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Quote!

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-Christopher Reeve

NEWS DIGEST

CRPF Man Injured In Accidental Fire

Srinagar: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was injured on Thursday after his colleague's gun accidentally went off in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. A police official said that a driver with CRPF 63 battalion was injured when the service weapon of his colleague went off near the Srigufwara area of the district on Thursday evening. The trooper suffered injuries in his leg and was immediately evacuated to hospital. "His condition is stated to be stable," the officials added. (GNS)

J&K Logs 13 New Covid New Cases

Srinagar: Thirteen more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday while no fresh fatality due to the virus was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, eight new cases of Covid-19 were detected in Jammu district and one each in Rajouri, Samba and Reasi in the winter capital. In the Valley, they said, a single case each was reported from Srinagar and Baramulla districts, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of the pandemic in J&K to 454314. The officials said **More on P6**

School Bus Crushes Teen Girl To Death

Srinagar: A teenage girl was killed after being hit by a school bus in Ashmuqam area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday. 17-year-old Shafia Jan was hit by the school bus near Grend Ashmuqam on Thursday afternoon, officials said. The injured girl was immediately shifted to PHC Ashmuqam for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her dead, officials said.

Teenager Found Hanging In Budgam

Srinagar: A teenager boy was found dead on Thursday in Khansahib area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. An official said that a 15-year-old boy (name withheld) from Kharpora Khansahib was found hanging near Keekar mode Khansahib and he was subsequently referred to SDH Khansahib. He said the boy was shifted to district hospital Budgam where doctors declared him brought dead. An official said that police have taken cognizance of the incident **More on P6**

Will Avenge Every Drop of Tear Shed by Families of Those Killed by Militants, Says LG Sinha

Orders Probe Into Allegations Of Irregularities In Sub Inspector Selection Process, Home Sec To Head Probe Panel; Says If Any Irregularity Found, Entire Recruitment Process To Be Conducted Afresh

Agencies

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday vowed that the security forces will "avenge every drop of tear" shed by the families of those who lost lives in target killings by militants in Kashmir.

He also ordered a probe into the alleged irregularities in JKSSB Sub-Inspector post recruitment process stating that a committee headed by the Home Secretary will investigate the allegations.

"Administration led by me feels the pain and agony of families of those who were killed by militants in Kashmir recently. I assure the families that the security forces will avenge every drop of tear shed by them," LG Sinha said while addressing police passing out parade at Udhampur, as per news agency KNO.

About the allegations of irregularities into the JKSSB SI recruitment process, the LG said: "All the recruitment process



held so far have been transparent and clean. But fingers have been raised against the J&K SSB list of SI posts. We have decided to constitute a committee that will be headed by Secretary Home to probe the allegations

levelled by some people."

He said that the committee will submit its report within the shortest possible time and if anybody is found involved in playing mischief, strict action will be taken and the entire

process will be conducted afresh in a transparent manner.

The LG was addressing the Attestation cum Passing Out Parade of DYSSP (Prob.) 15th Batch and PSIs 25th Batch at SKPA Udhampur. **More on P6**

Orders Probe Into Recruitment Of Sub-Inspectors

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday announced a time bound probe into the selection process of Sub Inspectors conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB). "From the last two-three days, newspapers have been reporting against the conduct of the Sub Inspection selection process by JKSSB. We have decided to constitute a committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary Home Sh. R K Goyal that will probe into the matter and submit its report in a time bound manner," Sinha said. The LG made this announcement while attending the attestation cum passing Out Parade of DYSSP (and PSIs at SKPA Udhampur here on Thursday. **More on P6**

EC Announces Presidential Poll On July 18

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Election for the next President of India will be held on July 18 in which 4,809 electors comprising MPs and MLAs will vote to elect incumbent Ram Nath Kovind's successor, the Election Commission announced on Thursday.

Going by its strength in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as well as in many state assemblies, the BJP is in a comfortable position to ensure the victory of the candidate nominated by it in the upcoming election.

The nominations can be filed till June 29 after the issue of notification on June 15, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar told a press conference.

Counting for the poll will take place in the national capital on July 21, after all ballots from states are brought here.

Kovind's term ends on July 24 and an election for the next president has to be held before that day.

With the EC setting the ball rolling, all eyes are now on who will be the BJP's choice for the top constitutional post as the party with the support of its allies has a **More on P6**

Govt Winds Up Stationery Department

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday approved the proposal of wind up the department of stationery and office supplies.

The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha approved the decision, an official spokesperson said.

"The decision has been taken in consideration of the fact that the General Financial Rules 2017, mandate the purchase of common use goods and services from the GEM Portal. Accordingly, all departments are making purchases through the GEM Portal, thus making the Department of Stationery and Office Supplies defunct and non-functional," he said.

Presently, the spokesperson said, the Department has two stationery depots each at Jammu/Srinagar **More on P6**

New Era Of Higher Education Flourishing In J&K: Prez Kovind

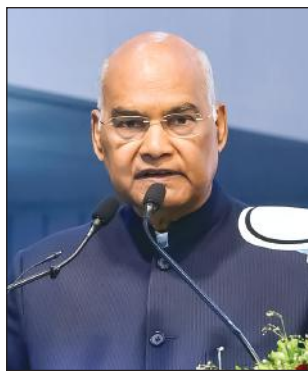
Agencies

Jammu: The President of India, Ramnath Kovind said on Thursday that a new era of higher education is flourishing in Jammu and Kashmir and the education ecosystem is getting better.

Kovind made these remarks in his address at the 5th Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu on Thursday.

Urging students to positively contribute to the development of a stronger nation, the President said that education sets mind and soul free from ignorance and negativity, adding youth are catalysts of a future and stronger India.

Commending girls for getting the top three gold medals, Kovind said that India is



moving forward with greater women empowerment.

The President said that education is the greatest enabler.

"The future of our country depends on good education of our young population. Institutes like IIM Jammu are nurturing our youth. These

talented young people are going to build the India of the future. They are going to make the lives of the people, better, and the country, stronger," he said.

The President said that aided by convergence of technologies and opportunities, many start-ups have become very successful and are being described as the emerging mainstay of the Indian economy.

Kovind advised students to remain quick learners and re-learners throughout their life.

He said that the role of fast paced technological changes is going to be disruptive.

"The shelf life of technologies is getting shorter. Therefore, the shelf life of management and leadership styles is also going to **More on P6**



THE SHELF LIFE OF TECHNOLOGIES IS GETTING SHORTER.

Therefore, the shelf life of management and leadership styles is also going to be shorter. To deal with such a scenario, they have to move from the mindset of 'utilising the known' to the approach of 'exploring the unknown.'

Centre Plans Third Chopper Route For Amarnath Pilgrims

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre is contemplating to start a new helicopter service from Srinagar to Panchtarni, which is the last drop-off point for pilgrims visiting holy cave shrine Amarnath, in addition to the two already existing chopper routes for the pilgrimage, officials said.

The move came in view of the anticipated rush of the pilgrims to the shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva located at an altitude of 3,888 metres in the upper reaches of Himalaya in Jammu and Kashmir.

The pilgrimage is scheduled to begin on June 30 and will continue for 43 days.

As of now, helicopter services are available for the pilgrims from Baltal and Pahalgam to Panchtarni. From this drop-off point, pilgrims either walk or ride a mule or travel in a palanquin to the Amarnath shrine 6 km away. Both Baltal and Pahalgam are about 90 km from Srinagar.

A new helicopter route is



being planned this year -- from Budgam (near Srinagar airport) to Panchtarni, an official said.

The Shree Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), which manages the pilgrimage, has also been asked to check if it would be feasible to land the choppers at the foothill of the Amarnath cave.

As of now, only the choppers which ferry high level dignitaries land near the cave.

As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) formulated following a direction of the Supreme Court, only 15,000 registered Shri Amarnath Yatra pilgrims are allowed beyond Pahalgam and Baltal in a day **More on P6**

Only 21.9% Women Currently Employed In J&K: Survey

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Besides the worsening status of J&K's nutritional indicators especially among women, the fifth edition of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) series has revealed that the erstwhile state lacks a proper gender equality system when it comes to employment as only 21.9 percent of women between 15-49 age group are currently employed.

Last month, the government released the fifth part of the National Family Health Survey for India including J&K. Among others, several included indicators are of great importance to J&K in terms of female health. The report also contains indicators that are relevant to the Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality (SDG-5) in J&K.

Among the indicators released for the erstwhile state of J&K, several were based on education, educational



freedom, economic freedom, household management and decision-making, perceived status within the household, and health that have always maintained an influence on the status of women in J&K.

The report has noted that 21.9 percent of women in J&K are currently employed against 68.2 percent of men, expressing a great disparity in women's empowerment in the Union Territory. Moreover, in Northern India,

J&K has the fourth lowest percentage of women who are currently employed.

According to the survey, the percentage of married women who were employed in the 12 months preceding the survey stands at 30.3 percent while for men in the same age group, the percentage was recorded at 97 percent. Among this, 60.8 percent earn cash while 98.3 percent men earn cash.

However, last year, the NFHS-5 factsheet on, "Women's **More on P6**

AMARNATH YATRA

Sticky Bombs Worry Security Agencies

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: After a spate of killings of government employees and migrant workers at the hands of militants in the Valley, the government forces are bracing up to face the challenge of sticky bombs and drones ahead of the annual Amarnath yatra scheduled to begin from June 30.

An official from Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) told Kashmir Observer that the security forces are reworking their standard

operating procedures (SOPs) ahead of the pilgrimage being held after a gap of over two years.

"Several meetings were called in the last few months to mitigate the challenges," the official said.

He said apart from targeted killing, presence of pistols, the use of sticky bombs is one of the major challenges that they are facing.

"We won't allow any standby vehicles on the highways. We have apprehensions that the militants might use **More on P6**

Make Use Of Technology For Safer Yatra: LG

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed the officials to ensure optimum use of technology to make the upcoming Amarnath yatra safer and more convenient for the pilgrims. Sinha passed these directions while reviewing the preparations for the annual pilgrimage in a high level meeting held at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said Thursday. **More on P6**

BSF Fires At Pak Drone Along IB In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire at a suspected Pakistani drone along the International Border (IB) in Jammu district in the early hours of Thursday, forcing it to return, officials said.

They said a massive search operation has been launched to trace any weapon or explosive that it might have dropped.

"A blinking light suspected to be from a drone was observed in Arnia area (along the International Border) about 04:15 hours today," a BSF spokesperson said.

Alert BSF troops fired at the flying object which was at a height of about 300 metres, causing it to withdraw, he said.

The security forces have been alert to attempts being made by Pakistan and militant outfits across the border to smuggle weapons, ammunition and explosives through drones via the International Border in Jammu **More on P6**

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2

Remote Learning Was Even Tougher For Migrant Parents

The Conversation

When COVID forced school closures, many parents found themselves more involved than ever with their children's learning. For some parents, it was hard work but broadly achievable. Many migrant parents, however, found themselves at a distinct disadvantage. Parental engagement is strongly linked to student learning outcomes.

With learn-from-home likely to return the next time there is a pandemic or other emergency, it's important we understand why many migrant families found this mode of education delivery so incredibly challenging and how the system can be improved. We interviewed 20 migrant parents from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan who told us about the complex challenges they faced during lockdowns.

Many of our interviewees told us limited English language proficiency made it hard to engage with their children's learning. Understanding school and government messages was often a struggle. One parent said:

My daughter has a very native accent, and it is difficult for me to understand what she says. Sometimes I do not understand what she wants or how I should help her. When I approached the school, they sent me English emails that I didn't understand.

The pandemic also highlighted Australia's digital divide; some participants struggled to set up their digital devices. Limited parental digital literacy makes difficult to monitor student learning, especially in large families. Some parents told us they knew their kids only pretended they were on school tasks, while really watching YouTube or playing games.

Our interviewees also reported intense financial stress during lockdowns. As children stayed home for an extended period, grocery and utility bills soared. One parent told us:

You need to spend more. They eat more; they want to play in the bathtub. They watch TV; I have to use the



Limited parental digital literacy makes difficult to monitor student learning, especially in large families. Some parents told us they knew their kids only pretended they were on school tasks, while really watching YouTube or playing games.

vacuum cleaner and washing machine more often. Parents had to also buy tablet devices and printers for children to participate in remote learning. Worrying their children were not doing schoolwork properly, some paid for tutoring and spent more on books. Many parents worked full time during the pandemic and had limited time to educate their children. One participant reflected:

I have to work and be a teacher at the same time. It is not possible.

Another said: I am a single mum with four kids from Year 1 to year 7. I have to deal with four different age groups, four schools, four classes, and four iPads.

[] Sometimes, I need to cut my sleep hours, which again makes me wake up tired.

Some parents eventually withdrew from their children's education:

I have asked my children to do their duties on their own. [] In the case of my little son, I only know that he progresses through his course, can pass his units, and proceed to the next year, but I am not aware of his academic situation.

Reflecting on his inability to support his children's learning during the lockdowns, one parent told us, it's out of my hands.

Another told her child's school:

Look, you need to provide me with simpler guidance. I'm not a teacher; provide me with a bit simpler communication; what they need to study, what they need to learn. Almost all parents who participated in our study reported remote learning was exhausting. One parent said:

You get tired of your children; you're connected to them, that is good, but now it's too much. I can't wait until they get back to school.

Some parents worried about the potential strain of remote schooling on their relationships with their children.

One single mother, working full time while her child was home alone, told us:

I had to teach him while he was very impatient and expected me to know the answer for everything.

When I was a little unsure about any subject, he got angry and miffed. So, I decided not to help him [] I told him: Look, do whatever you can and leave the rest undone; when you get back to school, ask your teacher.' I came to the conclusion that the bond and the relationships between a son and a mother are far more important than schooling and learning.

Others in the study also reiterated the importance of not putting too much pressure on already distressed children.

Our research showed migrant parents faced myriad challenges during the remote learning period, with some only able to engage in a limited way with their children's education.

Remote learning may very well return in future when the next disaster strikes, so it's crucial we prepare for such disruption by improving equitable access to education delivered online and at home.

To achieve this, we must ensure: all students have access to digital remote learning devices disadvantaged families receive additional support (including financial and language support) during remote learning periods all parents are well informed about their roles and responsibilities, and school messages are easy to understand.

China Releases World's 'Most Detailed' Map Of Moon

Press Trust Of India

China has released a new comprehensive geologic map of the moon, the "most detailed" to date, which is expected to make a vital contribution to scientific research, exploration and landing site selection on the Earth's only natural satellite.

Chinese scientists from multiple research institutes and universities have created the high resolution topographic map based on data from China's lunar exploration Chang'e project and other data and research findings from international organisations, the state-run China Global Television Network (CGTN) reported on Wednesday.

The new comprehensive geologic map of the moon is to a scale of 1:2,500,000, the "most detailed to date", the report said.

The map includes 12,341 impact craters, 81 impact ba-



sins, 17 rock types and 14 types of structures, providing abundant information about geology of the moon and its evolution. It is expected to make a great contribution to scientific research, exploration and landing site selection on the moon.

The Institute of Geochemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has led the project, along with other organisations such as Chinese Academy of Geological Science, China University of Geosciences and Shandong University.

The map was published by Science Bulletin on May 30. Previously, the USGS Astrogeology Science Centre had released a moon map to a scale of 1:5,000,000 in 2020, the report said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for fresh Electricity Connection for my residential house located at Badamwari Hawal Srinagar. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/43/2022-23 Dated:- 06-06-2022

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Collapsed boundary wall (100 Mtrs Approx.) with 02 No. Sentry Posts at Police Station Awantipora.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jammu/ Srinagar	79.02 lacs	4000/-	158040/-	60 days	15-06-2022	"A"

1. Date of Publishing 06-06-2022 at 1400 hours.
2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1430 hours on 06-06-2022
3. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 08-06-2022 to 14-06-2022 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 15-06-2022 on line.
4. The complete bidding process will be on line.
5. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 15-06-2022 at 1100 Hrs.
6. The lowest bidder i.e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.
7. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).
8. The cost of tender documents should be submitted by the bidder in shape of treasury challan / receipt and upload the same.
9. Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge.
10. Performance Security :- In case, the successful bidder found unbalanced i.e. 15% or below the advertised cost, shall have to produce performance security @ 3% of the quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5-days after opening of price bid and shall be released after successful completion of the work. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.
11. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
12. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
13. Financial Bids will be opened on line in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
14. The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
15. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
16. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
17. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
18. The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
19. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.
20. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.
21. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 2(III).
22. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
23. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.
24. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.
25. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
26. Original Registration certificate of GST No. shall be uploaded on line.
27. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
28. No construction material shall be supplied by Police Construction Division, PHQ. However, the brands of the material will be approved by Engineer incharge of the concerned site in consultation with Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K.
29. In case of any typographical error, if found in the rates or units etc. the same shall be corrected and paid as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 in vogue with contractor's Tender appreciation/depreciation.
30. Any item of work not advertised in the rate list but found necessary during execution of work should be got approved by the competent authority before proceeding further beyond the allotment and payment for the same shall be made on sanctioned schedule of rates 2020 and LMR with contractor's overall appreciation/depreciation.

DIPK-3563/22

No:-e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2022-23/3970-77
Dated: 06-06-2022.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/Sgr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have have lost the Number plate for my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK056-0330. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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Assistant Registrar Aspirants Demand Declaration Of Result

Agencies

Srinagar: Scores of Job aspirants who had applied for the Assistant Registrar post in Kashmir University 2019 have urged the University authorities to declare the result at the earliest.

Aspirants say that 175 candidates appeared in the mains examination in the month of March this year

and due to withholding of results, they are unable to apply at other places. "We appeal to KU authorities to declare our results without any further delay so that we can proceed ahead," they said.

On being contacted, Registrar Kashmir University, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir said the result for the post will be declared within a week. (CNS)

Shahr-e-Khaas Traders Delegation Raise Developmental Issues With DC

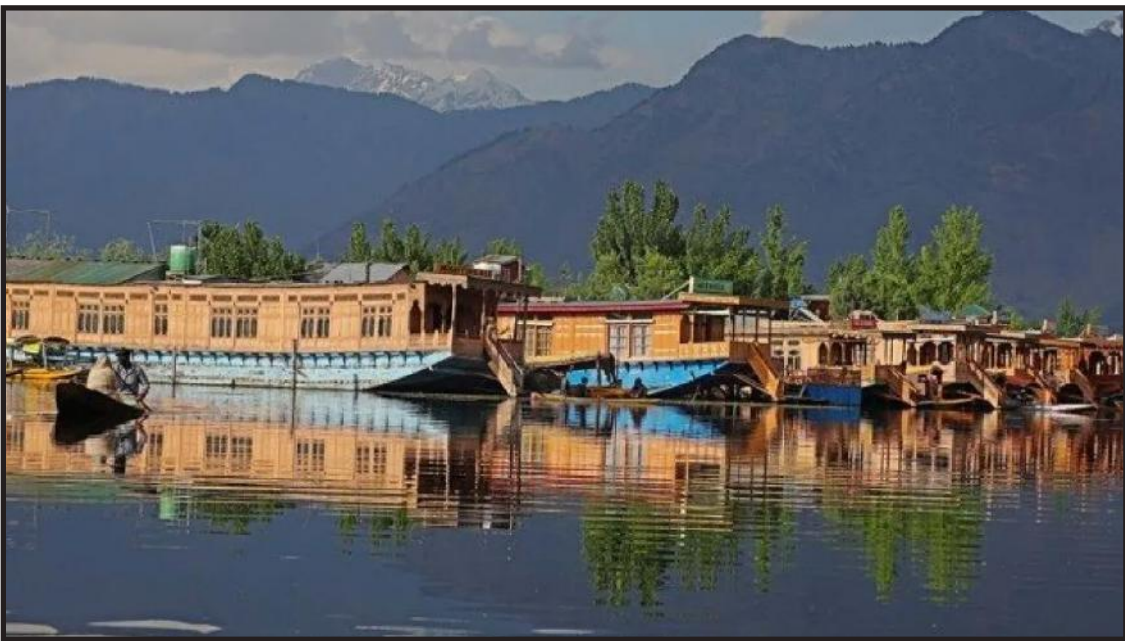
Observer News Service

Srinagar: A delegation of Shahr-e-Khaas Traders Association called on the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar on Thursday.

The delegation headed by Bashir Ahmad Kenu submitted a charter of demands before the DC projecting several demands including launching E-Rickshaw services in all internal routes of the Shahr-e-Khaas to Lal Chowk and Batamaloos to overcome the traffic jamming, opening of Sunday market in Eidgah area, Installation and repairing of Street lights, construction of public convenience on

prominent places in Shahr-e-Khaas, allocation of space for car parking in important areas in Shahr-e-Khaas, operation of Cable Car services from Rainawari to Hazrat Makhdoom Sahib (RA) Shrine on regular basis to attract tourists, besides other issues regarding welfare of the traders of Shahr-e-Khaas.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that all their concerns will be looked at and redressed on priority. He also assured them that he will conduct the visit to Sher-e-Khaas for an on the spot assessment of the grievances and demands of the people.



TOURISM 2022

Houseboats Witness Massive Booking In Dal, Nigeen Lakes

Agencies

Srinagar: The houseboat owners in the Kashmir Valley are jubilant after witnessing a huge tourist footfall reminding them about the golden period of 1970's.

This year, 80 percent of the houseboats at Dal and Nigeen Lakes remained jam-packed easing the worries of houseboat owners who have been grappling to survive.

After the slump in tourist influx due to the Covid-19, the footfall of tourists recorded an increase in Jammu and Kash-

mir.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had on April 10 stated that J&K is its "golden period" of tourism as nearly 80 lakh tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir in the past few months, breaking a 20-year-record.

Vice Chairman of Houseboat Owners Association Kashmir, Manzoor Ahmad Pakhtoon said that almost 80 percent of the houseboats remained occupied with the guests, who visited from different parts of the country and outside as well.

"Around 1600 rooms out of 2700 got booked by tourists at

Dal and Nigeen Lake," he said.

The houseboat owners were jubilant after witnessing the huge influx of tourists.

One of the houseboat owners, Tariq Ahmad told KNO that the huge rush of tourists could be witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir after the gap of many years.

"The government must help in modifying the houseboats as the tourists visiting here prefer modified houseboats with modern facilities. We should be allowed to modify the houseboats for the comfort of the tourists," he said. (KNO)

3 Day Sufi Festival Begins At SKICC Sufism A Way Of Realising Inner Self: Advisor Bhatnagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To highlight and propagate the teachings of Sufis and Rishis in Kashmir, a three day Sufi festival kick-started at SKICC on Thursday.

The festival is being organised by the Tourism Department in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Waqf Board, KVIB, Archives and Archaeology, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Kashmir University and Higher Education Department.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, R R Bhatnagar was the chief guest at the inaugural function. During the 3-day festival, programmes will be organised at Chashma Shahi, Pahalgam and SKICC highlighting the teachings of Sufis and Rishis.

At the inaugural ceremony, speakers highlighted that J&K has been bestowed with rich cultural treasure and said that there is a need to understand the importance of valuing our heritage and make it part of day to day life. They also emphasised on the need for sharing the legacies of Saints with the rest of the world.

Speaking as Chief Guest, Advisor Bhatnagar said that Sufism is a way of realisation



of inner self and our Sufis and Rishis have shown us the path towards that goal.

"Sufism propagates the doctrine of love, compassion, peace, development for mankind, irrespective of any biases and prejudices", he said.

"We must understand the essentials of Sufism as this gives us an idea of what is beneficial for humankind" he added.

Dr Darakshan Andrabi also emphasised on the need for propagation of teachings of Sufis and Reshis and said that more such events will be organised in the coming times.

Secretary Tourism, Saromad Hafeez, in his welcome address dwelled on the influence of saints and Rishis on the rich heritage of Kashmir. He said that it is the endeavour of the Tourism department to give the people an all-encompassing experience as tourism not only includes people and places but it also includes our culture, ethos,

heritage, cuisine.

He further said that we need to reconnect with our past and the Tourism department has succeeded to a large extent in reintroducing ourselves and added that the department will be organising several events over the next three days in this direction.

Chairperson, J&K Wakf Board, Dr Darakshan Andrabi, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole, Secretary Tourism Saromad Hafeez, Vice Chairperson KVIB Dr Hina Bhat, Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo, Registrar, Kashmir University, Dr Mir Nisar, Secretary, J&KAACL, Bharat Singh Manhas, Prof G N Khaki from Sheikh ul Alam Chair of Kashmir University, Prof Hameed Nasim Rafiabadi from IUST, noted broadcaster, Dr Satish Vimal, Dr Babar Afzal, scholars and students from various universities and colleges from all across were also present on the occasion.

National Institute Of Technology Hosts Santoor Concert

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Art and Culture Club in collaboration with Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY) Thursday organized a Santoor concert at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar.

The program was organized in memory of Santoor maestro Pandit Bhajan Sopori and Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma who passed away on May 10 and June 02 this year respectively.

The event was presided by In-Charge Director NIT Srinagar Prof. M A Ahanger and was coordinated by Dr. Nasir F. Butt, Coordinator of the Art and Culture Club, NIT Srinagar.

On the occasion, Prof. Ahanger appreciated the organizers for holding such events. Such initiatives are aimed to provide a stress-free atmosphere on the campus, he said.

Prof. Ahanger paid rich tributes to both slain artists and stated that they have given recognition to Santoor at a global level.

"Both of them took 'Santoor' from a simple four-stringed folk instrument to its modified and modern 100-stringed magic instrument at the international level," he said. In his special message, Registrar

NIT Srinagar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said Santoor has a historic connection with Kashmir and it will continue to inspire young artists in the region.

Prof. Bukhari also paid rich tributes to Pandit Bhajan Sopori, popularly known as the "Saint of the Santoor" and Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma.

"They were the sons of the soil. Both are considered as pioneers in establishing the santoor on national and international platforms as a complete solo instrument," he said.

Prof. Bukhari said both will be remembered for their great contribution to Indian classical music.

The evening began with a welcome note by the faculty coordinator of the event, Dr. Nasir Farid Butt. No preamble was needed for the melody that was going to be heard. Takahiro Arai began his solo performance on the Santoor.

Shri Takahiro Arai, a Japanese Citizen and an expert in Indian classical music rendered a melodious classical composition on the Santoor with Shri Chandrashekhhar Gandhi on the Tabla.

The event was graced by Dean Students Welfare NIT Srinagar Prof. Neyaz Ahmed, and several faculty members, students from various other institutions participated in the event.

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
10- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 34
ZUHR	12:30
ASR	5:29
Magrib	7:44
ISHA	9: 24

This Day In History

- 1190-Third Crusade: Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa drowns while crossing the Saleph River (modern Turkey) leading an army to Jerusalem
- 1358 - French Jacquerie peasant leader Guillaume Cale captured at the Battle of Mello
- 1538 - Catholic German monarchy signs League of Neuremberg
- 1539 - Council of Trent: Paul III sends out letters to his bishops, delaying the Council due to war and the difficulty bishops had traveling to Venice. 1538- Catholic German monarchy sign League of Neuremberg
- 1605 - False Dimitri I, an impostor, crowned Russian tsar (rules 1605-1606)
- 1610 - Thomas West, Baron de La Mar, is appointed governor of Virginia
- 1610 -1st Dutch settlers arrive (from NJ), to colonize Manhattan Island
- 1619 - Thirty Years' War: Battle of Zabláti, a turning point in the Bohemian Revolt.
- 1624- Netherlands & France sign anti-Spanish Treaty of Compiègne
- 1760- NY passes 1st effective law regulating practice of medicine
- 1786- A landslide dam on the Dadu River caused by earthquake ten days earlier collapses, killing 100,000 in the Sichuan province of China
- 1801-Tripoli declares war on US for refusing tribute
- 1902- Patent for window envelope granted to H F Callahan
- 1907- France and Japan sign an agreement to maintain the independence and integrity of China, equality for all nations in trading with China, and the status quo in the Far East
- 1915- British/French troops conquer German colony of Cameroon
- 1916-Great Arab Revolt begins against ruling Ottoman Turks
- 1931- Norway occupies East Greenland

From KO Archives

Muezzin Murdered Inside Mosque

Brutality Gives Blood-Soaked Kashmir Another First

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In an indication of the heights, brutality has scaled in Kashmir, a 40 year old villager was done to death in a local mosque in a Shopyan village on Friday night, and his bleeding body left on the floor for the locals to discover.

The victim, Muhammad Yaseen, was the muezzin (one who gives the call for prayer) for the Harpora village, who at usual, had left home to offer night prayers in the local mosque.

Concerned when he didn't return by 10 pm, Yaseen's family set out to search for him and were told by several villagers that he had been seen at prayer in the mosque.

When a group of people entered the premises, they found the muezzin lifeless on the blood-splattered floor.

On being informed, the local police took the body for an autopsy.

The police said that Yaseen, a farmer by profession, had been killed by a heavy, sharp-edged weapon, probably an axe, as could be judged from the wounds on his head.

The body was handed over to his family after a post-mortem and other police formalities.

The police has registered a case under section 302 and started investigation, but no arrests had been made when reports last came in.

Sources said that police had obtained some vital clues, and taken down the statement of several villagers.

The police expects to unearth the facts about the murder in the coming few days.

The wave of grief swept across the village when the Yaseen's body was handed over to his family. Hundreds of people attended his funeral prayers, and staged demonstrations demanding the swift exposure of the killers.

Top police officers have assured the family that the guilty would be arrested within the coming few days.

Insecurities Among Youth Hurdle In J&K's Growth: Dr Farooq

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) President and MP from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday called for ending the gap between youth and politics, saying only NC has the capability of bringing more youth into politics.

This, he said, while welcoming a prominent political youth activist Iqbal Nabi Dar from Katipora, Tangmarg into the party fold here at party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar.

"Insecurities among youth is a hurdle in the growth of Jammu and Kashmir" he said.

The party he said was actively involving youth at all decision making levels to attune party poli-

cies to their needs. "Democratically elected governments since 1996 worked day in and day out to drive out fear from our youth. We worked towards creating safe spaces for them.

"The party with its immense efforts and capabilities has been able to bring more youth into its ranks. Today's joining is an effort in this direction. There is a greater need to amplify the process for a better future," he further added.

National Conference, he said will continue to shoulder the worries of JK youth and strive towards giving a secure future to them.

The new entrant on the occasion vowed to make the party stronger at grass root level. (KNO)



J&K Bank
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The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd
Branch Qazigund

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mrs. Shaista Manzoor, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 31 March 2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat to repay an amount of Rs.9245493.06 (Rupees Ninety Two Lac Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Three And Six Paise Only) being the balance outstanding as on 28-02-2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 6th day of month June of the year 2022.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs. 3179923/- (Rupees Thirty One Lac Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three Only) together with future interest thereon from 01-03-2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Residential house along with land measuring 20 marlas falling under Khasra no. 1980/452, khata no. 68 and khewat no. 12 standing in the name of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat R/O Panzath Wanpora situated at mouza panzath.

Dated: 06.06.2022
Place : Qazigund

DIPK-NB-1536/22

Authorized Officer

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Miracle Cancer Drug

In a major breakthrough, twelve rectal cancer patients who took the same drug for six months were completely rid of the deadly disease. The patients were found without any signs of the tumour after going through a series of medical exams such as physical exam, endoscopy, biopsy, PET scans, and MRI scans. Also, none of the participants reported any severe side-effects either, says the research paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine recently. The researchers had set out to find whether dostarlimab, a new drug, followed by standard chemoradiotherapy and standard surgery is an effective treatment for solid tumours. And the result has pleasantly surprised the world now. However, it would be long before there is a comprehensive cure for the cancer. And until then prevention will remain the best approach to deal with the disease that is responsible for killing millions of people.

In Kashmir, for that matter, the cancer has grown disproportionately over the last decade. Data over the last decade presents a grim picture. Around 3,075 cancer cases were reported in 2011, 3,288 in 2012, 3,157 in 2013, 3,940 in 2014 and 4,257 in 2015. The figures since have only grown bigger. In 2021 alone, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences alone registered over 5000 new cases of cancer in 2021 with breast cancer showing a conspicuous spike.

This calls for more pro-active handling of the situation from the UT government. In addition to generous allocation of resources for the treatment, there is an urgent need to investigate the reasons for the sudden increase in the number of cancers in the UT. People need to know as to what has changed in Kashmir that has led to the spread of cancer. It is a pity that our major healthcare institutions have been unable to put into public domain credible research about the causes for growing incidence of cancer in the region. Such studies will be immensely helpful as they will persuade people to take due precautions to reduce their vulnerability to the disease. The public awareness that the doctors have talked about will flow from this.

In recent years, food contamination and adulteration has emerged as major issue in Kashmir. Hazardous agents have been found to have been used even in the food products of some major corporate houses. Sadly, J&K Government has so far done little about the growing food adulteration in the UT, which has now been proven to be one of the factors leading to the rise in cases of cancer in the Valley. The rise in cancers is, therefore, a wake-up call. The government has to get cracking on the unscrupulous traders and expose the use of chemicals and dyes in the food. And at least, to start with, there has to be a campaign to create more awareness of the ways in which our food is adulterated. That is, until dostarlimab is proved to be effective in curing all cancers.

OTHER OPINON

Service Charge, Please

No less than the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, who is working hard to revitalise exports, has called the levying of service charge on a restaurant bill an act of deceit. Officials have held meetings with restaurant associations and called for a “robust framework” to ensure compliance with guidelines that forbid the levy of service charges by hotels and restaurants. According to the government, levying charges for anything other than “prices displayed on the menu card along with the applicable taxes”, without “express consent” of the customer, constitutes “unfair trade practices”. Such nonsense would be laughable — had it not been for the seriousness of its implications.

For, this is a throwback to the licence permit raj when ill-thought through and heavy-handed government interventions marked economic policymaking. Clearly, that attempt to intrude and micro-manage that which the government should leave well alone, continues to be all too frequent. Representatives of restaurant associations are right to stand their ground. Collecting service charge is neither illegal nor in violation of law. Restaurants pay GST on the entire bill, including service charge, so the government doesn't lose anything. In one form or another, service charges exist across sectors: Government transactions have processing fees; food-delivery services have “restaurant charges”; ticketing platforms charge a “convenience fee”. The restaurant sector has been battered by the pandemic — as per latest GDP estimates, value added by trade, hotels, transport and communication at the end of 2021-22 is much lower than its 2019-20 levels. Few would object to a charge designed to help the countless men and women employed in the sector. Moreover, as this is not uniform across restaurants, the presence of alternatives implies no restrictions on choice — there is no coercion of the consumer. Restaurants clearly mark the service charge as such and waive it if the consumer does not wish to pay. Most collections from service charge go to the staff and are often seen as an incentive in lieu of tips.

Of course, the levy of the service charge should be — as it is in most cases — clearly communicated to the consumer. It's unclear what provoked this government intervention, where exactly are consumers being made to pay service charge kicking and screaming. The official action mirrors the arbitrariness with which a domineering state continues to wield power in economic matters. Considering the challenges the economy faces as it emerges out of the long Covid shadow, the finest financial minds in North Block should work on matters more pressing than how a restaurant tip should be paid — or not.

Indian Express



Get Ready for Reverse
Currency Wars

JEFFREY FRANKEL

Today, the most likely victims of a strengthening dollar are not other major rich countries, but rather emerging and developing economies. Many of them have substantial dollar-denominated debts, exacerbated by the fiscal spending required to fight the COVID-19 pandemic

CAMBRIDGE – The US dollar is up 12% against the euro over the past year and, at 0.93, is approaching parity. If prices of oil and other commodities now seem high in dollar terms, they look even higher in euros. With the greenback surging, and inflation in many countries currently at multi-decade highs, we may be entering so-called “reverse currency wars” – in which countries compete to strengthen their currencies’ foreign-exchange values.

The term “currency wars” was originally a colorful description of what international economists had long called “competitive devaluations” or, after exchange rates began to float in the early 1970s, “competitive depreciations.” In these situations, countries feel aggrieved that their trading partners are deliberately pursuing policies to weaken their own currencies in order to gain an unfair advantage in international trade. Competitive depreciation can arise when all countries’ main macroeconomic goals, in addition to maximizing GDP growth and employment, include improving their trade balances. This generally describes the past few decades in the world economy.

A reverse currency war, on the other hand, involves competitive appreciation. Here, countries think their trading partners are deliberately trying to strengthen their currencies in order to rein in inflation. This could describe the period that began in 2021, when inflation returned as a serious problem in most countries.

In both cases, it is impossible for all countries to pursue such strategies, because they cannot all move their exchange rates in the same direction at the same time. Both competitive depreciation and competitive appreciation are often perceived as evidence of a lack of international cooperation to achieve exchange-rate stability, and sometimes lead to calls for a new Bretton Woods-type arrangement to promote greater policy coordination.

The United States has often been quick to allege that other countries’ currencies are unfairly undervalued. Since 1988, Congress has required the Department of the Treasury to submit semi-annual reports on whether America’s major trading partners are manipulating their currencies. China and other Asian countries are the most frequent targets. But Switzerland is also under suspicion, even though the Swiss franc is easily the most expensive major currency by other criteria.

In February 2013, the US Treasury spearheaded a sort of micro-Bretton Woods agreement whereby G7 countries would refrain from taking steps to depreciate their currencies. The 2013 pact is little known, but it has worked. Over the past decade, G7 members have not intervened to sell their own currencies on the foreign-exchange market.

China, which is not a G7 member, does intervene in the currency market. Since 2014, however, it has done so to slow the renminbi’s depreciation, not to encourage it.

The phrase “currency war” was coined in 2010 by Brazilian leaders protesting the monetary policies of the US, Japan, and other countries. They did not accuse the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan of explicitly devaluing the dollar or the yen, or of intervening in the foreign-exchange market to drive down these currencies, but rather of adopting excessively loose monetary policies. US and Japanese policymakers, their Brazilian counterparts argued, had cut interest rates to zero, and then gone further by introducing quantitative easing, with the deliberate intention of depreciating their countries’ currencies, boosting net exports, and exporting unemployment to their trading partners.

Similarly, nobody today accuses the US authorities of using foreign-exchange intervention to appreciate the dollar. The complaint is rather that the Fed’s current interest-rate increases attract capital inflows to the US and strengthen the greenback, forcing up interest rates internationally and thus keeping global growth below where it could be.

There is ample historical precedent for fears of competitive devaluation, most notably the 1930s, when major powers devalued their currencies against gold and thereby against each other. Is there also a precedent for competitive appreciation?

Some have argued that the early 1980s provided such an example. When the Paul Volcker-led Fed raised interest rates sharply to fight inflation, it knew that it would be aided in that task by the dollar’s appreciation. But

the corresponding depreciation of US trading partners’ currencies worsened their inflation rates and forced them to raise interest rates as well.

Today, the most likely victims of a strengthening dollar are not other major rich countries, but rather emerging and developing economies. Many of them have substantial dollar-denominated debts, exacerbated by the fiscal spending required to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. When the dollar appreciates, their debt-servicing costs increase in local-currency terms. The combination of rising global interest rates and a stronger dollar can trigger debt crises, as it did in Mexico in 1982 and 1994.

But not all fears of competitive appreciation are justified or merit a reform of the international currency system. Unlike most central banks, the BOJ kept its monetary policy very loose over the last year, in a continuation of its long campaign to raise growth and inflation. So, while the Fed is raising interest rates in an effort to slow US price rises, Japanese rates are still at or below zero. As one would predict, the widening interest-rate differential has caused the yen to depreciate by about 15% against the dollar over the past year.

Overall, this big change in the dollar-yen exchange rate is not really a problem. It has pushed up Japanese prices while exerting downward pressure on US inflation. That is what both countries wanted. Floating currencies allow each country to pursue the monetary policy that suits its own circumstances.

But with high global inflation likely to persist for some time, the prospect of reverse currency wars is looming larger. Instead of a race to the bottom in the foreign-exchange market, we may see a scramble to the top – and poorer countries are likely to suffer the most.

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

The author is Professor of Capital Formation and Growth at Harvard University, previously served as a member of President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers. He is a research associate at the US National Bureau of Economic Research



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

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Stop Appointing Men in Women's Sports

Sports Authority of India (SAI) terminated the contract of the chief cycling coach for the alleged inappropriate behavior during training during the tour of Slovenia. Women's team instead of preparing for the tougher challenges

ahead of primary tournaments, passed the session with the fear of the coach taking undue advantage during such training sessions. SAI not only ensured safety of the woman cyclist and hence called off the tour and called back the entire contingent

to avoid further controversy. In other sports, the team is handled by women for the sake of convenience and for following conventional practices applicable to women in field sports. Women can take care of themselves and do better planning than

male members. When this is the case then why male coaches are pressed into service in women's sports team events?

MR Jayanthi
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MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Parenting in Exam Fever

Wasim Kakroo

Exam time has never been an easy phase to go through. The feeling of a knot in your gut combined with parental and peer pressure, can be overwhelming. While some argue that a certain amount of stress and nervousness is necessary to keep the pressure on when studying for examinations, constant stress and anxiety can lead to some unpleasant scenarios.

When we're stressed, our brains release a lot of stress hormone-cortisol, which can muddle our thinking and prevent us from making reasonable decisions.

WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS SIGNS OF EXAM STRESS?

Children and young people who are stressed may:

- Worry A Lot
- Feel Tense
- Have Headaches And Stomach Pains
- Not Sleep Well
- Be Irritable
- Lose Interest In Food Or Eat More Than Normal
- Not Enjoy Activities They Previously Enjoyed
- Be Negative And Have A Low Mood
- Feel Hopeless About The Future

WHAT CAUSES EXAM STRESS?

Exam anxiety is caused by a variety of factors.

- Worry that they will fail
- They don't feel ready.
- They want to do perfectly well.
- They feel they don't have a lot of time to study.

Need to achieve a specific outcome

Find it difficult to comprehend what they're studying

Family puts a lot of pressure on them to do well in exams.

They believe they must compete with others.

Some other stressors are bothering their life at the same time.

It can be beneficial to have someone to talk to about their exam pressure. Young people should be encouraged to discuss their anxieties and keep things in perspective with the support of a parent, tutor, or study buddy.

Encourage your child to speak with a member of the school staff who they consider to be helpful. If you believe your child is struggling, speaking with their teachers may



be beneficial.

Following are few strategies that might be helpful for parents to consider helping their children deal with exam stress:

1. MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD EATS WELL.

A well-balanced diet is essential for your child's health, and it can also help them feel better during exam times. High-fat, high-sugar, and high-caffeine meals and drinks, such as energy drinks, cola, candies, chocolate, burgers, and chips, cause hyperactivity, irritability, and moodiness in some children. If at all feasible, involve your child in grocery shopping and encourage them to select healthy snacks.

2. ASSIST YOUR CHILD IN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP.

A good night's sleep improves one's ability to think and concentrate. The majority of teenagers require 8 to 10 hours of sleep per night.

Allow your child to unwind for half an hour or so between studying, watching TV, or using the computer and going to bed to ensure a good night's sleep. It's not a good idea to study all night before an exam. Sleep is significantly more beneficial to your child than a few hours of frantic last-minute studying.

3. EXAMS REQUIRE YOU TO BE ADAPTABLE

Be adaptable when it comes to exam times. Do not be concerned about unfinished domestic chores or dirty bedrooms when your child

is revising all day. It is possible to help yourself by being calm. Exams do not last indefinitely.

4. ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR STUDIES

Ascertain that your child has a comfortable place to study. Inquire about how you may assist them with their revision.

Assist them in coming up with practical revision ideas, such as creating a revision calendar or obtaining former papers for practise.

Encourage your child to consider their life goals and how their revision and tests relate to their goals in life to keep them motivated.

5. EXAM ANXIETY IS A REAL THING

Reassure your child that feeling nervous is normal. Exam anxiety is an understandable emotion. Validate their anxious feelings. The goal is to channel this anxiety for good. Encourage your child to practice the activities they'll be doing on exam day if nervousness is getting in the way. This will make it feel less frightening. Doing practice papers under exam settings, for example, or viewing the exam hall beforehand, are examples of this. This should be something that the school staff can assist with. Rather than avoiding these activities, encourage your child to face his or her concerns and complete them. Encourage them to consider what they already know and how much time they've already spent

studying to make them feel more confident.

6. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO EXERCISE DURING THEIR EXAMS

Exercise can help your child feel more energized, clear their mind and make them feel relaxed. Walking, cycling, swimming, football, and dancing are all beneficial forms of exercise.

Activities that involve others can be especially beneficial.

7. SET UP PARENTAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE PHONES AND TABLETS OF YOUR CHILD.

Many teens may get distracted by digital devices at exam time. Parental settings in the form of various parental control softwares that can be installed in their electronic gadgets allow parents to disable apps and websites that are a distraction for children, allowing them to use their devices for what they were designed for - studying.'

8. DON'T AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION

Many children believe that their family is the major source of the pressure during exam time.

Listen to your child, encourage them, and avoid criticizing them.

Be reassuring and encouraging before they take a test or exam. Make sure they understand that failing isn't the end of the world. They may be eligible to retake the exam if things do not go smoothly.

Encourage your child to discuss with you what he or she did in paper after each one. Instead of focusing on the difficulties they faced or mistakes they made, talk about the parts that went well. It may increase their morale.

9. ALLOW FOR TREATS

Discuss rewards for doing revision and passing each exam with your child.

Rewards do not have to be large or costly. They might be as basic as preparing their favorite food or watching their favorite show.

Help your child celebrate the end of the tests by planning an end-of-exams treat.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THINGS THAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO AS A PARENT DURING YOUR CHILD'S EXAMS.

1. Asking the child if they are learning enough should be avoided at all costs.
2. Anxiety and hanging around the child, offering obnoxious counsel.
3. Never put the child down or make fun of them for not sticking to their own plan.
4. Negative behaviors of children should not be criticized in an aggressive manner, such as by shouting and threatening severe consequences.
5. Labeling your child as "irresponsible, thoughtless, or lazy" because of his or her actions is a big no-no.
6. Never force the child to use your knowledge and study at your pace.
7. During tests, never force the child to help around the house.
8. When your child admits he is stressed, you become more anxious, take command, and decide what to do.
9. Talking only about school, grades, and future success will put the child under even greater stress.
10. Never make this a "make or break" situation by over-emphasising the importance of earning a good outcome and the blame and hardship your child will suffer if he does not.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Goert. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Towards Affordability, Accessibility and Availability of Quality Health Care

Ms Mona Gupta

India is geared up to celebrate August 15, 2022, as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', an initiative of the Government of India to commemorate 75 years of independence of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture, and achievements. As Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, said, "...this Mahotsav is a festival of awakening of the nation; a festival of fulfilling the dream of good governance; and the festival of global peace and development."

And, the reforms in the governance of medical education have served as the foundation for remarkable achievements in the health sector. India now has the potential to change the global health landscape and become a leading provider of expert human resources for health for the world.

However, due to an increasing global demand for qualified doctors from India, the availability of medical doctors to cater to the changing epidemiology and health needs of the country posed a challenge. The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee, in its 92nd report, suggested that India required medical reforms to strengthen the health systems to avoid social, political, and financial suffering in the country. From 2014, the Hon'ble PM has closely reviewed the progress of medical reforms which were brought about collaboratively by different teams - Board of governors of erstwhile Medical Council of India (MCI), NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and stakeholders from other ministries.

A momentous reform in medical education was the dissolution of the

MCI, and the inception of the National Medical Commission (NMC) in 2020 through merit-based selection of its members. The NMC brought about transparency, professionalism, grievance-redressal mechanisms, and honest assessments of the medical colleges. The revised norms and standard requirements by the NMC facilitated the creation of new medical colleges while maintaining the high standards.

The medical colleges in India have increased from 387 to 607 within the last eight years. The number of MBBS seats have almost doubled from 51,348 in 2014 to 91,115 in 2022. The postgraduate seats have also witnessed an increase of 80%, from 30,191 in 2014 to 55,595 in 2020. Over the last decade, all states in India have increased seat capacities in medical colleges, with Karnataka leading the admission capacity share with 13.6%, followed by Maharashtra (11%) and Tamil Nadu (10%). With almost 10.05 lakh registered allopathic doctors, and 6.3 lakh AYUSH doctors, India's doctor-population ratio has increased to 1:834, surpassing the WHO's recommendation of 1:1000.

The imbalanced geographical distribution of the medical colleges is being addressed at the core level for ensuring 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas'. 39 medical colleges have become functional in aspirational districts, where there was a scarcity of doctors and specialists. There has been a 2.21 times increase since 2004, in the number of medical colleges in Empowered Action Group (EAG) states. The EAG states include Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Furthermore, the eight states of North-East India, have 20 medical colleges now, as compared to 5 in 2004).



The reforms aimed to ensure strengthening of the health systems for service delivery in remote areas also. The District Hospitals have been strengthened by the launch of two-year Diploma courses by the National Board of Examination (NBE) in eight disciplines. The District Residency Program addresses the crunch of medical personnel in hospitals by posting MD/MS students in the District Health facilities for three months

pared to 5 in 2004).

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was introduced for expanding excellence and ensuring equitable distribution of medical education by establishing 22 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country. The newer reforms have also made medical education affordable for economically weaker meritorious students by

putting a cap on 50% seats for tuition fees and other charges in private colleges for MBBS and PG seats.

To ensure the holistic development of medical students, the Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) curriculum was introduced. It has a practical approach so that a medical graduate may function effectively as a first contact doctor of the community. This change in curriculum took

place after almost two decades, and mandated incorporation of skill labs, computerised simulations, and digital classrooms in the colleges.

In 2016, National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) was introduced to provide a platform for common counselling for admission with a single countrywide entrance exam. To bring transparency and uniformity in the medical education system, the

National Exit Test (NEXT) is being introduced as well. The physicians trained in India and abroad will be required to qualify NEXT for obtaining a license to practice and for post-graduate admission.

The reforms aimed to ensure strengthening of the health systems for service delivery in remote areas also. The District Hospitals have been strengthened by the launch of two-year Diploma courses by the National Board of Examination (NBE) in eight disciplines. The District Residency Program addresses the crunch of medical personnel in hospitals by posting MD/MS students in the District Health facilities for three months. Bringing back the traditional concept of consulting one 'family doctor' for all ailments, the NBE is now promoting Family Medicine as a specialised discipline. To increase the availability of trauma care, all the colleges have been mandated to set up Emergency Medicine departments by 2022-23.

The vision of Hon'ble PM is to bring about advancements in the medical field with a long-term impact on primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care, catering to the needs of the entire country and the entire world: Heal in India as well as Heal by India. As he has mentioned in his addresses: The Indian health care sector has progressed significantly over the last eight years with the government's objective to achieve the 3As of health care - Affordability, Accessibility and Availability.

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

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Delhi Police files FIRs against Sharma, Jindal and Owaisi for inciting people on divisive lines

Agenceis

New Delhi: Delhi Police has registered two FIRs - one against former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and the other against 31 people, including AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand - for allegedly spreading hate and hurting religious sentiments, officials said on Thursday.

The two FIRs were registered on Wednesday after an analysis of social media, they said.

Former Delhi BJP media unit head Naveen Kumar Jindal, who was expelled from the party over alleged remarks against Prophet Mohammad, and journalist Saba Naqvi, are among the people named in the second FIR.

"The cases have been registered against those who were posting and sharing messages against the maintenance of public tranquility and were inciting people on the basis of divisive lines," a senior police officer said.

The cases have been registered under sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion

of any class), and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code, he said.

Reacting to the FIR, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Owaisi said that he will not be intimidated by these tactics, asserting that criticising hate speech and giving hate speeches cannot be equated.

Owaisi attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that if he were sincere, he would have stamped out hate speech without indulging in "fake balance-vaad".

The AIMIM chief alleged that Delhi Police is suffering from "both side-ism" or "balance-vaad" syndrome. One side has openly insulted our Prophet while the other side has been named to assuage BJP supporters and make it look like there was hate speech on both sides, he said.

According to police, one case has been registered against Sharma and another against multiple social media entities, including Owaisi, Jindal, Narsinghanand, Shadab Chauhan, Saba Naqvi, Maulana Mufti Nadeem, Abdur Rehman and Gulzar Ansari, based on the analysis.

Notices will be sent to the social

media intermediaries for the details, the police officer.

According to the FIR, 31 people named in it were also using hate-worthy languages intentionally or having complete knowledge that use of such type of language, claim and assertion is not only discriminatory but more than sufficient to create a situation of animosity amongst different groups of persons having faith in different religions.

This will certainly be a serious threat to public tranquility and maintenance of public order in our country wherein people have been living peacefully, it stated.

Transmission and publication of such language has been done through electronic media which are filthy in nature and appeals to prurient interest and sufficient to deprave and corrupt any person who see it or hears the objectionable words, the FIR said.

"We have registered two FIRs under appropriate sections on the basis of social media analysis against those trying to disrupt public tranquility and inciting people on divisive lines. One pertains to Ms Nupur Sharma and other against multiple social media entities, Delhi Police tweeted.

"Even as Notices are being sent to social media intermediaries for details of those behind these accounts/entities, #DelhiPolice appeals to everyone to desist from posting anything that may disrupt social and communal harmony," it added.

The FIRs have been registered by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operation (IFSO) unit of the Special Cell, police said.

On Wednesday, police said the unit would investigate the roles of various social media entities in promoting false and wrong information with an intention to create unrest on the cyber space, that have ramifications on the physical space thereby compromising with the social fabric of the country.

Earlier, Delhi Police had provided security to Sharma and her family after an FIR was registered on a complaint that she was getting death threats over her controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad.

She had requested the police to provide security citing harassment and threats she had been receiving.

The BJP on June 5 had suspended Sharma and expelled its Delhi unit media head Jindal as the row over

their alleged derogatory remarks against Prophet Mohammad escalated with protests from many Muslim countries.

In a series of tweets, AIMIM chief Owaisi said that he will consult his lawyers and address it as and when required.

"I've received an excerpt of the FIR. This is the first FIR I've seen that's not specifying what the crime is. Imagine an FIR about a murder where cops don't mention the weapon or that the victim bled to death. I don't know which specific remarks of mine have attracted the FIR," Owaisi tweeted.

"It appears that Delhi Police lacks the courage to pursue cases against Yati, Nupur Sharma & Naveen Jindal, etc. This is why the delayed & weak response," he alleged.

The AIMIM chief alleged that in fact, controversial Yati has violated his bail conditions repeatedly by inciting genocide against Muslims and insulting Islam.

"Delhi Police were probably trying to think of a way of registering an FIR against these people without offending Hindutvadi fanboys/girls," he alleged.

HDFC Bank launches full value remittance for USD, EUR, GBP

Agenceis

Mumbai: HDFC Bank today launched full value outward remittance service in US Dollar (USD) Euro (EUR) and the Pound Sterling (GBP) for trade and retail customers. The first-of-its-kind "Full Value" feature ensures that when a customer sends money abroad, the full amount remitted will reach the overseas beneficiary, without any deductions of foreign bank charges.

The Bank till date has supported Full Value remittance only for individual customers in USD denomination. In an industry-first, it has expanded this offering to include Trade related remittance transactions. Furthermore, it will be offered in USD, GBP and EUR and will be applicable to current and savings account holders for both trade and retail remittances sent worldwide.

"HDFC Bank has always been at the forefront of creating tailor-made, innovative products to delight its customers. We are therefore excited to bring out our full-value outward remittance service, not just for individuals but for traders as well. We saw an acute customer need in the remittances space were happy to address it. We are certain this product will be a game-changer for our customers," said Jatinder Gupta, Business Head, Retail Trade and Forex, HDFC Bank.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Will Avenge Every

A total of 30 Deputy Superintendents of Police (Dy.SsP) and 61 Probationary Sub-Inspectors (PSIs), at SKPA Udhampur completed their rigorous training today at the Police Academy.

An oath was administered to the passing out cadets for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

At the outset, the Lt Governor took the Rashtriya Salute and inspected the Parade, besides taking the salute at an impressive march past by men and women contingents.

Paying his tributes to the brave-hearts of JKP and other security forces personnel who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, the Lt Governor observed that the Jammu and Kashmir Police is a proud force of the country tackling multiple challenges like anti-terror operations, maintaining law & order, dealing with the increasing threats from drones, drug trafficking, cybercrime, and radicalization, every day to maintain peace in Jammu & Kashmir and ensure safe & secure environment for its people.

"Our Police and Security Forces have been successful in dismantling terror modules of the neighboring country. Yet a handful of disgruntled people are radicalizing our youth and are shedding innocent blood by carrying out terror activities in the UT," he said, adding that they will never succeed in their nefarious designs.

The Lt Governor also handed over awards and certifications to best trainees and outstanding achievers. Parade Commander DySP Vikram Nag led an impressive parade of trainee DYSSp and PSIs.

Meanwhile Sinha said that the militants and their cross-border supporters are using a new method of militancy in the region and declared that the government is committed to destroying their entire ecosystem.

"The terrorists, their supporters and other support setup here are using new methods. They are radicalizing the youths," Sinha told an outgoing parade of police here. He said that there is a need to be more alert as compared to the past in view of the new strategy and multi-facet terrorism.

The LG asked the police force to treat even those who harbour and support the militants in the category of militant and deal with them accordingly. "The person, who harbours and supports the terrorist, is equally a guilty as a terrorist, who kills. The person who runs this eco-system is equally guilty. Both should be dealt with similar punishment as both are enemies of humanity," he said.

He also termed the social media as a new challenge to the security establishment in Jammu and Kashmir. "Social media is being used to spread rumours. Cyber crimes, as compared to other crimes, increased by over 11 per cent between 2019 and 2020," he said.

Sinha said that the social media is being used to create conflict within the society, and called on the forces to prepare for the "fourth generation warfare".

Orders Probe

an official spokesperson said.

He said a total of 30 Deputy Superintendents of Police (Dy.SsP) and 61 Probationary Sub-Inspectors (PSIs), at SKPA Udhampur completed their rigorous training today at the Police Academy.

"No questions were raised at any other recruitment done so far. If there is any apprehension and doubt in the mind of the people, then it is the duty of the administration to carry out an impartial inquiry and take necessary action. If any irregularity is revealed in the probe, the process shall be cancelled and fresh recruitment will be made," the LG added.

EC Announces

clear advantage. Though the BJP and its allies in the NDA have fewer MLAs than they had during the 2017 presidential polls, their numbers of MPs have gone up since.

A BJP leader said the ruling NDA already has close to 50 per cent of votes in the electoral college. The alliance is hopeful of getting support from independent regional parties like the ruling YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh and the incumbent BJD in Odisha. The BJP is also counting on

support from AIADMK, its ally in the last Tamil Nadu assembly polls.

Despite not having numbers on its side, the Opposition is likely to put up a joint candidate for the election and consultations in this regard have already begun.

Sources said that Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge has reached out to leaders of some opposition parties and sought their views for a joint opposition candidate who can be fielded.

Some opposition parties are of the view that they should not give a walkover to the ruling dispensation but put up a fight, the sources said.

CPI Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswam said the Congress had reached out to him to discuss a "common candidate".

"Consultations for the presidential election have begun among various opposition parties," a senior opposition leader told PTI, adding that once a consensus is arrived at, a joint candidate may be put up.

Though the final list of electors will be notified after the bye-elections to three Lok Sabha seats and the Rajya Sabha polls to 16 seats, the NDA has 440 MPs in its favour while the opposition UPA has around 180 MPs, besides 36 MPs of Trinamool Congress who normally support the opposition candidate.

The Congress and the BJP are likely to win six more Rajya Sabha seats in the June 10 election and the UPA partners may bag three seats more.

According to rough calculations, the NDA has around 5,35,000 votes out of a total of 10,86,431 votes of all electors.

This includes 3,08,000 votes with the support of its MPs along with that of its allies.

Among the states, the BJP has the maximum of 56,784 votes from Uttar Pradesh where it has 273 MLAs. Each MLA in Uttar Pradesh has the maximum vote of 208. The NDA will get its second-highest votes among states from Bihar where with 127 MLAs, it will get 21,971 votes as each legislator has 173 votes, followed by 18,375 votes from Maharashtra where it has 105 MLAs and each has 175 votes.

With 131 MLAs, the NDA will get 17,161 votes from Madhya Pradesh, 16,464 votes of 112 MLAs from Gujarat and 15,982 votes of its 122 MLAs in Karnataka.

The UPA, on the other hand, has a little over 1,50,000 votes from among its MPs and will get around the same number of votes from its legislators in states. Opposition candidates in the past too have been getting a little more than 3 lakh votes in the previous elections for the highest post in the country.

The value of the vote of a Member of Parliament has gone down to 700 from 708 in the presidential polls this time due to the absence of a legislative assembly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kumar said the EC is fully geared to conduct the election in a free and fair manner, while all Covid-related safety protocol would be followed during the voting and counting of votes.

He further said that no political party will be allowed to issue any kind of whip in this election, which will be held on secret ballot.

"The Constitution has expressly provided that election to the office of President shall be by secret ballot. Therefore, the electors are expected to scrupulously maintain secrecy of vote. There is no concept of open voting in this election and showing the ballot to anyone under any circumstances in the case of Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections is totally prohibited," the CEC said.

Any violation of the voting procedure will entail cancellation of the ballot paper by the presiding officer, he said, adding that the marking of vote can be done only with the particular pen provided by the presiding officer to the electors at the place of polling.

"It is the resolve of the EC that there should be no malpractice of any kind in this election for the highest office in the country and if anything is found, it is a ground for election petition in the Supreme Court and could lead to cancellation," Kumar said, adding that the entire process of voting would be videographed.

He said as per Section 18 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, the offence of 'bribery' or 'undue influence' as

defined in Sections 171B and 171C of IPC, by the returned candidate or any person with the consent of the returned candidate are among the grounds on which the election can be declared void by the Supreme Court in an election petition.

Scrutiny of nominations will take place on June 30 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations will be July 2.

If necessary, the voting will take place on July 18 and counting of votes on July 21.

Kumar said the total number of electors for the election will be 4,809, comprising 776 MPs and 4,033 MLAs.

Voting for presidential election will take place in Parliament and the premises of state assemblies, while Rajya Sabha Secretary-General will be the returning officer.

The president is elected by the members of the electoral college consisting of elected members of both houses of Parliament, and elected members of the legislative assemblies of all states including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

The nominated members of either Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha or legislative assemblies of the states are not eligible to be included in the electoral college and therefore, they are not entitled to participate in the election.

Similarly, members of the legislative councils are also not electors for the presidential election.

Sticky Bombs

standby vehicles like trucks etc for detonating sticky bombs," the official said.

He said the sticky bombs are akin to Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and for that the ROP's (Road Opening Party) have been briefed.

Sticky bombs are explosives that can be attached to vehicles and detonated remotely. Sticky bombs first emerged in Kashmir in February 2021 when these were recovered from Samba in Jammu.

"These bombs are difficult to trace because they are very small in size and usually magnetic in nature. These bombs can be attached on vehicles and detonated using a timer and a remotely-held device," the CRPF official said.

The official, however, said that the security agency can't ignore other areas and focus on sticky bombs only.

"We witnessed few encounters on Amarnath yatra route this year—means the militants are in this area as well," the official said.

The official acknowledged that the recent targeted killings have created a sense of fear among the yatriss "but we are also prepared," he added.

The official said the Yatra will have a five-layer security system with drones, radio frequency identification (RFID), and hundreds of CCTVs to secure the Amarnath yatra vehicles.

The government has decided to provide multi-tier security cover by getting 300 additional companies of paramilitary forces to Kashmir.

"Apart from JKP, CRPF and Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) will also be deployed to neutralize any threat," he added.

The 43-day-long annual Amarnath yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- after a hiatus of two years owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. It may be noted, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh visited base camps at Baltal and Domail where he reviewed the security arrangements put in place at these important points and en route for Amarnath Yatra.

Accompanied by Special DG, CID, R.R Swain, he interacted with personnel of the police and the CRPF at Baltal, and emphasised creating conducive environment to conduct the Amarnath Yatra smoothly

He said that strict adherence to security protocols be ensured for regulating the yatra in a desired manner, and directed that all possible assistance should be provided to the yatriss.

"During the visit, the DGP reviewed security and logistic arrangements at Baltal, Domail and enroute and also inspected parking facilities for yatri vehicles. He gave directions for

making adequate parking arrangements for the yatra, for better management of traffic and security. He directed for increasing the space for parking by levelling the ground at important locations to avoid inconvenience to the pilgrims," a police official said.

Make Use Of Technology

During the meeting, he said, the LG stressed that all the work of yatra arrangements should be completed within the set timeline. Sinha, he said, also called upon the officials to ensure optimum use of technology to make the yatra safer and more convenient for the pilgrims.

Underlining the significance of the holy yatra, the LG, as per the spokesperson instructed all senior officials to periodically inspect the security and every aspect of world-class arrangements, including transport, lodging, sanitation, electricity, water, communication, health, convenience shops, food courts, vending zones etc. for Amarnath yatriss.

"Pertinently, this year, the government is introducing RFID system for pilgrims to track their movement en-route to ensure their well-being, besides upgrading telecommunication channels to ensure better connectivity for the yatriss," he said.

He further said that the concerned administrative secretaries and deputy commissioners briefed the LG about the up to date status of Yatra works within their jurisdiction.

"It was informed that maximum of the works are completed or near completion. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir apprised the meeting that around 7500 registrations have already been done for pony service," the spokesperson said.

He said that the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ganderbal apprised the chair about the status of completion of works.

"The Lt Governor further issued directions for giving highest priority to cleanliness and convenience of the yatriss arriving for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2022," he said.

The spokesperson further said that the LG congratulated the local people and the officers of UT Administration for their efforts in ensuring smooth and harmonious conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani.

"Role of the local population is being greatly appreciated across the nation and the world," Sinha said.

Centre Plans Third

-- 7,500 each from Baltal and Pahalgam.

This is excluding pilgrims who travel by helicopters on either route to Panchtarni.

Officials said if more pilgrims take the choppers, the threat from militants would also be reduced considerably.

The pilgrimage, which presents a big security challenge for the government, could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and was cut short in 2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370.

About three lakh pilgrims are likely to take part in the pilgrimage, which is expected to end on August 11.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags will be given to each pilgrim to monitor their movements and security, the officials said. Earlier, RFID tags were given only to the vehicles of the pilgrims.

About 12,000 paramilitary personnel (120 companies), in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police, are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes, one from Pahalgam and the other via Baltal, the officials said.

Drone cameras will help the security forces to ensure protection of the pilgrims.

Of late, there has been a spurt in attacks on non-Muslims and migrants living in the Kashmir valley since the abrogation of the Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, in August 2019.

Only 21.9% Women

Empowerment (women age 15-49 years)" in J&K had shown an upliftment in the percentage of women who are participating in household decisions, if they are allowed to have a say in decisions related to their health, family and several other 'empowering' points.

As per NFHS-5, married women in J&K who

are allowed to have a say in the decision making process in their family have been recorded at 81.6 percent during 2019-2020. "Women who worked and were paid in cash in the last 12 months has recorded a maximum increase from 12.3 percent in NFHS-4(2015-16) to 18.4 percent in NFHS-5," the report reads.

The report has also revealed that women in J&K who own a house or land (alone or jointly with others) have also increased in the last two years. In NFHS-4, the percentage of such women was recorded at 33.1 percent that has relatively increased by almost 24 percent in NFHS-5.

In NFHS-5 the percentage of such women was recorded at 57.3 percent in J&K and the percentage was much better in rural areas (60.8 percent) compared to urban areas (48.2 percent).

BSF Fires At

region to arm militants.

Forces have shot down several drones in the recent past in Jammu, Kathua and Samba sectors and seized their payloads including rifles, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), sticky bombs besides narcotics,

On Monday, the police had recovered three magnetic IEDs dropped by a drone in Akhnoor border area of Jammu after BSF shot it down with its payload.

On May 29, seven sticky bombs and as many under-barrel grenades (UBG) were found with a drone that was brought down by police in Rajbagh area of Kathua district.

New Era Of Higher

be shorter. To deal with such a scenario, they have to move from the mindset of 'utilising the known' to the approach of 'exploring the unknown'," he said.

He also urged IIM Jammu and other institutes in your proximity to adopt towns and villages of the neighbourhood and channelize the potential of the people there for bigger goals, be it in the field of entrepreneurship or research or skill development.

A total of 214 students were conferred with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree this year.

The main highlight of the convocation was that 77 female students were awarded their degrees.

On this occasion, the President also inaugurated the Diversity Cell at IIM, Jammu.

He will also pay obeisance at the shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on Friday.

Govt Wins

and 12 sub depots at Doda, Kathua, Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Leh and Kargil. The Department has a sanctioned strength of 5 Gazetted officers, 113 Non-Gazetted officials and 52 class IV employees.

He said that the Administrative Council decided to close the Department and transfer its infrastructure and manpower to other Government departments, as per need, for their optimal utilization.

"Earlier, the Department of stationery and office supplies was the nodal agency for procurement of stationery/paper and binding items for its onwards supply to all the Government/Semi Government Departments; issued rate contract for photocopier, copy printers, fax machines, toners, cartridges etc; and appointed a Government auctioneer," the spokesperson said.

"However, the advancements in IT interventions have made all these functions simpler and have obviated the necessity of maintaining a specialized cadre for the purpose," he added.

J&K Logs 13 New

that three more COVID-19 patients recovered in the Jammu division.

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.

Teenager Found

and initiated investigation.

Body will be handed over to family for last rites after postmortem, he added

PCI Demands Probe Against JKP For “Harassing” Journalist

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Press Club of India (PCI) on Thursday took serious exception to the alleged harassment of a journalist by Jammu and Kashmir police and demanded that an enquiry be “immediately” conducted against the force.

The journalist body also urged the Union government and Jammu-Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to immediately intervene to safeguard the freedom of the press and stop further harassment and targeted witch hunting of journalists.

The PCI’s demands came after Shahid Tantray, a journalist with ‘The Caravan’ magazine accused the Jammu and Kashmir police of harassing him over his article on the Army’s interference in activities in Kashmir, a charge denied by the force which said it had received a complaint against him for putting lives of some prominent individuals in danger.

Issuing a statement, Tantray claimed that he and his family were being intimidated by the police for writing articles on daily developments in Kashmir.

“Press Club of India strongly castigates J&K police for harassing Shahid Tantray. Of late, Tantray’s reportage critical of J&K government policies has invited ire from policy makers,” it said in a statement. The J&K police threatening Tantray to

stop reporting against the government or else face consequences refreshes the memory of the Emergency era of 1975, the journalist body added

“The Press Club demands immediate enquiry against the J&K police for unleashing criminal intimidation against Tantray and latter be reinstated in Srinagar as reporter,” it said.

The journalist body noted with deep concern that there has been “depressing trends” of a series of incidents of harassment and intimidation against journalists “who are not toeing the government line of thinking on public policy matters”.

“We demand immediate intervention of Union Government and J&K Lt Governor to safeguard the freedom of press and stop further harassment and targeted witch hunting against journalists,” the PCI said.

Tantray had put out an article in the June issue of the magazine claiming that the Army was staging peace marches to project normalcy in the valley and had named some of the corporators and peace activists working on behalf of the Army.

He claimed that he was being summoned by the police without any proper documents.

Senior police officials said that the persons named in the article were feeling threatened to step out of their homes as they fear that they may be the next target of militant groups.

MHA Determines 32 Vacancies For Induction In J&K Segment Of AGMUT Cadre

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has determined 32 vacancies for induction of local police officers of Jammu & Kashmir in the prestigious Indian Police Service (IPS).

An official communique lays bare that Union Home Ministry has re determined/determined 32 vacancies for appointment by promotion in the Jammu & Kashmir segment of AGMUT cadre of IPS.

Jammu & Kashmir is part of the AGMUT cadre after its own cadre was abolished by the Govern-

ment of India in 2020 through an amendment in The Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act.

According to the MHA’s letter, there is zero vacancy for the select list of the year 2014, eight for 2015, four for 2016, five for 2017, seven for 2018, five for 2019, three for 2020 and zero for 2021.

The MHA has requested the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and its Union Territory division to take further necessary action as under the IPS promotion regulations.

The MHA is the cadre-controlling authority of AGMUT.

Last year, 12 officers of Jammu & Kashmir Police were inducted into the IPS after a long gap of 11 years.

These appointments were notified by the Centre on October 4, 2021 after Selection Committee Meeting (SCM) took was held on July 29, 2021.

Those inducted included Shakti Kumar Pathak, Dr. Muhammad Haseeb Mughal, Javid Ahmed Koul, Sheikh Junaid Mehmood, Shahid Mehrar Rather, Dr Ajeet Singh, Altaf Ahmed Khan, Haseeb-ur-Rehman, Vikas Gupta, Abdul Qayoom, Nisha Nathyal, and Javid Iqbal Matoo—(KNO)

Law Student Moves SC Seeking Intervention In Pleas Against Art-370 Abrogation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A law student has moved the Supreme Court seeking intervention in the pleas challenging the Centre’s decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The plea filed by Nikhil Upadhyay supported the centre’s decision contending that Article 370 was intended to be a temporary, transitional and special provision and was not meant to be permanent.

The plea filed through advocate Ashwani Kumar Dubey stated the intent behind incorporating a special provision for the State of Jammu and Kashmir was necessitated in light of the then prevailing social-political conditions, and more relevantly the Instrument of Accession as entered into between the Union of India and the then Ruler of the State.

The top court on April 25 agreed to consider listing after summer vacation the pleas challenging the Centre’s decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justice Hima Kohli had taken note of the submissions of senior advocate Shekhar Naphade, appearing for one of the petitioners, that the plea needed an urgent hearing in view of the delimitation exercise being carried out in the state.

The apex court had agreed to re-constitute a five-judge bench to hear pleas after summer vacation.

Several petitions challenging the Centre’s decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which splits J-K into two Union Territories Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh were referred to a Constitution Bench headed by Justice N V Ramana in 2019 by the then CJ Ranjan Gogoi.

By abrogating Article 370, the Central government had revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides Justice Ramana, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, R Subhash Reddy (since retired),

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Transport Commissioner Reviews Progress On Affixation Of HSRP

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Transport Commissioner, J&K, Bhupinder Kumar on Thursday reviewed the progress regarding affixation of mandatory High Security Registration Plates (HSRP).

It was informed in the meeting that on the instructions of the Transport Commissioner, challan- ing of vehicles without HSRP is going on unabated and consequently a good number of vehicle owners are approaching the authorities for fixation of HSRP. However, it was observed that still a sizeable number of vehicles are without HSRP and number of chances was given to them through various public notices by the Department, for fixation of the same.

The Motor Vehicle Department has also issued Public Notice on 6th June, 2022 drawing the attention of the vehicle owners, whose vehicles have not been affixed with the HSRP, to get their vehicles affixed with HSRP failing which the defaulting

vehicles would be seized by the authorities from 15th June, 2022 and the onus will lie on the owners. It was also informed in the meeting that a large number of HSRP plates are ready and lying with the vendor and telephonic calls have also been made to the owners to affix the same in their vehicles.

It was also informed that the Motor Vehicle Department is in regular touch with other law enforcement agencies like Jammu and Kashmir Police and Jammu and Kashmir Traffic Police, who are also ensuring the implementation of the said scheme.

Transport Commissioner asked the officers of the Department to raise the awareness among the general masses to get their vehicles affixed with the HSRP to avoid stern action in the coming days. Among others present in the meeting were Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, Joint Transport Commissioner, Representative of NIC and representatives of M/s Real Mazon were also present in the meeting.

Curfew Imposed In Bhaderwah Town

Agencies

JAMMU: Curfew was imposed in Bhaderwah town in J&K’s Doda district on Thursday following communal tension triggered by some social media posts, police said.

“Appropriate action has been taken under the law and a case has been registered against the

accused in Bhaderwah police station.

“Those who take the law into their hands will not be spared,” a police source said.

A purported video showing instigating announcements being made from a mosque in Bhaderwah was posted by miscreants on the social media.

Over 43% Population Above 15 Years Use Tobacco Products In J&K: Survey

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least 43 percent of the population above 15 years use tobacco products in Jammu and Kashmir, reveals a survey.

The survey conducted by Department of Periodontics and implantology, Institute of Dental Sciences, University of Jammu as district wise data from National Health Survey-5, Ministry of Health and Family welfare 2019-2020 was analysed and measured.

Data from National Health Survey-5, Ministry of Health and Family welfare 2019 2020 was studied, analysed and measured for the prevalence and distribution of tobacco intake in individuals aged 15 years and above in various districts of Jammu and Kashmir

using statistical parameters such as mean and mode, an official said.

“It was found that highest number of individuals who took tobacco in any form belonged to Kupwara district (56.6%) followed by Anantnag district (49.9%) and Budgam district (48.8%) whereas least percentage of tobacco was consumed in Jammu district (26.5%) followed by Kathua district (35.4%) and Srinagar district (38.4%) respectively,” said the data.

“Out of a total population, when analysing males and their tobacco consumption district wise, it was found that highest number of the

same belonged from Kupwara district (49.8%) followed by Anantnag district (47.0%) and Shopian district (47.0%) respectively whereas least percentage of males consuming tobacco belonged to Jammu district (25.7%) followed by Kathua district (33.3%) and Baramulla district (34.7%) respectively,” it added.

“Similarly, analysing females and their tobacco consumption district wise, it was found that the highest number of the same belonged from Bandipora district (9.1%) followed by Kupwara district (6.8%) and Baramulla district (6.5%) respectively whereas least percentage of females consuming tobacco belonged to Jammu district (0.8%) followed by Srinagar district (1.9%) and Poonch district (2.3%) respectively,” it added—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatra

DC Anantnag Reviews Arrangements At Sheeshnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla accompanied by senior officials from District Administration on Thursday visited Sheeshnag base camp to review ground level preparations for SANJY-2022.

Speaking during the visit, Dr Singla said that various development works are under progress on the track. He said that installation of railings on sides, widening of the track, removal of loose stones, crate bunds etc are going on at full pace. He visited the base hospital established at Sheeshnag and also reviewed the allocation of space to various departments.

A meeting with accompanying officials was held at Sheeshnag base camp directing the concerned to expedite the ongoing works and ensure all preparations are in place by 15th of June.

Dr Singla inspected the erection of several Medical Aid Centres enroute from Chandanwari to Holy Cave. He also reviewed the installation of taps at various spots along the route besides toilet facilities at Sheeshnag camp.

Emphasizing on ensuring availability of necessary medical care, the CMO was directed to put equines into service as ambulances so that emergency medical care can be given to any in need on the route without delay. He was informed that both electricity and water supply are available at Sheeshnag base camp.

Stressing on ensuring a clean and green SANJY 2022, the DC directed the concerned officials to ensure that proper solid and liquid waste measures are in place at the base camp and dustbins are installed at various spots to avoid littering.

Directions were issued to Pahalgal Development Authority to ensure that lights are installed at every 100 metres on the path between Chandanwari to Sheeshnag base camps to ensure that Yatries can travel safely in early and late hours.

SSP Anantnag, CEO PDA, SDM Pahalgal, CMO, SEs of R&B, KP-DCL and Jal Shakti, SDM Pahalgal, ACD, representatives from NDMA, representatives from CRPF, Tehsildar Pahalgal among others accompanied the DC.

IUST Holds Book Release On ‘Architectural Ornamentation In Shrines And Mosques’



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Islamic University of Science and Technology Awantipora organised a book release function of ‘Architectural Ornamentation in Shrines and Mosques in Kashmir’ in collaboration with INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) Kashmir at the Institute of Hotel Management Wednesday.

The book has been penned by Dr. Fozia S Qazi, Dr. Ha-keem Samir Hamdani, Qamoos Bukhari and Dr. Mehran Qureshi. Vice-Chancellor of IUST Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo, who was the Chief Guest highlighted the important issue of preservation and protection of Shrines while he talked about the vulnerability of these structures due to earthquakes and other natural disasters.

In his presidential remarks, Prof Romshoo emphasised the need to protect these important architectural sites so that Kashmir’s culture and heritage could be preserved and that IUST has been taking numerous steps toward encouraging of Kashmiri language and culture by creating new Centres for Spiritual Studies and the Kashmir language.

Noted Islamic Scholar and

eminent religious figure, Prof Tayyab Kamili, eminent doctor Dr. G.Q. Allaqaband, Industrialist Shakeel Qalandar, reputed artist Masood Hussain were also part of the book release function, who congratulated the authors for creating an awareness about the significance of these shrines and writing about steps to preserve Kashmiri architecture. They highlighted the legacy and role of these Shrines in the lives of Kashmiri people and how they represent a symbol of rich identity for the community.

A panel discussion was held with all the contributors of this book which was moderated by Former Vice Chancellor IUST Prof. Siddiq Wahid, which was followed by an interactive session.

The initial remarks were presented by Convener and Head of INTACH J&K M. Saleem Beg who said the book was of immense value for understanding Kashmir and its architecture. A visual presentation was shared by the editor of the book Qamoos Bukhari on this occasion, who described how Kashmiri culture and heritage could be seen through these shrines and mosques. He gave a detailed illustration of some of the shrines and mosques like Khanqah-e-Moula.

Govt Press Employees Express Gratitude To Secy ARI & Trainings

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Employees Association of Government Press Srinagar on Thursday expressed gratitude to the Secretary ARI and Trainings Amil Kumar Sharma for assuring redressal of their grievances.

A team of employees association members held a meeting with the Secretary ARI and Trainings at Civil Secretariat Srinagar, a statement issued by the association said.

During the meeting, it said, the Secretary paid a keen heed to all their grievances and assured to fulfill and accomplish our long pending genuine demands.

The association expressed heartfelt gratitude for the sympathetic attitude of Sharma.

“Thank you for extending your compassion and support to us. You are truly an inspiration. We really appreciate your understanding and support. You are requested to kindly make a visit to our office Premises and add charm to our office with your gracious presence,” the statement said.

Besides this, the statement also expressed gratitude to the association’s General Manager Aijaz Ahmad, who has left no stone unturned for the upliftment and betterment of the Department.

PROGRESSING J&K

J&K Govts’ Fiscal Reforms Pave Way For Enhanced Growth, Development At Grassroots Level

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Introduction of a slew of major fiscal reforms by the Jammu and Kashmir government has tremendously transformed the financial system in the Union territory paving way for enhanced growth and development in the region, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

“On such reformative measure ‘Budget Estimation and Allocation Monitoring System (BEAMS)’ has empowered the J&K people to oversee works being executed in their areas on a real time basis”.

The administration, he said, has successfully implemented innovative initiatives in this regard which inter alia included BEAMS, online submission of bills through J&K

PaySys, mandatory administrative approvals, technical sanctions and e-tendering, digital payments, GFR, GeM and related measures which have greatly helped the financial systems in J&K to be at par with any other developing financial system in the country.

Publication of pictorial e-compendiums related to projects completed under Back to Village, District Capex, UT Capex and JKIDFC broadly reflects government’s commitment to engage with the citizens.

During 2020-21, more than 18,000 works were available on EMPOWERMENT portal for the first time in J&K for public viewing thus bringing in real grass root empowerment.

Notably, Jammu and Kash-

mir government has completed over 66,000 developmental projects in the last three years.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, said that significant steps are being taken up by the government in the past three years to eliminate impediments and expedite decisions on approvals for timely implementation of projects.

In March this year, J&K Finance department accorded sanction to authorization of 100 percent Revenue and Capex budget out of Revised Estimates (RE) 2021-22 through BEAMS within the appropriation approved by the Parliament for the current financial year.

“Sanction is accorded to authorization of 100 percent Revenue and Capex budget

including District Capex out of Revised Estimates 2021-22 through Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS) within the appropriation approved by the Parliament vide ‘The Jammu & Kashmir Appropriation Act, 2022 No 4 of 2022, dated March 25, 2022 for the current financial year 2021-22,” read an order issued by the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance Department.

The order stipulates the conditions for utilization of Revenue budget which specifies that the Controlling Officers will ensure that all budgetary allocations are strictly as per Demand for Grants and funds shall be released through BEAMS. The controlling officers immediately

release the funds to the line departments within a period of one week from the date of authorization of funds by the Finance Department.

The BEAMS administrator at the Administrative Department level will report compliance to the Finance Department on a monthly basis and the expenditure will be made strictly in accordance with GFR 2017.

In a bid to bring more transparency and accountability in the governance system, Lieutenant Governor had launched PROOF ‘Photographic Record of On-site Facility’ app. It helps in uploading geo-tagged photographs while preferring bills in the concerned treasuries against the budget allotted through the BEAMS application.

JKFA Announce AIFF D-License Coaches Course Results

Out of 24 candidates, 19 declared successful

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Football Association (JKFA) on Thursday released a list of successful candidates who recently took part in 5-day long coaching course.

"JKFA conducted AIFF D-License Coaches Course from 24th of May to 29th May 2022 at Gindun Play field Rajbagh, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and with the help of Real Kashmir FC," the JKFA said in a statement.

"24 participants took part in the said course under the supervision of Mangesh Desai, AIFF Coach Educator. The results of the candidates who appeared in the said

Course was declared by AIFF."

"Out of 24 Candidates, Nineteen Candidates were declared successful, three Candidates declared Pro Pass and two candidates were declared fail," the statement added.

"J&K Football Association congratulates the candidates who were declared Pass and hope that these candidates will use their expertise in promoting the game of football among the youngsters in the nook and corner of J&K. Those who were declared unsuccessful should work hard to qualify the examination in future and should not lose courage," the JKFA statement concluded.

Readers can check the full list below:

The Result of AIFF "D" License Coaches Course 2022 which was held at Srinagar from 24 th to 29 th May 2022 has been declared by the AIFF					
RESULT					
S.No	Name	Fathers Name	Address	PASS	
1	Sameer Ahmad Nadaf	Mehraj-ud-din Nadaf	Soura Srinagar	Pass	
2	Danish Manzoor Dar	Manzoor Ahmad Dar	Shirpora Pattan,Barmulla	Pass	
3	Shahmawaz Bashir	Bashir Ahmad	Barbar Shah Srinagar	Pass	
4	Peer Aadil Shafi	Peer Mohd Shafi	Anantnag	Pass	
5	Jaweed Hussain	Mohamad Ashraf	Hawal, Srinagar	Pass	
6	Urfan Hamid	Abdul Hamid	Udhkura, Baramulla	Pass	
7	Adnan Ayub	Mohamad Ayub Dar	Hazratbal, Srinagar	Pass	
8	Mohammad Aliyaan	Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh	Chattabal, Srinagar	Pass	
9	Jamshed Ahmad Dar	Abdul Salam Dar	Schpora,Ganderbal	Pass	
10	Danish Qadir Lone	Ghulam Qadir Lone	Udhkura,Baramulla	Pass	
11	Gulzar Ahmad Ahangar	Mohd. Subhan Ahangar	Zaldager Srinagar	Pass	
12	Tawseef Javid	Javid Ahmad Baht	Bhadati Kanipora Sgr	Pass	
13	Aiman Rashid	Abdul Rashid	Jawahar Nagar, Sgr	Pass	
14	Yawar Hayat	Shahmawaz Zargar	Iddgah Srinagar	Pass	
15	Ozair Ahmad Bhat	Ghulam Ahmad Bhat	Iddgah Srinagar	Pass	
16	Sabir Nahi Bhat	Gulam Nahi Bhat	Basant Bagh,Srinagar	Pass	
17	Mohit Verma	Mohinder Kumar Verma	Canal Road Jammu	Pass	
18	Rohit Kumar	Rattan Chand	Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu	Pass	
19	Arun Naghal	S.P Naghal	Brahmana, Jammu	Pass	
20	Shivam Mehra	Sukhdev Mehra	Jammu	Pro-Pass	
21	Preem Kumar	Natthi Ram	Jagatpur Punjab	Pro-Pass	
22	Abdul Rouf Mir	Nazir Ahmad Mir	Lalipora Pattan Baramulla	Pro-Pass	

City Hunks Sgr Win Dometown T20 C'ship

Agencies

SRINAGAR: City Hunks, a prominent cricket team from Srinagar on Thursday won the title of Dometown T20 championship (Edition 1st). The team defeated Blue Stars by 49 runs.

Blue Stars won the toss and decided to bowl first. In the total allotted 20 overs, Adil Reshi, an opener batsman from City Hunks team scored a ton and went upstairs after suffering injury in his thigh.

Amir Sofi also played a tremendous knock and scored 77 runs in just 24 balls. The team scored 245 runs in the total allotted 20 overs.

However, Khalid Bhat scored a quick 80 runs while Manzoor La-

way also stood like a wall on the pitch and scored a half century for Blue Stars team. Nonetheless, Laway didn't get support from his team mates and couldn't manage to achieve the target.

Adil Reshi, who scored a ton and also took two wickets, was declared Man of Match. Waseem Bala from Khanyar was declared Man of the Series for his tremendous performance in the entire tourney.

The organisers—Aamir Rasool Kana (Boya) and Shanawaz Ahmad (Raja) thanked the chief guests and the supporters for gracing the occasion. They vowed to hold more such tourneys in the future to attract the youngsters towards the sport and help the society to come out from the drug menace.

International Cycle Day Celebrated At Kulgam



Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Kulgam on Thursday organised a cycle rally to celebrate International Cycle day as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' campaign.

The department organised the cycle rally from main chowk Laroo via Bypass and passed through main chowk Chowlgam and culminated at Sports Stadium Kulgam.

The rally was flagged-off by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Showket Ahmad Rather.

The rally was participated by 140 boys who came from various higher secondary schools of district Kulgam.

On the occasion ADC highlighted the importance and benefits of using cycle now a days by the common public.

Addressing the participants, the chief guest said that the cycle being eco-friendly and cheapest means of transport its use in general can minimize the pollution, save economy and develop fitness.

Later, medals among top ten positions were distributed during the felicitation ceremony.

J&K Kalarippayattu Team Leaves For Khelo India

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A 12-membered Kalarippayattu team from Jammu and Kashmir has left for participating in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) to be held at Panchkula (Haryana).

The Team: Anirudh Verma, Tarun Gupta, Nitin Kumar, Zayin Dobriyal, Aradhna, Palak Sharma, Rishika Sharma, Dua

Mukhtar, Tanzeela Nazir and Qubra Khan.

The team is accompanied by coach, Danish Sharma, Secretary General, Kalarippayattu Association of J&K and Manager Tarsem Sharma.

Dr. S M Bali, President KAJK, Arun Khanna, Councillor Ward No. 25, Arshad Aziz, Joint Secretary KAJK, were also present at the time of departure of students.

South Africa Beat India By 7 Wickets In First T20I



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: David Miller and Rassie van der Dussen hit fiery half-centuries to guide South Africa to a seven-wicket win over India in the first T20 International of the five-match series here on Thursday.

Chasing a mammoth 212, Miller (64 not out) and Van der Dussen (75 not out) shared

an unbeaten 131-run stand for the fourth wicket to take the visitors home with consummate ease. For India, Axar Patel (1/40), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/43) and Harshal Patel (1/43) scalped one wicket apiece.

Earlier, Ishan Kishan smashed 76 off 48 balls to power India to 211 for four against South Africa in the first T20 International here on Thursday. Shreyas Iyer (36),

skipper Rishabh Pant (29) and his deputy Hardik Pandya (31 not out) also made useful contributions to the Indian innings.

Brief Scores:

India: 211 for 4 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 76; Wayne Parnell 1/32).

South Africa: 212 for 3 in 19.1 overs (Rassie van der Dussen 75 not out, David Miller 64 not out; Axar Patel 1/40).

KL Rahul 'Gutted' After Injury Ruled Him Out Of SA Series

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Opener KL Rahul is "gutted" at not being able to lead India on home soil after a last-minute groin injury ruled him out of the five-match T20I series against South Africa.

Rahul will miss the entire series, starting on Thursday, owing to a right groin injury that he sustained during training. On the eve of the first game, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was named the captain in Rahul's absence.

"Hard to accept but I begin another challenge today. Gutted not to be leading the side for the first time at home, but the boys have all my support from the sidelines.

"Heartfelt thanks to all for your support. Wishing Rishabh and the boys all the luck for the series. See you soon," he said in a tweet.

An elegant batter, Rahul has been in good form in the IPL

and was named captain in the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, who was rested from the series following the lucrative league.

However, the 30-year-old from Bengaluru will now have

Hardik's positive captaincy proves he can lead India: Harbhajan

A penchant for leading by example mingles with intent and positivity to make IPL title-winning skipper Hardik Pandya a strong contender for Indian captaincy in near future, reckons spin great Harbhajan Singh.

The 28-year-old all-rounder is being tipped as a future India captain after leading unfancied Gujarat Titans to victory in their maiden season in the world's most lucrative T20 league.

"One of the biggest revelations in this year's IPL was the advent of Hardik Pandya as the skipper of the Gujarat Titans and the way he led the team from the front to win the coveted title is definitely praiseworthy.

"His intent and positive captaincy are signs that he can lead Team India in the future," Harbhajan told PTI in an interview.

World Record: Mumbai Decimate Uttarakhand By 725 Runs

Eclipse 92-Year-Old Sheffield Shield Record

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Domestic giants Mumbai on Thursday broke the world record for highest margin of victory in the history of first-class cricket as they crushed minnows Uttarakhand by staggering 725 runs on the fourth day of their Ranji Trophy quarter-final here and stormed into the semi-finals.

Mumbai broke New South Wales' 92-year-old Sheffield Shield record when they beat Queensland by 685 runs.

In the Ranji Trophy, the previous record for highest margin for victory was held by Bengal, who had defeated Odisha

batters scoring half-century in a single innings against Jharkhand in another quarter-final.

Mumbai will now meet Uttar Pradesh in the semi-final of the prestigious domestic competition.

The 41-time Ranji Trophy champions, who dominated right from the first-day, declared their second innings at 261/3 and thus set Uttarakhand an improbable 794-run target.

They had piled up 647/8 declared in their first essay, riding on maiden double hundred from debutant Suvud Parkar (252).

Uttarakhand who were bundled out for partly 114 in their first essay, once again capitulated in front of the Mumbai bowlers, as they were bundled out for just 69 in the second innings.

Mumbai bowlers led by experienced

any spine.

Kulkarni wreaked havoc as he first castled opener Kamal Singh (0) and then trapped rival skipper Jy Bista (0) in front of the wickets, with the opposition tottering at ½. He then cleaned up Robin Bist (3) with a delivery that jagged backed in as Uttarakhand was starring at a huge defeat.

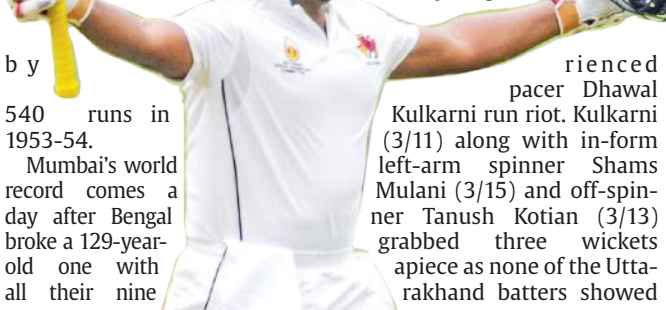
In-form Mulani, who had grabbed a fiver in the first innings, got into the act and ran through the middle-order. His victims included Kunal Chandela (21), Dikshanshu Negi (5) and Mayank Mishra (0).

Wickets kept tumbling for the hill state even as Kotian dismissed three lower-order batters in quick succession and also grabbed the final wicket of Agrim Tiwari to cap off a historic win for his side.

For Uttarakhand, such was the collapse that only wicket-keeper Shivam Khurana (25 not out) and Chandela could reach the double-figure mark.

Mumbai's medium pacer Mohit Awasthi (1/5) also played his part to perfection.

Parkar was adjudged as the player of the match.



Babar Azam Hits 3 ODI Tons In A Row – For Second Time

Breaks Virat Kohli's long-standing record



Reuters

MULTAN: Babar Azam became the first batsman to twice score three consecutive centuries in one-day internationals after his 103 helped Pakistan beat West Indies by five wickets on Wednesday. Captain Babar shared a 103-run partnership with Imam-ul-Haq (65) and a 108-run stand with Mohammad Rizwan (59) as Pakistan chased down a target of 306 in Multan to go 1-0 up in the

three-match ODI series.

The 27-year-old Babar made two centuries against Australia before Wednesday's match and also racked up three tons in a row in 2016, all against West Indies.

Babar hit nine fours in his 17th ODI century and the world's top-ranked ODI batter also surpassed former India skipper Virat Kohli to become the fastest player to reach 1,000 runs as captain. Babar achieved the feat in 13 innings compared with Kohli's 17.

Australia Edge Out Sri Lanka To Clinch T20 Series



Reuters

COLOMBO: Australia made heavy weather of a modest chase before beating Sri Lanka by three wickets in the second Twenty20 International on Wednesday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Chasing 125, world champions Australia struggled against Wanindu Hasaranga's (4-33) spin before Matthew Wade's run-a-ball 26 not out secured a tense victory with 13 balls to spare.

Put into bat, Sri Lanka struggled to get going and rode cameo from Charith Asalanka (39) and Kusal Mendis (36) to post a below-par 124-9, barely avoiding being bowled out inside 20 overs.

Australia's ploy to open their attack with Glenn Maxwell (2-18) paid off with the off-spinner dismissing opener Danushka Gunathilaka in the first over.

Australia were without fast bowler Mitchell Starc who slit the index finger of his bowling hand on his shoe spike during the tourists' 10-wicket win in Tuesday's series opener.

His replacement Jhye Richardson (3-26) ensured Australia did not feel Starc's absence and Kane Richardson claimed 4-30 to restrict Sri Lanka.

For Australia, captain Aaron Finch (24) began well but Hasaranga rocked their top order and David Warner (21) was run out after a mix-up with Maxwell as their chase threatened to unravel.

Hasaranga dismissed Maxwell and Ashton Agar in successive deliveries but Wade calmed Australian nerves and secured victory with a four off Gunathilaka.

The teams move to Pallekele for the final Twenty20, which will be followed by five one-dayers and two test matches.

Paris Police Chief Issues Partial Apology Over CL Final 'Failure'

Agencies

PARIS: The Paris police chief apologized for and justified the pepper spraying of fans and families amid the chaos that engulfed the Champions League final last month outside the Stade de France.

At a French Senate hearing looking for explanations for the organizational fiasco, Paris police prefect Didier Lallement admitted on Thursday that the evening in the suburb of Saint-Denis was "obviously a failure, because people were being pushed around or assaulted while we owed them safety.

"It's also a failure because our country's image ... was shattered."

However, Lallement maintained the police were responding to the presence of tens of thousands of supporters without tickets or with forged tickets, not in the immediate vicinity of the stadium but close to the main points of access to the venue.

"We made sure that the game was held and, most importantly, that there were no serious injuries and no deaths," Lallement said.

Taking full responsibility for the events, he acknowledged he did not anticipate the "massive use" of fake tickets, adding the only option at his disposal to make sure people did not get crushed was the use of tear gas.

"Which is the only way to make a crowd back down ex-

cept to charge them, and I think it would have been a serious mistake to charge people," Lallement said. "I am well aware that people of good faith were gassed, and I am totally sorry for that, but I repeat, there was no other way."

Lallement said his early estimate of 30,000 to 40,000 fans without tickets or with fake tickets might have been overstated.

"Perhaps I was wrong," he said. "Whether there were 40,000, 30,000 or 20,000, it didn't change the fact that there were tens of thousands of people who could not fit in." According to the French Football Federation (FFF), 110,000 people travelled to the Stade de France, which has a capacity of 75,000.

UEFA has already started gathering evidence about issues that marred one of the world's biggest games in sports. Real Madrid won the final beating Liverpool 1-0.

Florence Hardouin, the FFF director general, told senators that most of the fake tickets were found in the Liverpool fans' sector. She said all of the 20,000 tickets allocated to the Reds' supporters were in print – rather than digital – which made forgery easier.

Hardouin added that "on average, 57 fake tickets were scanned every five minutes" from 6 p.m. to 9:35 p.m. She said 66% of these 2,471 forged tickets were scanned at gates in the sector dedicated to Liverpool fans.