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P3 CITY

SUFI FESTIVAL TAKES OFF IN SRINAGAR

A three day Central Kashmir Sufi Festival was inaugurated on Saturday by Vice Chancellor, Cluster University, Srinagar, Prof Qayoom Hussain. The event has been organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in association with Cluster

P5 THINK

LINCOLN LAWYER: A REVIVAL OF THE LAW GENRE

When legal dramas such as Suits and How to get away with Murder released, the world didnt only hail the plot of these shows that were coupled with brilliant execution but it also highlighted the excellence of the lead characters. To think of



P7 STATE

MEHBOOBA WELCOMES COURT ORDER FOR EXHUMING CIVILIAN'S BODY

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti welcomed on Saturday the Jammu and Kashmir High Court order that the body of civilian Amir Magrey, dubbed as a terrorist and killed in an



Equality consists in the same treatment of similar persons

- Aristotle

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Logs Seven New Covid Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 07 fresh Covid cases, taking the number of infected persons to 454234 however, no fatality reported due to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said. Of the new cases, 06 were from the Jammu division and 01 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, Officials said. There are 63 active cases in the union territory while the number of recoveries so far has been 449419, officials said. 7 Covid-19 patients recovered today, 06 from | [More on P6](#)

Youth Found Dead In Ganderbal

Srinagar: A youth was found dead on Saturday in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday. Reports said that the locals spotted the body in the paddy field at Gadoora and accordingly informed the concerned police station. A team soon after reached the spot and took the body into its possession. A police official identified the deceased as Shahid Tantray, a resident of Gadoora. "A case has been registered in this regard | [More on P6](#)

Two Dead As Minibus Falls Into River

Jammu- Two people were killed when a minibus fell into the Tawi river after the driver lost control of the vehicle while crossing a bridge here, police said on Saturday. The accident occurred near Bikram Chowk late Friday night, they said. The bus driver, who was speeding, lost control of the vehicle while crossing the Tawi bridge. The bus smashed the concrete fence of the bridge before landing on the river bed, resulting in the death of two occupants whose identities are being ascertained, | [More on P6](#)

44 Kgs Narcotics Seized Along LoC

Jammu: In the biggest seizure of its kind, security forces recovered 44 kg of narcotics worth over Rs 200 crore along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. The recovery was made during a three-day long joint operation by Army and Police in Malti-Bagaldara following information about possible attempts by cross-border smugglers to push a huge consignment of narcotics into this side to fund militant activities, the officials said. They said the | [More on P6](#)

Old-School's Tryst With New-Age Learning In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Subeena Chiloo has been teaching for as long as she can remember. As an associate professor in Islamic Studies, she has been teaching students at historic Amar Singh College with religious commitment. Teaching a class full of students is the only thing that keeps her motivated.

But three years after being transferred from her campus to the newly-established Government College for Women at Zakura in the Srinagar outskirts, things became difficult



for her as a coronavirus pandemic swept the world. Educational institutions

were ordered to resume education to online mode and this is when her technophobic

nature came to haunt her.

"At first things were difficult for someone like me who is not much into technology," Subeena, who's in her fifties, says. "For new generation, using technologically advanced gadgets is easy but for us it is difficult. Our subject was theoretical so it was not that difficult to teach online."

But she found it difficult to use popular teaching applications like Zoom. She had to switch multiple applications in order to not let her students suffer. She later switched to WhatsApp to teach students.

"I created WhatsApp groups for students of different batches and used to record audio messages so that students do not suffer," she recalls. "I would also send links of relevant videos to my students."

Despite her attempts at driving students to online classes, Subeena could find little success as many of her students did not have a smartphone.

"We tried to get the underprivileged students' smartphones from the Educational Department but all our attempts failed," she says.

But she was successful enough to do her bit by providing one of her students with a spare smartphone for attending online classes.

Roadblocks, however, continued to stop her from doing her best.

The network issue also played a spoilsport in Prof. Subeena's journey of imparting education to her students. "The mobile network in the vicinity of our college remains poor to this day and is one of the major challenges faced by the faculty who teach from the college," she says. | [More on P10](#)

Two Militants Killed In Anantnag Gunfight

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two local militants of Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM) were killed on Saturday in a brief encounter with government forces in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district, police said.

A joint team of police, army's 3RR and the personnel of CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Shattipora village of Bijbehara on Saturday afternoon on the basis of a specific input about the presence of militants in the village, a police spokesperson said.

The hiding militants, he said, opened fire upon the search team when they started advancing towards the suspected spot. He said that the joint team returned the fire

triggering off an encounter.

In the brief exchange of fire, the spokesperson said, two local Hizb militants were killed and their bodies recovered from the encounter site.

The police identified the duo as Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie son of Shalgam, Srigufwara and Yawar Ayub Dar of Dogripura Awantipora.

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

Besides, he said, killed militant Yawar was also involved in an attempt to murder attack on a GRP personnel at Railway Station Panzgam in december last year and in IED blast on CRPF | [More on P6](#)



LG Visits Family Of Slain Cop In Uri

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday met the family members of a policeman who was killed in an encounter with militants here early this week. Sinha, who was flanked by Inspector General of police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar visited the residence of Mudasar Ahmad in Uri here, and expressing his heartfelt condolences to the family members, an official spokesperson said Saturday. Sinha said that the Nation is blessed to | [More on P6](#)

IN THIS REGARD, A CASE UNDER RELEVANT SECTIONS OF LAW has been registered and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any."

J&K Has Fifth Lowest Total Fertility Rate In India: Survey

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir has hit a grueling demographic milestone in the past three years as the latest round of National Family Health Survey for 2019-21 has revealed that J&K has the fifth lowest Total Fertility rate (TFR) in the country besides the women's TFR slipping below the replacement-level by 0.6 percent.

As per the National Family Health Survey, the replacement level for the fertility rate has been fixed at 2.1 percent, below which, if the rate slips then the fertility crisis is probably in place and also explains the point at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.

The NFHS data noted that the fertility rate in J&K has slipped down to 1.41 percent in the 2019-21 NFHS-5 survey from 2.0 percent recorded in the NFHS-4

method in which female fallopian tubes are blocked to prevent pregnancy

have also declined from 24.4 percent in NFHS-4 to 21.1 percent in NFHS-5 and male sterilization from 0.4 percent in NFHS-4 to 0.3 percent in NFHS-5.

"The total fertility rate (TFR) in Jammu & Kashmir is 14 children per woman, which is below the replacement level of fertility. Fertility has decreased by 0.6 percent between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5," the report added.

These figures were placed according to the findings of phase two of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). The Government of India, in May,

released the key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India including J&K, clubbed under phase two of the 2019-21 NFHS-5.

Besides this, what looks like lack of awareness and existence of several taboos, about 60 percent of women aged 15-24 years still use cloth for menstrual protection in J&K as the former state ranks lowest in North India in regards of females using a hygienic method for menstrual protection, according to the NFHS report.

As per the data released by NFHS, with 74.5 percent of women using hygienic methods for menstrual protection, J&K ranks the lowest in north India in terms of females using a hygienic method for menstrual protection. The | [More on P6](#)

SKIMS Sounds Caution Over Fake Job Orders

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The authorities at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura on Saturday cautioned the general public on circulation of fake appointment orders, stating that no such orders or related correspondence has been issued by the department.

"It has come to the notice of this Department that some fake appointment orders are currently under circulation, whereunder several persons have been shown to have been appointed as D.E.Os/N.Os/FMPHW/GNM/OTs/Lab. Technicians in SKIMS. | [More on P6](#)

"An air of despondency & despair has seeped through Kashmir. Everyday new blows are inflicted on us & it's important we #SpeakUp. The purpose of these fortnightly videos is to throw light on issues &

decisions that affect our lives. #AapKiBaatIltijaKeSaar, the party said in the tweet.

In the video, Iltija, 34, says Jammu and Kashmir is passing through its worst phase in history.

Mehbooba's Daughter Iltija Testing Political Waters?

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti will hold a fortnightly interactive session with people, the party has announced, a move which many viewed as an exercise before she takes the political plunge.

The party on Friday posted a two-minute-video on its Twitter handle with the hashtag #AapKiBaatIltijaKeSaar.

"An air of despondency & despair has seeped through Kashmir. Everyday new blows are inflicted on us & it's important we #SpeakUp. The purpose of these fortnightly videos is to throw light on issues &

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In the video, Iltija, 34, says Jammu and Kashmir is passing through its worst phase in history.

"An administration, a dispensation that is destitute of any vision has pushed our state into chaos. All the secular and democratic foundational values of the country are being trampled upon and this is happening at a time when preparations are underway to turn the secular and democratic India into a Hindu rashtira," she said.

Its disastrous consequences on the country's only Muslim-majority state cannot be overlooked, she said.

"Along with our basic rights, our freedom of expression has been throttled. An atmosphere of silence and fear has been created in J-K and the | [More on P6](#)



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Earlier, the | [More on P6](#)

will be set up, including 6 base hospitals, 11 medical aid centres, 12 emergency aid centres besides 26 oxygen booths and 15 onroute facilities.

"He further informed that 17 onroute facilities will be kept on alert to meet any exigency. The training and deployment of medical staff has been worked out as per the current requirements," he said.

The Director, he said, gave a break up of staff for the Yatra and said that 739 staffers from the Union Territory, 155 from MoH&FW and 437 staff members from other states will offer their services to the pilgrims.

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Super Cyclones May Have Much More Devastating Impact In India In Future: Study

Press Trust Of India

Super cyclones, the most intense form of tropical storms, are likely to have a much more devastating impact on people in India in the future due to climate change, according to a modelling study. Researchers from the University of Bristol in the UK examined the 2020 Super Cyclone Amphan - the most costly cyclone to make land-fall in South Asia -- and predicted its implications under several scenarios of sea-level rise caused by global warming. The study, published in the journal Climate Resilience and Sustainability, showed that if greenhouse gas emissions continue at the current rate, more than two and a half times (250 per cent) of India's population would experience flooding of greater than one metre, compared to the event in 2020. "South Asia is one of the most

climate-sensitive regions in the world, with super cyclones causing tens to hundreds of thousands of deaths in historical cases," said study lead author Dann Mitchell, Professor of Climate Science at the University of Bristol. "Comparatively, very little climate impact research has been done in South Asia, despite the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighting it as such a critical region," Mitchell said in a statement. The study presents a critical piece of evidence in support of ramping down greenhouse gas emissions to achieve the Paris Agreement climate goals, where other lines of evidence all too often focus on high-income countries where impacts are lower, and adaptation is more easily achievable, the researchers said. They used sophisticated climate model projections to anticipate the scale of those affected by cyclones in the rest of this century.



Although the increasing number of people at risk is anticipated to be more modest in Bangladesh, estimated to rise by 60 per cent to 70 per cent, this factors in declining coastal populations in the future, the researchers said. They noted that if the Paris Agreement climate goals of 2 degrees

Celsius warming above pre-industrial levels are adhered to, population exposure to flooding dropped close to zero in Bangladesh. However, even in this climate warming scenario, the exposures in India still showed an alarming increase of between 50 per cent to 80 per cent is expected to experience

flooding in the future, the researchers said. The main objective of the Paris Agreement, a global framework to tackle climate change, is to hold the global average temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and endeavour to limit the tem-

perature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. "The latest IPCC report has mentioned with high confidence that tropical cyclones with higher intense categories will be more frequent in the future," said Saiful Islam, Professor of Hydrology at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), and contributing author of the study. "This study shows that population exposure in Bangladesh and India will be increased up to 200 per cent in the future for extreme storm surge flooding (greater than 3 metres) from intense cyclones under high emission scenarios," Islam said. The researchers noted that a strong, rapid and sustained greenhouse gas reduction is essential to achieve goals of the Paris Agreement and to reduce losses and damages of highly vulnerable countries.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2021

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood, of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2021 from Class 12th passed girl students, who have secured more than 75% and whose annual family income is less than

ity criteria and will be at the discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation. Last Date to Apply: 05-06-2022 Application mode: On-line applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KKGS1

Scholarship Name 2: AICTE Information Technology Internship 2022

Description: AICTE Information Technology Internship 2022 is an initiative by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for 5 interns to work at Varanasi Smart City, Uttar Pradesh.



or equivalent to Rs. 3.00 lakhs. The scholarship aims to help meritorious girl students from under-privileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses from acclaimed universities and colleges. Eligibility: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2021 is open for girl students only. Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to 1st year graduation programmes in professional courses from institutes of repute (NAAC/NBA/UGC accredited) can apply. Professional courses include professional graduation courses like Engineering, Medicine, Architecture, Designing, Specialised Commerce, Finance and Computer courses or professional courses pursued alongside graduation like CA, CS, CFA, CWA, LLB. Applicants must have scored more than 75% marks in their Class 12th board examinations. Annual family income must be INR 3 lakh or less from all sources. Note: This scholarship application is open only for those girl students who have secured admission to first-year MBBS courses from institutes of repute. Prizes & Rewards: Up to Rs 1.5 lakh* per year Disclaimer: Terms and Conditions Apply. Scholarship selection and the amount are based on the fulfilment of the eligibil-

Eligibility: Open for candidates who hold a B.E./B.Tech. degree holder with relevant skills and interests. Prizes & Rewards: INR 10,000 per month Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2022 Application mode: On-line applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/AT17

Scholarship Name 3: Fulbright Kalam Climate Fellowship for Doctoral Research 2023-24 Description: Fulbright Kalam Climate Fellowship for Doctoral Research 2023-24 is an initiative by the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) for Indian scholars who are registered for a Ph.D. at an Indian institution. Eligibility: Open for candidates who have scored more than 75% marks in the relevant field, especially in the identification of resources in India with high academic background. The U.S. applicants who are registered for a Ph.D. degree at an Indian institution on or before 1st November 2021 can also apply. Prizes & Rewards: Variable awards Last Date to Apply: 15-09-2022 Application mode: On-line applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/FKF1

(1st Call)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CIVILWORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-Tender NIT No.55 of 2022-23 issued under endorsement No.3047-56

Dated:27.05.2022

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

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost T/Doc. (In Rupees)	of Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contactor
2	3	4	5	6	8		
1.	Construction of link road from Main road to Gorsi Mohalla via Badi Masjid at Chattergul-A under PRI Grants.	Rs.4.91 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs. 9820/=	10-Days	PRI Grants	DEE
2.	Construction of road from Canal to Kheti Mohalla at Poshkar. Name of Scheme:-Construction of roads at different Places (Kangan-B) under DDC Grants..	Rs.4.69 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs. 9380/=	10-Days	DDC Grants	DEE
3.	Construction of road from PMGSY road to Jamia Masjid Sharief Wangath-A Phase-II. Name of Scheme:-Construction of roads at different Places (Kangan-B) under DDC Grants..	Rs.6.34 Lacs	Rs.300/=	Rs. 12680/=	15-Days	DDC Grants	DEE/CEE
4.	Construction of Nagun road from General road to Nagun at Barnabugh Phase-II under PRI Grants.	Rs.7.03 Lacs	Rs.300/=	Rs. 14060=	15-Days	PRI Grants	DEE/CEE
5.	Construction of Crusher road from Fencing of Middle school to Crusher at Chattergul-B under PRI Grants.	Rs. 9.04Lacs	Rs.600/=	Rs. 18080=	15-Days	PRI Grants	DEE/CEE
6.	Construction of link road b.w.o converting existing Foot Path (F/P) into road from PMGSY road via H/o. Abdul Rashid Khan to Mammer Bridge at Dardwooder Yachama under PRI Grants..	Rs. 9.51Lacs	Rs.600/=	Rs. 19020=	15-Days	PRI Grants	DEE/CEE

Position of AAA:-Accorded.
Position of funds:-Available.

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

	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-05-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27/05/2022 from 4:00 PM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	27/05/2022 from 4.00 PM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	01/06/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids(Online)	02/06/2022 at 10.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal.

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% of allotted Cost at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security @ 3% of the allotted Cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3.1 Note:-All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on WebSite www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an 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 Executive Engineer (R&B) Division(tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids.

6. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified timeline.
c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual. Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically I by registered post / through courier before the dates specified in Para-1.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Bid Security Declaration, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid.

No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Note:-Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

10. Insurance:- Insurance cover to Labour/Machinery/Work/Plant material/Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory.

11. Laws Governing the Contract:-The contract shall be governed by Laws of the land.

12. Court's Jurisdiction:-In case of a disputes/differences between contractor and Department the jurisdiction shall be J&K.

13. Time Extension:-
a) The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT and the time of completion will also increase I decrease in proportion with additional I deleted quantum of work depending upon the actual quantum of work.
b) Request for extension of time shall be made by the contractor in writing not later than fifteen days of happening of the event causing delay. The contractor shall also indicate in such a request the period for which extension is desired.
c) Abnormal /bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores.
d) Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.
e) On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.
f) Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
13. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No.3047-56 Dated-27-05-22 DIPK-2829/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

از نیابت مٹن با اجلاس ایکریکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

مستومن درخواست منجانب: جمہ یاسن پسر منظور احمد جام سہ کسہ کرکسو تحصیل مٹن ضلع اننت ناگ

بئرض حصول :- RBA / SC / OBC سر تقیبت

اشیخہ ربراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بئرض حصول RBA/SC/OBC سر تقیبت دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے نمایاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	منظور احمد جام ولد غلام محمد جام	لازم	42 سال	LPC
02	تقیبت شیخ مرزوق منظور احمد جام	گھریلو کام	40 سال	
03	دیبا منظور دختر منظور احمد جام	زیر تعلیم	17 سال	
04	محمد یاسن ولد منظور احمد جام	زیر تعلیم	14 سال	
05	عقیبت منظور دختر منظور احمد جام	زیر تعلیم	06 سال	

اس طرح سائل کا کنڈہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر تقیبت مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے دور اندیشی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تحریر الصد ری ایکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول) rna

Dated:-27-05-2022

NO:- CAHO/Bud/SK/854-58

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Budgam

NOTICE

Subject: - Auction of Walnut Fruits

This Office is going for auction of walnut fruits present on trees in the veterinary campus Animal Husbandry Department, Budgam on 06/06/2022 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Chief Animal Husbandry officer Budgam. Hence bidders are informed to attend the event on the scheduled day and date i.e 06.06.2022 (Monday). In case of any gazetted holiday/ unavoidable circumstance the next working day will be fixed for auction.

Sd/-
Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Budgam

DIPK-2872/22

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

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All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories

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Contact:-7889657769

TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.

Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979



NIT Organizes First International TEDx Conference

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Saturday organized the first international TEDx conference at the Convocation Hall of University of Kashmir. The theme of the event was 'Interpreting the Future' and around 250 noted personalities from across various fields participated in the mega event.

The event was presided over by the recently appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kashmir; Prof Nilofer Khan and she was Chief Guest at the event. The event was organized by the Department of Training and Placements, NIT Srinagar.

In her presidential address, Prof. Nilofer Khan said such platforms are important for young minds to explore new dimensions of hope.

She hailed the Director NIT Srinagar for organizing such important events for our youth of Valley and called for collaborative efforts from other institutions as well.

"These events also provide a platform to passionate societies to reveal their ideas and doings and of course act as a great inspirational drive for the youth to come up and put forth their inner potential of science and research," Prof. Nilofar said.

She said our young minds will be inspired by the resource people who are from diverse fields.

On the occasion, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said that such events inspire the students to accelerate in their careers and are important for all-round development.

"TEDxNIT Srinagar is not the outcome of one day's work; it is the result of months and consistent efforts of the students. They have worked day and night and left no stone unturned on the way to success," he said.

Police Arrests 5 Gamblers, Stake Money Recovered

Agencies

Srinagar: Police in Srinagar arrested 5 gamblers in two separate actions and seized stake money from their possession.

Following an input about gambling activities, a police party of PS Khanyar raided a gambling site at Chola Mohalla Khanyar and arrested two gamblers.

They have been identified as Arif Ahmad Chola resident of Aram Masjid Khanyar and Arshid Ahmad Mir resident of Konakhan. Officers have seized stake money of Rs12,300 playing cards and 4 mobile phones from the gamblers.

However, 04 gamblers namely Shabir Ahmad Chola, Hilal Ahmad Chola both residents of Chola Mohalla, Gowher Ahmad Halwai resident of Anderwari Naidkadal and Gulzar Ahmad Bhat resident of Eidgah managed to flee from the spot. Efforts are on to nab the absconding gamblers.



Rehbar-e Khel teachers on Saturday held a protest demonstration at Press Colony demanding regularization and urged the government to revoke the decision to re-advertise the posts they were engaged in. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Sufi Festival Takes Off In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A three day Central Kashmir Sufi Festival was inaugurated on Saturday by Vice Chancellor, Cluster University, Srinagar, Prof Qayoom Husain. The event has been organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in association with Cluster University, Srinagar and other allied departments.

The festival is part of a series of mega festivals being held across J&K under J&K Government's scheme for Promotion and Development of Cultural Festivals.

On the inaugural day of the function, students of Cluster University Srinagar presented Hamud which was followed by mesmerizing post lunch Qawalis by students of the University. The main highlight of the festival was the Qawali performance by



noted Qawal Jamil Rampuri. It was followed by renditions of Sufi numbers by Shafi Sopori.

Welcoming the guests in general and audience in particular, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Bharat Singh said that the endeavor of Cultural Academy is to promote all cultural festivals and events in a

holistic manner. Elucidating further the Secretary JKAACL said that during the current year the Academy is holding 75 shrine specific Sufi activities apart from mega festivals which would continue to be organized across the Union Territory throughout the year.

The keynote address regarding Sufi-Rishi traditions of Kashmir was read

by Prof. Bashar Basheer who specifically highlighted the contribution of various spiritual streams to the evolution of Sufi thought in the Kashmir valley.

In his remarks, chief guest, Prof. Qayoom Husain said that it was a privilege for the Cluster University Srinagar to be part of such mega festivals and events which highlight the cultural ethos of J&K.

During the three Day festival a series of events including Qawalis, Sufi talks and Plays on Sufism will be held.

The inaugural day marked the presence of several noted academics and members of the general public in the audience. Prominent among those who attended the function included Dean Academic Affairs, Dean Social Sciences, Dean Sciences and Registrar Cluster University Srinagar apart from officers of JKAACL.

Prof Tabasum Takes Charge As First Woman Director Of CCAS, KU

Agencies


Srinagar: Prof Tabasum Firdous has taken charge as the first woman Director of the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir, while Dr Shazia has taken over as Coordinator of the varsity's Centre for Women's Studies and Research (CWSR).

Prior to becoming Director CCAS, Prof Tabasum held the charge of Director CWSR. She has earlier served as Proctor from 2008-2015 and also as Deputy Director UGC-HRDC KU from 2014-2016.

Prof Tabasum holds MA and PhD in Political Science and International Relations, respectively, from the University of Kashmir and her specialization areas are Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Iran. Her books include Gendering Women in the 21st Century: Critical Perspectives 2021;

Political Reforms in Uzbekistan, 2015; Peace Strategies in Central Asia, 2009; Centre Asia: Defense Strategies and Security Concerns, 2004 and Central Asia; Security and Strategic Imperatives, 2002. She is a Visiting Fellow, Centre of International Studies, Cambridge University, UK, Honorary Member IRSEA, Bucharest, Romania and Member Eurasian Forum, Geneva.

Meanwhile, Dr. Shazia, Assistant Professor CWSR holds M.A. in Sociology and Ph.D in Women's Studies from Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, Aligarh Muslim University. She has worked as Research Officer at State Resource Centre for Women. Dr. Shazia has presented around 30 research papers in national and international seminars and conferences within the country. Her current research interests include Gender Relations and Performative Practices in Kashmir. (KNS)



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E-AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLE HYPOTHECATED TO THE BANK

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower in particular that the below mentioned vehicle, hypothecated to The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Business unit Charrie-Sharief, physical possession whereof has been taken by the BANK, will be sold through e auction on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" and "NO COMPLAINT BASIS" on 10 June, 2022 for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Business unit, Charrie-Sharief from below mentioned borrower. The description of the vehicle & other particulars are mentioned herein below :

Particulars of the borrower	Firdousa Zahid W/O Zahid Hussain Jan R/O Charrie-Sharief, Budgam.
Description of the Hypothecated vehicle	Goods Carrier ,MAHINDRA BOLERO PICK UP
Reserve Price	Rs. 4,07,700.00
Earnest Money	Rs.40,770.00

The bid document/format containing full details of the hypothecated vehicle and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net (Contact Persons: Mr. Chintan Bhatt (M) 9978591888, 9265562821 (O) 079 - 6813 6844). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 07 June, 2022 upto 4 PM. The e -auction will be held on 10 June, 2022 at 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM. The contact details of the bank officials are : Mr. Syed Sajad Hussain (Incharge IAPMD, Zonal Office, Budgam) Mobile No 9858301707 & Mr. Mohammad Yousuf (Branch Head Charrie-Sharief) Mobile No.9622449537.

JKB/IAPMD/ZOB/2022-23
Dated:-27.05.2022
Place : Budgam

Sd/-
Mr.Syed Sajad Hussain
Incharge,IAPMD

DIPK-NB-1279/22

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

B

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-TENDER NIT NO. 20/XEN/EDS/2022-23 OF 05/2022

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Civil Contractors with Union Territory J&K / CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head Of Account
1.	Renovation of Office Building of Central Administration Tribunal at Old Secretariat Srinagar.	2.49 lacs	200/-	15 Days	DEE	2216-Non Plan

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-05-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27.05.2022 from 10.00AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	27.05.2022 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	02.06.2022 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02.06.2022 at 3.05 PM. In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

5. 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 Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

18.1. Request for extension of time shall be made by the contractor in writing not later than fifteen days of happening of the event causing delay. The contractor shall also indicate in such a request the period for which extension is desired.

18.2. Abnormal /bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.

18.3. On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.

18.4. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

19. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

20. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued by this office time to time.

DIPK-2852/22

No. - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/1969-79/2022 /T-1
Dated:-26-05-2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
27 Shawwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 40
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:38
ISHA	9: 16

This Day In History

- 1988 - Pakistan President Zia ul-Haq dismisses government and disbands parliament
- 1989 - Student protesters in China construct a replica of Statue of Liberty
- 1990 - An earthquake hits Peru, killing over 200
- 1990 - Boris Yeltsin is elected President of the Russian Republic
- 1996 - Space Shuttle STS 77 Endeavour 11, lands
- 1997 - Span scientists announce new human species in 780,000 year old fossil
- 1999 - Space Shuttle Discovery completes the first docking with the International Space Station.
- 2001 - Natural gas futures plunge 6% to a 10-month low on speculation that growing US inventories will help power plants meet summer demand for air-conditioning
- 2004 - The World War II Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C.
- 2012 - Facebook's problematic public listing could cost those involved \$115 million from technical glitches
- 2012 - Indonesian police make the biggest drug bust in ten years after seizing over a million ecstasy pills valued at \$45 million
- 2014 - President Obama approves US military training of 'moderate' Syrian rebels to fight the regime of Bashar al-Assad and al Qaeda-linked groups

From KO Archives

We're Taken Unawares In Kargil, But Have No Regrets

UNMOGIP Relevant As Long As It Is Present Here: Col Turunan

Murtaza Shibli

SRINAGAR: The acting chief of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), Colonel Ismo Turunan, has dispelled the fear of a Kargil-type clash between India and Pakistan. He doesn't think any party has plans for any major action.

In an exclusive interview to Observer News Service, Col Turunan, however, hastened to say, "Anything can happen if the things are not sorted out and nothing can be said for sure as the situation is quite tense and any skirmish can lead to big trouble. Nothing can be predicted for sure".

He said it was because of the reports that had been appearing in the western media about the possibility of a second phase of Kargil that there is a hardly any western tourist in the Valley this summer.

He accepted that the UN group, which is primarily here to observe and monitor the ceasefire agreement of 1971 between India and Pakistan, was taken unawares by the Kargil conflict of last year, however, adding that they had no regrets for it. "When India with so big military presence and resources could not get even an inkling, how could it be possible for us to know about it. Besides, the terrain is difficult and it was not possible for us", he said.

The UNMOGIP had a field station at Kargil upto 1980, but again, keeping in view last year's incidents, he said that it was not politically possible. The Group has 11 field stations spread over both the countries. These are at Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Bhimber, Rawlakot, Kotli, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit and Skardu.

Commenting on the Kargil conflict, he said that although it was very local, it was very fierce as compared to the previous wars between the two countries, because of the fact that the Indian side had double the casualties they had previously suffered in 1971 war. The intensity of Kargil incident has, however, not made much of a difference to the Group. Why so? The Colonel says that they— need advanced equipment and men for that. "But we don't pursue the ability for round-the-year observation in high mountain areas", he said, adding they were not an advance intelligence group who will warn about things. "We don't intend to it."

About the present situation along the line of control (LoC), the Colonel says that although the shelling is continuing, it was not of high intensity. Asked about their role to stop it or about the sufferings of the civilian population, he said that they could do nothing about it as it falls beyond the ambit of their mandate.

"We are not missionaries, not teachers but observers; the UN official said adding "We are not here to say who did what and when, but simply to observe. But we have enough evidence of the things that are happening here." And we know we are close to reality.

(Kashmir Observer, May 29, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



“Is it just me or anyone else finds Kashmiri wedding films very cringe”,

@beenakawoosa

“I keep on saying it. Nowadays justice is too expensive and not everyone can afford it. There are no. of cases lingering and no justice is done to them how many innocent are behind bar just becoz they can't afford the system or they can't hire a good lawyer to prove their innocence”

@advocatesyedgoussia

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Israel’s World

The utter impunity with which Israel has unleashed its war machine on the defenceless Gaza population underscores once again the exclusive position Tel Aviv enjoys on the horizons of world powers who have vowed to bring peace and democracy to the planet.

As far as the terror wreaked by this rogue state is concerned, the self-appointed guardians of international justice have blinkered eyes, or else willfully choose to ignore the enormity of the transgressions committed again and again by successive Israeli regimes. The just world order that some in the international community would like to usher in evidently excludes Israel from its purview as it is left free to perpetrate atrocity upon atrocity on the Palestinian people. What escapes the custodians of global peace and justice is that the existence of Israel itself is in total contravention to all norms of morality. But even after the Palestinians have relinquished their legitimate and exclusive right to the lands from which they have been dispossessed, they are being targeted as if their persecutors would be satisfied with nothing less than their extermination.

The positions the world powers, mainly the US, have taken in the face of wanton slaughter of children in the Gaza Strip evoke unadulterated revulsion at the humanity, or rather the lack of it, of those who would lead the world. After their spoken and unspoken complicity in the Gaza terror, would-be-liberators of mankind are not left even with the fig-leaf of morality that would give them the authority and the stature to lecture to the world.

The latest flouting of all international norms by the Jewish state is tied to the tussle for power at home, and the cowardly military campaign in Gaza has already sent the popularity graphs of foreign minister Tzipi Livni and defence minister Ehud Barak soaring.

But the real reckoning will come when the ground assault, launched on Saturday, begins to exact its toll. The weeklong aerial bombardment posed little risk to Israeli personnel, but a ground invasion where they would come face to face with Hamas fighters would be a different cup of tea altogether. Livni and Barak, both banking on the squashing of Gaza as a ticket to the top job in the coming elections, can put off their celebrations as the experience in earlier campaigns in Lebanon could serve as a lesson. The Palestinian are long accustomed to losing loved ones to Israeli aggression, but the Israelis, like the US, are highly sensitive to sons and brothers coming home in body bags. And that is where the public tide could turn for the prime ministerial hopefuls.

Just as it happened in Lebanon, the Jewish state cannot be sure of meeting its military objectives, but the bloodshed it has wreaked on civilians in Gaza will speak in the loss of credibility of the Israeli leaders at home. The Palestinians have nothing left to lose except their lives, and they are quiet inured to it in the past six decades of criminal violence they have faced. But Israel could face a military disaster like Lebanon that could further shatter its already battered myth of its invincibility. In part, the Jewish state is encouraged by the unconscionable inertia of the Muslim regimes that are beholden to the US for their power. But contrary to what monotheistic texts - one of which is scared to the Jews - say, Israeli leaders are quiet oblivious to the promise of natural retribution on crossing the limits of humanity time and again. But this is what they should be most afraid of.

Before they are done in by the Gaza campaign, Israeli leaders would do well to undo the invasion, and end the two-year-old blockade of the territory. They must come to the negotiating table with the Palestinians if they seriously want the rockets sporadically fired into their country to stop.

If the world powers, particularly the US, want to salvage what is left of their credibility in the world, they would be well advised to rein in Israel and compel it to create conditions for the Palestinians to live with peace and honour.

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



“We refuse to play by the sexist, patriarchal and unethical books of schools which cannot step up to treat students respectfully. We need an education that teaches us values in a positive manner and trusts us with our choices. We want schools that raise women who uplift each other rather than shame each other. We are young girls of today and we refuse to watch ourselves or our friends being harassed and labelled 'wayward'”

Dear School, We Refuse To Be Morally Policed

Sarah Koul

Dominantly, we link school life to a part of our lives which is stress free and is all smiles. It seems, however, that this connotation attached to school life is limited. The experiences of students run quite contrary. Students generally feel relieved and liberated when they finally leave school because what should have been the best experience of their lives is often mentally exhausting and horrifying.

Coming from the system itself, I cannot help but wonder about the horrors I have had to witness as a school captain, while having to implement the school 'decorum'. The system of schooling precisely lacks almost everything but disrespect for every student's self-image. Even when the underlying impulse is to 'guide' students, the ways are often outmoded and inappropriate. Although some 'reputed' schools have given up on physical punishments, the disciplining of students remains violent as ever.

Schools here may rationalise this disciplining model but to the aware eye, it is mostly driven by a culture of shame and moral policing. Schools play a significant role in every individual's life as they spend their developmental and formative years here. However, schools have taken upon a role beyond them and often end up being the purveyors of morality, sometimes at the cost of doing the actual work of educating students in real sense.

In one instance, in my school, a 16-year-old girl's hair was forcefully trimmed by the teacher herself because her hair wasn't braided. In another incident, a male teacher asked a 15-year-old girl to take off her hijab and give it to him. He then used the hijab to clean his shoe and justified this harassment by guilt tripping the girl into thinking that since she wasn't wearing it 'consistently', she was hopeless and "characterless". Emotions aside, this amounts to harassing women and stripping them. It is not only inhumane but also illegal. It is not only inhumane but also illegal. It tantamount to physical and mental harassment of girls.

As a woman, I can speak for the negative fallout of such exercise on women students. They're morally policed to the extent of being slut shamed. They're classed into groups of "good girls" and "bad girls" - a shameful alienating exercise for children in their adolescent years.

Shockingly, it is not confined to mental harassment through words alone but actions too, especially for girls. They are often reduced to their appearance and are told that they don't deserve respect and won't achieve any success in life because they look or dress a certain way. Their caliber is reduced to dust irrespective of their merit and metal.

While the same schools organise extravagant events in the name of women's empowerment, numerous debates on women's rights and long speeches about gender equality; the hypocrisy is clearly evident.

In the name of 'discipline' and 'decorum', school teachers and administration usually label girls "characterless" for wearing something as normal as kajal/eye kohl. While it is true that students should follow a proper uniform and attend school in a formal style, teachers should know of better ways to deal with it rather than resorting to character assassinating young girls.

It is deplorable how young girls are treated in schools. They are brainwashed into thinking that they are somewhat inferior and are internalised with the notion which makes them think they have no control or stake on their bodies. Even as the educational system in the rest of the world is advancing in science, technology and techniques of teaching, our system is still stuck on promoting patriarchy and misogyny.

Such behavior towards young girls isn't detrimental to their growth and self-image alone. This treatment leaves an impact on young boys who learn such violent and misogynist values. We often wonder what cultivates tendencies in men which make them treat women unfairly. It is in schools that literate men learn that women are secondary, should be "shown their place" and "controlled" through whatever means available. This is how most end up committing

the worst crimes against women.

Why is it that highly educated men have little to no respect for their peers from the other gender? It is because school teaches young boys that women exist to be under constant supervision by practically policing women and showing young boys that girls should be 'pulled by the leash' if they cross patriarchal boundaries. When young boys see teachers who are the idols of righteousness in their eyes scrutinizing young girls, they learn the same sexist values.

Add to this the culture of hostility that schools breed between girls and boys. Socialising between girls and boys is considered so out of question that schools end up raising youngsters who have no etiquettes to respectfully engage with each other.

When schools make cross gender interaction impossible for children as small as 8-year-olds, they start to think that the other gender is somewhat alien. Should someone dare to have a casual or even formal conversation with a fellow student from the other gender, they're chided scornfully. In essence, this teaches students that the other gender is nothing more than their sexual selves. Adolescence is a sensitive age. You and growing children start their journey into adulthood with new experiences that they have no control over. By assuming that completely isolating girls and boys is the way out for reducing unwanted and unsupervised interactions between them, we are fooling no one but ourselves. School is the only place where interaction between boys and girls can be monitored. There can be healthy interactions which may take different forms but will eventually stay just that - new adolescent experiences. It is especially more relevant for boys, who do not know how to productively channelise their feelings and end up making

them?

While the stereotypical 'good' girls are oppressed in a way they don't openly understand, the 'bad' girls are openly and evidently criticized and practically abused. They are forced into thinking that they are somewhat inferior to others because they dress or talk or behave in a certain manner. The school authority or teachers pronounce this judgment not understanding that school is entirely a place of learning and no judgments should be made for someone who is still in the process of discovering themselves and has a long way to go.

This kind of labelling and discrimination is extremely discouraging for young girls. We, as a society, should pave the way for women to be leaders and teach them the right values in a meaningful and positive way. What schools do instead, leads to them thinking that they are not capable and are in fact outcasts. This embeds in them a lack of self-confidence and gives them a lifetime of trauma.

What we don't realize is when we blame girls for provoking boys, we make boys think that they are not accountable for their actions, and somehow end up justifying their actions. This kind of apologia is not unfamiliar to our society as it is the same thinking that goes on to blame women for every crime against them.

Yet another negative aspect of contemporary schooling in Kashmir is that it does not acknowledge the concept of mental health which even small kids are aware of now. The school counselors who claim to be the epitome of psychological knowledge and present themselves as the flag bearers of mental health awareness in Kashmir, often aid school authorities in their quest of demeaning little girls. They often sully the sanctity of secrecy and aggravate the process of shaming

“We can have our own views about the extent to which we want girls and boys to interact. These kinds of restrictions can infact be right as well. However, reprimanding, slut shaming, and character assassinating is not going to make the cut. It just makes adults look spiteful and ignorant”

stalkers out of themselves.

Additionally, had schools facilitated healthy and decent ways for girls and boys to interact, we'd have a bunch of men who wouldn't have to rely on our society's skewed views of women. They would have learnt how to decently interact with the other gender and to respectfully engage or disengage. Boys should not be left to learn about women from popular culture which objectifies women and stereotypes them. When young boys grow up alongside intelligent and confident girls - they'd not have to borrow their view of women from such harmful sources.

We can have our own views about the extent to which we want girls and boys to interact. These kinds of restrictions can infact be right as well. However, reprimanding, slut shaming, and character assassinating is not going to make the cut. It just makes adults look spiteful and ignorant.

Schools have a very different meaning of morals. Their fixation on student's sexual morality is almost perverted and sexualising. They care less about imparting the ideals of humanity, like the virtues of kindness, mercy, humility, sympathy, justice, truthfulness, tolerance which the human beings of today lack the most.

Isn't it bad that a place full of girls, instead of cultivating in them a sense of solidarity and sisterhood, encourages them to demean each other? Why are young girls who are yet to figure out anything about themselves dismissed as "bad" girls or "good" girls; as though there is something intrinsically irredeemable about

girls. Instead of providing students a safe space, free of judgment, they end up being a cog in the machinery of naming and shaming.

It is very easy to blame impressionable youngsters for falling prey to substance abuse when they find the entire process of growing up so isolating and hostile. Where are school authorities when students stray a bit? Why do schools have one and only one way of guiding - punishment?

Students of today are aware. Yes, we do have easy access to risky content through our phones. However, we also have access to information that teaches us to value ourselves and let one abuse us in the name of disciplining. We refuse to play by the sexist, patriarchal and unethical books of schools which cannot step up to treat students respectfully. We need an education that teaches us values in a positive manner and trusts us with our choices. We want schools that raise women who uplift each other rather than shame each other. We are young girls of today and we refuse to watch ourselves or our friends being harassed and labelled 'wayward'. We deserve better. Guide us better. Step up!

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

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer and has graduated 12th standard recently. She was her school's Head Girl and is writing the student's side of the story at Kashmir Observer

Lincoln Lawyer: A Revival of the Law Genre

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On May 13th 2022, Lincoln Lawyer starring Manuel Garcia Rulfo, Neve Cambel and Becki Newton, to name a few, released. Till now audiences worldwide equated The Lincoln Lawyer to Mathew McConaughey and rightly so. With his captivating acting skills and evergreen charm McConaughey fit into the role perfectly. However, the coming of Rulfo as the 'new Lincoln Lawyer' has indeed posed a legitimate competition to McConaughey's character



Neha Fayaz

When legal dramas such as Suits and How to get away with Murder released, the world didn't only hail the plot of these shows that were coupled with brilliant execution but it also highlighted the excellence of the lead characters. To think of someone else other than Gabriel Swann Macht or Viola Davis playing the roles of Harvey Specter and Annalise Keating doesn't quite bode well. Now with the advent of recognition for shows in other languages such as Korean, Japanese, French and German, the competition to perform well on OTT platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime and Hotstar has intensified for entities in the 'showbiz' industry. On May 13th 2022, Lincoln Lawyer starring Manuel Garcia Rulfo, Neve Cambel and Becki Newton, to name a few, released. Till now audiences worldwide equated The Lincoln Lawyer

to Mathew McConaughey and rightly so. With his captivating acting skills and evergreen charm McConaughey fit into the role perfectly. However, the coming of Rulfo as the 'new Lincoln Lawyer' has indeed posed a legitimate competition to McConaughey's character.

The show's title represents the nickname given to the lead character, Mickey Haller, who is always on the move from one courtroom to another which propels him to carry out most of his work in the back of his car, which is a Lincoln. The series which spans 10 episodes opens up with the audience being introduced to Rulfo's character Mikey Haller, a once renowned criminal defense attorney in Los Angeles. However, after an oxy addiction caused by a surfing accident, Haller was thrown off the bandwagon into a spiral that entailed him getting a divorce, being remarried and getting a divorce again. Lorna Crain, played by Becki Newton, is

Holler's second wife and throughout the series we see her as his closest friend, loyal supporter and also his paralegal. In Mikey's one year break, as he was in between rehab, Lorna tried her best to keep his practice afloat.

Shows that usually have the protagonist's ex wife's boyfriend in the lead tend to have a forced and rather awkward dynamic. However, Cisco, played by Angus Sampson, shared a very comfortable bond with Haller. Cisco is a private detective for Mickey Haller and like a godfather to Mickey's daughter. Upon Cisco informing Mickey that he and Lorna will be getting married the latter made his concerns for Lorna's wellbeing clear but was genuinely supportive.

In Episode one Haller gets a call from Judge Mary Holder to visit her office. An elated Lorna pushes Mikey to be positive as this might be a call for Mickey to take on a case assigned by the judge, which

might also eventually be a chance to get back on his feet. To the surprise of both the audience and Mikey, Judge Holder breaks the information that Mickey will be handed a law practice that was left behind by his friend and peer Jerry Vincent, who was also recently murdered. The series thus delves into 10 episodes of riveting courtroom drama where Mickey not only gets one but all of Jerry's pending cases. The most prominent one centered around tech mogul- Trevor Elliot. Accused of killing his wife and her boyfriend when he found them together in his bedroom, the state makes a strong case of murder against Elliot. The series showcases the myriad of ways that Haller tried to get evidence supporting Elliot's innocence.

This also gives room for the audience to play the role of jury in their own minds to arrive at the conclusion of Elliot being either innocent or guilty. Haller was proud of his profession even if it meant representing criminals as he believed every person had the right to be represented. As time passes, his decision of representing Elliot however makes him question that belief. Whilst this plot carries on seamlessly the show also delves into the relationship Haller shares with his daughter, Hayley. During his addiction to oxy Mickey's first wife, Maggie, had taken preventive measures of limiting her daughter's interaction with him. However, post rehab we not only see a positive turnout on Maggie's relation with Mickey but also the blossoming father-daughter bond. This adds an interesting dimension to the series. For instance there comes a point where Haller discreetly posts security outside Maggie's and Hayley's house to ensure that him being Elliot's counsel does not pose a threat to their safety. The series during its entirety also digs into the mystery behind Jerry Vincent's death and his reason for leaving his practice under Haller's care.

Even though the show delves into a myriad of themes it carries out the storylines and plots successfully. It does not portray itself to be forced but rather seems to be a product of effortless execution and acting. In a sea of series being put on OTT platforms, The Lincoln Lawyer is not only a fresh break from the overhyped 'machismo' portrayed in law series but also gives insight into the flaws and gaping holes in the American justice system while providing the audience with a good introduction to the same.

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WHAT CAUGHT THE WEB

Sara Ali Khan's Kashmir Himalayan Adventure



KO Web Desk

Actress Sara Ali Khan has become valley's favorite as she's seen frequenting the valley very often. Her humble and warm demeanor gives away her respectful and responsible behavior towards Kashmir's natural treasures. Recently, she shared some clicks of her trekking adventures here and posed with a few locals who were her trekking pals on the vacay. So, who are these trekkers who take it upon themselves to show the world the many beautiful spots that Kashmir preserves in its womb?

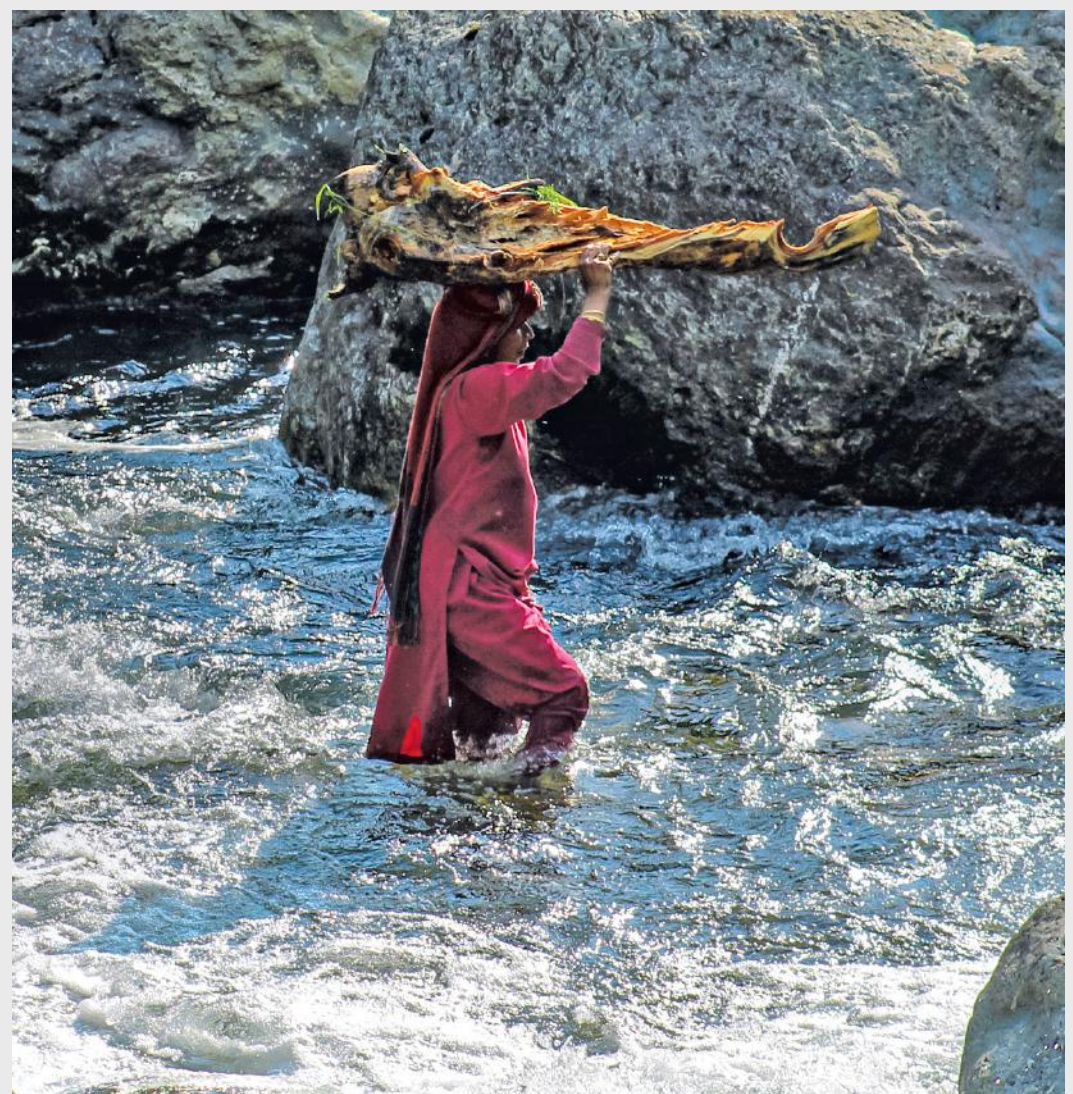
We've found out through a popular reel on insta-

gram about the Travel company which accompanied the celebrity to places like Liddarwat and Tulian lake in Kashmir. In the reel, the actress can be seen exploring the pristine location as the camera follows her. The reel was posted by Hike The Trails Adventure Pvt Ltd. This business has a group of trekking enthusiasts registered with J&K tourism who organise many such treks for amateurs and enthusiasts alike. In addition to exploring Kashmir through trekking adventures, they also assist in Skiing and Snowboarding in winters.

If you have adventure on your mind, tie your shoe laces and hike up!



KODAK MOMENTS



A lady crossing a stream carrying wooden logs in a far flung area of Tral

Picture credit: Firdous Parray

Want your clicks to get featured? Send them to us at editpage.ko@gmail.com

Seven Charge-Sheeted For Selling Fake Helicopter Tickets To Vaishno Devi Pilgrims

AGENCEIS

Jammu: Seven persons allegedly involved in selling fake helicopter tickets to Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims were charge-sheeted on Saturday in a court in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

While four of the accused were arrested from Rajasthan in March, three were held from Bihar in May during the investigation into complaints regarding duping of pilgrims who were sold online fake helicopter tickets for the journey from Katra to the hill shrine.

As many as fake websites were also identified and blocked during the investigation of the cases, a police spokesman said.

He said the charge sheets were filed in two cases registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act against the seven accused.

The accused were identified



as Sunil Chawla, Monu Pankaj, Deepak Kumar and Gajanand Meghwal of Rajasthan and Ashok Kumar Sharma alias Mistri, Lakhpatri Paswan and Santosh Kumar of Bihar

The spokesman said that separate cases were registered at police station Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, early this year on the basis

of complaints regarding fake online helicopter ticket bookings for Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage.

After the registration of cases, special teams were formed

under the supervision of Superintendent of Police, Katra, Amit Bhasin and dispatched to various parts of the country to nab the accused involved in the commission of the crime, the spokesman said.

"The police teams zeroed on suspected locations in Rajasthan and Bihar and arrested a total of seven accused, the spokesman said, adding police also seized "incriminating material" from their possession.

All the accused were brought to Katra after getting transit remand, the spokesman said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Amit Gupta advised all the intending pilgrims to use only the official website of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for booking services such as helicopter tickets and not fall prey to the fraudulent advertisements issued by unauthorised websites offering confirmed helicopter tickets and

PayNearby Extends Digital Payment And Banking Services In Jammu Kashmir

Agenceis

Srinagar: PayNearby announced that it is now available in Jammu & Kashmir along with Sela Pass in Arunachal Pradesh on the Indo-China border and Lakhpatri in Gujarat on the Indo-Pakistan border. PayNearby has enabled QR codes and Micro ATMs at local shops to upgrade their shops and make them digital-savvy to cater to both locals and tourists.

With the non-availability of digital banking due to inconsistent internet connectivity and the absence of steady transportation, villagers often end up investing a day and spending considerable money to travel to a nearby town just to withdraw or deposit cash. So, it is imperative that there is a robust network in place, both digital and assisted, to allow the beneficiaries to avail them.

Anand Kumar Bajaj,

Founder, MD & CEO, PayNearby said, "PayNearby is on a mission to make financial and digital services available to everyone, everywhere. Our retail partners in the hinterlands are a step in the direction of our commitment towards the agenda of financial empowerment at the last mile in the country. In remote areas, the number of ATMs is often far and few. PayNearby's entry into these areas will ensure that the local population gets cash withdrawal and other basic banking services near their house through our retail partners.

"PayNearby is present in every terrain from 42°C in Lakhpatri, Kachchh to - 10°C in Sela Pass, Tawang to the remote areas of J&K. We will continue this endeavour to include more and more villages in our network till every village in Bharat is connected. PayNearby, Zidd Aage Badhne Ki," Bajaj added.

Villagers Ransack Liquor Outlet, Destroy Its Entire Stock: Police

Agenceis

Jammu: A mob of villagers angry over the opening of a liquor shop close to a temple, a mosque and a school in their area on outskirts of the city ransacked the outlet and destroyed its entire stock on Saturday, police said.

The villagers also roughed up the owner of the liquor shop in the Khari panchayat in Bishnah area, who had to be rescued by police, they said.

We have been demanding

the closure of the shop since its opening some time back but the government failed to take action on our repeated requests, local sarpanch R K Sharma said.

He said the wine shop was set up in an area surrounded by a temple, a mosque and a school.

We do not need wine shops and our protest is against the government which has turned the city of temples into a city of wine shops, he said.

Another sarpanch said the protest was jointly organized by

the Panchayat Union of Bishnah belt and we have resolved that we will not allow opening of wine shops in any village.

This belt is home to poor farmers and those earning their livelihood through manual work. We will not allow wine shops here, he said.

Sharma asked the government to provide better opportunities to youths of the area by setting up hospitals, schools and stadiums to channelise youths' energy in a positive direction.

Lanka On The Boil, Demand For President Rajapaksa's Resignation Intensifies As Protest Enters 50th Day

Agenceis

Colombo: Sri Lankan police on Saturday fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse anti-government protestors here as the ongoing agitation demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the worst economic crisis intensified as it entered its 50th day.

Sri Lanka is near bankruptcy and has severe shortages of essentials from food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas to toilet paper and matchsticks.



For months, people have been forced to stay in long lines to buy the limited stocks.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis

has created political unrest with a protest occupying the entrance to the president's office demanding his resignation continuing for the past 49 days. The crisis has already forced prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the elder brother of the president, to resign on May 9.

There has been an intense call for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to also resign however, he has refused to do so.

Saturday marks the 50th day of the Go Rajapaksa protest which has also seen the death

of a parliamentarian.

The Sri Lankan police have on occasions used force to control the unrest.

The continuous protest demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has reached its 50th day today. The day is to be marked with protest marches with wider participation, the organisers said.

News website newfirst.lk reported that tear gas and water cannons were fired by police to disperse protestors near the World Trade Centre in Fort, Colombo.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Old-School's Tryst

Today, she's used to teaching online but the 'old school' does not feel satisfied with the new normal. Among other things she feels the eye to eye contact is missing in online classes.

Facing the same problems and challenges, senior assistant professor at Government College of Education, Dr. Nuzhat Nasreen has a story of her own.

She believes there are no two opinions about the fact that online classes have provided students with an alternative but for professionals of her age conducting virtual classes was no less than a challenge.

Nasreen, also in her fifties, recalls the day they were ordered by the Educational Department to resume classes in an online mode. "In the beginning it was tough," she recalls. "But my relative's much-needed help simplified the complex for me."

Despite putting all her efforts in teaching her students, she believes the emotional motivation a teacher can give in an offline class isn't possible in an online classroom. But she does acknowledge that online classes have become a "good substitute" in uncertain times.

One of the major problems she has faced over the course of the last two years is the anxiety created by the new-age learning. "From getting strain in the eyes to mental stress, one has to go through a lot if one spends long hours teaching," she says.

She attributes her mental fatigue to the absence of facing students in the class and the overuse of technological tools.

The lack of discipline and management in teaching online also turned out to be a headache for her. "In college we used to have a proper break after classes but in online classes there were clashes in timings," she says. "There were times when we had to take classes during evenings."

After two years of hardships, Dr. Nasreen is comfortable teaching her students online but the guilt of not satisfying every student is what discomforts her.

"In a classroom environment, some students understand things easily while some take time," she says. "All that is missing in an online class, where every student without even understanding things is bound to feel obliged and responds positively."

In the last two years, a lot has changed for traditional teachers like Sameena Khan in Kashmir.

When the government first gave instructions that teachers had to teach online, most of them had no knowledge about it. "But eventually," says Sameena, a teacher at Government Boys Middle School Narbal, "we learned a lot."

She picked up the threads of technology and learned the use of teaching applications like Zoom and popular video-streaming website, Youtube.

However, overcoming her fear for technology did not end her woes. Her students from traditional belts of Kashmir were not allowed to share their contact details with teachers. In a bid to persuade their parents, Sameena went door-to-door and counselled them.

"The parents of students were reluctant to share their phone numbers," she recalls. "It was only after proper counselling that they gave us contact numbers of their children. Without those contact numbers, we couldn't have been able to teach them."

Before the pandemic, many students were unaware about the use of technology in teaching. For those students, teachers like Sameena had to walk an extra mile. "Even during the peak of the coronavirus pandemic, we would designate one or two days during a week and inform students about online classes," she says.

"While the coronavirus may have left innumerable woes for people, it made us teachers technocrats in letter and spirit."

But despite becoming tech-savvy during the pandemic, some of these traditional teachers had a hard time teaching a challenging subject like mathematics online.

"Teaching Mathematics is always a challenge," says Javeed Khan, a mathematics teacher from Srinagar. "But teaching it online is a lot more difficult. Unlike a theoretical subject, it has to be taught using a board."

Apart from technical difficulties, these teachers faced challenges as some students resorted to fake ID's, pranks and even abusive comments during classes.

"The cost of keeping the flame of knowledge burning during the recent dark times came at a heavy cost," Javeed concludes.

Two Militants

bunker at Larmoo area on May 2, this month.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition have been recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar congratulated the joint forces for carrying out the operation in professional manner without any collateral damage.

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

Pertinently, 12 militants including six locals and six foreign nationals have been killed in different encounters across the Valley in the last four days

LG Visits Family

have such sons of the soil like Mudasar.

"The supreme sacrifice of the Braveheart will be eternally remembered," he said, and assured the family members of all possible support from the government.

Besides IGP Kashmir, DIG North Kashmir Uday Bhasker, SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammad and Deputy Commissioner Dr Sehrish Asgar were present on the occasion.

LG Lays Foundation

and intellectual brilliance," he added.

"Gardens have remained one of the main attractions for tourists in the valley. The Floriculture Department is making dedicated efforts to preserve the historical-cultural heritage of eight Mughal Gardens. The dossier of the Mughal Gardens was already sent for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage Site last year and it has boosted the influx of tourists and locals to these gardens," he added.

According to the spokesperson, Abha Narain Lambah, Conservation Architect briefed the Lt Governor about the phase-wise action plan for the execution of restoration work of the Shalimar garden.

He said it was informed that the stone fountain, painted ceiling, artwork, and unique hydrology system will also be restored under the project.

"Sangita Jindal, Chairperson, JSW Foundation, while speaking on the occasion highlighted the conservation and restoration works undertaken by JSW foundation, and reiterated the foundation's commitment to assist and support the Government of J&K in preserving the heritage gardens under CSR," the spokesperson added.

Pertinently, J&K Government, last year, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JSW Foundation for restoration and conservation of Shalimar and Nishat Gardens.

Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Group; actor Sanjay Khan besides members of JSW Foundation were present on the occasion.

SKIMS Sounds

whereas no such orders or related correspondence have been issued by this Department", reads a public notice issued by the SKIMS Soura authorities.

"It is made clear that SKIMS has not issued any such appointment orders and some unscrupulous elements are operating thereby trying to mislead the candidates by issuing such fabricated orders of appointment against various posts at SKIMS which shall not be treated as authentic," the notice reads.

The notice further states that the preparation and circulation of such fake orders and any correspondence related thereto, is a criminal act and attracts strict legal action against such mischievous persons involved in this heinous act.

"Through the medium of this notice, the general public is hereby cautioned against the activities of these fraudulent persons and advised not to fall prey to the designs of touts and unscrupulous elements", reads the public notice. (GNS)

Mehbooba's Daughter

price of speaking up truth has to be borne by the people now," she said.

"In such terrible circumstances, it is imperative to speak up against the injustices and cruelty inflicted upon us. The aim of this video is to start a conversation amongst us because even after stripping us of our rights and dignity, our voice cannot be snatched from us. J-K is filled with an air of despondency and helplessness," she said.

She said, "I hope that by speaking to you through this medium we are able to kick-start a discussion and shed light on the miseries that we all are facing simply because of our identity."

Ittija came into limelight in the aftermath of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decisions to revoke Jammu and Kashmir special status and bifurcate the state into Union territories.

Several top and middle-rung mainstream politicians, including Mehbooba Mufti, were jailed and Ittija had taken over the Twitter handle of her mother during her 20-month incarceration.

She also appeared in the national and international TV media during those months, portraying herself as the voice of the party, especially her mother.

PDP insiders said this is the kick-start of a much-sSpeculated political plunge by Ittija, who is known for her fierce views.

"With (Mehbooba's father and party

founder) Mufti (Mohammad) Sayeed no more, (Mehbooba's brother) Tassaduq (Hussain) out of public sight and many senior leaders of the PDP having deserted Mehbooba, the entry of Ittija into Jammu and Kashmir politics ahead of likely assembly polls is a morale booster for the PDP president, a party leader said.

He said while so far she has maintained that her views were personal, the posting of the video on the party's official Twitter handle has left little to imagination.

J&K Has Fifth

survey has also noted that merely 50.5 percent of women aged between 15-24 years use sanitary napkins. However, the number has substantially increased from 48.8 percent in NFHS-4 (2015-2016).

Pertinently, in the recently released NFHS-5 survey—which provides data by socio-economic and other background characteristics that remains useful for policy formulation and effective programme implementation—women aged 15-24 years in J&K were asked what method or methods they use for menstrual protection, if anything.

With 2116 females answering the questions, it was revealed that 58.4 percent of women use cloth for menstrual protection, 23.1 percent use locally prepared napkins, only 50.5 percent use sanitary napkins, 3.3 percent use tampons, 1.3 percent uses menstrual cup while only 0.3 percent use nothing.

A superficial look at the national rate reveals that in India, 64 percent of females use sanitary napkins, 50 per cent use cloth and 15 percent use locally prepared napkins. "Overall, 78 percent of women in this age group use a hygienic method of menstrual protection." The report stated.

As per the experts across India, locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins, tampons and menstrual cups are considered to be hygienic methods of menstrual protection.

However, questioning the veracity of the data, Dr Bilquis Jameel, one of the seasoned gynecologists of Kashmir says that the percentage of women in J&K using cloth for menstrual protection as shown in the report looks fictionally higher than what the reality.

"I personally don't think that this many females are using cloth for menstrual protection. But, let's hypothetically believe it's true, so in that case, if an unclean cloth is reused without proper wash, it increases exposure to multiple severe infections." Dr Bilquis told Kashmir Observer.

On exposure to infections due to unhygienic menstrual practices, Dr. Bilquis said that in such cases reproductive tract infections like bacterial vaginosis or urinary tract infections (UTI) could occur which eventually become pelvic infections. "And if not treated at an early stage, these infections can travel up to the pelvis and can cause difficulties in getting pregnant or pregnancy complications." Dr Bilquis said.

1500 Healthcare

Principal Secretary, the spokesperson said, reviewed the health care arrangements, and directed the officers that it is one of the top priorities of the government to provide quality healthcare to the pilgrims coming for the Amarnath Yatra 2022.

Dwivedi, he said, emphasised upon the concerned officers to ensure coordinated

10 Trapped Passengers Rescued In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Ten passengers including a child were rescued by a joint party of army and police along Mughal road in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said on Saturday.

A landslide had resulted in trapping of six vehicles with 10 passengers in no network zone in an area prone to shooting stones near Peer Ki Gali on Mughal road amid inclement weather, the spokesman said.

He said a rescue operation was launched by the army and police around 11 pm Friday and four trucks and two light motor vehicles were found trapped with passengers scared for their lives.

After reassuring them, the rescue team immediately began clearing the road and subsequently 10 persons including a woman and a child were rescued and brought to Army post Poshana where they were served refreshment with heating arrangements, the spokesman said.

35 Kanals Prime Land Retrieved In Kupwara Town

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Khalid Jahangir, a joint team of Revenue Department and Municipal Committee Kupwara carried out an anti-encroachment drive in Kupwara town on the Lolab By-Pass Road for retrieving land encroached by various encroachers.

After the completion of eviction drive, 35 Kanals of Prime Land costing about 7.00 Crores has been retrieved at a Prime location in Kupwara Town which shall be utilized for creation of Infrastructural facilities for the benefit of community.

Later in the evening, the DC visited Lolab By-pass Road in Kupwara town and inspected the site proposed for construction of a park and other Government infrastructure. The proposed site comprising of 35 kanals of state land, was evicted from illegal encroachers by district administration today morning.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned officers including respective Tehsildars of the district to safeguard the government property, State land and kahcarai land. He directed them to start a vigorous drive against illegal encroachers and evict all state and kahcarai land from them. He also appealed the general public to cooperate with the administration in retrieving the encroached lands.

Khalid Jahangir said that it was the state land which is being used for developing communication facilities, roads and infrastructure building for the larger benefits of public. He said that District Administration Kupwara is committed to create better infrastructure and improve civic amenities for the people of the district.

The DC was accompanied by Chairman MC, Reyaz Mir, Tehsildar Kupwara, Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara, CEO MC Kupwara, NT Kupwara-A and other concerned officers.

Seven Charge-Sheeted For Selling Fake Helicopter Tickets To Vaishno Devi Pilgrims

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Seven persons allegedly involved in selling fake helicopter tickets to Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims were charge-sheeted on Saturday in a court in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

While four of the accused were arrested from Rajasthan in March, three were held from Bihar in May during the investigation into complaints regarding duping of pilgrims who were sold online fake helicopter tickets for the journey from Katra to the hill shrine.

As many as fake websites were also identified and blocked during the investigation of the cases, a police spokesman said.

He said the charge sheets were filed in two cases registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Information Technology Act against the seven accused.

The accused were identified as Sunil Chawla, Monu Pankaj, Deepak Kumar and Gajanan Meghwal of Rajasthan and Ashok Kumar Sharma alias Mistri, Lakhpati Paswan and Santosh Kumar of Bihar.

The spokesman said that separate cases were registered at police station Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, early this year on the basis of complaints regarding fake online he-



licopter ticket bookings for Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage.

After the registration of cases, special teams were formed under the supervision of Superintendent of Police, Katra, Amit Bhasin and dispatched to various parts of the country to nab the accused involved in the commission of the crime, the spokesman said.

"The police teams zeroed on suspected locations in Rajasthan and Bihar and arrested a total of seven accused, the spokesman said, adding police also seized "incriminating material" from their possession. All the accused were brought to Katra after getting transit remand, the spokesman said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Amit Gupta advised all the intending pilgrims to use only the official website of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for booking services such as helicopter tickets and not fall prey to the fraudulent advertisements issued by unauthorised websites offering confirmed helicopter tickets and sale of Prasad.

HYDERPORA 'ENCOUNTER'

Mehbooba Welcomes Court Order For Exhuming Civilian's Body

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti welcomed on Saturday the Jammu and Kashmir High Court order that the body of civilian Amir Magrey, dubbed as a terrorist and killed in an encounter in November 2021, be exhumed and handed to his family for last rites.

Mehbooba, however, said it was unfortunate that people have to approach court to get the bodies of their children back.

"Unfortunately, our people have to approach the courts to get the bodies of their children. We get the bodies of our children back because of court directions. What can be more regretful than this? But, still, I am happy that the court has passed



the directions for the sake of humanity, and I welcome it," Mehbooba told reporters in Pulwama.

The PDP president visited the residence of the party's youth leader Waheed Parra, who was released on bail after 18 months of detention earlier this week.

In a 13-page order, Justice Sanjeev Kumar ordered on Friday that Amir Magrey's body be exhumed and handed to his family for last rites.

Magrey was among the four people killed in Hyderabad on the outskirts of Srinagar on November 15, 2021.

Police claimed all of them to be terrorists and buried their bodies in Kupwara in north Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police had decided in 2020 that it would not hand over the bodies of "terrorists" to the family members and instead would bury them at different places to avoid law and order situation.

However, after a public outcry about the veracity of the encounter, the Jammu and Kashmir administration buckled under pressure and exhumed bodies of two -- Altaf Ahmad Bhat and Dr Mudassir Gul -- and handed over their bodies to their family members.

NC Seeks Action Against BJP's Nupur Sharma Over Blasphemous Remarks

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Saturday demanded stern action against BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her alleged remarks on Prophet Muhammad during a television show.

"The party expresses dismay over the 'blasphemous, offensive, and frighteningly hurtful' remarks of the BJP spokesperson against Prophet Muhammad during a debate on

a national TV news channel," Salman Ali Sagar, provincial president, Youth National Conference (YNC) Kashmir, said in a statement.

He termed Sharma's views unfounded, unsubstantiated and uncalled for in entirety.

The BJP and the Union government must offer an unqualified apology for such sacrilegious comments in which the most sacred name for Muslims was used in a bid to stoke communal passions, he said.

The National Conference (NC) leader also demanded lodging of an FIR against the BJP leader. He said the smart alecks of the saffron brigade cannot hide behind Article 19 of the constitution which guarantees freedom of speech to the citizens.

He added that action against Sharma could well send a strong message to all the nefarious elements of the country who are out to create a chasm between Hindus and Muslims for their own political chicanery.

KPs In Jammu To Leave For Kheer Bhawani Mela On June 5



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits planning to pay obeisance at the revered Kheer Bhawani temple in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district will leave on June 5, an official said.

Divisional commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Saturday reviewed the arrangements to facilitate smooth pilgrimage, he added.

The annual Kheer Bhawani mela at the famous Ragnya Devi temple, one of the biggest religious functions of the displaced community, will be held on June 7.

Kumar chaired a high level meeting and a threadbare discussion was held regarding various arrangements including

transportation facilities for devotees and security arrangements, an official spokesman said.

According to the Mata Kheer Bhawani Committee, this year the yatra will leave Nagrota here on June 5 to facilitate the pilgrims to attend the religious Pooja and prayers on Mela Day on June 7.

Nestled in the shade of mammoth Chinar trees in Tulmulla village of Ganderbal, the temple usually witness a massive gathering of devotees, most of them Kashmiri Pandits, who come from across the country.

The Yatra would be flagged off from Nagrota amid tight security, the spokesman said, adding the Divisional Commissioner directed the Assistant Relief Commissioner and J&K

Road Transport Corporation to deploy an adequate number of buses to ferry the pilgrims to the temple.

Kumar also issued directions for traffic regulation and fool-proof security arrangements by deploying squad vehicles for the safety of the pilgrims.

He directed the Health department to establish medical camps and make arrangements for ambulances at Old toll plaza Nagrota, the spokesman said.

The Divisional Commissioner also instructed Deputy Commissioner Ramban to make larger (community kitchen) arrangements at the designated places along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, besides ensuring deployment of road clearance machinery in case of landslides.

North India's First Biotech Park Inaugurated In Kathua



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday inaugurated north India's first industrial Biotech Park in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, saying it will act as hub for incubation of new ideas.

He said the central government through the department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, has taken a number of initiatives to accelerate the growth of biotechnology by promoting development of innovative technologies, infrastructure, human resources and industry, which has helped the sector to gain global visibility.

This is the historic day for J&K as the name of Kathua is now listed among those developed regions of India where biotech parks have been established, attracting innovations and research not only from the country but from the whole world, Singh, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's office, said after inaugurating the park along with J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

Singh, who represents Udhampur Parliamentary constituency, said that the next 25 years are very crucial for this country and when India would be celebrating its 100 years of independence in 2047, the youth of Kathua would be among the great contributors towards making India a 'Vishwa Guru' (World leader).

Kathua is, because of its resource richness with diversity as well as its geographical location, destined to be North India's StartUp destination, he said.

Singh said the Biotech Park would act as hub for incubation of new ideas and will act as a robust platform to support the Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, progressive farmers, scientists, scholars and students not only from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh but also from nearby states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

The biotechnology park at Kathua has a potential to produce 25 startups in a year which will be among its great contributions to this region, the local MP said, adding with the unlocking of space technology in India under Modi, 60 startups have been established in only one-and-a-half-years.

He said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi without any regional bias, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has seen a new dawn of development in education, health infrastructure, science and technology.

He also said that the need is to change the erstwhile government job mindset first among the elders and then youth when the government has created greatest avenues for youth in the name of lucrative start-ups under Start-Up India, Stand-Up India.

He said the startup revolution has now started in J&K, the start-ups under Aroma Mission being the best starting points under it, creating household names in India like Bharat Bhushan, the brand ambassador of Aroma Mission in India who not only

doubled but quadrupled his income in only a few years.

The Minister emphasised that the StartUps must be sustainable and connected to the livelihood which is the actual mantra of this government creating greater employment opportunities under StartUps.

The Botlabs' is the best example of a sustainable startup connected to livelihood which flew 1000 drones during the beating retreat ceremony and are now earning in millions for sponsoring the drone shows in the country, he said.

He said Northeast is now the best example of change in India attracting StartUps across the country.

J&K too has a potential to become the prime destination for start-ups with resources diversity, he said, adding the facilities like herbal extraction, fermentation, analytical lab, distillation, micro-propagation, plant tissue culture would be available in Biotech Park besides the provision of technology incubation, training and skill development.

Singh said the work on the two Industrial Biotech Parks, one at Ghatti in Kathua and other in Handwara in north Kashmir jointly funded by union Ministry of Science and Technology and Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council was started in February 2019.

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of this project.

Singh said this biotech park will carry out research on biodiversity, medicinal and aromatic plants of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and it will also promote green category businesses.

He said the Department of Biotechnology has established Biotechnology Parks and Incubators across the country to translate research into products and services by providing necessary infrastructure support.

These Biotechnology Parks offer facilities to Scientists, and Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) for technology incubation, technology demonstration and pilot plant studies for accelerated commercial development of Biotechnology. The Biotech Parks of J&K are among 9 Biotechnology Parks supported by the Department of Biotechnology in various States, he said.

He said Biotechnology has made significant impact on the socio-economic developments worldwide with contributions in various sectors of biotechnology such as health care, agriculture, process industry, environment and service sectors.

The Indian biotechnology industry is one of the fastest growing knowledge based economies and is expected to play a vital role in shaping India's economy.

India is uniquely positioned to harness the immense potential that biotechnology offers for transforming all aspects of life globally. The Indian biotech industry is among the top 12 destinations in the world and ranks second in Asia after China, he said.

Mission Youth Instrumental Towards Satiating Aspirations Of Youth: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: "Young people should be respected, valued and listened to, be supported and encouraged in building personal and social relationships, developing their innate abilities and talents for their own benefit and benefit of the society at large", envisioned the J&K Youth Mission initiative of UT government.

Implementation of Mission Youth in Jammu and Kashmir has proved to be instrumental in satiating aspirations of youth of the UT facilitating them with a perfect platform to exploit their job potential to the fullest.

The Mission was intended to simultaneously achieve the twin goals of harnessing the rich demographic dividend and transforming youth of J&K into ambassadors of innovation, peace and development through systematic interventions for Youth

Engagement and Outreach under six domains including livelihood generation, education/skill development, financial assistance, counseling/theory, sports and recreation.

To meet aspirations of youth, J&K administration has taken numerous steps towards creating infrastructure, schemes and policies to speed up their socio-economic development under Mission Youth.

Jammu and Kashmir is bestowed with a predominantly young population with about 69 % of the people being below the age of 35 years. In order to provide a platform for holistic implementation of all youth engagement and outreach initiatives and to bring the interests and empowerment of youth to the centre of policy making, government of Jammu and Kashmir has rolled out a pioneering initiative 'Mission Youth'.

Under Mumkin scheme, unem-

ployed youth are facilitated to procure small commercial vehicles, on subsidized rates, to establish a sustainable livelihood line in the transport sector. Also, a module has been developed on JK-e Services portal for operating the scheme digitally in a complete transparent manner.

As a special incentive under this scheme, Mission Youth is contributing 0.80 lakh or 10% of On-Road Price of Vehicle (whichever is Minimum) per beneficiary and an equivalent amount is also contributed by the vehicle manufacturers. Mission Youth has tied up with reputed vehicle manufacturers as scheme partners for providing the best in class options of vehicles to the youth. Pertinently, discretion to choose type of vehicle is left to the youth under scheme guidelines.

A dedicated portal has been launched by Mission Youth in collaboration with

Vision India to connect youth of J&K with the industry. The initiative aims to provide more than 10,000 job opportunities to youth in 2022.

J&K administration has taken many steps to create infrastructure, formulate schemes and policies to speed up economic development and meet the aspirations of Youth so that they can contribute to society and achieve self growth.

Mission Youth under its AVSAR (Connect to Opportunities Initiative) has signed a MoU with Vision India for providing job opportunities to the youth of J&K. A dedicated portal of employment opportunities for youth of J&K has been provisioned to facilitate them in getting the best jobs.

In its endeavor towards empowering women socially and economically, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched Tejaswini scheme for implementation in the Union Territory.

This is a start up funding programme for adolescents and young women of the UT making them empowered and self dependent through their own business ventures.

The broad aim of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to young women of 18 to 35 years of age for setting up of gainful self-employment ventures, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. Under the scheme, female entrepreneurs shall be facilitated to avail financial assistance under Mudra from J&K Bank to the extent of Rs 5.00 lakh. Mission Youth, J&K shall provide an amount of Rs. 50,000 or 10% of project cost as subsidy. Besides, interest component of the loan shall also be sponsored by Mission Youth as special incentive and repayment of loan will technically be interest free for the young female entrepreneurs who apply for assistance under the scheme.

Mission Youth is focused on continuously encouraging, engaging and mobilizing young volunteers of J&K to support the government efforts towards socio-economic transformation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Another initiative under Mission Youth is Youth Clubs. The youth volunteers of these Youth Clubs are being given training on all aspects of government schemes. They will be part of emergency and crisis plans and will be involved in the planning and decision making regarding volunteer led activities to be done in Panchayats or wards.

The Youth Clubs are also provided special incentives in the form of grant-in-aid to support their activities. Youth Engagement programs have been convened in all districts through these youth clubs and more than 2 lakh youth have been associated with the programme.

DGCA imposes Rs 5 lakh fine on IndiGo for denying boarding to specially abled child

Press Trust of India

Aviation regulator DGCA on Saturday said it has imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on IndiGo airline for denying boarding to a specially abled child at Ranchi airport on May 7.

IndiGo had on May 9 said the boy was denied permission to board the Ranchi-Hyderabad flight as he was visibly in panic. As the boy was prohibited from boarding, his parents who were accompanying him also decided not to enter the plane.

The DGCA had on May 9 formed a three-member team to investigate the incident.

"It has been observed that the handling of the special child by the IndiGo ground staff was deficient and ended up exacerbating

the situation," said a statement by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

A more compassionate handling would have smoothened nerves, calmed the child and obviated the need for the extreme step resulting in denied boarding to the passengers, it mentioned.

Special situations deserve extraordinary responses but the airline's staff failed to rise up to the occasion, and in the process, committed lapses in adherence to the letter and spirit of the Civil Aviation Requirements (regulations), it noted.

In view of this, the competent authority in the DGCA has decided to impose a penalty of Rs 5 lakhs on the airline under the provisions of the relevant Aircraft Rules, it mentioned.

Punjab Police withdraws security of political leaders, Takht jathedars, officers

Press Trust of India

The Punjab Police has ordered the withdrawal of security of 424 people, including former MLAs, Jathedars of two Takhts, heads of Deras, and police officers.

The additional director general of police (security), however, said in an order on Friday that the security personnel were "being withdrawn on a purely temporary basis in connection with an emergent law and order duty".

Prominent among the Sikh temporal authorities to have lost the security cover is Giani Harpreet Singh, Jathedar of Takht Damdama Sahib in Bathinda. He also holds the charge of Jathedar of Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

The security of Giani Raghbir Singh, Jathedar of Takht Kesgarh Sahib in Anandpur Sahib district; Sant Niranjan Dass, chief of Dera Sachkhand Ballan in Jalandhar; Satguru Udhay Singh Namdhari, Bhaini Sahib, Ludhiana; Giani Jagtar Singh, head granthi at Golden Temple in Amritsar; Baba Lakha Singh, Gurdwara

Nanaksar Kaleran wale, Jagraon; and Sant Tarminder Singh, Dera chief of Kahna Dhesian, Goraya in Jalandhar has also been withdrawn, as per the order.

Ten personnel deployed to protect Dera Radha Soami Sat-sang Beas, nine of Dera Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan, Noormahal and six to guard Shahi Imam Punjab, Mohammad Usman Ludhianvi have also been withdrawn.

Among MLAs whose security has been rolled back are Shiromani Akali Dal legislator from Majitha seat Ganieve Kaur Majithia, Congress MLA from Jalandhar Cantonment Pargat Singh and AAP MLA from Ludhiana North Madan Lal Bagga.

The security cover of former Congress MLAs Kuljit Singh Nagra, Balwinder Singh Laddi, Harminder Gill, Madan Lal Jalalpur, Surjit Dhiman, Hardial Kamboj and Sukhpal Bhullar, former BJP and SAD legislators Dinesh Babbu, Sharanjit Singh Dhillon, Kanwarjit Singh and Gurpartap Singh Wadhala has also been dropped.

Former AAP MLAs Kanwar Sandhu and Jagtar Singh Jagga have also lost their security cover.

Sharp spike in missing children cases: NGOs call for increased sensitisation, vigilance



Press Trust of India

Child rights NGOs have flagged a sharp rise in the number of children who have gone missing in the last two years due to the social impact of COVID-19.

In order to prevent the situation for worsening, the organisations have called for the immediate strengthening of child protection committees at the village level, sensitising and training parents, and urged the government to make adequate budget allocation in this connection.

As per the latest figures of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 59,262 children went missing in India in 2020. With 48,972 children remaining untraced from the previous years, the total number of missing children has gone up to 1,08,234.

There is almost a 13 times rise in the number of cases of missing children reported annually between 2008 and 2020, the NCRB said. As per the data, 7,650 cases of missing children were reported in 2008.

In the last two years, Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), Kailash Satyarthi Foundation's sister organisation alone has rescued around 12,000 children from across the country Dhananjay Tingal, its executive director, said.

"This is ample proof to show

that after the pandemic, child trafficking has increased manifold," he told PTL.

On average, 29 children in Madhya Pradesh and 14 in Rajasthan went missing every day in 2021, according to a new report by NGO Child Rights and You (CRY), which gathered the information through RTIs.

Tingal said some children were being trafficked with the consent of their parents, while few others voluntarily went with the traffickers.

"Ultimately, a large majority of these children went missing," he said.

He urged employees of railways, roadways and others to immediately intervene if they come across any unaccompanied child or a child who is begging in public transport systems.

"Subsequently, such children must be brought under the umbrella of the government's safety net," he said.

Prabhat Kumar, deputy director, Child Protection, Save the Children, said increased poverty has become an overarching reason for children to go missing or become victims of trafficking. He said the situation has worsened due to no schooling or lack of continuity in learning activities due to COVID-19-enforced lockdown and restrictions.

Soha Moitra, regional director

(North), CRY, said many families in rural areas were already in debt, and the economic burden due to the pandemic increased further. The pressure of paying back loans contributed to the trafficking of children of such families, for labour and marriage.

She said mandatory use of face masks often made it difficult to identify traffickers and kidnappers.

"The government departments concerned in collaboration with the local administrative bodies and civil society organisations should come forward to create regular awareness on the importance of education of children with constructive activities," Moitra said.

In 2020, despite the complete nationwide lockdown for nearly four months March to June 59,262 children (13,566 boys, 45,687 girls, nine transgender children) were reported missing.

The share of missing girl children has increased from about 70 per cent in 2018 to 71 per cent in 2019, and further to 77 per cent in 2020, according to NCRB data.

On the other hand, the share of untraced children from the previous years accounted for about 42 per cent in 2018, 39 per cent in 2019, and 45 per cent in 2020 of the total missing children.

Communal tension in coastal Karnataka region rise amid hijab, Malali mosque rows

IANs

Communal tension in coastal Karnataka region comprising Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi is on a rise with the resurfacing of hijab controversy and the Malali temple-mosque row.

The coastal region of the state is considered to be communally sensitive and bastion of BJP. The region is prone to communal tensions and clashes. The hijab crisis which snowballed into an international issue started from here.

When things seemed to have settled down, the communal strife raised its ugly head again in the region with the Hindu students launching a protest against wearing of hijab in classrooms as classes in schools and colleges resumed after summer holidays.

The ruling BJP government has stressed that only uniforms are allowed in the campus. Following

the protest in University College of Mangaluru, BJP MLA Vedavyasa Kamat is holding a meeting with College Development and Management Committee members and students. Mangaluru University Vice-Chancellor and Registrar are also participating in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) has stated that they will not let Hindu activists carry one handful of soil from Malali Masjid stirring a controversy. "Don't dream about taking over masjid," stated Abdul Mazed Mysuru, the state president of SDPI on Saturday.

Addressing a rally at Mangaluru, Mazed challenged Hindu activists and Sangh Parivar members to take traditional way of "Tambula Prashne" to ascertain on destroying of 200 years old Suggalamma temple in Ballary by mining baron and BJP leader Janardhana Reddy.

Fuel price hike was necessary to avoid bankruptcy, says Pak PM Shehbaz

Press Trust of India

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said his government's move to increase fuel prices was necessary to avoid the country from facing bankruptcy.

Pakistan on Thursday increased the prices of petroleum products by Rs 30 per litre. Following the hike, price of petrol is now at Rs 179.85, diesel at Rs 174.15, kerosene at Rs 155.95 and light diesel at Rs 148.41.

In his first address to the nation after assuming power last month, Shehbaz talked mostly about the domestic problem faced by the government.

His main focus was the relief package for the vulnerable groups after the government increased the petroleum prices to get an assistance package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The prime minister said the move to increase fuel prices was necessary to avoid Pakistan from facing bankruptcy.

Shehbaz said the decision to increase petroleum prices was tough. We with a heavy heart increased

prices of petroleum; we have to take the decision in a difficult economic situation. It is due to the incredible price hike in petroleum prices in the global market, he said.

The previous government had announced a subsidy which could not be supported by the treasury. We took the decision by preferring the country on our own interest, he said.

To mitigate the impact of the hike in the petroleum prices, he announced a Rs 28 billion per month relief package to provide Rs 2,000 per month to about 14 million families.

These families comprise almost 80 million individuals which is one third of the total population of the country, he said.

Shhebaz also blamed the previous government for the current hike in petroleum as it has committed with the IMF for this increase.

You made a deal with the IMF, not we; you accepted their tough conditions, not we; you burden the people with inflation, not we; you pushed the country into an economic puddle, not we, he said.

Bun Maska



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