



P3 CITY

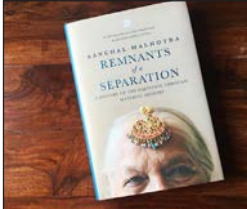
DC HOLDS MEET TO RESOLVE IMPEDIMENTS IN INSTALLATION OF SMART METERS

A meeting of senior officers was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad to review the progress regarding installation of smart meters in

THINK

P5 PARTITION POSTCARD

History is brutal. History is terrific too. History can never be erased from memories. Historical facts and events cry to be documented for the future. History, always, has a lesson for the future. To revisit the past is to relive a time gone by, and learn



P7 STATE

ARMY'S STRATEGIC CONCLAVE DISCUSSES 'GRAY ZONE WARFARE'

Amid a sudden spike in militant attacks in Kashmir Valley and the continued stalemate along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the army's



Quote!

Only the dead have seen the end of war

-Plato

NEWS DIGEST

LG Condoles Bhajan Sopori's Demise

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the sad demise of Santoor maestro Pandit Bhajan Sopori. In a condolence message, the Lt Governor said, "I am deeply grieved to learn about demise of Santoor maestro Pandit Bhajan Sopori. In his passing away Indian classical music has lost one of its most talented artistes. He also made invaluable contribution as a member of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. **More on P6**

SIDCO Manager Nabbed With Rs 1.5L Bribe

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested a senior officer of the Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO), for demanding and accepting a bribe for issuing no-objection certificate to a unit holder. The anti-graft body received a complaint from an industrial unit holder alleging that SIDCO State Manager, Fayaz Ahmad Khan was demanding a bribe of Rs 1.5 lakh from his for issuing no-objection certificate (NOC) required for **More on P6**

J&K Sees Nine New Corona Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported nine fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Friday, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in the Union Territory to 454271. According to officials, a single new case of Covid-19 was detected in Srinagar district of the Valley, while the remaining eight were registered in Jammu district of the winter capital during the last 24 hours. "Moreover, 04 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged **More on P6**

Police Told To Identify Fake Media Groups

Srinagar: The District Magistrate, Budgam Friday asked the police to identify fake media groups operating without proper registration in the district. He has also asked the police to "verify the antecedents, and source of funding of all so-called journalists, who operate the illegal portals without any valid degree, qualification and authorization from the competent authority." "It has been observed that there is unchecked growth of illegal" **More on P6**

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High-Level Delhi Meet Takes Stock Of Kashmir Situation

KPs Security, Targeted Killings & Amarnath Yatra Discussed With Top Security Brass

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The security of Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley was discussed threadbare at a high-level meeting on Friday chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who took stock of the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The meeting was convened in the wake of eight targeted killings by militant groups especially Lashker-e-Taiba in the Kashmir Valley whose victims included non-Muslims, security personnel, an artist and local civilians.

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha were among those who attended the meeting.

The home minister reviewed the overall security situation



in Jammu and Kashmir with special focus on protection of Kashmiri Pandits living in the valley, a ministry official said.

Republic Network quoted sources as saying that the meeting decided creation of over eight safe zones in the Valley for the safety and

protection of minorities.

Scores of Kashmiri Pandits, who were employed under a prime minister's package in 2012, have been staging protests threatening mass exodus since the killing of Rahul Bhat, who was shot dead by militants on May 12 in the

SCORES OF KASHMIRI PANDITS, WHO WERE EMPLOYED under a prime minister's package in 2012, have been staging protests threatening mass exodus since the killing of Rahul Bhat, who was shot dead by militants on May 12 in the Chadoora area of Budgam district in central Kashmir.

Kupwara 'Encounter'

ADC To Record Witness Statements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kupwara probing last month's encounter in Jumagund area of the North Kashmir district, issued a public notice on Friday asking the witnesses to record their statements before June 15.

On May 26, army and police claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jumagund area of Keran Sector by killing three Pakistani militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in a pre-dawn encounter. Army also lost a porter during the exchange of fire with militants.

Six days after the encounter, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara appointed ADC Ghulam Nabi Bhat as enquiry officer to probe the encounter in which the three militants were killed, an official spokesperson said Friday.

"The ADC has asked general public, who are having any knowledge of the incident and are desirous to share the same with him, can attend his office on working **More on P6**

Hyderpora Encounter: Division Bench Stays HC's Exhumation Order

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A division bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has stayed the operation of a judgment directing the authorities to exhume the body of Amir Magrey, one of the four persons killed in Hyderpora encounter, till the next date of hearing.

As per news reports, a division bench of the High Court, comprising of Justice Ali Muhammad Magrey and Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, has stayed the operation of a judgment dated May 27, directing the authorities to exhume the body of Amir Magrey of Banihal.

While issuing notices to the respondents, the Court said that the matter requires a final decision after hearing all parties concerned.

No Shifting Of KP Employees To Jammu: Officials

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Amid a growing demand for shifting Kashmiri Pandit employees to safer places after a series of targeted killings, the Jammu and Kashmir administration Friday made it clear the employees would not be moved out of the Valley but transferred to safer locations.

Official also said the recent escalation in targeted militant violence would not lead to any change in plans for holding the annual Amarnath Yatra which is scheduled from June 30-August 11.

The assertion comes in the wake of a spate of militant incidents which included targeted killings of civilians.

One of the victims was

Protesting Employees Seek Transfer From Valley

been granted in terms of the medical science analysis of the dead body which envisages that the dead body gets putrefied only after a period of one month.

The AG further submitted that the writ petitioner had not prayed for the sort of relief granted by the writ court and, therefore, the relief is beyond the pleadings on record. Advocate Deepika Singh Rajawat, the counsel for the petitioner, submitted that right to decent burial of the dead body as per the religious belief is a right guaranteed by the Constitution as held by Supreme Court in the case titled 'Ramsharan Autyanuprasi & Anr. V. Union of India & Ors., AIR 1989 SC 459'.

She opposed the grant of any interim relief in favour of the government—(KNO)



Two Kashmiri Pandits taking a stroll inside the highly secured Sheikhpora migrant colony in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Rahul Bhat. Bhat was a Kashmiri Pandit migrant who was employed under a prime minister's package. He was shot dead by militants

on May 12 at the Tehsil office in Chadoora in Central Kashmir district of Budgam.

His killing sparked demonstrations by **More on P6**

Social Media Under Watch

Scores Booked For Anti-National Posts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday registered a case under UAP Act in Police Station Kothibagh for anti-national and communal overtones in relation to forthcoming Amarnath yatra.

The Yatra is scheduled from June 30-August 11 this year after a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It has been reliably learnt that some persons/groups which include Sikhs for Justice have been disseminating anti-national messages ahead of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra and are indulging in activities promoting enmity between different religious groups," a police spokesman said.

Take Steps To Stop Migration: Cong To Govt

The Congress on Friday demanded immediate steps to end the migration of Kashmiri Pandits and outsiders from Kashmir and asked the government to engage with the stakeholders to restore normalcy in the troubled valley. Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said the government should spell out its policy for restoring normalcy in the union territory, rattled by a series of targeted militant killings. Underlining the need for greater sensitivity towards the people of Kashmir, he said, normalcy and peace cannot be brought there through propaganda. A lot of statesmanship is required to address the Kashmir issue, which is currently lacking, he said. "People are being killed in offices and even government offices are not secure. Please move them **More on P6**

KP Body Moves HC, Seeks Relocation From Valley

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The Kashmiri Pandit Sangarash Samiti (KPSS), an organisation of KPs has moved the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court seeking directions to the government to shift all the religious minorities to safer locations outside the Valley.

The KPSS in a representation to the Chief Justice informed that the government is not allowing them to leave the valley.

"The government blocked the roads, used electric currents to barricade the walls of the transit camps, the main doors of the transit camps are closed from outside with locks and similar," reads the petition, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

The KP body sought intervention from the court regarding the killing of minorities.

The KPSS is a group of 808 families living in 272 villages of Kashmir. The group didn't leave the Kashmir Valley even after the height of the militancy in the 1990s. It is headed by Sanjay Tickoo.

In the petition, the body

3 Soldiers, Civilian Injured In Anantnag Encounter

Two Non-Locals Injured In Shopian Grenade Blast

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three soldiers and a civilian were injured on Friday in an ongoing encounter between militants and the government forces in Verinag area of South Kashmir's Kupwara district.

According to officials, the encounter broke out on Friday evening when a cordon and search operation was launched by the joint team of police and army's 19 RR in Rishipora in Kapran on the basis of inputs about the presence of militants in the village.

The militants hiding in the village, officials said, fired upon the joint team when they started advances towards the suspected spot. He said the forces returned the fire, setting off an encounter.

In the initial exchange of gunfire, the officials said that a soldier identified as Amandeep and a civilian Mukhtar Ahmad Malik sustained gunshot injuries. Both of them were removed to the hospital for treatment.

The officials further said that the intermittent exchange of fire was going on, even as additional reinforcements have reached the village to tighten the cordon and to thwart any attempt of militants to flee taking cover of darkness.

"#Encounter **More on P6**

alleged that the Union Territory administration and the Central government have failed to secure the life of Religious minorities staying in Kashmir Valley.

It noted that nearly twelve attacks have been carried out on the local religious minorities living in the Valley apart from those who came to Kashmir to earn their bread and butter.

It said that apart from target killing number of threat posters and letters were issued by the militant organization operating in Kashmir Valley in which it has been clearly warned that they will kill religious minorities, specifically Kashmiri Pandits / Hindus who are living in the Valley.

It further informed the Chief Justice that the target killings have caused more fear and panic among them and alleged that the Government failed to protect their lives.

"That is a clear violation of the Right to life which is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India as on the one hand, UT / Central Administration fail **More on P6**

India Rejects US Report On Religious Freedom

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India Friday rejected its criticism in a US State Department report on religious freedom, saying it is unfortunate that "vote bank politics is being practised in international relations".

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the observation on India in the report is based on "motivated inputs and biased views".

The annual report on international religious freedom, released by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, alleged that attacks on members of the minority communities, including killings, assaults, and intimidation, took place in India throughout 2021.

"We have noted the release of the US State Department 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom, and ill-informed comments by senior US officials," Bagchi said. **More on P6**



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2

7 Incredible Benefits of Lifting Weights That Have Nothing to Do With Building Muscle

We hate to sound like a broken record, but it really is crucial to incorporate lifting weights into your workout regimen. In fact, when it comes to exercise for older adults, strength training actually trumps cardio because preserving muscle is more important than losing fat as you age.

"Every decade, starting in your mid 30s, you lose a percentage of muscle, which affects your metabolism, balance, and ability to brace yourself in the event of an injury," explains Larysa DiDio, a certified personal trainer and Prevention's contributing fitness editor. "By weight training, you build more muscle to protect your body against injury." **So, how often should you lift weights?**

Ideally, twice a week—whether you lift free weights, use machines, or do bodyweight exercises, says Rachelle Reed, PhD, CPT, Pure Barre's manager of training development and barre kinesiology. That said, as you get stronger and fitter, both Reed and DiDio agree that you should bump up your sessions to more than two times a week. "You can totally lift every day—just make sure to work on different body parts or train your body differently each day," DiDio says.

Wondering which muscle groups to focus on? Reed says that depends on your goals. For a full body workout, "many trainers will tell clients to focus on the upper body one day and the lower body a couple days later," she says. To help you get the most bang for your buck, consider folding in compound exercises and supersets into your routine, a form of strength training in which you move from one exercise to the next with no rest in between.

In addition to building strength, lifting weights has a host of benefits. Keep reading to learn all the reasons you should pick up a pair of dumbbells (or kettlebells, or dare we say, a barbell) today.

You'll lose weight and burn more calories

While cardio can help you get rid of belly fat, lifting weights helps you build more muscle, which can also help you burn more calories. That's because muscles are metabolically active, meaning they burn calories even when you're not exercising. "In fact, muscle tissue burns seven to 10 calories per pound daily, while fat burns only two to three calories per pound daily," DiDio explains.

What's more, a 2017 study in Obesity suggests that weight training combined with a healthy, low-calorie diet, can help preserve lean muscle mass that's lost through aerobic workouts. "When weight loss occurs in the absence of strength training, all facets of body

composition are lost," Reed says. "You lose some weight in fat, some in muscle, and some in bone—and it's unfavorable to lose weight that's coming from both muscle and bone." That's why strength training is so important. When people exercise to lose weight, the majority of the weight loss is fat loss.

You'll protect your bones

As you age, your bones become more brittle and weaker, especially if you're post-menopausal, which is due to lower estrogen levels—the hormone responsible for maintaining bone mass. But lifting weights can help you build bone mineral density through Wolff's Law, which states that bones can grow in response to forces that are placed upon it. In other words, creating pressure on your joints through weight-bearing exercises can actually help you build stronger, healthier bones.

"Strength training involves muscles contracting against the bones they're surrounding," Reed explains. "This force applied to the bones helps improve bone density overtime."

In fact, an October 2017 study from the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research shows that high-intensity resistance training exercises, like deadlifts, overhead presses, and back squats, can help improve bone mineral density in women with osteopenia and osteoporosis.

You'll manage stress and boost your mood

Had a hard day at work and need to release some tension? Time to pick up those weights. Just like any form of exercise, strength training can enhance your mood by releasing feel-good hormones called endorphins.

Recent research also suggests that exercise, including weight training, may help protect against Alzheimer's and dementia. Researchers from Columbia University Irving Medical Center discovered that the hormone irisin, which is released during exercise, may help promote neuronal growth in the hippocampus—the area of the brain dedicated to learning and memory.

"Any type of exercise is a mood booster, but weight training makes you feel stronger and it builds the back and neck muscles that are most directly associated with stress," DiDio says.

You'll improve your posture

If you have a desk job, chances are you're dealing with a case of rounded shoulders and a hunched back, which place additional pressure on your low back. This can lead to bad posture and limited range of motion in the shoulders, which are the most flexible joint in the body.

But lifting weights can help reverse this by opening up the chest, strengthening the back muscles, and improving

freedom of movement. "It also strengthens your core, which keeps the back in alignment and upright," DiDio says.

Go for multi-joint compound exercises (think a squat to overhead press or a lateral lunge to twist), which can help you work in different planes of motion and muscle groups, saving you time and effort.

You'll reduce back pain

There's no one reason for back pain, but muscular imbalances, like weak knees and an unstable core, can contribute, among other things. Most people think aches and pain are due to strains, but sometimes, it's a result of bad biomechanics. Your muscles work in a kinetic chain, so if there's a weak link, it can often manifest into a bigger problem in different areas of the body. But by building total-body strength, you can bypass most injuries.

For example, if you have weak hip flexors, it also means you have weak glutes—their opposing muscles. And, "typically they [muscles] don't weaken evenly, so this can also throw your pelvis out of whack, which could affect your gait," DiDio says. "As weak and tight muscles tug and pull, they can cause imbalances and pain, which is your body telling you that something is wrong."

You'll improve memory and brain health

A 2016 review from the British Journal of Sports Medicine shows that physical activity can help prevent or delay cognitive decline in people over 50, regardless of their current neurological state.

When you're moving, your body pumps oxygen-rich blood to your brain, boosting neuroplasticity—your brain's ability to create new neural connections and adjust to changes in environment. By increasing neuroplasticity, you can better handle stressful situations that come with life and stay sharp.

"Indeed, the American College of Sports Medicine has published several studies investigating the positive effects of different types of exercise on cognitive performance in older adults, and they agree that this is an area of research worthy of further pursuit," Reed notes.

You'll be better in tune with your body

There's nothing like lifting a pair of weights to help you tune into your senses when you work out. Whether you're doing an overhead press, a plank row, or a goblet squat, lifting weights creates greater awareness around using your breath to help you get the most out of each rep. Plus, doing complex moves can test your listening and cognitive skills—it takes some brain power to process a trainer's cues and execute a move properly!

POLICE RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION- NON GAZETTED OFFICERS DISTRICT ANANTNAG

Police Retired Officers Association is holding a meeting of Non-gazetted officers of Anantnag district on June 4 (Saturday). Pertinently a meeting was held on May 4, 2022 which was presided over by district president Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh. All tehsil bodies participated in the meeting. Under the leadership of tehsil presidents, all the tehsil bodies were disbanded and appointment of new tehsil presidents was approved. In this regard the next meeting will be held in Anantnag district on July 4, 2022.

Following are the new tehsil presidents;

- 1- **Mohammad Rafiq Bhat** ---Anantnag (9906715651)
- 2- **Abdul Rashid** --- Hiller Kokernag (9419087106)
- 3- **Sanaullah Wani** ---- Saali Ashmuqam (9906480605)
- 4- **Mohammad Maqbool Wani** -- Shangus
- 5- **Mohammad Ramazan** -- Nowgam (9906950259)
- 6- **Ghulam Rasool** ----Dooru (9622596313)
- 7- **Mohammad Abdullah** -- Logripora Ashmuqam (9541163247)

District President: Manzoor Ahmad Sheikh

RNA

از نیابت دیلگام با اجلاس نایب تحصیلدار دیلگام

مضمون درخواست منجانب: رومی جان زوجہ شادہ سراج ساکنہ کا تحصیل و ضلع انتہا ناگ بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیجار ہمداد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈر یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑاوی حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ کا کنڈہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	سراج الدین ولد شادہ شاہ	70 سال	پیشہ	
02	ہمیلہ بانو زوجہ سراج الدین	68 سال	مدرسہ	
03	شادہ سراج پسر سراج الدین	33 سال	ماہرست	LPC
04	رومی جان زوجہ شادہ سراج	31 سال	گھریلو کام	
05	رفعت جان دختر سراج الدین	38 سال	گھریلو کام	
06	محمد عثمان ولد شادہ سراج	01 سال	شیرخوار	

اس کے علاوہ او کوئی افراد کوئی نہیں ہے۔ ساکنہ کے کنڈہ کی آمدنی، LPC تک ہے۔ اب سرٹیفکیٹ مزکورہ کی اجرائی میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر پڑا میں پیش کریں۔ معیار گذارنے کے بعد کوئی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر

نایب تحصیلدار۔

از نیابت کنڑر
مضمون: درخواست منجانب جنید احمد بیگ ولد شوکت احمد بیگ ساکنہ موضوع کراؤنٹھ نسبت Unemployment سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود
اشتیجار ہمداد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت سائل کے کاغذات زیر بحث دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے۔ بیان رپورٹ پڑاوی حلقہ ڈیوار سائل مذکورہ وہ پڑا میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی ترک سکونت اختیار نہیں کی ہے۔ نیز سائل مذکورہ تا حال کسی بھی سرکاری یا غیر سرکاری محکمہ میں کام نہیں کر رہا ہے۔
قبل اس کے کہ سائل کی درخواست پر مذید کاروائی کی جائے۔ اول ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر اس بارے میں کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دفتری اوقات میں اسات یا یادگاتا ہے عذر یا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے عید کو کوئی بھی عذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تحریر الصدر
نایب تحصیلدار
azk

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have bought a vehicle bearing Regd No. **JK03H-3031**. Now I want to change the name on registration papers from Mohammad Iqbal Lone S/o Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Lone R/o Lalipora Malpora Wanpoh To Utta Ullah Dugga S/o Mohammad Amin Dugga R/o Khanabal Anantnag. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in this office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Utta Ullah Dugga
S/o Mohammad Amin Dugga
R/o: Khanabal Anantnag

RNA

REMEMBRANCE Dr Mohammed Afzal

It is very hard to believe that a year has passed since you left us on the Friday of 4th June 2021. Each and every moment doesn't go without a thought of you and so does, we feel your presence shadowing us every second. Death took you away from us nevertheless knowing it's going to be hard to breathe and every moment you are being missed. No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you, but you are always living in our hearts. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bless you with his divine mercy and compassion.

(Aameen)

Sehar Afzal (wife) Humaz bin Afzal Bhat, Hazik bin Afzal Bhat (Sons)



INFO

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION BARAMULLA

Short Term e-Tender

Fresh NIT No: E-20 of 2022-23

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders In two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document (Rate in Rs.)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest money	Validity of offer	Time of completion	Programme Head	Whether Accorded/ Position of Funds	Tender ID no.
1	Electrical work to be carried out at lift irrigation scheme Azadpora.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.68	Rs. 1360.00	120 days	07 days	M&R	Yes AAA order no. 01-MCO of 2022-23 Dated: 19-04-2022	2022_ IFC_172011_1
2	Electrical work to be carried out at lift irrigation scheme Delina.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.457	Rs. 914.00					2022_ IFC_172011_2
3	Urgent electrical works to be carried out at lift irrigation scheme Gangbugh 1st and Unisoo old.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.38	Rs. 760.00					2022_ IFC_172011_3

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 02-06-2022(04:00pm).

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 02-06-2022(06:00 pm) to 07-06-2022 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue.

The complete bidding shall be online.

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla on 08-06-2022 at 12:30 am after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day.

No. MIDB/CC-02/981-90

Dated: 02-06-2022

DIPK-3245/22

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL DIVISION BARAMULLA

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

Gist of Short Term Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No:-MDB/e-Tender/24 of 2022-23 Dated:- 01-06-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from registered suppliers / agencies having experience in similar nature of work for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Body and cabin repairs to Truck No. JK05B/3083, pertaining to Work Shop Sub Division Baramulla.	1.57	200.00	3140.00	07days	Accorded	Accorded

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the 'Abstract; appended to this notice:-

01.	Online tender download / Start Date	02-06-2022 (06:15 PM)
02.	Online tender Submission End Date	10-06-2022 (06:55 PM)
03	Cost of Tender Documents	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt/mpay-transaction acknowledgement, to be uploaded with the online bid. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher. (MSME certificate holder in the concerned trade is exempted) Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: T.P Baramulla. IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL Account No.: 0213010200000051.
04	Date and time of opening of Technical Bid (online) (Cover 1 st)	11-06-2022 at 02:00 PM in office of the Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla
05.	Date and time of opening of Financial Bid (online) (Cover 2 nd)	After evaluation of cover 1 st in office of Ex. Engineer, Mechanical Division (MED), Baramulla

Instructions to Bidders:

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers; viz Techno- Commercial / Financial cover.
 - 1.1 Cover 1st shall contain:
 - 1.1.1 Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost.
 - 1.1.2 Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST No.
 - 1.1.3 Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
 - 1.1.4 Scanned copies of the Annexure "A" & "B" duly accepted / signed.
 - 1.1.5 Scanned copy of Tender Fee.
 - 1.2 Cover 2nd shall contain:
 - 1.2.1 Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this department.
 02. The department will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons.
 03. The cost of tender documents is non-refundable and non-transferable.

No: - MDB /TS/e-tendering-24/607-11

Dated: -01-06-2022

DIPK-3257/22

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical Division

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DC Holds Meet To Resolve Impediments In Installation Of Smart Meters

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A meeting of senior officers was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad to review the progress regarding installation of smart meters in Srinagar.

The DC took a detailed review of Feeder wise meter installation progress in Srinagar made so far. MD KPDCL gave first-hand appraisal about the implementation of Smart metering project in Srinagar. He informed that under smart metering project Srinagar Phase-I, out of 57750 meters, as many as 25000 have been installed till now and process is going on to install remaining 32000 smart meters.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned Revenue

Field officers to create awareness among the people regarding utility and advantages of smart metering in ensuring constant supply of electricity.

He asked all the officers to work in close coordination to tackle any hurdle in the process of installation of smart meters amicably. He also said that strict action shall be taken against anyone hindering the process.

The DC stressed on involving social leaders and activists to motivate people regarding installation of Smart meters. He said the message should be loud and clear regarding the execution of work besides utilizing social media and other channels to familiarize and sensitize general people about the advantages of installation of smart meters.

During the meeting, Chief



Engineer, KPDCL highlighted the benefits of smart metering including reliable power supply during winter, reduction in outages, reduction in Transformer damages, etc.

Meanwhile, all the execu-

tive magistrates have been told to initiate strict legal action if any hindrances are created in implementation of power Sector reforms under various centrally sponsored schemes.

The meeting was attended by

MD KPDCL, Basharat Qayoom, ADDC, Srinagar, Zahoor Ahamd, SP Headquarter, Arif Ahmad, Chief Engineer, KPDCL, Javaid Ahmad, besides Superintendent Engineers, Chief Planning Officer, all City Tehsildars and other officials.

Elderly Man Killed In Srinagar Accident

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An elderly man was killed in a road accident at Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar district on Friday evening.

Officials said, a 70-year-old man identified as Khazir Mohammad Mando of Hamdaniya Colony Bemina was critically

injured in a road accident near FCI godown in Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar.

They said he was shifted to SMHS Hospital for treatment, however, he succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident. (KNO)

KCCI Condemns Recent Civilian Killings In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Friday condemned the recent killing of civilians and expressed heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families.

Terming the bloodshed as unacceptable in any society and against humanity, KCCI spokesperson in a statement said that it goes against the basic spirit and concept of Kashmiriyat.

"The office bearers of Kashmir's largest trade body are deeply shocked and distressed at the killing spree over the past few weeks. This according to the body has dented the image of Kashmiris again and is against cultural ethos," the spokesperson said.

"As the fear has engulfed everybody around, we withstand the innocents in this hour of grief, fear and insecurity".

"Kashmir is known for its hospitality and beauty and such incidents have unfortunately dented its image. Much to the aversion of the common man, such incidents have an impact on the local economy at a time when it was showing signs of recovery after a long lull," he said.

As Kashmir's economy is intricately linked with the non-migrant workforce working in Kashmir, the targeted killing spree can further slump the economy, he said.

Meanwhile, KCCI extended full sympathy with the families of the civilians killed in recent attacks in Kashmir.

Sheikh Imran Welcomes Mohammad Dilawar Dar Into PC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K People's Conference State Youth President and Former Deputy Mayor SMC Sheikh Mohammad Imran on Friday welcomed the former Apni Party provincial joint secretary (youth) Mohammad Dilawar Dar into the party and expressed hope that his joining will add further to the strength of its youth cadres.

In his statement to the media, Imran emphasized on the crucial role of youth in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir towards progress and affluence while saying that active participation of youth will help in fighting social evils, ignorance and mediocrity.

"Youth have great tasks & challenges ahead that will ultimately aid in transforming J&K's destiny. There is an overabundance of opportunities for the youth in many unexplored fields that await to be exploited. What matters is our desire to tread the path of prosperity and visionary leadership that can light even the darkest of the paths. Unfortunately, for more than seven decades J&K's youth have been bottled-up and hoodwinked by the erstwhile families in power but that thing has started

to change now," he said.

Imran said that previous governments in J&K have utterly failed to resolve the issues pertaining to youth and thus alienation and a sense of dejection captivated their minds.

"The problems faced by the need-based workers, casual workers, ReTs and many others have been a result of the myopic vision of the preceding successive governments in J&K who always disregarded their genuine demands. Had NC & PDP efficiently governed the affairs of these youth, they wouldn't have been forced to hit the streets and protest for their rights," Imran remarked.

He said that JKPC Youth Wing shall continue its outreach program to the youth of J&K, render counselling and amplify their voices to get their grievances mitigated and issues resolved.

On this occasion, Mohammad Dilawar Dar expressed gratitude towards party leadership and swore to selflessly work for the youth welfare. "I have resigned from an important political post just for the sake of my fellow youths and I shall never hesitate to sacrifice my life if it be what it demands for speaking in their interest," he added.

Tarigami Condoles Demise Of Pandit Bhajan Sopori

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Expressing shock over the demise of eminent santoor maestro, Pandit Bhajan Sopori, (CPIM) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami condoled his demise.

In a statement, Tarigami termed his demise as unfortunate and a setback to society.

"This is an irreparable loss not only to his family but also to the entire people of the Valley. We all are grieved over the passing away of a son of this soil, who has earned his name and fame across the globe," Tarigami said.

He also prayed for peace to the departed soul and also for strength to the bereaved family to bear the pain of his departure. (KNS)

J&K To Host Maiden Maternal & Child Health Conclave At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is all set to host the first ever two day Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Conclave scheduled on June 6 and 7, 2022. The event is being organized by National Health Mission J&K and will be held at SKICC. Mission Director National Health Mission J&K, Yasin M. Choudhary, gave an overview of the conclave.

"the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with the decreasing trend in maternal and child mortality, envisions to further decrease the maternal and child mortality to establish at the forefront of providing quality healthcare", he said.

He said the conclave is designed as a thought exchange platform to deliberate on challenges, opportunities and newer initiatives in Maternal and Child Health. He added that the conclave would bring together best of the minds in maternal and child health nationally and globally, to discuss the good and replicable practices at primary,



secondary and tertiary care level for further improvement in maternal and child health indicators.

The conclave is going to witness the participation of experts and panellists from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India, AIIMS, WHO, UNICEF, NIP, FOGSI, Engender Health, UNDP, JSI leading Corporate Hospital Chains and NGOs across the country.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, is expected to grace the occasion with commencement of the inauguration of several completed works and projects. The projects include inauguration of Maternal & Paediatric ICUs being established under Emergency COVID

Response Package, certification of LaQshya Health facilities, laying foundation of MCH Hospital Lamberi, Rajouri through virtual mode besides awards to best performing districts on MCH parameters and Kayakalp Awards Felicitation Ceremony for the FY 2021-22.

The two day event will be packed with varied technical sessions which inter alia included Situational Analysis of Maternal Health in J&K, Rising Trend of Caesarean Section-Boon or Bane, Maternal Mortality Causes and Challenges, Newborn Health: Issues and Challenges, Long COVID-19-Maternal and Pediatric Perspective and Early Childhood Development (ECD).

33 برسی

بانی انقلاب اسلامی ایران

آیت الله الامام خمینی

کی 33 ویں برسی کی مناسبت سے مدینہ پبلک اسکول بالی بیرن پٹن میں 4 جون 2022ء

بروز سنیچر صبح 10:00 بجے سے

ذیرصدارت قائد اتحاد اسلامی مولانا محمد عباس انصاری

تعلیمی کانفرنس کا انعقاد کیا گیا ہے۔

تقریب میں مہمانان کرام کے علاوہ ریاست کے نامور علماء کرام، دانشور حضرات اور مدینہ پبلک اسکولز کے طلباء و طالبات اپنے منفرد و منفرد انداز میں غنچہ ہائے دہان سے حضرت امام خمینیؑ کی خدمت میں انہیں فالماذ خراج عقیدت پیش کریں گے۔

فرزندان توحید سے شرکت کی پر خلوص استدعا ہے۔

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- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



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- BIJHERA: 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**
03- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 38
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5:27
Magrib 7:40
ISHA 9: 19

This Day In History

- 781 BC - Oldest Chinese recording of a solar eclipse
- 1039- Henry III becomes Holy Roman Emperor
- 1070- Roquefort cheese created in a cave near Roquefort, France
- 1647- English Parliamentary army under Cornet George Joyce takes King Charles I as a prisoner during Second Civil War
- 1666- Battle at Dunkirk: English vs Dutch fleet
- 1769 - A transit of Venus is followed five hours later by a total solar eclipse, the shortest such interval in history
- 1783- Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier make 1st public hot-air balloon flight (unmanned), covering 2km and lasting 10 minutes with an estimated altitude of 1,600-2,000m
- 1792- Captain George Vancouver claims Puget Sound for Britain
- 1805- Tripoli forced to conclude peace with US after war over tribute
- 1824- First free press (without government approval) founded in Australia - the Hobart Town Gazette by ex-convict Andrew Bent [1]
- 1850- Self-deodorizing fertilizer patented in England
- 1859- Second Italian War of Independence: Battle of Magenta, results in a French-Sardinian victory under Napoleon III over the Austrians under Marshal Ferencz Gyulai
- 1878- Cyprus ceded by Turkey to Britain for administrative purposes
- 11887 - Pasteur Institute founded by French biologist Louis Pasteur in Paris
- 1899- MLB Boston Beaneaters pitcher John Clarkson 1st to throw an "immaculate inning" (strikes out three batters on nine pitches) against Philadelphia Quakers
- 1912 - Cone of Mount Katmai (Alaska) collapses
- 1916- General Aleksei Brusilov begins a massive Russian offensive on the Eastern Front (WWI)
- 1918- French troops, with the aid of US troops, stop the Germans at Chateau-Thierry as they attempt to cross the Marne
- 1920- Peace of Trianon between Allies & Hungary
- 1928- President of the Republic of China Zhang Zuolin is assassinated by Japanese agents.

From KO Archives

Legislators Ward Off Heat, Head To Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- As temperatures rise across the country, legislator's from several states, including Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, are making a beeline for the cool climate of the Kashmir.

An eight-member team from Jharkhand legislative Assembly is arriving in Srinagar on a Sunday for five-day study tour, official sources said.

The team includes chairman, members and officials of the question and call attention committee of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly they said.

Another team of 30 members is arriving in Srinagar on Tuesday from Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on a study tour for eight days, the sources said.

They said the team comprises members, their spouses and officials on the committee on welfare of Schedules Castes, Schedules Tribes and other backward classes of MP Legislative Assembly.

The Question Reference Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly will join the other team in Leh district of the State from June 6 for a seven-day visit, the sources said.

The 25-member team comprises of the chairman of the committee, members, spouses and officials, they said.

(Kashmir Observer, 04 June, 2007)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
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Twitter Talks



“When people cherrypick from Amber’s testimony, hyper fixate on her emotions and “body language,” lie about her, and make fun of her, they feed into this culture that hurts ALL victims. Even if Amber isn’t a victim, this behavior hurts victims”
@kattenbarga

“ Waking up so early for a child is a trauma. Just to avoid traffic mess doesnt mean kids have to suffer”
@rjSameenKhan

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Doctors’ Orders

Kashmir has not escaped being a typical third world ghetto of frustrated aspirations and stifling systems that compel individuals to flee to more conducive shores for professional fulfillment and material satisfaction. The blame, as always, falls at the doors of successive leaderships for their abysmal failure to outline a vision to harness the latent intellectual and creative energies of the people for the overall benefit of the society. The state’s health sector stands as a symbol of the paradox of talent in plenty rotting for want of opportunity. Coupled with a Kafkaesque officialdom that neither recognises nor rewards ability and service, is it a wonder that Kashmiri doctors head in droves to more lucrative lands? Those that stay back in the state-run sector are too overwhelmed by the day-to-day battle with adverse working conditions like chronic shortages and immense patient overloads even to begin thinking about ushering in change.

Presiding over this demoralized, overworked and discontented pool of talent is a bureaucracy rife with nepotism, favoritism and downright incompetence that has been unable to streamline the system by, for example, a sustainable, fair and transparent policy on assigning duties in rural and far-flung areas. The peripheral health care system is in a state of collapse, for successive governments have failed to allocate sufficient resources and manpower to make it function up to a reasonable standard. Needless to say, government medical facilities in urban areas, particularly Srinagar, are stretched far beyond their capacity in dealing with the heavy influx that should have been screened at the place of origin. It is a tribute to the high competence and sheer doggedness of doctors serving government hospitals in Srinagar that major medical disasters, otherwise inevitable in the circumstances, are avoided. In contrast, the private sector, ironically manned by experts trained and taught at great public expense, is thriving on the government’s failure to put its house in order. And there is no credible regulation in this sector to prevent exploitation of the poor masses who are driven to seek expensive alternatives because of a decrepit public service.

Amid this chaos come exhortations from the chief minister, Omar Abdullah, for non-resident Kashmiri doctors to return. Having had a cosmopolitan upbringing, Mr. Abdullah is bound to have a fair idea of what Kashmiri doctors working abroad have become accustomed to by way of technical facilities and remuneration. A top notch New York surgeon used to state-of-the-art equipment is being asked return to perform in theaters known to run out of as basic an item as material for stitches in mid-surgery.

The government has been sending disturbing signals about effecting a paradigm shift in the health care philosophy in the state by encouraging the private sector on a large scale, which is unwarranted in Jammu and Kashmir where the per capita income is among the lowest in the country. Inspirations from the US system are totally out of place, and in any case the mercenary American model is under severe criticism from quarters more sensitive to the need of medi-care being easily and cheaply available to the needy. Transplanting ideas that are already being questioned and doubted in advanced societies does not serve any purpose except repeating mistakes that are being repented elsewhere.

One of the surest ways to arrest brain drain from Kashmir is to fashion a system that rewards merit and service, and has minimal deleterious interference from unscrupulous politicians and bureaucrats. The health care system in the state had been devised on the pattern of a welfare exercise and it must continue, and progress, in that vein. The government will have to come out with satisfactory remuneration packages and ensure a modicum of facilities to motivate young doctors to serve in the rural and far-flung areas.

True, doctors’ salaries have to reflect the economic realities of the state, but a lot more talent could feel persuaded to be content with that if the unjust hiccups of a malfeasant officialdom were ironed out. It certainly does not help matters when an influential doctor manages plum postings perpetually solely because of his connections, and his better qualified counterpart is denied an opportunity to upgrade his skills at a higher institute for want of political push.

Mr. Abdullah needs to cure the system of its ills – Kashmiri doctors working abroad will find that enough of an incentive to serve their own people. For, how can specialists in greener climes be motivated to come back when the heroic efforts of those who already work in Kashmir go unappreciated?

The article is an editorial from KO’s Archives and was originally published don June 12, 2022

Moral Quandaries of Ukraine war



Riyaz Wani

AROUND the time Russia invaded Ukraine in February, a video clip of the Russian president Vladimir Putin recalling the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 started doing the rounds on social media: “They used the pretext of allegedly reliable information available in the United States about the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. As a result, we see a tremendous loss in human life, damage, destruction, and a colossal upsurge of terrorism,” the transcription of Putin’s statement read.

Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, in another viral video also made fun of those who can’t sleep over the Ukraine war: “there are advices to calm you down: Imagine this is happening in Africa, or the Middle East. Imagine Ukraine is Palestine. Imagine Russia is the United States (sic).”

The point here is not to somehow justify the Russian invasion but whether, as the statements by the two leaders underline, the west is in a position to claim moral high ground on Ukraine. It certainly isn’t. And in a world where social media involves almost everyone in the day to day issues of the world, this is obvious to all critical observers of evolving geopolitics.

Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 which made the US the sole superpower, the world has witnessed a series of US-led invasions geared to remake it in the American image. And in the process, not only were countries destroyed but lakhs of innocent people were also killed.

M Neelika Jayawardane

Every time there is a crisis in the Global South, Western news organisations parachute their correspondents and photographers in to document the developments. What they report back, however, often ends up being something much different from what locals experience on the ground.

What creates this discrepancy? In most cases, these foreign correspondents and photographers arrive on location with little to no in-depth knowledge of the crisis, culture and locality they have been tasked with covering. Unable to offer a comprehensive report on the issue, they merely focus on capturing the most spectacular images and delivering the hottest takes to make the most of their few seconds on air, or few column inches on the front page.

This has largely been the case with the international coverage of Sri Lanka’s ongoing protests demanding that the ruling Rajapaksa family leave office.

In March, as Sri Lanka’s economic crisis unfolded, desperate people started gathering in front of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa’s respective official residences to protest endemic corruption, nepotism and mismanagement in the country. They set up an encampment on the iconic Galle Face Beach in front of the Parliament, which came to be called GotaGoGama (the village demanding that “Gota” – President Gotabaya Rajapaksa – resign from office). The Inter University Students’ Federation joined the protests in massive, well-organised rallies. Hundreds of trade unions called a general island-wide strike in support.

As I monitored international media’s coverage of these protests, I quickly recognised some familiar discrepancies often seen in the

In the case of war in Iraq, it was the cooked-up intelligence about the then Iraqi president Saddam Hussain possessing the Weapons of Mass Destruction that became the basis for war. And the western media acted as cheerleaders for the destruction of the country. A similar script played out in US-led wars in, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and in the case of the US-backed Saudi war in Yemen.

The Ukraine war has rallied western nations and many other countries from around the world behind the US. And suddenly all we are hearing is a predominantly western narrative on the war. Social media companies have censored Russian state-sponsored media so there is little in the public domain that can be called an alternative discourse. And this is creating a situation we are all so familiar with. The west has again put on a moralistic lens on the war: a conflict between flawless virtue and pure evil. Putin is being projected as a reincarnation of Hitler. In fact, Time magazine’s recent cover page showed Hitler’s face lurking beneath that of Putin.

But this is not necessarily true. The conflict stems from Russia’s legitimate fears of being encircled by the west and the NATO military bases reaching its doorstep. Many of the Eastern European countries which were once a part of the USSR-led Warsaw Pact have become a part of NATO, heightening Russia’s insecurity. The growing likelihood of Ukraine also joining NATO became the last straw for Putin. While it is nobody’s case to countenance the invasion of a sovereign smaller country by its powerful

neighbour, the solution to the evolving fraught situation can be resolved if the US-led West and Russia sit down and work towards addressing each other’s grievances and fears.

But that is not happening. Geopolitics is not a morality play and in international relations, moral concerns are also selectively and cynically used to advance national goals. This is why

“The point here is not to somehow justify the Russian invasion but whether, as the statements by the two leaders underline, the west is in a position to claim moral high ground on Ukraine. It certainly isn’t. And in a world where social media involves almost everyone in the day to day issues of the world, this is obvious to all critical observers of evolving geopolitics

all the western policymakers and the media are focused on what is happening to Uyghurs in China or for that matter how autocratic and evil Putin is. As for the rest of the world, all is supposed to be well: these are the things that can only be occasionally talked or written about but never be a trigger for any policy action. That is, as long as it suits the powerful countries and alliances. And in today’s day and

age, it is the US-led western countries. This bloc not only continues to wield a decisive military and economic dominance together with control of the global business and multilateral institutions but also commands a media that is fundamentally responsible for shaping world opinion.

True, China has come close to becoming a rival to the US but its power still largely rests on its economic progress. China is some time away from catching up as a military and a technological power. As for controlling the world’s information order, or owning the globe-spanning corporate behemoths, China still has a long way to go. So, the west continues to exercise a carte blanche as far as what we think and how we think. As Sergey Lavrov says, it would certainly have made a difference had the United States and not Russia invaded Ukraine. Then, like Saddam Hussain who was falsely accused of stockpiling WMDs to make a case for invading Iraq, Zelensky would have been painted as an irredeemably evil figure who was a threat to world peace. And, of course, the invasion of Ukraine would be considered a salutary bid to liberate the country and transplant true democracy. What is more, most of the world would have played along, the media too.

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

The author is a Political Editor of Kashmir Observer

Sri Lanka’s ‘picturesque’ protests

coverage of such events in the Global South.

Most news sources, for example, initially referred to the people at the GotaGoGama encampment as “protesters”. But as the police and military moved in, deploying tear gas and water cannons, and at times, live bullets against these very same people, rather than describing the events as they are – attacks on protesters by security forces – news reports started referring to what was unfolding as “clashes”.

When members of the Rajapaksa family and their political cronies reportedly bussed in their supporters – themselves destitute people paid a few thousand rupees and bottles of arrack – to attack the protest site and destroy the “village”, reports containing references to “mobs”, “rioters” and “clashes” further proliferated.

As Dilini Algama, a PhD student of English Linguistics at Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen in Germany, noted in a conversation on Twitter, it was always clear who was armed, and who instigated the violence. Yet German news outlets referred to chaos and “unruhen,” which, explained Algama, can also mean “riots”. There was “little to no clarification about the violence of pro-government and pro-Rajapaksa groups, or that tear-gas and water cannon toting military provoked and assaulted protesters”. Moreover, “phrasing the violence as a ‘clash between two groups’ delegitimises the protests and equates people practicing their democratic right to protests with the violence of groups dispatched by the state to intimidate and stop them”, she added. This

is nothing unique to Sri Lanka – we often see similar narratives of “clashes” and “riots” in the international coverage of protests and police actions against them across the Global South, most infamously evident in Palestine.

In Sri Lanka’s case, however, the reality of the protests was not only misrepresented through narratives about “clashes”. Due to the island’s colonial past, and the fact that many Europeans – Scandinavians, Germans, Russians and Britons – regularly holiday there, other problematic attitudes that reduce the protests into one-dimensional Orientalist fantasies have also crept into the coverage.

Sri Lanka’s protest movement is idealistic and focused on collective care. Organisers at GotaGoGama, for example, set up a free food station that provides meals for protesters and the destitute, a medical aid tent, and a library, where anyone can come and read books or organise a “People’s University” session hosting discussions on social and political issues. The protesters at the village have been consciously and strategically educating each other, through “teach-outs”, about the conditions that created this economic crisis, and the way successive leaders have used ethno-nationalism to obtain votes and power. They have been working to bring together people who have purposefully, and for political ends, been divided across ethnic, religious, and class divides since Sri Lanka’s independence. The protesters have also put on educational shadow-puppet shows, sung raucous island baila (catchy tunes, often accompanied by cheeky lyrics commenting on social conditions), chanted

inventive slogans, and made some of the most hilarious protest posters I’ve ever seen. In some international news reports, however, these strategic and undeniably effective efforts to bring about change and bring a nation together have been portrayed as youthful naïveté, infantilising the movement and making it look somewhat less serious and impactful than its Western counterparts.

Throughout these protests, people from different religious and ethnic groups, who have been trained to be deeply suspicious of each other, broke fast together during the month of Ramadan, celebrated Easter, and had fun on the Buddhist holiday Vesak. On a few occasions, a (kattadiya, or an exorcist) came to do an exorcism ceremony to cast out evil demons from the island. They’ve educated each other about the state’s violence against their communities – especially violence targeting the country’s Muslim and Tamil people; Ambika Satkunathan and others repeatedly noted why Tamil people, especially those in the North and the East could not, without inviting further state surveillance and bodily harm, protest as freely as did the Sinhala in Colombo. They honoured the Tamil victims of the civil war together, and invited the surviving families of those forcibly “disappeared” in the North and the South to speak.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al-Jazeera

The author is Associate Professor of English at the State University of New York Oswego, and a Research Associate at the Visual Identities in Art and Design (VIAD), University of Johannesburg (South Africa)

BOOK REVIEW

PARITION POSTCARD

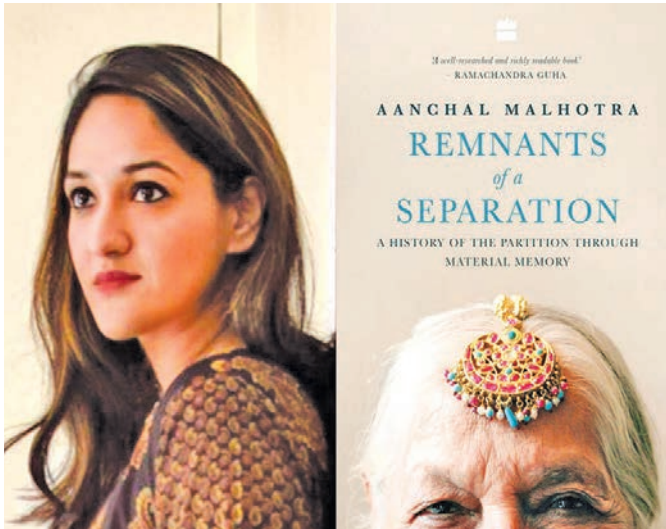
The book “Remnants of Separation” by Aanchal Malhotra documents tragedy per square meter

Khann Ahmad Hilal

History is brutal. History is terrific too. History can never be erased from memories. Historical facts and events cry to be documented for the future. History, always, has a lesson for the future. To revisit the past is to relive a time gone by, and learn from it. Partition is not an event of the past. Its consequences are still in operation. Its heaviness continues to weigh down. Its ingredients are personal and not negotiable with another. A partition divides families and friends, colleagues, and people who love one another. It creates turmoil. Partition of Hindustan in 1947 spilled blood on the streets. Innocents were trampled. A mad orgy of sorts it was. This painful history and the remnants left behind are beautifully weaved by Aanchal Malhotra.

The book titled ‘Remnants of Separation’ is a treasure of memories. It is one of the exceptional attempts by Aanchal to relive the past through material objects that refugees carried with them across the border when the great and biggest human migration happened on earth in 1947. It is an archive of memory, of stories, of violence, of lost friends and relatives.

A nicely woven collection of stories on either side of the border, the book is the toil of the author’s years of painstaking and passionate research. It widely talks about familiarity and love between Hindus and Muslims which was seen as the precedent of two communities during undivided India. When Lahore and Amritsar, Karachi and Bombay, Phulkari and Pash-



mina, Topi, Tika, and Turban were all one. But then came to the unholy rush, brutality, and madness seeped in that turned homes into houses, friends into foes. Neighbours turned murderers, Burglars, and marauders. Relationships changed. The same Lahore and Amritsar drenched in the blood of all. In the smell of burning limbs and bones. People became strangers to the very place they called home. There are some passages in time whose horrors should never be repeated. The partition is one such horror. It has evolved people into stories.

Time swallows the past. The past can reside in odd heirlooms and fraying books, within the folds of clothes and the embroidered ends of handkerchiefs, in the pearl drop of an old earring, and the rustic of an ancient and abandoned lock. These are the quietest bearers of personal histories. The stories told through the material objects have a way of inspiring

the mind to remember things it might have forgotten. Objects which they hold very close and dear. Associated with them are memories, which sustain them, which they wish had never had. Memories still hold their keepers to their homes, to that land that nourished their souls. Stories that remain in families scar so much so that it is rarely revealed to the generations to come. Some believed that it is essential to remember the past, whereas some thought it is better to forget the bitter memories but human memory is fragile. It only carries memories, too heavy to bear. Memory dilutes but the object remains unaltered.

Well-written stories about soil and rain, fields and clouds, families and their traditions and customs, about love and relationship, about landscape and language, music and art, literature and poetry, about accounts and anecdotes, longing and loss, melancholic and paralyzing nos-

talgia. The book delves into human memory to re-tell a story and re-visit places and relations. The author has penned down stories with great impartiality with sensitivity and conviction about the wounds that the people of the two nations have collectively inherited with a heart-warming and engaging language.

This book is an amalgamation of many versions from both sides of this man-made border. It speaks of the yearning for houses, bazaars of Karachi, of a man’s home in Jalandhar whose stone plaque made his way back to him after so many years. Of that house, that childhood, that courtyard, those summers, those winters. It touches the right chords of your heart and mind. Memories attached to the objects ranging from kitchen utensils to books and poems will take you on a nostalgic journey and leave you with a longing saga of a past that you haven’t lived. Every story is written with subtle rawness and honesty and delicacy. It is reliving a great tragedy through material memory. The accounts of people interviewed in the book are moving and make the reader’s eyes wet as we travel back to the 75-year-old horror.

Aanchal has reclaimed the impression of shared history by rekindling subcontinental stories. She truly is an inspiration to the writers of our generation. This book is worth a grab. It will be like a walk through a museum in the pages of a book that surely will leave an impact on you and will transport you to the days of partition.

The author is from Keran Kupwara and can be reached at khanahhilal@gmail.com

6 This book is an amalgamation of many versions from both sides of this man-made border. It speaks of the yearning for houses, bazaars of Karachi, of a man’s home in Jalandhar whose stone plaque made his way back to him after so many years. Of that house, that childhood, that courtyard, those summers, those winters

Defining Graphic Novels to Read

David Brauner

For someone who teaches about the graphic novel, compiling an all-time top five list is challenging. It’s not just the way that such a list is compiled, making agonising decisions over which favourites to exclude, but also because it raises tricky questions of definition. That the term refers not just to fiction but to life-writing, as in all manner of memoirs, diaries and so on, is accepted – but beyond that there is little consensus.

If there are multiple volumes (as with Neil Gaiman’s The Sandman or the Hernandez brothers’ Love and Rockets series), should the whole series be counted as one epic graphic

“Ghost World is also a powerful evocation of what it is like to drift, ghost-like, through a nondescript, soulless urban environment that is itself ghostly. Full of quirky characters and memorable images, Ghost World manages, paradoxically, to represent boredom and ennui vividly and entertainingly



novel, or should only individual volumes be eligible?

And what about a book like Phoebe Gloeckner’s The Diary of a Teenage Girl(2002), which tells the story of an authorial alter-ego, Minnie, through a combination of prose diary entries, illustrations with captions, comic-strip narratives, letters, poems and photographs? Or Joe Sacco’s comic-strip documentary journalism?

I’ve chosen five books that I (and many others) regard as central to the graphic novel canon. They are all richly textured, powerful, nuanced books that are immediately arresting but also reward repeated re-reading.

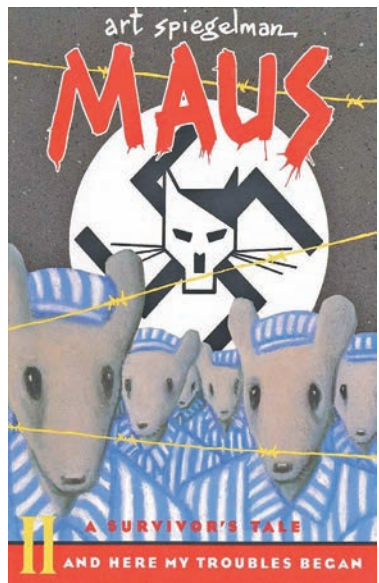
1. Watchmen (1987)

Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons’ Watchmen works on so many levels – it is, among other things, a whodunnit, a love story, a commentary on Cold War politics and an exploration of fundamental philosophical and ethical questions.

Watchmen is an homage to – and a deconstruction of – the classic superhero comic-strip narrative, which in turn has inspired numerous subsequent revisions of the genre, from Pixar’s The Incredibles (2004) to the

Marvel Comics (and later MCU’s) Avengers civil war storyline.

Shifting points of view, disrupting chronology, layering texts within texts, Watchmen is a hugely ambitious narrative that discloses new details with every fresh reading. It’s also a real page-turner.



2. Maus (1991)

Art Spiegelman’s masterpiece, Maus, probably did more than any other graphic novel to make readers and critics take this genre seriously.

It’s the story of the author’s father, Vladek, who survived Auschwitz, as well as the story of Spiegelman’s relationship with him. Controversially representing Jews as anthropomorphic mice, preyed upon by German cat-people and often betrayed by Polish pig-people, Maus nevertheless resists stereotypes. The novel represents both its author and his father as flawed, complex individuals who struggle in different ways to deal with the legacy of a trauma that makes itself felt in every aspect of their lives.

3. Ghost World (1997)

Daniel Clowes’ Ghost World is the shortest – and at first glance the most straightforward – of my

choices. It’s a bittersweet tale of the friendship, and gradual estrangement, of recent high-school graduates Enid and Becky.

Cynical and vulnerable, with a sardonic sense of humour and a nostalgic streak, Enid is, in part, a portrait of the artist as a young girl grappling with her sexuality, ethnicity and her conflicting expectations of herself.

But Ghost World is also a powerful evocation of what it is like to drift, ghost-like, through a nondescript, soulless urban environment that is itself ghostly. Full of quirky charac-



ters and memorable images, Ghost World manages, paradoxically, to represent boredom and ennui vividly and entertainingly.

4. Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth (2000)

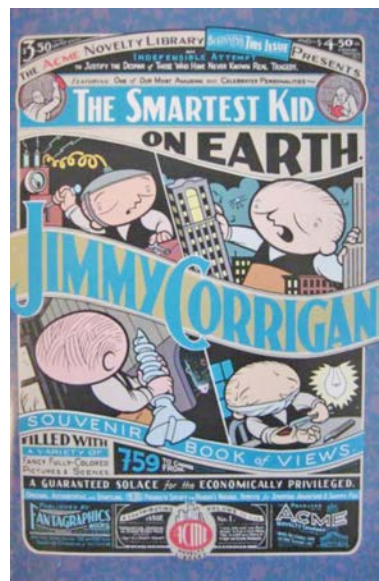
Chris Ware’s Jimmy Corrigan was the first graphic novel to be awarded major literary prizes on both sides of the Atlantic – the American Book Award and The Guardian First Book Award.

Like Watchmen, Jimmy Corrigan has a complex, non-linear structure and subverts conventional notions of (super)heroism. Like Maus, it is

a book about fathers and sons; and like Ghost World, it has a protagonist who is drifting aimlessly through life, alienated from the world around him.

Yet it is visually and formally more radical than any of the other books on this list. Chris Ware’s dark palette and landscape format and his use of diagrams, instructions and definitions make the book, as an object and text, highly unusual. In terms of narrative, too, Ware is a great innovator – the absence of exposition and page numbering, the abrupt transitions between a historical narrative focusing on Jimmy’s grandfather and the present-day narrative focusing on Jimmy, the use of surreal dream sequences and the disruption of conventional panel sequencing all make Jimmy Corrigan challenging.

But it’s well worth the effort. It is



a beautiful, heartbreaking story that has been much imitated but never bettered.

5. Fun Home (2006)

Alison Bechdel’s Fun Home is a self-consciously literary coming of age novel that pays homage to James Joyce, Marcel Proust and Oscar Wilde, among others.

It is a moving memoir about the author’s relationship with her father, whose queer sexuality finds an echo in her lesbianism, and whose (possible) suicide haunts the book.

Adapted as an award-winning musical, Fun Home reached an audience that might never have encountered the bestselling graphic novel. Yet while Fun Home the musical is fun, just like the film adaptations of Watchmen and Ghost World, it can’t quite do justice to the complexity of the original.

What I hope a reading of these titles will demonstrate to any newcomers is that these are not just great graphic novels but great works of art. The term graphic novel was initially deployed in order to confer intellectual credibility on what had been previously seen as a trivial form of entertainment aimed primarily at children. But the works listed above rival anything done in the novel form over the same period – some of the most innovative and exciting work in



fiction and life-writing is being done right now in the graphic novel form.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Ground-level ozone pollution in Delhi-NCR in March-April highest in 4 years: CSE

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The summer of 2022 -- one of the hottest in history -- has witnessed widespread ozone exceedance, making the air of Delhi-NCR more toxic, according to an analysis conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The green think tank's assessment is based on the publicly available granular real time data (15-minute averages) from the CPCB's official online portal Central Control Room for Air Quality Management.

In Delhi-NCR, the researchers captured data from 58 official stations.

The analysis tracked exceedances at each station. Breach of the standard by even one station is considered exceedance by the city. Days with multiple stations exceeding the standard indicates the severity of the spatial spread and number of people exposed.

This year, due to the early onslaught of heatwaves, the spatial spread of ground-level ozone started in March itself with April being the worst so far, the green thinktank said.

The dangerous build-up of ground-level ozone can happen anytime during the year, but it is usually in small pockets. For it to have wider spatial spread, hot and sunny weather conditions are needed which are generally present in summer, especially during May. But this year, the frequency and spread of ozone exceedance started early -- in the month of March.

Ground-level ozone usually exceeds the safety standard on all days of summer at some locations in Delhi-NCR every year. But the spatial spread (number of stations exceeding the standard across the city) has been much higher this year.

On an average, 16 stations have exceeded the standard daily this March and April, which is 33 per cent increase from March and April 2021. During 2020, when lockdowns had reduced the precursor gases needed for formation of ground-level ozone, the number was down to 10 stations daily, the report said.

Dr K S Shooting Range in south Delhi is the most chronically affected in Delhi-NCR. The ground-level ozone

concentration exceeded the standard at this location for 85 days this March-May. JLN Stadium, RK Puram and Nehru Nagar followed close behind. Greater Noida is the major hotspot outside Delhi. Faridabad has least instances of ground-level ozone exceedances in the region, it said.

Patparganj in East Delhi registered the highest increase in the number of days exceeding the standard as compared to the average of the last three years. It registered a dramatic jump of 68 additional days with exceedance. It was followed by Noida's Sector 116 and Mandir Marg, next to the President's Estate.

Siri Fort and Bawana in Delhi registered the most reduction in the frequency of exceedances compared to average of previous three years. Their exceedances were down by over 40 days this year. Gurugram Sector 51, Dwarka Sector 8, and Najafgarh were other locations with the maximum improvement.

After Delhi-NCR that recorded ozone exceedance on almost all days of this summer, Mumbai with 75 days of exceedance was the second-most impacted metro.

Kolkata-Howrah and Hyderabad registered 43 days of exceedance each. Even though the number of exceedance days in Kolkata-Howrah has been lower than that of Mumbai, its citywide concentration is 30 per cent higher than in Mumbai for this summer season.

The CSE said the complex chemistry of ozone makes it a difficult pollutant to track and mitigate. Ground-level ambient ozone is not directly emitted from any source. It is produced from complex interactions between NOx and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are emitted from vehicles, power plants, factories, and other combustion sources.

These undergo cyclic reactions in the presence of sunlight to generate ground-level ozone. VOCs can also be emitted from natural sources, such as plants.

This highly reactive gas has serious health consequences. Those with respiratory conditions, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and particularly children with premature lungs and older adults are at serious risk.

Centre Asks U'khand, J&K, Odisha To Ensure Cleanliness During Amarnath, Kedarnath & Rath yatras



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre has asked Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha to take several steps, including identification of local swachhata brand ambassadors, to ensure high levels of cleanliness during Kedarnath Yatra, Amarnath Yatra and Rath Yatra in the respective states.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Manoj Joshi has written to chief secretaries of these states in this regard and asked them to provide for sufficient numbers of public toilets throughout the approach roads to the shrines.

The move comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address to the nation on May 29, expressed his concern regarding the heap of filth in Kedarnath.

According to a statement issued by the ministry on Friday,

the advisory suggests that plastics and SUPs (single use plastic items) should be stopped at the base-camp level for Kedarnath and Amarnath yatris at the time of registration itself.

"All eateries along the approach roads will need to be sensitised about garbage collection, in-situ processing of the food waste through waste to compost/waste to bio-gas units in their premises, usage of biodegradable cutlery and bags," the statement stated.

In order to prevent indiscriminate littering by visitors, segregated litter bins will have to be placed along the approach roads along with regular emptying of the same, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) said.

"Most importantly, the advisory stresses on large scale people participation, whereby all local NGOs/CSOs/voluntary organisations, self-help groups

from all villages and towns on the approach roads are to be identified, sensitised and tagged to work in designated area to ensure that cleanliness is maintained at every step," it stated.

The ministry said "local swachhata brand ambassadors" should be identified and designated for the swachh yatra', and spread the messages of cleanliness to motivate visitors to behave responsibly and help in maintaining cleanliness.

According to the statement, national teams from MoHUA are being deputed to Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha, starting this week, to take stock of the preparations underway and also to provide inputs for improving sanitation and garbage management.

Video-conferencing meetings have been scheduled early next week to discuss with state, city and district officials to discuss the preparedness, it added.

BSF Developing Counter Drone, Anti-Tunnel Tech: DG

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Border Security Force is continuously working to develop counter-drone and anti-tunnel technologies to effectively check cross-border drugs and arms smuggling and militants infiltration bids along the India-Pakistan border, force chief Pankaj Kumar Singh said on Friday.

The BSF director general said the force has shot down a total of 7 drones over the last six months (December 2021-May 2022) and has detected three underground tunnels along the Pakistan border between January, 2021 to May, 2022.

"We are keeping a strict vigil on cross-border drone activities through which drugs and arms are smuggled and underground tunnels which are used for infiltration by terrorists. The BSF is also working to develop effective technologies to check drones and underground tunnels," he said.

Singh was speaking during an investiture ceremony and the annual 'Rustamji Memorial Lecture' of the border force. The about 2.65 lakh personnel strong force was raised in 1965 and it is primarily tasked to guard Indian borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Minister of state for home Nityanand Rai delivered the keynote speech and also honoured a total of 16 personnel, including two posthumously, with the police medal for gallantry. Those decorated include second-in-command rank officer Deepak Kumar Mandal who laid down his life in 2017 while stopping cross-border cattle smuggling in Tripura.

Mandal, commanding the 145th battalion of the border guarding force, was grievously hit by a four-wheeler by the smugglers on October 16 that year and he succumbed to his injuries four days later. Thirteen BSF personnel were also awarded the gallantry medals for killing three militants who attacked the Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) airfield on October 3, 2017.

Those awarded for this operation include Assistant Sub Inspector Brijkishor Yadav (posthumously) and deputy inspectors general S S Guleria and Hari Lal among others.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

High-Level Delhi

targeted killings in Kashmir since May 1.

A woman teacher hailing from the Samba district of the Jammu region was shot dead by militants at a school in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday. On May 18, militants had entered a wine shop at Baramulla in North Kashmir and threw a grenade, killing one person from the Jammu region and injuring three others.

Policeman Saifullah Qadri was shot dead outside his residence in Srinagar on May 24 while television artiste Amreen Bhat was gunned down in Budgam two days later.

The high-level meeting chaired by Shah was the second such exercise in less than a fortnight.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Arvind Kumar, Director General of Central Reserve Police Force Kuldeep Singh, Border Security Force chief Pankaj Singh, and Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh among other key officials took part in the meeting.

Earlier, Shah had an informal meeting with LG Manoj Sinha, Arvind Kumar, Secretary of RAW Samant Goel and DGP of Jammu and Kashmir Dilbag Singh.

Take Steps

(Pandits and outsiders) immediately to secure places and put security around them," he told reporters.

Calling for immediate steps to halt the spate of killings, Tankha said affected people should be taken into confidence so they feel safe.

"The government should secure all affected people and their offices...and this has to be done in the next 24 hours, as we do not want to hear that more innocents have died," he said.

Noting that the unity of the country is most important, Tankha said enough security and protection should be provided to vulnerable people so they don't have to move out of Kashmir.

"Don't let migration happen from Kashmir as it is not good for Kashmir and is neither in the country's interest. Through this appeal I expect the central government to come out clearly and spell out the roadmap for restoring peace and normalcy in Kashmir," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

The Kashmir issue is complex and it is unfortunate that there is a lack of statesmanship in addressing it, Tankha said.

"Kashmir problem is bigger than any law. You have to look at Kashmir holistically, you can't look at it in a microscopic way.

"I had stated during the debate in Parliament that Kashmir is larger than Article 370. Article 370 is a law which has been diluted, but Kashmir is a larger issue than 370 and to address it you need a lot of statesmanship, which was lacking," he noted.

He also demanded that the government provide compensation to those killed while performing their official duties.

"If you want peace, if you want amity, you have to address the stakeholders. You cannot achieve peace in Kashmir without talking to stakeholders, and history speaks out. I have not seen any such attempt in Kashmir...what I have seen is that you thought of resolving Kashmir through propaganda.

"If things could be resolved through propaganda, then Hitler would have won the world. Propaganda is good, but to a limited extent,

only as a means of reaching out...it can't be the basis of peace," the Congress leader said.

Tankha said what is now happening in Kashmir is targeted killings not just of Kashmiri Pandits but also of outsiders working in the Kashmir valley.

Citing data, he said around 10,000 outsiders are working in the Kashmir valley and it is the responsibility of the government to ensure their safety.

He said Kashmiri Pandits and outsiders were living in fear and wanted to move out of the valley.

The Congress spokesperson said the BJP government cannot blame the past happenings for the current situation in the union territory.

Kashmir has been on the boil for the last few days following targeted killings, including those of Pandits and outsiders.

Scores of Kashmiri Pandits, employed under prime minister's package in 2012, have been staging protests and threatening exodus since the May 12 killing of Rahul Bhat, a government employee, in Chadoora area of Budgam district. Several more targets have been bumped off by militants since.

3 Soldiers, Civilian

has started at Rishipora area of #Anantnag. Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Police posted earlier on its official Twitter handle.

However, in another Tweet hours later, police said three soldiers were injured in the initial exchange of fire.

"#AnantnagEncounterUpdate: In the initial exchange of fire, three army personnel & one civilian got injured. All the injured were immediately airlifted to 92 base hospital #Srinagar for treatment & are stated to be stable. #Operation going on," the Tweet read.

The encounter in Verinag comes a day after two non-locals, including a Bank Manager from Rajasthan were shot dead by militants in two separate attacks in Kulgam and Budgam districts of the Valley.

Meanwhile, two non-locals on Friday sustained minor injuries in a grenade blast in Zainapora area of South Kashmir's Shopian district, police said.

"Militants lobbed grenade at Aglar Zainapora, resulting in minor injuries to two non locals," Kashmir police posted on its official Twitter handle.

The police further said that the area has been cordoned off.

A local news agency GNS quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that both the injured have been shifted to nearby hospital for treatment where their condition is stated to be stable.

The officer further said that a case has been registered in this regard and investigation taken up.

ADC To Record

days with effect from 4th to 15th of this month during office hours to get their statement recorded," he added.

No Shifting

around 6,000 employees at various places who demanded their relocation outside the Valley.

But officials Friday argued that the Jammu and Kashmir administration cannot be a party to any "ethnic-cleansing" scripted from

across the border by agreeing to the demand of Kashmiri Pandit employees to be shifted out of the Valley.

They also asserted the killing of soft targets by militant groups won't deter them from holding the annual Amarnath Yatra.

Over two lakh pilgrims have already registered themselves for the annual pilgrimage, they said.

The militant groups working at the behest of "countries fomenting terrorism" are worried by the return of normalcy in the Valley and therefore, soft targets are picked up to instil fear among the masses and create chaos, they said.

The J&K administration is not going to be bogged down by this, they said, exuding confidence that the security forces would put an end to these targeted killings like they did in October 2021 when militants carried out a spate of targeted attacks including on prominent chemist M L Bindroo and a Sikh teacher.

The officials said the Amarnath Yatra was a symbol of Kashmir's composite culture and will go on despite some threat perception which will be handled.

They said these targeted killings show that militant groups' ability to strike at protected targets has shrunk, and therefore soft targets are being approached.

They said there was an evil design behind these targeted killings and cautioned that the attacks were not to create a division between Hindus and Muslims but to establish one "nizam" in the Valley.

For this they can kill anyone who doesn't follow their line, they said, pointing out that Muslims have also been killed by these groups.

The officials, while talking about prospects of holding elections in the union territory, said this was a decision that would be taken by the Election Commission only.

Protesting Employees

south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday.

Under the banner of 'All Jammu-based reserved categories employees association', the protesters took out a march from the Press Club to Ambedkar Chowk on Thursday and followed it by another sit-in at Panama Chowk in the heart of the city on Friday.

"We are not going to return to Kashmir to resume our duties in the prevailing alarming situation following the targeted killings. We prefer to die here rather than go back," said Surinder Kumar.

He urged the government to take note of their protest and ensure their transfer from Kashmir to the Jammu region.

Kumar said they have already served in Kashmir for 15 years and "are not willing to return to get killed at the hands of terrorists".

Women teachers, who took part in the protest, expressed their unwillingness to return to the Valley because of the security issues.

"Where are the safer zones in Kashmir? We have to move out, drop our children at local schools and attend to our duties," a woman said.

She said they were living happily with the local population in Kashmir over the past decade and claimed that targeted killings have triggered fear among them.

KP Body Moves

to protect the lives of the religious minorities and on the other hand does not let them

leave Kashmir Valley so that they can protect their respective lives," the petition reads.

It further submitted that "As such, it is most humbly requested that to accept this representation in the Public Interest as the lives of the Religious Minorities is at stake due to the unethical and callous approach from the UT / Central Administration with a further request to intervene and take the cognizance on the issue in order to protect the lives."

The body appealed the court to summon all the concerned officers/officials to explain which sort of policy and mechanism they have derived.

The petitioner further appealed the Chief Justice to investigate all the targeted killings which happened since 08 June 2020 and all the officers and officials whose involvement/lapse in the preliminary allegations be suspended without any further delay and an SIT be constituted to submit its report within stipulated time monitored by the High Court.

Scores Booked

such groups and persons, he said, adding relevant sections under the UA(P)A and Indian Penal Section have been invoked.

An investigation is underway, he added.

India Rejects

"It is unfortunate that vote bank politics is being practised in international relations. We would urge that assessments based on motivated inputs and biased views be avoided," he added.

Bagchi was responding to media queries on the report

"As a naturally pluralistic society, India values religious freedom and human rights. In our discussions with the US, we have regularly highlighted issues of concern there, including racially and ethnically motivated attacks, hate crimes and gun violence," he said.

The India section of the report mentioned incidents of attacks on the religious minorities "Attacks on members of religious minority communities, including killings, assaults, and intimidation, occurred throughout the year. These included incidents of cow vigilantism' against non-Hindus based on allegations of cow slaughter or trade in beef," said the India section of the report.

LG Condoles Bhajan

Deepest condolences to family and countless admirers".

SIDCO Manager

availing financial assistance from bank, an ACB spokesperson said Friday.

The complainant, he said, had approached J&K Bank for financial assistance to expand his industrial unit in Khunmoh for which he was asked to submit an NOC from SIDCO.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, the unit holder prepared file and completed all paper work and approached SIDCO office Bemina. The State Manager SIDCO, he said, demanded Rs

5000 from himself and Rs 1 lakh for General Manager, Khursheed Ahmad for issuance of the required NOC in favour of the complainant.

"As the complainant don't want to pay any bribe, he approached ACB with request for necessary legal action against these corrupt officers for demand of bribe of 1.05 lakh," he said.

"As the contents of the complaint prima facie disclose the commission of offence under section 7 of the PC Act 1988 & section 120-B of the Indian Penal Code hence immediately case FIR No 23/2022 was registered at PS ACB Srinagar and investigations were started," he added.

After registering the case, the ACB spokesperson said that a team was constituted that laid a successful trap and caught Fayaz Ahmad Khan red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe from the complainant.

"He was arrested on the spot by the ACB team. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses. Further investigation is going on," he added.

J&K Sees Nine

from various hospitals from Kashmir division," they said.

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

Police Told To

un-authorized/un registered Portal Based News Channels operating through various social media platforms in the District," reads an official order.

It further said that, "Some of them are also indulging in misinformation campaign and fake News against government/administration. Some government functionaries also face harassment in face of their activities. Such portals and persons involved need to be checked properly in order to avoid emergence of any Law and Order situation and ensure public tranquillity."

"You are requested to kindly identify all such fake media groups operating in the District without any proper registration, and also verify the antecedents and source of funding of all so-called journalists who operate these illegal portals without any authorization and furnish the same to this office, so that action as warranted under the relevant provisions of Law is taken against them," the order added.

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Advt No. **C-DAC(H)/RECT No.02 (2022/June)**

Crackdown On Fake Media Groups in Budgam Likely

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Taking lead from Ramban, District Magistrate (DM) Budgam Friday asked the police to identify fake media groups operating without proper registration.

He has also asked the police to "verify the antecedents, and source of funding of all so-called journalists, who operate the illegal portals without any valid degree, qualification and authorization from the competent authority."

"It has been observed that there is unchecked growth of illegal/unauthorized/un registered Portal Based News Channels operating through various social media platforms in the District," reads a government order.

It further said that, "Some of them

are also indulging in misinformation campaigns and fake news against the government/administration. Some government functionaries also face harassment in the face of their activities. Such portals and persons involved need to be checked properly in order to avoid emergence of any Law and Order situation and ensure public tranquility."

"You are requested to kindly identify all such fake media groups operating in the District without any proper registration, and also verify the antecedents and source of funding of all so-called journalists who operate these illegal portals without any authorization and furnish the same to this office, so that action as warranted under the relevant provisions of Law is taken against them," the order added.

Woman Held For Posting Friend's Nudes On Social Media

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A woman was arrested by the Cyber Cell here on Friday allegedly for sharing nude pictures and videos of her female friend on social media, police said.

The accused had captured the pictures and videos of the victim, a resident of Reasi district, without her knowledge during the COVID lockdown, a police spokesperson said.

The victim recently lodged a complaint at the Cyber Police Station in Jammu and a case was registered under relevant sections.

After investigation, the police arrested the accused, a resident

of Janipur locality of Jammu, from her relative's house in Chinore in the outskirts of Jammu, he said.

Preliminary inquiry has revealed that the accused did so due to some personal grudge. She first shared the content with a few people, including some close relatives of the complainant in Reasi, and later posted them on social media several times using fake accounts, the spokesperson said.

Police are still trying to identify other people based in Ransoo and other areas who may have either shared or kept those videos or photographs in their mobile phones and other devices, he said.

AMARNATH YATRA

Coordination Meeting Held At Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla on Friday chaired a meeting with various officials from Civil Administration, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, SDRF, Central Industrial Security Force and Indo Tibetan Border Police to review preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SAJY) scheduled to commence from the end of this month.

The participants discussed the Disaster Management Plan at length. Dr Singla said that the centres have been notified and adequate logistical arrangements have been put in place.

The disaster management plan and provision of sufficient disaster mitigation measures at each base/ transit camp was discussed during the meeting.

Regarding evacuation of pilgrims and service providers in case of an emergency, the DC said that preparations have been made and appropriate signages and instructions will be displayed in the camps.

There was special emphasis on the security aspects of the Yatra. The various participating agencies put forth their deployment plans. The DC called for synergy and coordination among the var-

ious agencies in order to ensure a safe and incident free Yatra. Discussions were held on allocation of space to deployed troops at various base/ transit camps in order to ensure optimum utilization of resources.

The officials from Civil Administration and Police also put forth a detailed parking and traffic management plan. The DC was informed that parking areas have been earmarked and will be geo-tagged to avoid traffic congestion due to road side parking. Further, the movement plan for vehicles ferrying passengers has been finalized to ensure smooth movement of Yatries.

CEO PDA briefed the participants regarding preparations for opening of the track. He said the detailed inspection of the route has been carried out and the track is being made ready to facilitate convenient movement of Yatries, employees and ponies. Further, a volunteer deployment plan has also been formulated and the volunteers will supervise the implementation of the Sanitation plan and functionality of convenience enroute the Holy Cave.

The meeting was attended by DIG CRPF, SSP Anantnag, ADC, Deputy Commandant 1st RR, CEO PDA, SDM Pahalgam, SES of R&B, Hydraulics and KPDCI, Commandants of BSF, CISF, ITBP, SDRF among others.

Newborn Found Dead In Hospital Premises

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A newborn was found dead in the premises of District Hospital Handwara on Friday.

Reports said some people spotted the baby lying in the premises and informed the hospital authorities about it. A medical team soon after reached the spot and took the body into its possession.

Aghast over the incident, a large number of people, according to whom the infant's body had several dog bite marks, assembled near the health facility and demanded a thorough in-

vestigation to bring the culprits involved to justice.

Medical Superintendent DH Handwara Dr. Nissar Ahmad told a local news agency GNS that a police complaint into the matter has been registered.

A police official in the meantime told GNS that on Friday evening they received information about an infant's body lying behind DH Handwara building. "A police party was rushed to the spot", the official said adding accordingly an FIR number 146/2022 under relevant sections of law has been registered for necessary investigations.

Army's Strategic Conclave Discusses 'Gray Zone Warfare'

Veterans, Experts Share Ideas To Prepare Military Commanders For Future



Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: Amid a sudden spike in militant attacks in Kashmir Valley and the continued stalemate along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the army's Northern Command organized a three day 'Strategic Conclave' aimed to prepare the military commanders for future.

In this unique event, a defence spokesperson said Friday, domain experts from defence, strategic and nation studies shared their insights on the salient aspects of 'Gray Zone Warfare' and its manifestations which have a direct bearing and connection to myriad levels of warfare.

He said the eminent speakers who participated in the event included three former Army Commander, Lieutenant General Praveen Bakshi, Lieutenant General DS Hooda, Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan, besides three former Corps Commanders - Lieutenant General SA Hasnain, Lieutenant General SL Narshimhan, and esteemed writers and senior specialists, Mr Nitin Gokhale, Mr Jaydev Ranade, Mr Claude Arpi and Mr Vijay Gokhale (Ex Foreign Secy) and senior serving military officers.

"Northern Command faces the unique challenge of the 'Two and a Half Fronts' with live phenomenon of Gray Zone Warfare. While the recently concluded 'North Tech Symposium' was aimed at integrat-

THE ARMY COMMANDER EMPHASIZED that the 'Gray Zone Warfare' is ongoing for Northern Command in J&K and Ladakh by exploiting the space between peace and war, also referred to as 'No War No Peace', and the military commanders have to discern the threats through thinly veiled indicators."

ing niche technology into the Armed Forces under the 'Raksha Atmanirbharta' dominion, the Strategic Conclave strived to reinforce the strategic thinking culture and develop understanding on joint 'Response Mechanism' in the Diplomatic, Informational, Military and Economic (DIME) spheres through these deliberations," the spokesperson said.

He said that the endeavor of Northern Command remains to forge a force with the ability to address the 'Gray Zone Conundrum' and its relationship with various levels of war.

"Gray Zone Warfare will manifest into a range of activities that were traditionally considered beyond the scope of military actions, yet the Armed Forces have to respond with clear eye on the escalatory matrix," the spokesperson said.

He further said that Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding in Chief, Northern Command expressed

gratitude to the eminent speakers, for having crafted their thoughts after detailed analysis.

Dwivedi, he said, also thanked the speakers for their valuable recommendations for the 'Whole of Nation Approach' towards countering the current and future threats.

According to the spokesperson, the Army Commander remarked that the conclave also intended to address the issues of civil military jointness in decision making, the lines of effort encompassing the entire construct of DIME and the interdisciplinary response to the threats.

"The Army Commander emphasized that the 'Gray Zone Warfare' is ongoing for Northern Command in J&K and Ladakh by exploiting the space between peace and war, also referred to as 'No War No Peace', and the military commanders have to discern the threats through thinly veiled indicators," he said.

He said that Dwivedi also stressed that there is a need to take a relook at the technologically enabled 'Human Resource Management' to meet these future challenges.

"The Army Commander indicated to the participants that the future holds unique challenge for all of us; and strategic calculation, cooperation and understanding among all stakeholders should be the mantra to secure internal calm and external peace," the spokesperson added.

Several PM Package Employees Reach Jammu

Says Environment Of Apprehension Prevails In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Several Kashmiri Pandits, who have got jobs in the valley under Prime Minister's employment package, have reached here along with their families and said an environment of apprehension is prevalent in the valley owing to the recent spate in the targeted killings by terrorists.

The Pandits said they have heaved a sigh of relief on reaching their township at Jagti in the outskirts of Jammu after spending sleepless nights in their rented accommodations in the Kashmir over the past few weeks.

Nearly 4000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits are working in different departments in the valley after their selection under Prime Minister's employment package which was announced in 2008 having two major components one pertaining to the provision of 6000 jobs for youth and another pertaining to the provision of 6000 accommodation units for the recruited employees.

The process of filling the remaining 2000 odd jobs is in progress along with construction of 4000 accommodation units.

An environment of apprehension is prevailing in Kashmir in the wake of the selective killings in different parts of the valley. We lost our colleague Rahul Bhat who was shot dead inside his office in Budgam district on May 12 and decid-

ed to leave for Jammu, Deepankar Raina said.

He said the majority of the PM package employees were reluctant to stay back but the government sealed the transit camps with barbed wire and did not allow the occupants to leave.

Our only demand is our relocation outside Kashmir which, we believe, is not safe for us. The government is talking about our relocation to secure places but Bhat was working in a well secured office and so was the banker Vijay Kumar who was gunned down inside his office in Kulgam district on Thursday, Raina said.

He said they have to move out of the secured accommodation to attend their duties and buy daily use items like vegetables and milk.

Another employee Amit Koul said he has decided not to return to Kashmir and put his life and his family in danger.

Our only demand is relocation of PM package employees out of the valley. We are ready to serve anywhere else till the situation returns to normal, he said.

Jagnesh Kumar said fear psychosis has gripped the community who are presently living in the valley and many of them who were living in rented accommodations in Kupwara, Baramulla, Anantnag and Budgam have already left for Jammu.

We are watching the devel-

opments from Srinagar to Delhi where a high-level meeting is under progress. Kashmir belongs to us and we are ready to serve there but the government needs to provide a secure atmosphere, he said.

He said the repeat of the 1990-like situation is on cards due to the failure of the security agencies to check the targeted killings.

Kashmiri pandits left enmass for Jammu in 1990 and the ground realities are forcing the miniscule community to leave the valley again, he said.

A woman employee, accompanied by her husband and a minor child, said since the killing of Bhat, every day was a nightmare for the family. We had sleepless nights in our rented accommodation over the past few weeks and thinking of going back to the valley is impossible, she said.

Though the exact number of pandit families who have returned from Kashmir to Jagti township could not be ascertained officially, social activist Sunil Pandita claimed that dozens of families have come back from the valley over the past two days.

The spurt in violence is the reflection of the failure of the government and exposed the false claims of normalcy returning to the valley in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370. Heads should roll at the highest level in the Union Territory, he said.

We are watching the devel-

Azad Loyalists Who Skipped 'Nav Sankalp Shivir' Served Show-Cause Notice

Agencies

JAMMU: Infighting in the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) refuses to die down. The party on Friday issued show-cause notices to two former legislators, who are believed to have close ties with Ghulam Nabi Azad, for not attending the party's 'Nav Sankalp Shivir' at Patnitop.

The party insiders said that two separate notices were served to former MLA Vikar Rasool Wani and former MLC GN Monga for attending a private

party in Srinagar instead of the Congress's official programme in Patnitop.

The Congress leaders were asked to clear their position in two weeks to save themselves from any disciplinary action. The JKPC had organised a Nav Sankalp Shivir where senior party leaders, former ministers, former legislators, PCC office bearers, DCC Presidents, and heads of front outfits were invited.

The shivir was supervised by AICC in charge of J&K Affairs Rajani Patil. However, none from former Chief Minister Gulam Nabi Azad's camp

attended the meeting.

Sources said that some leaders from the Azad group camped in Srinagar and held a private lunch party, which mocked the party's programme at Patnitop.

This is not the first time that the Azad and Mir groups have fought against each other. Earlier, 24 leaders including former ministers, former legislators and office bearers of Ghulam Nabi Azad group revolted against the PCC chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir and resigned from their organisational posts—(KNO)

Chief Justice Administers Oath Of Office To Newly Appointed Judge



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The newly appointed Judge, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, was administered oath of office as Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh here on Friday.

Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Pankaj Mithal, administered the oath of office to Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal at a ceremony held at the High Court complex Srinagar.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Justice Dhira Singh Thakur, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi while Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Mohan Lal and Justice Rahul Bharti participated in the oath taking ceremony virtually from Jammu.

The proceedings of the ceremony were conducted by Registrar General of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Gupta, who read the contents of the notification

received from Government of India, Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Justice, the Warrant of Appointment issued by President of India and the Letter of Authorization issued by the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, authorising the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, to administer the Oath of office to the newly appointed Judge. The oath taking ceremony was also telecasted live on Youtube Channel.

The ceremony was also attended by former Judges of High Court, Advocate General, Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Assistant Solicitor General of India, Srinagar, President Bar Association, Jammu, Chairman/Convenor Bar Association Srinagar, Principal District Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar, Officers and staff of the Registry.

With elevation of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal as Additional Judge of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the strength of Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has risen to 16 Judges including the Chief Justice, against the sanctioned strength of 17.

IUST-SKIMS Ink MoU For Academic Cooperation

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) to strengthen research and academic cooperation between the two institutes for the betterment of UT's students and researchers. The MoU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of IUST Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo and Director SKIMS Prof. Parvaiz A. Koul.

Prof. Romshoo, the Vice-Chancellor of IUST, described the collaboration as very significant as it will entail mutual co-operation between the two institutes to address the needs of capacity building and professional development of graduates, post-graduates and doctoral students belonging to the streams of medicine, nursing, medical technology and allied

fields who are pursuing their studies at either of the two institutions. He added that IUST will facilitate networking and assist in building meaningful alliances and consortia among academia working on important issues affecting people as well as link with national and international agencies for the benefit of students, faculty and society.

According to the statement, the MoU will help in the optimal and efficient use of resources and expertise, academic exchange, sharing of equipment and facilities, and infrastructure, as well as the collection of clinical samples, all of which will boost the research and academics in both the institutes. Furthermore, it will promote collaborative programs in mutually beneficial areas, mutual sharing of facilities such as high-end instruments, joint organisation of conferences and other outreach programs.

Udhampur: Diversion Of Road Passing Through Northern Headquarters Temporary, Says Army

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The diversion of a road passing through the northern command headquarters in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir is temporary, a defence spokesman said on Friday, requesting cooperation of local population in maintenance of law and order.

A statement was issued after the residents of Magaini-Kotli carried out a protest in front of Tiger hill gate on Jammu-Srinagar national highway near the cantonment area against the closure of the road passing through the northern command.

It is brought to the notice of all that the road was not closed but traffic was diverted due to security reasons in wake of the recent killings in the Union Territory

of J&K and intelligence reports about threats to local population of Udhampur, the spokesman said quoting a joint statement issued by northern command and civil administration.

He said it is clarified that the diversion is not permanent and the decision with respect to security requirements will be reviewed on June 4 in conjunction with civil administration and unless the situation is critical, the traffic will be restored.

Security measures of this nature are temporary and traffic is always restored as soon as the situation normalizes. The civil population, media and political organizations are requested to cooperate in keeping all of us safe and in the maintenance of law and order, the spokesman said.

World Bicycle Day Commemorated In Srinagar

Div Com Flags-Off Cycle Rally From Ghanta Ghar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Friday flagged-off a cycle rally from Ghanta Ghar Lal Chowk, here to commemorate 'World Bicycle Day'.

The cycle rally was organised by J&K Sports Council (JKSC) in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK).

Addressing the participants at the historic Ghanta Ghar,

DYSS Kashmir, Nuzhat Farooq and Nusrat Gazala, Divisional Sports Officers, Balbir Singh District Sports Officer DYSS, Srinagar, officials from Nehru Yuva Kendra, Shabir Khan, SDPO Kothibagh PS besides other officers and officials from JKSC and other government departments were present at the occasion.

Lal Chowk, the starting point of the rally witnessed a huge rush of cyclists in the wee hours and from here the participants pedalled via M.A Road-TRC Signal-Dalgate along the embankment of Dal Lake up to Cheshmashahi Crossing and finally culminating the rally at Botanical Garden Parking.

Many hydration points



the Div Com who was also the chief guest on the occasion appreciated the initiative of JKSC to celebrate World Bicycle Day.

He said besides being a sports activity, cycling carries a huge socio-economic and environmental message. He also said that such unique initiatives should be organized more often, adding that the purpose of this rally is to create awareness about cycling among people so that cycling becomes a daily routine for fitness and a measure to safeguard the environment.

Nuzhat Gull, Secretary JKSC, Bashir Ahmad Joint Director

were set up en route in Srinagar to keep cyclists hydrated.

The rally witnessed a massive participation of cyclists, with more than 300 cyclists pedalling in the rally besides 50 officials from other departments including officials of JKSC led by Nuzhat Gazala, Divisional Sports Officer Central, and other employees from DYSS besides J&K Police and J&K Bank.

Though the United Nations General Assembly had declared June 3 to be celebrated as World Bicycle Day in 2018, in J&K the day was celebrated for the first time on Friday.

Adventure Tourism Holds Big Promise For Tourist Footfall In J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A major fillip to tourist arrival in Kashmir continues to be adventure tourism and treks with adventure sports activities like mountain biking, paragliding, hot air balloon rides, river rafting, trekking and camping are picking up in Jammu and Kashmir.

The eco-friendly adventure tourism not only provides a new option for adventure lovers to test their adrenaline rush at various adventure destinations in J&K but also helps in the well-being of local population by providing them new employment options.

The idea of conceiving and strengthening new Development Authorities by the government was to have systematic development of tourist locations and exploration of new destinations. The Tourism Development Authorities focus on adventure tourism and keep adventure equipment available at the tourist locations for hiring by the tourists interested in taking up excited activities.

To provide a unique experience to tourists and increase their footfall, the J&K government has prepared a comprehensive plan for promoting tourism sector in the UT and identifying new abundant

natural beauty and breathtaking landscapes at unexplored tourist spots.

The tourism department has developed various tourist circuits across J&K, laying special focus on adventure tourism, trekking activities, pilgrimage sites, water sports and other popular ventures.

Concerted efforts are being made to promote sustainable destinations and developing unexplored places of tourism potential while branding J&K in the international tourism circuit, an official said.

An LG-led initiative is aimed at transforming 75 villages of the UT known for historical, picturesque beauty, and cultural significance into tourist villages.

According to an official, these 75 offbeat locations will provide adventure seekers, trekkers and international visitors with an experience of nature's wilderness while also creating a livelihood in villages in the forest environment through home-stays, nature guides, trek operators, food stalls, and forest souvenirs.

It is important to mention that reputed travel brand Thomas Cook (India) and its Group Company, SOTC Travel having identified strong pent-up demand for outdoor and adventure travel, have curated

a distinctive portfolio, India Trekking Tours - timed perfectly with the onset of the country's trekking season.

26-year-old Bollywood actress, Sara Ali Khan, recently took to Instagram to share a series of pictures of herself against the most natural backdrop of mountains, clear skies and greenery, as she went out trekking. The caption read, "Kashmir Ki Kali Is back to your Gali Now trekking par Main Chali (sic)". The Atrangi Re Actor was also spotted cooking greens at a camping site in the cold of the mountains.

Chief Secretary, Arun Kumar Mehta, recently showed the green flag to heartening adventure activities of the Tourism Department that started in Srinagar from the Zabarwan hills at Harwan.

Among these adventure activities are Paragliding from Astanmarg top to Chandpora ground. The flight included a vertical drop of 2000 feet which is a hit with adventure lovers and tourists.

Adventure tourism, it may be mentioned here, has been flagged by the department as an added attraction for the tourists and many new trekking routes thrown open for trekkers by the government last year were welcomed by adventure lovers.

Don't Give Money To NSFs Not Complying With Sports Code: Delhi HC To Centre

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday directed the Centre that no money or assistance shall be provided to national sports federations (NSFs) which are not functioning in compliance with the law concerning the administration of sports in the country.

No money will go henceforth to any entity which does not comply with the Sports Code. That is the long and short of it. What is suffering is the rule of law, said the bench, comprising Justices Najmi Waziri and Vikas Mahajan.

It is unsporting. (It is) not sporting at all not to comply with the rules. There are too many red cards coming up, the court remarked while hearing a petition by senior advocate Rahul Mehra to ensure compliance with the Sports Code by the NSFs.

The court said that compliance shall be done by the end of one month and in the meantime, assistance to sportspersons through the Sports Authority of India would be ensured and possibly augmented.

The NSFs which are not compliant shall be put on notice of suspension, it further said.

The court was informed by the Joint Secretary, Sports Ministry that concerted efforts are underway to ensure that compliances are made by the end of the month and that while 15 NSFs were adhering with the Sports code, six were granted the exemption.

Five NSFs need to amend their constitutions and 17 required major changes, it was further said. Lawyer Anil Soni appeared for the Centre.

The petitioner disputed the Centre's version and emphasised that at least 24 NSFs have super luminary persons in the management which is not envisaged by the code and that the mandate of 25 per cent of the management of NSFs being prominent sportspersons of outstanding merit was not being followed.

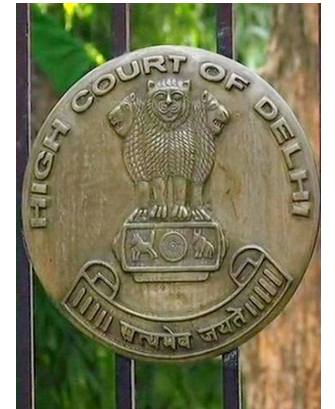
The court observed that the endeavour is that the NSFs comply with the legal framework and let them not say that the players are going to suffer.

In as much as there is an unclear picture as to which of the NSFs are fully compliant, it is therefore prudent that no

more money or assistance is extended to any of the NSFs till the next date unless they comply. The respondent shall ensure that monies, facilities, and patronage are extended to NSF only if they comply (with the sports code) and also the orders (passed by the high court and the Supreme Court), the court ordered.

It is hoped that the entire exercise of ensuring compliance shall be completed by the end of one month. In the interim, however, assistance directed to sportspersons through the Sports Authority of India would be ensured and possibly augmented. The NSFs which are not compliant shall be put on notice of suspension, it said.

In its earlier order, the court had noted in November 2021, the Centre had claimed to have recognised 59 NSFs and there



can be no latitude apropos expending monies on entities who do not qualify for it in law.

In view of the non-compliance with its previous orders, the court had sought the presence of an Officer of the rank of Joint Secretary before it.

On May 26, the court had asked the Centre to suspend NSFs that are not complying with the Sports Code, saying that it was prudent that no further exemptions be granted to or lenience be shown to such non-compliant entities.

It had stated that compliance with the Sports Code is a must for the grant of recognition as an NSF and unless the entity strictly adheres to the code, it would disentitle itself from any consequential benefits flowing from the public fund, such as the use of government-owned stadia and sports facilities, etc.

The matter would be heard next in July.

Bun Maska



Chai

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Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard,
Srinagar