lulu International.

Speaking at the Investors Summit in Dubai on January 6, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, said that Jammu and Kashmir has transitioned from a dormant commercial destination to a region of opportunity and investment. In 2021, the Union Territory got \$2.5 billion (approximately Rs 18,568 crore) investments demonstrating the region's vast opportunities and business potential.

For economic empowerment of Jammu and Kashmir, a 36-member business delegation from UAE visited Kashmir Valley to explore business opportunities. An official said around 70 thousand crore investment is expected to come from foreign investors.

The business community of Jammu and Kashmir welcomed the step saying it will be a start of a new era of economic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Recently, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, during his visit to the UT remarked that Kashmir has become an "attraction for investors" both in India and internationally after abrogation of Article 370.

"After abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the way Kashmir has become an attraction for investors both in India and internationally was evident when a high-level delegation from UAE came to Jammu and Kashmir for investments," Goyal stated.

"In fact, one of the MoUs was signed during my earlier visit also when I was there with LG Manoj Sinha in Kashmir. It seems that a whole host of investors had the benefit of visiting Jammu and Kashmir experiencing the beauty glory and offerings of the Union Territory," the Union Minister maintained.

He asserted that "rapid and enormous" progress will be there in Jammu and Kashmir in the years to come

given huge thrust by the Government of India to promote investments in the Union Territory.

It is important to note that Titans of India's Real Estate Sector, including promoters in Residential, Retail and Commercial space, Entertainment Industry, Tourism and Hospitality, Logistics and Warehousing and Financing Institutions came together for growth of I&K at the first-ever 'Real Estate Summit-2021.

In presence of Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Union MoS, Dr. Jitendra Singh 39 MoUs worth Rs 18,300 crore were signed to foster growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir. It included investments in the residential, commercial, infrastructure and film sectors.

Hockey India Placed Under CoA For Sports Code Violations



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday placed Hockey India under a threemember Committee of Administrators (CoA) to run its day-today affairs after observing that the sports body has violated the National Sports Code.

The HC ruling came on a petition filed by former India player Aslam Sher Khan, who had challenged Indian Olympic Asso-ciation (IOA) President Narinder Batra's appointment as life member of Hockey India.

The HC held that HI's appointment of Batra as 'Life Member' and Elena Norman as CEO were illegal under the Sports Code.

Making a reference to the Supreme Court case relating to All India Football Federation (AIFF), the HC constituted a committee, which will be headed by former Supreme Court judge AR Dave and will have former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi and former Indian hockey team captain Zafar Iqbal as members.

....it would be in the public interest that its affairs be put in the hands of a Committee of Administrators (CoA) as has been directed by the Supreme Court on 18th May 2022, in the case of another NSF in All India Football

Federation...," the HC said. of R-2 (Hockey India) is, erro- should not suffer."

neously or illegally constituted because of the Life President and Life Members," the HC bench of Justices Najmi Wajiri and Swarana Kanta Sharma said in its

"The Government of India cannot grant recognition to a NSF whose constitution is not in consonance with the Sports Code. The posts of Life President, Life Member in the NSF are illegal so is the post of CEO in the Managing Committee. These posts are struck-down.'

The HC said all such references in Constitution/Memorandum of Association of Hockey India will have to be removed.

"As noted hereinabove, the mere presence of some persons in a Society as a such Member or in a meeting, albeit without voting rights can influence independent decision-making and election process.

"Till such time it is brought in consonance with the Sports Code and as interpreted by this court, its affairs cannot be left in the hands of persons who have no legitimacy.

"In the absence of a Managing Committee, elected under a constitution strictly in consonance with the Sports Code and the court judgments, the interests of hockey, its development and the sentiments of the hockey-play-...the administrative setup ers, aspirants and enthusiasts

Chessable Masters: R Praggnanandhaa Becomes **First Indian To Reach Final**

Stuns Anish Giri, to meet Ding Liren in final

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Young Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian player to reach the final of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour Chessable Masters tournament after he held his nerve to outwit Dutch GM Anish Giri 3.5-2.5 on Wednesday.

The Indian chess star defeated the highly-rated Giri, pipping the Dutchman in the tiebreak after the four-game rapid online semifinal For the top prize, Praggnanadhaa ren of China, who shocked world No.1 Magnus Carlsen 2.5-1.5 in the other semifinal clash.

semifinal ended in a tame draw tage but the Indian held firm and before the 16-year-old Prag- a draw ensued sending the teengnanandhaa pulled off a win in age ace into the summit clash. the second to hand Giri his first defeat of the tournament.

In the third game, the expe-



have seized the upper-hand but Praggnanandhaa, as he is known in chess circles, fought hard to force a draw to go 2-1 up.

Staring defeat in the face, Giri it back to win the fourth game match ended in a 2-2 stalemate. to send the semifinal clash into the tie-break. The Dutchman falwill take on world No.2 Ding Li-tered in the first blitz game and surrendered it in 33 moves in an Italian Opening encounter.

In the second tie-break game, The opening game of the Giri managed to gain an advan-

The match ended late at night after which Praggnandhaa said, "I have to be at school around rienced Dutch player looked to 8.45 AM, and now it is 2 AM!"

Neeraj Chopra To Train In Finland: SAI



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is set to switch his training base from Turkey to Finland which will host the Paavo Nurmi Games, where he will square off against

Johannes Vetter on June 14.
The 24-year-old Indian, who is currently training at Turkey's Gloria Sports Arena, is scheduled to fly out on Thursday to train in Finland's Kuortane Olympic Training Centre till June 22. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) said the "four-week training camp has been sanctioned by the government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and would cost the sport ministry Rs

9.8 lakhs approximately." "From Kuortane, Neeraj will then head out to Turku to participate in the Paavo Nurmi Games, followed by Kuortane Games and Eugene, USA.

then Diamond League in Stockholm," SAI said in a release. "The finance would be used towards expenditure for Neeraj and his coach Klaus Bartonietz's travel, accommodation, training, local travel, and daily out-of-pocket allowance among other expenditures."

Neeraj, who has a personal best of 88.07m and won gold in Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58m, will be taking the field for the first time in 10 months when he competes at the Paavo Nurmi Games, which the one of the biggest track and field events outside the Diamond League.

His next event will be on June 18 at Kuortane Games in Finland where he had finished third last year. He is planning to feature in the top-flight Diamond League Meeting in Stockholm on June 30 before heading for the July 15-24 World Championships in



DAVID MILLER AND HARDIK PANDYA of Gujarat Titans celebrate after winning their Indian Premier League 2022 Qualifier 1 match against Rajasthan Royals, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Test Rankings: Kohli, Rohit, **Ashwin Retain Top-10 Spots**



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Bangladesh's Liton Das and Sri Lankan veteran Angelo Mathews have made valuable gains in the ICC Men's Test Rankings after fine performances in the drawn first match while there has been no movement in latest top-10 list issued by the world body.

In the batter's list buschagne maintained his pole position while India captain Rohit Sharma and his predecessor Virat has lifted him five places to 21st ress nine places to 53rd. Kohli remained static at eighth among batters in the list led by and 10th place respectively.

Jasprit Bumrah.

Îndia's Ravindra Jadeja also remained on top of the allrounders' table. With only Sri Lanka and Bangladesh engaged in a WTC series, it was inevitable that players from those two nations earned points.

Wicketkeeper-batter gladesh's only innings, while Player of the Match Mathews' Australia's Labuschagne.

Similarly in bowling, Pat Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Cummins (901 points) has a Iqbal are other Bangladesh batest rival Ravichandran Ashwin, weekly rankings update after who is followed by countryman scoring centuries that took Ban- Cummins.

gladesh to a total of 465.

Mushfiqur, who notched 105, is up four places to 25th, while Tamim has gained six places to reach 27th position following his innings of 133.

In the rankings for bowlers, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Liton Al Hasan has inched up one has moved up three places to place to 29th after finishing with 17th after notching 88 in Ban- four wickets in the match, while off-spinner Naveem Hasan's career-best figures of six for 105 knock of 199 in the first innings in the first innings see him prog-

Sri Lanka medium-fast bowler Kasun Rajitha has moved Mushfigur Rahim and Tamim from 75th to 61st after taking four wickets and Asitha Fer-51-point lead over his near- ters to advance in the latest nando is now in the top 100 of the list led by Australia captain

Australia Players Raise Concerns About Touring Sri Lanka During Crisis



Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Australia's squad have raised ethical concerns about their upcoming tour of Sri Lanka with the island nation in the midst of an economic cri-Australia (CA) CEO Todd Greenberg said.

Sri Lanka is reeling under its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948, with a severe shortage of foreign ex- of discomfort around touring in as well as two tests in Galle.

change severely curtailing imports, including essentials such as fuel and medicines.

Demonstrations have roiled the country since late March, and violence broke out two weeks ago after clashes besis but will back a decision to tween government supportgo ahead with the visit, Cricket ers and protesters in Colombo arrangements and planning." sparked further incidents across the country that left nine people dead and about 300 in-

conditions that contrast those faced by the people of Sri Lanka, such as rising food prices, power cuts and fuel rationing.

"Ultimately our players want to continue to play cricket and will take direction, guidance and advice from CA about tour

Australia have announced three strong squads for the seven-week tour in June and July, which includes a Twenty20 se-"It's fair to say there is a level ries, five one-day internationals

Mohamed Salah On Revenge Mission In Champions League Final



Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Mohamed Salah could easily have given the kind of diplomatic answer trotted out by most soccer players.

He just couldn't.

Was there a preference, Salah was asked minutes after Liverpool reached the Champions League final three weeks ago, over which team he faced in the title match in suburban Paris? "Yes," Salah said, stretching his neck and turning his head from lock. As it stands, Salah has one side to side as if he was limbering up for another game.

"I want to play Madrid."
Salah clearly hasn't forgotten what went down in the 2018 final against Real Madrid in Kyiv. That painful moment in the first half when he tussled with Sergio Ramos and landed heavily on the ground, dislocating his left shoulder. Some likened it to a wrestling-style maneuver by the not asking for "crazy stuff" and wily Ramos, who appeared to pin Salah's right arm and roll the forward down to the turf.

Salah left the field in tears and watched the remainder of the match on TV in the locker room as Liverpool, deprived of its most likely scorer, lost 3-1.

Four years later and Ramos is no longer at Madrid, with the Spain great having just reached the end of an injury-ravaged first season at Paris Saint-Germain.

That didn't stop Salah from posting "we have a score to settle" on Twitter after Madrid

second-leg comeback against Manchester City in the semifi-

think it is revenge time," Salah has said in another interview about facing Madrid. The man is on a mission.

Maybe in more ways than one. After all, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that this is the last final he plays for Liverpool, given he has yet to sign a new deal with the club. Negotiations seemingly are at a deadyear left on his contract and he is free to talk to other clubs in Ianuary.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has appeared sanguine about the whole thing, but he like the club's fans — must be getting slightly concerned about a potential parting of ways. Money is not the issue, according to Salah, who has said he is simply wants to be appreciated for all he has done for the club.

Liverpool has moved to futureproof its attack by signing three forwards over the last two years Diogo Jota in August 2020, Luis Diaz in January and one for the long term in Fabio Carvalho from Fulham this week.

Salah has just finished a Premier League season as the top scorer, either outright or tied, for the third time in his five years at Liverpool, sharing the Golden Boot award with Tottenham forward Son Heung-min with 23 joined Liverpool in Saturday's goals. Salah had the most assists, final by producing that amazing too, with 13.

UK Govt Approves Sale Of Chelsea

Agencies

LONDON: Roman Abramovich's 19 years as Chelsea owner is closer to ending after the British government approved the sale of the Premier League club by the sanctioned Russian oligarch to a consortium fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly.

The government had to be sure that Abramovich, who was sanctioned over his links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, did not profit from the enforced sale of the club that his investment turned into one of the most successful in European football. The reigning FIFA Club World

Cup winners and 2021 European champions will be sold for 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion) — the highest price ever for a sports team — once Premier League approval is granted. Chelsea has been operating

under a government license since Abramovich's assets were frozen in March and it expires on May 31. "Following extensive work,

we are now satisfied that the full proceeds of the sale will not benefit Roman Abramovich or any other sanctioned individual," the British government said in a has minority stakes in the NBA's statement released Wednesday. Los Angeles Lakers and WNBA's

cess of ensuring the proceeds of the sale are used for humanitarian causes in Ukraine, supporting victims of the war.

'The steps today will secure the future of this important cultural asset and protect fans and the wider football community." It was a hotly-contested sale process following Russia's invasion of Ukraine three months ago and Boehly's group had to guarantee 1.75 billion pounds (\$2.2 billion) of investment in the team to be chosen as the new owners. The \$3.1 billion cost of Chelsea eclipses the \$2.3 billion paid in 2018 for the NFL's Carolina Panthers.

As well as being part owner of the MLB's Dodgers, Boehly also "We will now begin the pro- Los Angeles Sparks.

Albania Police Deport Dozens Of Football Fans After Clashes

Agencies

TIRANA: Dozens of football fans have been deported back to Italy following violent clashes in Tirana ahead of Wednesday's Europa Conference League final, Albania's deputy head of police said.

Italian club Roma will face Dutch team Feyenoord in the match at the 20,000-capacity National Arena. Two separate groups of Dutch and Italian fans clashed with police on Tuesday in the city, injuring 19 officers and five Albanian civilians. One police officer was injured from a

knife attack, authorities said. Three Italian fans and two Dutch supporters were also injured.

On Wednesday, deputy head of police Albert Dervishi called on "Italian and Dutch fans to behave and act as European citizens, respect the country's laws and not clash with police, or the laws will be strictly applied." Dervishi said 48 Italian fans

and 12 Dutch supporters have been detained, adding anyone arrested could face up to seven years in prison. He said 80 fans were deported back to Italy.

The police official also called on businesses to avoid offering glass bottles to customers and warned Tirana residents to avoid "provocations from individuals or groups of fans who may be under the effect of alcohol."