

25th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday 05 July 2022 | 05 Zil Hajj | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 155 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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



A wholesome meal for people on the go

Turkish Burger

Now Taste Mediterranean Flavour in Srinagar

Bun Maska & Irani Chai JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard, Srinagar-1

Remote Rx: Is Bangladesh Becoming New Russia For Kashmir?

Bisma Farooq

Dr. Qayoom Shah knows exactly how a piercing perception pinches. When he faced the one, he dismissed it as a "stupidity of gullible masses" until his own daughter lived his fate and suffered for being a "lesser" doctor. Just like her father, Qayoom's daughter is being derided for being a remote medic — "the one who couldn't break into the meritorious ranks back home and got the degree from an overseas campus with money". Given the scathing notions



about their competency and expertise, these doctors tend to

face acceptance and identity issues in the valley.

UPON THEIR RETURN WITH DEGREES, those medical doctors would be chided as Rou'es Kath, which literally means Russian Sheep."

Behind this trend and subsequent tagging, many believe, is the land-locked region's perennial dependence on some of these offshore campuses for medical degrees. Uncertain academic calendar and paucity of

professional training is only acting as a catalyst in this annual educational drive from the valley.

Back in 1992, when his homeland was witnessing political tumult, Qayoom—then a dreamy teenager who was yet to grow his moustache—was quietly sent by his teacher-parents to Moscow for a medical degree.

Fear of crackdown and crippling lockdown in the valley then forced many middle class and elite families to send their children away to pursue the non-disruptive educational routine. Kashmir campuses were then mostly shut, or

serving as military barracks. Some of them were even rising up in smoke and flame following frequent firefights.

Amid that uncertain situation, Qayoom says, it became a distressing trend to pursue medicine in Russia. Kashmiri society known for its domino effect trait soon made Moscow a new medical capital of Kashmir.

"And because everyone would send their aspiring doctor wards to Russia, the trend came under sharp criticism," Qayoom recalls. "Upon their return with degrees, those medical doctors would **More on P6**

Sticky Bombs, Ammo Recovered In Reasi: Police

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A militant hideout was busted in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the recovery of six sticky bombs along with other arms and ammunition, police said on Monday.

The hideout was busted at the disclosure of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Talib Hussain Shah who along with his associate Faisal Ahmad Dar were overpowered by people and handed over to police in a remote village in Reasi district on Sunday, a police official said.

He said Shah revealed the presence of a hideout in his Draj village of Rajouri during questioning and accordingly a raid was carried out and the hideout was busted.

The search of the hideout led to the recovery of six sticky bombs, a pistol, three pistol magazines, 19 pistol rounds, an Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL), three UBGL grenades, 75 rounds of AK assault rifle and one IED remote with antenna, the official said.

Shah and his Kashmiri accomplice Dar were arrested from Tukan Dhok after they were tactfully disarmed by local residents with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police Dilbag Singh lauding their courage and announcing cash rewards for them.

However, a political slugfest erupted between the local units of BJP and Congress after Shah was reported to be an active member of the saffron party who was recently selected as its IT and social media cell in charge of the minority morcha in Jammu province.

Some pictures emerged on social media purportedly showing Shah with BJP leaders.

One of the pictures **More on P6**

Intense Heat Wave Conditions Hit Normal Life

Brief Spell Of Rainfall Expected Today: MeT Dept

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Kashmir Valley continues to reel under intense heat wave conditions with mercury settling at 34 degree Celsius mark in Srinagar on Monday, even as the weather department predicted a brief spell of light rain and thunderstorm in the region in the next 24 hours.

"As expected, the weather remained dry in the whole of Kashmir during the past 24 hours. Hot & dry weather is likely till evening whereas a brief spell of light Rain/Thunderstorm is expected tomorrow," Deputy Director of MeT in Srinagar, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer.

"There is no forecast of any major rainfall for next one week," adding that a downfall in temperature is also expected in the region in the next 24 hours.

The official also said that scattered light to moderate rains in Jammu division are also forecasted for next 24 hours.

The meteorological department official also said that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.0°C and a low of 24.0°C. The temperatures, he said, were 4.0°C and 6.3°C respectively above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital.

"Scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rain and thundershowers are also expected in Kashmir for subsequent two days," the deputy director told Kashmir Observer. The ongoing month has already seen a vicious heat across J&K, with stagnant air bearing down on densely populated cities, like Jammu city and Srinagar city for several days in a row.

The continued warming occurs because the rate of heat input from the sun during the day continues to be greater than the cooling at night for several weeks, until temperatures start to descend in late July and early August.

Meanwhile, **More on P6**



A group of boys taking a dip inside the Dal Lake on a hot summer day Monday, as Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34 Deg Celsius. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

BJP Disowns Arrested Militant; Parties Seek Probe

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP on Monday denied claims that a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant nabbed in Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir was its member, even as the Congress and others attacked the saffron party and demanded a high-level probe.

BJP spokesperson Abhinav Sharma claimed the captured militant, Talib Hussain Shah of Rajouri, visited the party headquarters by posing as a reporter of a news portal under a conspiracy to conduct recce at the behest of his handlers across the border to target the party leadership.

He rejected claims that Shah was minority cell's IT in-charge in J-K and demanded that the security of the BJP office and leaders be strengthened.

According to our official records, he was neither a primary member nor a basic member, so there is no question of being an



active member, Sharma said.

He visited our headquarters as a journalist of a news portal and interviewed our president (Ravinder Raina) who is well known for his nationalist views and for openly speaking against Pakistan and militants.

"He had received threats to his life many times and Shah's frequent visit to party headquarters was a **More on P6**

Talib Had A Brief Association With The Party, Says DGP

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant Talib Hussain Shah was briefly associated with a political party and also posed himself as a mediaperson, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Monday.

However, he said such type of elements would continue to make attempts to take cover anywhere to carry forward their anti-national activities and that police are duty-bound to arrest them. The DGP was interacting with reporters in the Mahore area of Reasi **More on P6**

PAGD Will Jointly Contest Polls, Assert Dr Farooq, Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference and the PDP - major constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration - said on Monday that the grouping will jointly contest the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We will contest the elections together. There is a political party that said that they have left the alliance. The truth is that they were never part of the alliance. They had come to break us from within," National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, who heads the PAGD, told reporters here.

Similar sentiments were expressed by PDP president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti earlier in the day.

"We intend to contest the elections together as it is the will of the people that we should strive together for the restoration of our lost dignity," Mehbooba said.

Responding to a question, Abdullah said elections can be held whenever the government wants.

"Elections were held when we had floods. Why can't elections be held now? The question is how they want to contest the polls," the former chief minister added.

Asked about the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, Abdullah said it was the people of Kashmir who have wholeheartedly ensured smooth conduct of the pilgrimage over the years.

"Who was the man who discovered the cave? He was a Muslim from Pahalgam," he added.

Abdullah said the government of the time can hoist the national flag from every house. "They have the final say. But it would be great when people fly the tricolour on their own and not due to diktats," he said.

The PAGD, comprising five J-K parties, was formed in October 2020 with a stated aim of restoring **More on P6**

Soaring Mercury Raises Demand Of Air Conditioners

Dealers Register Record Sale Of 200 ACs Daily

Zaid Bin Shabir

As the mercury is soaring in Kashmir, the cooling agents like Air Conditioners are no longer luxuries but necessities given its demand growing like hot cakes in the region. In the last 6 days, Kashmir's top dealers have registered a record sale of 200 plus Air-Conditioners in a day per dealer. **More on P6**

SRINAGAR RECORDED A MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 34.0°C and a low of 24.0°C. The temperatures, he said, were 4.0°C and 6.3°C respectively above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital."

S H O R T T A K E S

Drone Spotted Along IB In Samba

Press Trust Of India

A drone was spotted along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, prompting security forces to launch a massive cordon and search operation, officials said on Monday. "We got an information that there was some flying object hovering over the border hamlet Chilliari in Samba last night. It may have been a drone from across", a police officer told **More on P6**

Magnitude 3.2 Earthquake Hits Doda

Press Trust Of India

A low-intensity earthquake of magnitude 3.2 hit Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday but there were no reports of any damage, officials said. The quake struck at 12.12 pm in Doda area of the Union Territory, the officials said. They said its epicenter was at a latitude of 33.12 degrees north and longitude of 75.55 degrees east at a depth of 5 km. There have been **More on P6**

Biker, Pillion Rider Killed In Road Accident

Agencies

A motorcyclist and his pillion rider was killed in a road mishap in Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday afternoon. News agency GNS quoting a police official reported that a motorcycle bearing registration number JK01AB 3829 was hit by an unidentified vehicle at Rednag area of Lolab, resulting in critical injuries to the motorcyclist and his pillion rider. "The duo was taken to **More on P6**

Electric Shock Kills Minor Boy

Observer News Service

In a tragic incident, a minor boy died of electrocution on Monday at his home in Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Six-year-old Kifiyat Ahmad Bhat son of Nazir Ahmad Bhat received an electric shock at his home in Nagam village of Kokernag, reports said. The minor, reports said, was immediately shifted to the nearby Sub District Hospital (SDH) Kokernag by his family members for treatment. However, the doctor **More on P6**

J&K Logs 58 Cases, One Corona Death

Observer News Service

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 58 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, 30 new cases of Covid-19 were registered in the Jammu division and 28 others in the Valley, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 455391. In the Valley, officials **More on P6**

Police Sounds Caution On Wifi/ Hotspot Use

Observer News Service

Police on Monday urged internet users of District Budgam not to provide Wifi or hotspot connection to strangers as it may land them in legal action against them. In a statement issued here, the police said that criminals and subversive elements are using wifi and hotspot of others to communicate with each other and indulge into subversive activities. "Netizens of Budgam **More on P6**

Viruses Can Change Your Scent To Make You More Attractive To Mosquitoes

The Conversation

Mosquitoes are the world's deadliest animal. Over 1 million deaths per year are attributed to mosquito-borne diseases, including malaria, yellow fever, dengue fever, Zika and chikungunya fever. How mosquitoes seek out and feed on their hosts are important factors in how a virus circulates in nature. Mosquitoes spread diseases by acting as carriers of viruses and other pathogens: A mosquito that bites a person infected with a virus can acquire the virus and pass it on to the next person it bites.

For immunologists and infectious disease researchers like me, a better understanding of how a virus interacts with a host may offer new strategies for preventing and treating mosquito-borne diseases. In our recently published study, my colleagues and I found that some viruses can alter a person's body odour to be more attractive to mosquitoes, leading to more bites that allow a virus to spread.

Viruses change host odours to attract mosquitoes

osquitoes locate a potential host through different sensory cues, such as your body temperature and the carbon dioxide emitted from your breath. Odours also play a role. Previous lab research has found that mice infected with malaria have changes in their scents that make them more attractive to mosquitoes. With this in mind, my colleagues and I wondered if other mosquito-borne viruses, such as dengue and Zika, can also change a person's scent to make them more attractive to mosquitoes, and whether there is a way to prevent these changes.



To investigate this, we placed mice infected with the dengue or Zika virus, uninfected mice and mosquitoes in one of three arms of a glass chamber. When we applied airflow through the mouse chambers to funnel their odors toward the mosquitoes, we found that more mosquitoes chose to fly toward the infected mice over the uninfected mice.

We ruled out carbon dioxide as a reason for why the mosquitoes were attracted to the infected mice, because while Zika-infected mice emitted less carbon dioxide than uninfected mice, dengue-infected mice did not change emission levels. Likewise, we ruled out body temperature as a potential attractive factor when mosquitoes did not differentiate between mice with elevated or normal body temperatures.

Then we assessed the role of body odours in the mosquitoes' increased attraction to infected mice. After placing a filter in the glass chambers to prevent mice odors

from reaching the mosquitoes, we found that the number of mosquitoes flying toward infected and uninfected mice were comparable. This suggests that there was something about the odors of the infected mice that drew the mosquitoes toward them.

To identify the odour, we isolated 20 different gaseous chemical compounds from the scent emitted by the infected mice. Of these, we found three to stimulate a significant response in mosquito antennae. When we applied these three compounds to the skin of healthy mice and the hands of human volunteers, only one, acetophenone, attracted more mosquitoes compared to the control. We found that infected mice produced 10 times more acetophenone than uninfected mice. Similarly, we found that the odours collected from the armpits of dengue fever patients contained more acetophenone than those from healthy people. When we applied the dengue fever patient odours

on one hand of a volunteer and a healthy person's odour on the other hand, mosquitoes were consistently more attracted to the hand with dengue fever odours.

These findings imply that the dengue and Zika viruses are capable of increasing the amount of acetophenone their hosts produce and emit, making them even more attractive to mosquitoes. When uninfected mosquitoes bite these attractive hosts, they may go on to bite other people and spread the virus even further.

How viruses increase acetophenone production

Next, we wanted to figure out how viruses were increasing the amount of mosquito-attracting acetophenone their hosts produce. Acetophenone, along with being a chemical commonly used as a fragrance in perfumes, is also a metabolic byproduct commonly produced by certain bacteria living on the skin and in the intestines of both people and mice. So we wondered if it had something to do with changes in the type of bacteria on the skin.

To test this idea, we removed either the skin or intestinal bacteria from infected mice before exposing them to mosquitoes. While mosquitoes were still more attracted to infected mice with depleted intestinal bacteria compared to uninfected mice, they were significantly less attracted to infected mice with depleted skin bacteria. These results suggest that skin microbes are an essential source of acetophenone.

When we compared the skin bacteria compositions of infected and uninfected mice, we identified that a common type of rod-shaped bacteria, *Bacillus*, was a major acetophenone producer and had significantly increased numbers on infected mice. This meant that the dengue and Zika viruses were able to change their

host's odor by altering the microbiome of the skin.

Reducing mosquito-attracting odours

Finally, we wondered if there was a way to prevent this change in odours.

We found one potential option when we observed that infected mice had decreased levels of an important microbe-fighting molecule produced by skin cells, called RELMa. This suggested that the dengue and Zika viruses suppressed production of this molecule, making the mice more vulnerable to infection.

Vitamin A and its related chemical compounds are known to strongly boost production of RELMa. So we fed a vitamin A derivative to infected mice over the course of a few days and measured the amount of RELMa and *Bacillus* bacteria present on their skin, then exposed them to mosquitoes. We found that infected mice treated with the vitamin A derivative were able to restore their RELMa levels back to those of uninfected mice, as well as reduce the amount of *Bacillus* bacteria on their skin. Mosquitoes were also no more attracted to these treated, infected mice than uninfected mice.

Our next step is to replicate these results in people and eventually apply what we learn to patients. Vitamin A deficiency is common in developing countries. This is especially the case in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, where mosquito-transmitted viral diseases are prevalent. Our next steps are to investigate whether dietary vitamin A or its derivatives could reduce mosquito attraction to people infected with Zika and dengue, and subsequently reduce mosquito-borne diseases in the long term.

New Covid-19 Test Can Identify All Variants In Hours

Press Trust Of India

Scientists in the US have developed a rapid Covid-19 test that can accurately detect all current variants of SARS-CoV-2 within hours.

The test, CoVarScan, detects the signatures of eight hotspots on the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19.

The researchers at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center in the US tested CoVarScan on samples collected from more than 4,000 patients.

The research, published recently in the journal Clinical Chemistry, shows that the test is as accurate as other methods used to diagnose Covid-19, and can successfully differentiate between all current variants of SARS-CoV-2.

"Using this test, we can determine very quickly what variants are in the community and if a new variant is emerging, said Jeffrey SoRelle, an assistant professor at UT Southwestern, and senior author of the study.

"It also has implications for individ-

ual patients when we are dealing with variants that respond differently to treatments," SoRelle said.

While a number of other tests for Covid-19 exist, they generally detect either a fragment of SARS-CoV-2 genetic material or small molecules found on the surface of the virus, and don't provide information to identify the variant.

In addition, many researchers worry that these tests are not accurate in detecting some variants, or may miss future strains.

To determine which variant of Covid-19 a patient has, scientists typically must use whole genome sequencing, which is time-consuming and expensive, relying on sophisticated equipment and analysis to spell out the entire RNA sequence contained in the viruses.

CoVarScan hones in on eight regions of SARS-CoV-2 that commonly differ between viral variants. It detects small mutations -- where the sequence of RNA building blocks varies -- and measures the length of repetitive genetic regions that tend to grow and

shrink as the virus evolves.

The method relies on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) -- a technique common in most pathology labs -- to copy and measure the RNA at these eight sites of interest.

SoRelle's team ran the test on over 4,000 Covid-19-positive nasal swab samples collected at UT Southwestern from April 2021 to February 2022 -- from patients both with and without symptoms.

The tests were validated with the gold-standard whole genome sequencing, and the results were used by doctors to choose treatments in some critically ill Covid-19 patients.

Compared to whole genome sequencing, CoVarScan had 96 per cent sensitivity and 99 per cent specificity.

It identified and differentiated Delta, Mu, Lambda, and Omicron variants of Covid-19, including the BA.2 version of Omicron, once known as "stealth Omicron because it did not show up on some tests designed to detect only the Omicron strain.

Lone News / Advt AGENCY

RATNIPORA PULWAMA

No Need To Visit Srinagar To Advertise Your Business

Drop Your Advt/Public Notice & Grab Your copy at Lone News Agency

Home delivery of Newspapers also available

Address: Markazi Jamia Masjid, Main Market Ratnipora Pulwama

Call us at : 9797509142, 9797911802

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

Notice for General Public

Attention Please

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued , as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 225407

Class : 10th

Session: 2012 Bi-Annual

Regd No: N10340400042

Name Azad Ahmad Hajam

Father's Name : Nazir Ahamd Hajam

Mother's Name : Sara Bano

Date of Birth:- 06-11-1996

Residenc:- Razwen Magam Budgam

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 12B1KAM- 6001878 be treated as "CANCELLED")

No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22

Dated

bmg

Assistant Secretary

Certificates, KD.

((Government of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir))

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) TRUCK TERMINAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

Invitation for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NIT No/06/e-tendering /TTD/2022-23699-705DATED. 02 -07 -.2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union territory of J&K Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Truck Terminal Division Srinagar invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of consultant for Architectural and allied Engineering Consultancy Services from Registered firms /Consultants/Agencies under Indian Partnership Act/Societies Registration Act or registered companies under companies act for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Ref of authorization letter
1.	Design, Consultancy and Preparation of bidding working estimate/BOQ survey, Geotechnical or any other investigation required, along with 3D model and drawings for presentation .All working drawings i.e. architectural, structural and service drawings along with digital layout of plan, including technical vetting of estimates / Drawings from IIT/ NIT/DIQC and prepaion of bidding document /NIT/ for:- Construction of office complex for J&K Service Selection Board at Srinagar	1000/=	40000/=	25 days	Registered. Consultancy Firm	Administrative Council Decision No: 76/6/2022 Dtd 08/06/2022 Govt Order No: 741 -JK (gad) of 2022 Dtd 23/06/2022 NO: GAD-PLNG/16/2021-09/29945DTD23/06/2022

Position of Funds:-Committed

Position of AA:- Accorded

Table I:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02 /07/2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02/07/2022 from 04.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	02/ 07 /2022 from 04.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	16/07/2022 up to 4.00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of technical Bid (Online)	18/07/2022 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar.

The Bidding document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given above.

Note: The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopies.

Any short fall found in the soft copies will lead to the rejection of BID.

As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OMNo.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 reproduced as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared IST Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.

b) The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing E-challan or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan (Receipt).

1. All Bidders have to deposit bid security in form of Earnest money equal to Rs.40000/- in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar.

2. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @ 3% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days after opening of Bids which shall be released after successful completion of work.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer, R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. -Bidder are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in into acquaint with bid submission process.

2.2. To participate in e-tendering process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Applicants can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

2.4. All Bids will be opened online as per time schedule as mentioned in Table-1.

2.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with their bids by Authorized Signatory.

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

2.6. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

2.7. Scanned copy of cost of tender document fee in shape of Treasury Challan or Demand Draft in favor of Executive Engineer, R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar.

2.8. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

2.9. The bids shall remain valid for period of 120 days from the date of opening.

2.10. Executive Engineer, R&B Truck Terminal Division Srinagar reserves the right to reject any/all bids at any point of time if it becomes known or is discovered that a material misrepresentation has been made by the applicant in the process related to document submission.

2.11.The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

R&B Truck Terminal Division

Srinagar

DIPK-5406/22

No. 699-705

DATED: 02.07.2022

DISCLAIMER: KASHMIR OBSERVER MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION CARRIED IN DISPLAY/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, APPEARING IN THE NEWSPAPER IS CORRECT. HOWEVER THE NEWSPAPER TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY ENDORSE THE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT

SPS Library Students Protest Lack Of Internet, Other Facilities

Agencies

Srinagar: Scores of students from various districts Monday staged a protest in the premises of SPS Library Srinagar alleging that authorities are disinterested in resolving the problems they face on a daily basis in the library.

The protesting students said they don't have internet access inside the library which is one of the biggest public libraries in the Valley.

"Washrooms are unhygienic, besides there is no canteen facility" they said.

They said the reading room space is not enough and in this scorching heat, there is no AC installed in the 'mega' library.

"Authorities don't offer any internet facility to the students inside the library. That is OK but the irony is that our own mobile internet doesn't work inside the library. This is the source of frustration for the students," they said.

"We don't have any canteen facilities. We have to take lunch outside the library," they said, adding that toilets are unhygienic and nothing is being done to clean them.

One of the civil service aspirants said that they face a lot of inconvenience in this scorching heat. "There is no cooling system in the reading rooms which are always jam-packed. The atmosphere inside the library is choking and not conducive for study. A peaceful reading room is every student's basic necessity. The congested rooms with no internet and cooling facilities mostly fail to provide a conducive study environment," she said.

The protesting students said that they brought these issues to the notice of authorities, but nothing was done to resolve them.

"We will continue our protest until our problems are resolved," they said. (KNT)



A Boy takes a dip in Dal Lake amid soaring temperatures in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

ACB Arrests Patwari For Accepting Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday trapped and arrested a Patwari for demanding Rs 50,000 and accepting Rs15,000 bribe for issuance of revenue extracts.

"Anti-Corruption Bureau received a written complaint wherein it has been alleged that Gulzar Ahmad Makloo, Patwari, Halqa Zakura, Srinagar is demanding Rs. 50,000 as bribe for

issuance of revenue extracts of land in favour of the complainant," ACB said in a statement to GNS.

"The complainant alleged that he approached the Patwari for issuance of revenue extracts of land and the Patwari asked him to pay Rs50,000 for the same. The deal was later settled for Rs 15,000 as first instalment for the same," it said, adding, "On this the complainant approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the erring revenue official under

relevant section of Law."

As the contents of the complaint prima facie disclose commission of offence as defined under section 7 of the PC Act 1988, accordingly a case FIR No 26/2022 was registered at PS ACB Srinagar and investigation was started, it said.

"During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught red-handed the alleged accused namely Gulzar Ahmad Makloo, Patwari, Halqa

Zakura, Srinagar while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 15000/- from the complainant as an instalment," it said, adding, "The bribe money was recovered from the possession of the accused in presence of independent witness."

The accused was arrested on spot and legal formalities were carried on for further course of necessary action, the ACB said.

"Further investigation is going on".

DC Reviews Developmental Works In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Monday undertook an extensive tour of City areas to inspect progress of work being carried out at Qamarwari on Noor Jehan bridge. He also visited Anchar Lake to take stock of measures being taken for its restoration and rejuvenation.

At Qammerwari, while inspecting the pace of works on 127-meter-long Noor Jehan Bridge being constructed over River Jhelum at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore, the Deputy

Commissioner instructed the concerned executing agency to work in double shifts to ensure timely completion of the bridge so that people of the area are benefited. He also finalised the process of shifting of utilities coming in the alignment of the Approach Road.

To take stock of the measures being undertaken for the restoration and rejuvenation of historic Anchar Lake, the DC also visited Khushal Sar-Anchar Lakejunction at Aiwa Bridge, Zoonimar on Dr Ali Jan Road.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildar

Eidgah to undertake demarcation of boundaries along the Anchar Lake from Zoonimar to Jenab Sahib Soura so that its original width is restored. The Irrigation & Flood Control department was also directed to start work of dredging in the Lake to restore and rejuvenate its original glory.

The DC also visited Jenab Sahib Soura and Umerhair Buchpora area along the banks of Anchar Lake to have first-hand appraisal about the Anchar Lake and action plan prepared for restoring decades old glory of the Lake.

Disengaged ICDS Helpers Stage Protest

Agencies

Srinagar: Scores of disengaged Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Helpers to Supervisors Monday staged a massive protest in Srinagar demanding revocation of the disengagement order.

The disengaged Helpers to Supervisors appeared at the Press Enclave

Srinagar and raised slogans against the order like "we want justice, revoke the order."

The protestors said they have been working in the department for more than 20 years and were performing multiple tasks from election duty to vaccination, adding that for the last three years they were without salaries.



Regd. No. A-2586

Aura Aesthetics

ADVANCED DENTISTRY & MEDICAL AESTHETICS

SKIN | HAIR | DENTAL & LASER CLINIC

Our Derma / Cosmetic Services

PRP, MESOTHERAPY FOR FACE AND HAIR, CHEMICAL PEELS, DMC PIXIGENUS MEDIFACIALS, IONOFACIALS, HYDRAFACIALS, CARBON PEEL, TATOO REMOVAL, LASER HAIR REMOVAL, SCALP MICROPIGMENTATION, MELASMA, WART REMOVAL MOLE REMOVAL, ACNE TREATMENT, UNDER EYE TREATMENT, MICRO BLADING, BB GLOW, SKIN WHITENING GLUTATHIONE IV DRIPS COLLAGEN/PEPTIDES TREATMENTS AND MUCH MORE

Our Dental Services

Root Canal Treatment & Extraction (Adults & Kids)

Bridges (Crowns)

Restorations (Fillings)

Implants

Smile Designing with Emax Crowns

Veneering(Indirect & Direct)

Teeth Whitening In Office

Scaling

Fixed Orthodontics

Braces and Invisalign

Surgical Tooth Removal

Implants

Pediatric Dentistry




@AURA_Aesthetics


@AURA Aesthetics

For Details Contact: 9797-703533 JAWAHAR NAGAR NEAR J&K BANK

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI

CALENDAR

05- Zil- Hajj

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 41
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:50
ISHA	9: 29

This Day In History

- 1813- War of 1812: Three weeks of British raids on Fort Schlosser, Black Rock and Plattsburgh, New York begin.
- 1814-Americans defeat British & Canadians at Chippewa, Ontario
- 1830-France invades Algeria, begins a 40 year conquest
- 1865- Great Britain delegate's world 1st maximum speed laws
- 1914- Germany offers Austria war aid to fight against Russia in Serbia
- 1940- Diplomatic relations broken between Britain & Vichy government in France
- 1941- German occupiers disband political parties
- 1943- Liberator bombers sink U-535 in Gulf of Biskaye
- 1945- World War II: Liberation of the Philippines declared.
- 1954- B-52A bomber made its maiden flight
- 1962- Algeria gains independence after 132 years of French rule
- 1966- Saturn I rocket launched at Cape Kennedy
- 1970- Air Canada DC-8 crashes 7 miles from Toronto's airport killing 109
- 1977- Pakistan's army, led by Gen Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, seizes power
- 1978-Soyuz 30 spacecraft touches down in Soviet Kazakhstan
- 1983- France invades Algeria
- 2003- SARS is declared "contained" by the WHO

From KO Archives

Towering Desperation Pushes Youth To New Heights

Jobless Electropaths Threaten to Jump Off Mobile Phone Tower

Observer News Service

Srinagar, July 02: To draw the attention of the government towards their plight, jobless graduates in electropathy who are on a relay hunger strike for the past two-and-a-half months today threatened to commit suicide by jumping off a mobile tower, while several strikers were taken into custody when they tried to set themselves ablaze. The strikers spent the day atop the tower and were still there late at night, with a couple of policemen keeping watch at the base.

The strikers demand that electropathy be recognized as a part of Indian Systems of Medicine and employment avenues be made available to them. The government, however, has been persistently refusing to recognize their degrees. The strikers, who have been camping in the press enclave here for the past two-and-a-half months, tried a novel method this morning to grab the attention of the government and to shake it out of its apathy: three of them, Rasheed Ahmad, Sajjad Ahmad, and Mushtaq Ahmad, scaled the mobile phone tower near the Khidmat Press, and draped in white shrouds and waving the banner of their association, raised slogans against the Government.

As news spread that, the unemployed graduates intended to leap off the tower as a mark of protest, scores of policemen, paramilitary personnel and news crews gathered at the scene. The police established contact with the precariously perched strikers with a view to persuade them to come down, but they refused to do so unless the government gave some assurance about recognizing their qualifications and opening opportunities for their employment.

One of the strikers atop the tower, Arshad Ahmad, told the CNS on mobile phone that they had been forced to take this extreme step because no one had paid heed to their peaceful protests.

Accepting that suicide was expressly forbidden by religion, the graduate said that it was the government that had forced them to take this desperate course.

Earlier, when the strikers were climbing the tower, four of their colleagues on the ground, Abdul Qayum, Hilal Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad and Abdul Hamid, tried to set themselves on fire.

The police, however, overpowered them just in time, and shifted them to the Kothi Bagh police station.

When contacted about the electropathy graduates' strike and their subsequent suicide bid, the divisional commissioner for Kashmir, Mahboob Iqbal, said that the administration had been activated, and a magistrate had been assigned to keep an eye on the situation in the press enclave.

He said that the strikers have held a meeting with the secretary health, Kulbhushan Jandial, and minister for health, Mangat Ram Sharma, and that he was hopeful of an acceptable solution to the issue soon.

(Kashmir Observer, 05 July, 2007)

Jammu &Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)

(AJ&K Government Undertaking)
Office of the General Manager (Marketing)
Sanat Ghar Bemina, Srinagar

For and on behalf of Managing Director J&K SICOP, e-tenders in two cover system are invited from reputed/registered firm on the website www.iktenders.gov.in for the following works:

S. No.	e-NIT no	Name of work	Bid Start Date	Bid End Date
1	SICOP 11 (PME) of 2022 Dated: 29.06.2022	Supplying, installation, testing, and commissioning of Fire Fighting and detection works for office/ Showroom of Government Arts Emporium at Residency Road Srinagar.	29.06.2022 (1200 Hrs)	20.07.2022 (1600 Hrs)
2	SICOP 12 (PME) of 2022 Dated: 30.06.2022	Electrification work/ jobs at Office Complex (Ground & Second Floor at Pandrethan Srinagar	30.06.2022 (1400 Hrs)	21.07.2022 (1500 Hrs)

Complete bidding process will be online (Price Bid not to be submitted in physical form)

DIPK-NB-2164/22

Sd/-
Project Manager (E)
SICOP Kashmir

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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

K O V I E W

Polythene Ban

The Jammu and Kashmir government recently banned single-use plastic in the Union Territory. On June 30, the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) issued a public notice prohibiting the production, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic. The government's move came following the blanket ban imposed by the centre on single-use plastic items from July 1 this year. The administration has given all the indications that it is serious about implementing the ban. And what better occasion to announce the ban and seek to enforce it than around the International Plastic Bag Free Day on July 3. But the government's resolve will be tested by what happens on the ground.

Our past experience with government bans on the use of plastic has been bitter. Successive governments haven't ever implemented them seriously. The truth is that the use of polythene bags is rampant across Kashmir, posing a serious threat to the environment. And this was despite the fact that legislation banning the use of polythene has been in place and the implementing agencies had to just do their job. But they were not doing this. The polythene bags were allowed to enter Kashmir at Lakhanpur Check Post and distributed across the region.

In 2014, expressing displeasure over the non-compliance of its directions on polythene ban, the J&K High Court directed 14 deputy commissioners of the then state to show cause as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them "for defiance of the court orders."

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation on preservation of environment, a division bench of the then Chief Justice MM Kumar and Justice Hasnain Massodi had observed that the status report filed by the deputy commissioners was not in keeping with the earlier directions passed by the court. But this hardly made any redeeming difference.

Now the situation is such is that polythene is everywhere. There's hardly any shop in the Valley where you can't get polythene carry bags. Though polythene pollution is a worldwide phenomenon, in Kashmir the penetration seems to be even deeper. Research published in the journal Anthropocene in 2016 has revealed that no part of the planet is free of the scourge of plastic waste. Supermarket bags, compact discs, nylons and other plastics litter roads, croplands and water bodies. The impact has often been highly damaging. The study states more than 300 million tonnes of plastic is manufactured every year. But the study argues, that the humble plastic bag and plastic drink container play a far greater role in changing the planet than has been realized.

So, there is an urgent need to end this criminal negligence towards our environment. More so in Kashmir, the paradise on earth, whose natural beauty draws lakhs of tourists every year. Let us hope that this time around the government is serious about enforcing the ban and saving our fragile environment from its far-reaching impact.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Dogged by inflation

Provisional output in May across the eight core industries, spanning coal to electricity, grew by an average 18.1% from the corresponding month in 2021, when the COVID-19 pandemic's second wave had badly disrupted economic activity. Core output growth was led by double-digit year-on-year expansions in refinery products, electricity, steel and coal, which together account for three-fourths of the index. The four sectors bearing weights of about 28%, 20%, 18% and 10%, respectively, posted expansions of 16.7%, 22%, 15% and 25.1%, respectively. Cement and fertilizers, too, saw robust growth of 26.3% and 22.8%. However, on a sequential basis, growth in output over April 2022's levels was significantly slower, reflecting the 'optical illusion' created by low production in the year-earlier period. While the index as a whole registered month-on-month growth of 2.6%, petroleum products expanded 1.9%, electricity grew by 1.5%, and steel by a relatively healthier 5%. Disconcertingly, cement, a key building material that reflects activity levels in the job-intensive sectors, actually saw output shrink 3.2% from the preceding month.

The more up-to-date June PMI data separately show price pressures dampened manufacturing growth to the slowest pace in nine months. June's PMI reading eased to 53.9, from 54.6 in May, amid a broad-based slowdown in orders, production, exports and input buying as customers cut back on spending amid inflation worries. Inflation, in fact, so dominates companies' assessment of the outlook that it depressed business confidence to the lowest level in 27 months. A majority 95% of the purchasing managers at the approximately 400 manufacturing companies polled by S&P Global cited the elevated price pressures as the main reason why they foresee no change in output from current levels in the year ahead. The silver lining in the survey, though, is that manufacturers reported their first shortening of input lead times since the onset of COVID-19, a positive augury for businesses' ability to scale up production quickly once demand revives. The onus is on policymakers to ensure that both monetary and fiscal action is focused on reining in inflation. Anything less risks affecting recovery.

The Hindu

High Court Rescues Right to Property in Kashmir

In a recent judgement, the High Court reiterated that Right to Property is a Basic Human Right but there's still executive delay in respecting judicial orders

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Very recently, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on the Government (Roads & Buildings Department) for not paying compensation to a land owner from Bandipora district whose land was used for construction of a bridge around 5 years back. In addition to imposing a penalty, the High Court division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mittal and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani directed the Government to assess and determine compensation for the land. Rs one lakh per year for five years as rent for 9.053 Marlas (2500 sq feet approx.) of the forcibly acquired land was also levied.

The land owner Shabir Ahmad Yatoo had moved from pillar to post to get land compensation to no avail until he sought judicial intervention through his counsel Advocate Javid Ahmad Parry.

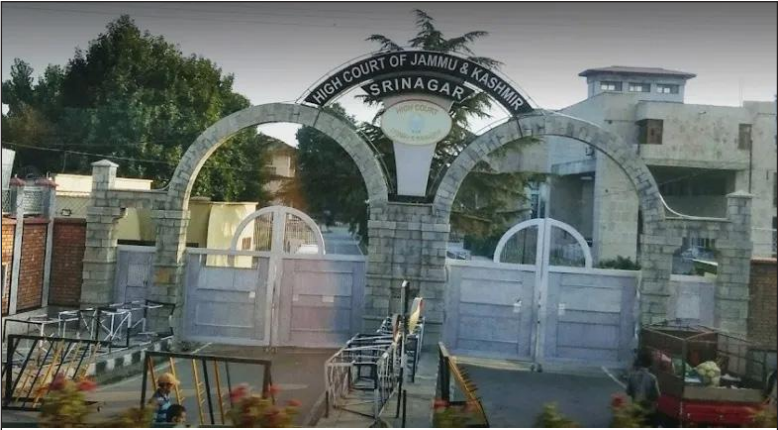
The High Court Order Reads

"The aforesaid facts and circumstances clearly reveal that the private land of the petitioner has been taken over by the respondents forcibly without the consent of the petitioner and without taking recourse to any procedure prescribed in law. It is also an admitted fact that the petitioner has not been paid any compensation in respect of the said land though the determination/assessment of the compensation is under way as per the stamp duty rate. It is well recognized that Right to Property is a basic human right which is akin to a fundamental right as guaranteed by Article 300 A of the Constitution of India and that no one can be deprived of his property other than by following procedure prescribe in law", the High Court division bench observed.

Facts clearly reveal that the respondents (Govt) violated the basic human right of the petitioner and had deprived him of his property without following any procedure of Law. The division bench of High Court also said that the respondents were liable to be penalized for violating the basic human right of the petitioner and at the same time to pay compensation of the said land at stamp duty rate prevalent today as well as the rental compensation for its use and occupation from the year 2017 till date.

The order further reads"

"Accordingly, the respondents are directed to assess and determine the compensation of the aforesaid land payable to the petitioner at the stamp duty rate as prevalent today in the area within a period of 6 weeks and to make payment thereof within a further period of 3 months. The respondents at the same time shall also pay token rental compensation for the use and occupation of the aforesaid land from the year 2017 till 2021 i.e., 05 years @ Rs. 1.00 lac per year within 3 months from today. 10. In addition to the above, on account of violation of the right



J&K High Court | File Photo

to property of the petitioner which is guaranteed by the Constitution, the respondents are directed to pay special penalty of Rs. 10.00 lacs to the petitioner within a period of three months. In the event, the aforesaid amounts are not paid within the time stipulated, it will be open for the petitioner to move an application and to bring it to the notice of the Court whereupon the Court will swing into action and take appropriate coercive measures against the respondents for the realization of the aforesaid amount may be as arrears of land revenue. The writ petition is, accordingly, disposed of"

Forcible Land Acquisition in Ramban

In the last few years, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has issued several judgements and landmark orders on forcible land acquisition. One of these is the judgement dated 30th December 2021 wherein High Court Division bench not only penalized the Government but also directed the respondents to acquire land under the Right to Fair Compensation Act 2013.

Some years back, the Rural Development Department had illegally acquired land in village Pogal Paristan of Ramban district. The department also constructed a community hall on private land belonging to two brothers, Kishen Singh and Bishen Singh without paying compensation to the landowners. The aggrieved landowners filed a writ petition in Jammu and Kashmir High Court. A division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mittal and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani ordered that non-payment of compensation to affected landowners in a remote village of district Ramban was a violation of human rights.

The order said that it was an abuse of process of law if the petitioners were deprived of fair compensation for their valuable property. The court directed the Department of Rural Development to pay Rs. 10 lakh as penalty to the aggrieved land owners and directed the Collector, Land Acquisition to issue a fresh notification for acquisition of land.

As I had been following the Ramban forcible land acquisition case for last 7 months, I spoke to Advocate Rajdeep Singh Thakur the counsel of the petitioners Kishen Singh and Bishen Singh. He

informed me that inspite clear directions from High Court division bench, the penalty amount has not been paid by the Govt even after 7 months of the order. Although the Department of Rural Development has sent the case to Finance Department for the release of funds but the money is yet to come.

This is yet another issue to mourn that High Court orders are not implemented unless people go for contempt proceedings. This takes a lot of time and energy.

Baramulla Land Acquisition Case

In February this year, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir had imposed a fine of Rs.10 lakh on the Government for 'unnecessarily' dragging a litigation against a land compensation case that had hampered timely compensation to the landowners. In this case also, the division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar while issuing orders in the case (OWP No. 2084 of 2018), had said that it was concerning that the state is acquiring private land without payment of full compensation to the rightful owners.

"This kind of action or omission on the part of the state authorities is not acceptable and cannot be allowed to continue for an indefinite period.", the division bench had observed.

The petitioners in the case, all residents of Kanli Bagh, Baramulla had invoked a writ in J&K High Court for the quashing of the entire land acquisition proceedings in respect to about 150 Kanals of the land (19 acres approx.) which had been notified for acquisition for public purposes: the Government had to develop a Housing Colony at Sangri in Baramulla and the land was required for the same.

The petitioners alleged that only a tentative award was made in 1998 but they were being denied compensation for their land. The court in this case too observed that the right to possess and occupy land/property used to be a fundamental right and is still a constitutional right akin to a fundamental right. It has been recognized even as a basic human right.

"In view of Article 300 A of the Constitution of India, no person can be deprived of his property otherwise by following the due process

of law. Therefore, the non-payment of the compensation as provided under the statutes amounts to depriving the person of his right to the property. There is no dispute to the fact that the land measuring 150 kanals and 03 marlas stands acquired and that its possession has been taken over and handed over to the indenting department decades ago but till date final award has not been passed. The Collector, Housing and Urban Development Department, as per the draft award has disbursed the amount of compensation to the extent of 75% in respect of the land measuring 85 kanals and 02 marlas but no payment of land measuring 22 kanals and 06 marlas of the propriety land and 42 kanals and 15 marlas of the State and Shamlat land has been made to anyone.", reads the High Court order.

The division bench also stated that the aggrieved families had been deprived of proper compensation for the acquired land which is clearly violative of the statutory provisions of the Land Acquisition Act and Article 300 A of the Constitution of India. The court claimed that these amounted to a denial of basic human right to the villagers for about forty years.

Conclusion

Since the last few years, the Judiciary has been very serious about forcible land acquisition in Jammu & Kashmir. In spite several landmark judgements/orders from High Court Judges and Chief Justice, the Government failed to implement the same. There is half a dozen more cases wherein High Court division bench has issued strict orders against the Govt for depriving people of fair compensation which the High Court said was the worst kind of human rights violation. In the case of the Srinagar Ring Road project, the Government not only acquired the land by force in many villages but they also damaged crop and chopped off fruit-bearing trees. The road is being constructed in many areas and land owners are helplessly watching the plunder of their land as they haven't yet received the compensation. The compensation is determined as per rates applicable in 2017 and the Right to Fair Compensation Act 2013 extended to J&K post article 370 isn't being applied at all. The aggrieved people's last hope is the Judiciary but the Govt keeps making unnecessary delays in implementing judicial orders. One can only hope that this is viewed seriously by the Judiciary and Executive both, as such actions defeat the legal process and the constitution.

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

The author is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder & Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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

Environment and Education

WORLD Nature Conservation Day acknowledges that a healthy environment is the foundation for a stable and healthy human society. It is celebrated on July 28 annually. The main purpose of celebrating World Nature Conservation Day is to conserve the animals and trees that are on the verge of going extinct from the natural environment of the Earth. This day also recognizes that a healthy environment is the foundation for a stable and productive society and to ensure the well-being of present and future generations, we all must participate to protect, conserve, and sustainably manage our natural resources. Conservation of resources has an important role in protecting our mother Earth. The balance in the natural beauty of the earth can be maintained by preserv-

ing various components of nature - water, air, soil, energy, vegetation, minerals, fauna, etc.

The world is facing many challenges related to environment. On one hand, the world is developing at an alarming rate while on the other hand the destruction of natural resources is going on. Today, the human society is facing severe environmental problems like climate change, greenhouse effect, energy crisis, depletion of natural resources, biodiversity loss, pollution of air, water, soil, etc. The scope of the problems is from local level to global level. The ever increasing population and changing lifestyles are increasing the severity of the environmental problems. The time has come to protect the natural environment through precise efforts.

Education is one of the key solutions for this situation. The best

way to spread awareness regarding the Conservation of World nature is through education. A carefully designed learning system through which youngsters are exposed to various aspects of environmental conservation would help them develop a deep understanding of it. Children shall become aware of the threats of environmental degradation and encouraged to act responsibly. Education does not only teach the name of a flower but also its importance for the ecosystem.

A well designed environmental education system gives both theoretical as well as practical exposure to environmental conservation. A child would think a thousand times before plucking a flower if he knows its importance in balancing the ecosystem. Schools can have cleanliness drives on campus where children make sure

that everything is kept clean and litter free. From classes to school playgrounds - they should be made to feel responsible for keeping all areas spotlessly clean. They should also be encouraged to participate in cleanliness drives in their communities.

Schools can also make sure children start learning about environmental preservation from an early age. If children are being taught about water as an EVS (environmental studies) topic then teachers can cover local water bodies like lakes and rivers. They can apprise the children about water scarcity and ask them to creatively think of ways to conserve water by water harvesting, innovate means to keep water bodies clean and so on.

M Ahmad

Islam and Community Development

M Ahmad

COMMUNITY development practice has been need of almost all nations and is practiced in various ways through governmental or non-governmental efforts. Main theme includes service provision and problem solution at grassroots level with maximum participation of community people without any discrimination. Community development is the result of joint efforts of local community people for promoting their collective welfare and improving their lives. It means a philanthropical gesture or initiative that is made with a view to bringing a change for the betterment of the life of community. Community development focuses on solution of community problems and bringing positive changes. All initiatives of community development bring social changes and Islam also believes in it. Community development improves quality of life and Zakat is an ideal example of it in Islam. Religion Islam guides its followers to help the needy through various services and community development also emphasizes on service provision. Islam and community development encompass principles of self-help and social justice and bring stability and solidarity in the community. Community development practitioners need to get guidance from Islamic practices for better working in local communities. Islam brought real and practical changes in all walks of life i.e., social, economic, moral and political transformation. Islam guided for changes in the social set up to build a changed society overall. Islam gives very clear and comprehensive concepts to improve quality of life. Muslims are guided for hardworking to survive and fulfil their needs which could improve their daily lives. Islam makes its followers responsible for themselves and for society too.

The tools for equitable distribution of wealth in Islamic economic system for over all development of the Society can be divided into two categories i.e. obligatory institutions and non-obligatory institutions, contents of former are Zakat, whereas the latter consists of Waqf, Sadaqas, and Infaq, etc., Quran and Hadith both have given emphasis on it. Zakat is a religious institution to tackle poverty and promote welfare in the Society irrespective of religion. It is a social pillar encouraging Muslims for bringing social justice and equity in communities. It improves quality of life of various



types of community members. It is a beautiful and workable system of fair distribution of wealth among community members. Waqf also plays a vital role for enhancement of quality of life of poor communities. It is an important socioeconomic institution in the Islamic state and is a powerful institution for community facilitation which provides social, medical and educational initiatives in the community. Nevertheless, Islam remains as a clear outline of how those key concepts and principles should be implemented. Participation from all members of the community is necessary. Man must do something good for the community and prevents any negative elements

that might affect the community. In other way, it means that Islam generalizes the purpose of each concept, including the form of behavior which ultimately able to develop their communities by placing them as the best among other people

Meanwhile, Sadaqas (charity) has no fixed percentage and one is free to pay it as many times as one can afford or feel inclined to it. Infaq is basically pious spending in the way of Allah. It has a significant importance in Islamic economic principles, with reference to redistribution of wealth and elimination of poverty for the development of Society. Khums refers to the required religious obligation of any Muslims

to pay one-fifth of their acquired wealth from certain sources toward specified causes

Islam is against injustice, inequality and discrimination. Social relationship among Muslims is based on the concept of sacrifice where they share some amount of their finances for virtue and they gain community consciousness feelings. The Holy Quran says "Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but righteousness is one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask for help and free slaves, establishes prayer and gives zakah; fulfill

their promise when they promise; and patients in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous." (Surat Al-Baqarah, 2:177)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW), said: "Charity does not in any way decrease the wealth and the servant who forgives, Allah adds to his respect; and the one who shows humility, Allah elevates him in the estimation (of the people)." (Muslim)

M Ahmad, Former Incharge Abhedanada Home-Higher Secondary Institution for Inclusive Education, Solina, Srinagar, J&K and can be reached at specialchivers7@gmail.com

Covid Vaccine Efficacy and Weight Issues

Nerys M Astbury
Carmen Piernas

Since the pandemic began, more than 6 million people have died from COVID around the world. The good news is that we now have a wide range of treatments as well as highly effective vaccines which have helped reduce the number of severe COVID cases.

Still, some people are more likely to get very sick or die from COVID than others. Our research, carried out before vaccines became available, showed that obesity is one of the factors that increases a person's risk of being hospitalised or dying from COVID. We have now followed this up with a new study looking at how body weight affects the uptake and effectiveness of COVID vaccines, and discovered that being underweight can also be a risk factor for severe disease.

Obesity is measured using the body mass index (BMI). This is calculated by dividing a person's weight in kilograms by their height in meters, squared. A person with a BMI below 18.5 is considered underweight, in the range of 18.5–25 is considered healthy weight, above 25 is considered to be overweight, and above 30 is considered obese.

These early findings on the people most at risk were used to support policies that prioritised certain groups of people for vaccination. This included people with a BMI of 40 or above.

Other research from before the COVID pandemic has shown that people with obesity are less likely to take up seasonal flu vaccines. There's also evidence to suggest that some vaccines work less well in people with obesity, although we don't fully understand the reasons for this.

WHAT WE DID

In our new study, published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, we used anonymous health records from more than 9 million people aged 18 and older in England. Our data covered the period from December 8 2020 (the date the first COVID vaccine was administered in the UK) until November 17 2021. During this time, 566,461 people out of the 9 million tested positive for COVID, of which 32,808 were admitted to hospital and 14,389 died.

To investigate vaccine effectiveness across different body weights, we looked at the risk of severe COVID outcomes (such as hospitalisation and death) across the full BMI range. Within BMI groups, we compared people who were vaccinated with people of the same age, sex and other characteristics who hadn't been vaccinated.

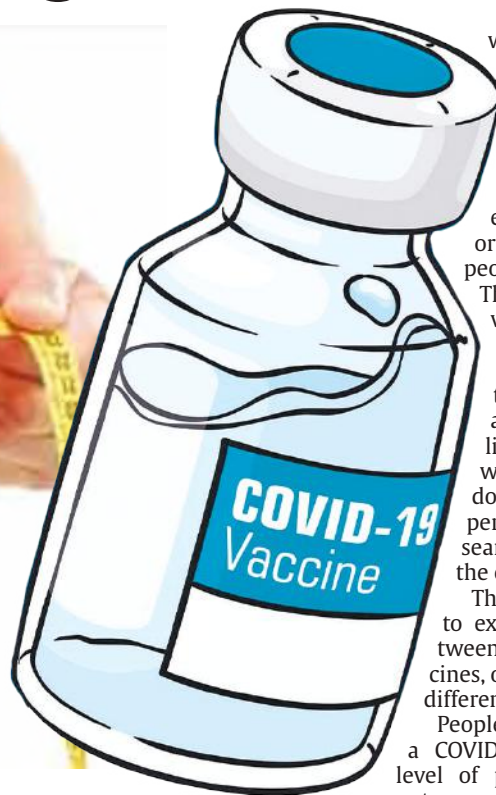
We found COVID vaccines were highly effective against severe outcomes in all BMI categories, especially after the second and third doses. After the second dose, vaccinated people in healthy weight, overweight or obesity groups were almost 70% less likely to be hospitalised as a result of COVID than their



unvaccinated counterparts. Similarly, vaccinated people in the healthy weight, overweight and obesity groups were around 60%–74% less likely to die from COVID than unvaccinated people with the same BMI.

Our results indicate that COVID vaccines may be slightly less effective in people who are underweight. Vaccinated people who were underweight were around 50% less likely to be hospitalised and around 40% less

COVID vaccines were highly effective against severe outcomes in all BMI categories, especially after the second and third doses. After the second dose, vaccinated people in healthy weight, overweight or obesity groups were almost 70% less likely to be hospitalised as a result of COVID than their unvaccinated counterparts. Similarly, vaccinated people in the healthy weight, overweight and obesity groups were around 60%–74% less likely to die from COVID than unvaccinated people with the same BMI



with at least one dose. Although vaccination massively reduced the likelihood of severe COVID, people who were underweight and those with obesity remained at greater risk of hospitalisation or death from COVID than people of a healthy weight. This was also the case before vaccines were rolled out.

The associations became less significant among those who had received a third dose. But as only a limited number of people were eligible for the third dose by the end of the study period, we'll need further research to better understand the effect of boosters.

The data also didn't allow us to explore any differences between the different COVID vaccines, or to assess the influence of different COVID variants.

People who have two doses of a COVID vaccine receive a high level of protection against severe outcomes, regardless of their body weight. Given the slight reduction in vaccine effectiveness in people who are underweight, targeted efforts may be needed in this group to increase vaccine uptake.

Even though severe outcomes were much rarer after vaccination, people in the underweight and obese groups were at significantly higher risk compared to people of a healthy weight.

Public health strategies to help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight have many benefits. One important one may be to help reduce the burden of severe COVID.

By arrangements with The Conversation

CS Directs Integration Of All Online Services With RAS By July 15

Calls Public Satisfaction The Yardstick For Measuring The Achievements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday chaired a meeting with the Administrative Secretaries of different departments to review the integration of Rapid Assessment System with the online services offered by the Government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary Home, Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Principal Secretary, GAD, Principal Secretary Irrigation and Flood Control, Commissioner Secretary Rural Development &PR, Commissioner/Secretary, FCS&CA and other senior officers attended the

meeting.

Secretary IT, Deputy Commissioners and other officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

While chairing the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to ensure that offline processing of cases for the services offered online should be dispensed with completely and switchover to online mode for better monitoring and transparency with feedback from citizens be ensured by 15th of July. He maintained that the satisfaction of public with respect to service delivery should be the yardstick for measuring our achievements.

Regarding the services under PSQA, he passed on directions to the DCs to ensure all

services are made available to the citizens within the stipulated time frame. He said PSQA timelines of these services should be synchronized with the online portal and any default on providing services within notified timelines should be monitored by departments for taking action against the commission of willful derelictions.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned to conduct surprise inspections and submit inspection reports with respect to the offline/online processing of cases. He also directed that all issues pertaining to complete switchover including the payment gateway issues shall be ironed out within a week's time.

The Chief Secretary also

directed the concerned to involve the CSCs and Khidmat Centres to further facilitate ease of services to the citizens, besides directed for regulating the fee charged by the services providers.

The Chief Secretary took brief from DCs about the number of online services and directed them that people should feel assured about timely service delivery.

It was informed by Secretary IT that apart from 207 services, 23 additional services are under integration and will be dedicated for public use very soon. It was also assured that all these services would be assimilated with RAS for public feedback and suggestions.

states, had opted for ACs," Adnan said, adding that this year's massive demand is a first time situation for dealers.

"This year, we see higher demand led by the economic recovery and early summer. Since 2020, the AC market is going up year after year, and that trend has definitely increased at a massive rate this year," Baba added.

Industry players also say that higher prices are clearly no deterrent to sales. "Even though prices have risen, demand is good," says Yawar Yaseen, owner of M.Y.Y. dealers. "There has been strong retail demand in the past one week and I believe that Kashmir will see an unexpected AC sales this year, for the first time."

He further added that the highest demand is for 1.5 ton hot & cold AC. "The basic rate starts from 30k[Base end] and goes upto 60K. However, in the initial days, people were going for the base end AC but now that demand has increased and the availability has decreased, everyone is buying the premier AC. We're selling over 200 ACs in a day," Yawar told Kashmir Observer.

Besides this, the dealers also say that there's a surge in the demand for service of old Air conditioners. "Since mercury has risen, our fitters are literally finding ways to have lunch. We receive hundreds of daily calls for services of old ACs," a dealer based in Srinagar told Kashmir Observer.

He further added, "Customers typically have a budget in mind when they walk into the showroom. So they buy whichever model suits their pocket. But, when they reach our showroom and experience the dearth of AC availability, they're ready to buy even the premier one which may cost at least 60k. By Allah's grace, this is for the first time in the past one decade that we've done a profitable business," says the Srinagar dealer.

When asked about the average sale of ACs, he replied, "I sell at least 200 ACs every day including 100 high value ACs."

Pertinently, the Industry players have also noted that due to the high demand in ACs, few companies have delayed their new consignment to Kashmir till September. "A top AC brand has directly informed us that they won't be able to ship our new consignment till September given the high demand of ACs in Kashmir," Adnan Baba told Kashmir Observer.

According to a popular retailer of electronics in Srinagar's downtown, the huge demand in ACs has led to a shortage of the cooling gadget.

"The demand is so high that we're encountering a shortage of AC," says Aijaz Ahmed, owner of Cute electronics. "We're also expecting an increase in the demand in the coming days."

BJP Disowns

conspiracy to target our leader, the BJP leader told reporters.

Congress activists on Monday staged a demonstration here against the BJP, accusing it of sheltering militants.

Shah, the mastermind behind the recent series of explosions in Rajouri, along with his Kashmiri associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama were overpowered by villagers of remote Tukson Dhok in Reasi district early Sunday and later handed over to police. Two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

Some pictures emerged on social media purportedly showing Shah with BJP leaders. One of the pictures shows J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina purportedly presenting him with a bouquet and a letter issued by party leader Sheikh Bashir on May 9, assigning him the responsibility of new IT and social media in-charge of Minority Morcha (Jammu province).

Carrying the posters of the LeT militants sharing a stage with BJP leaders including Raina, Congress activists emerged from the party headquarters at Shaheedi Chowk here and tried to take out a protest march.

However, the police stopped the protesters who later returned to the party headquarters after making failed attempts to break the police cordon.

That Shah was an active member of BJP's IT cell needs no proof but it is a matter of concern and a big security lapse, Congress working president and former minister Raman Bhalla told reporters.

Shah's pictures with Raina and even with the home minister speak volumes about his association with the BJP which facilitated his induction into the party and also to a top post in the IT and media cell, Bhalla said and questioned the "failure of the intelligence agencies in detecting the presence of a terrorist in the BJP".

It a serious security breach and failure of intelligence agencies, which needs high-level probe and action, he said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the BJP was using criminal elements to perpetuate its agenda of "communal division and hatred".

"First the Udaipur murderer & now an LeT militant caught in Rajouri both have active links to the BJP. The ruling party is using criminal lumpen elements be it cow vigilantes or terrorists to perpetuate their agenda of communal division & hatred," Mehbooba charged in a tweet.

The former chief minister said had these accused had been associated with any opposition leader, multiple FIRs would have been filed.

The Aam Aadmi Party too targeted the BJP. "This is neither a coincidence nor an experiment. ...The BJP's relationship with terrorists should be probed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

"This is a very serious and national interest issue," AAP leader Sanjay Singh said.

Bhalla said the BJP cannot absolve itself of the responsibility.

Right from Jammu and Kashmir to Udaipur, the presence of such elements in BJP is a matter of great concern..., the Congress leader said.

The Congress had alleged that the accused in the killing of a tailor in Udaipur were BJP members but the BJP had denied the charge.

The Congress spokesperson said the party will not stay silent on the important issue concerning national security.

BJP spokesperson Abhinav Sharma, meanwhile, said the letter in circulation, allegedly issued by Sheikh Bashir, is under investigation.

Whether Bashir gave him (Shah) the charge unofficially was not cleared yet as the posting in IT and media cell is made at the highest level, he said.

He termed as a myth that Shah was an activist of the BJP and said he was making frequent visits to the party headquarters as a journalist and clicked pictures with senior leaders.

We request the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and his administration to strengthen the security of the BJP headquarters and the party leaders, especially Raina who is facing threat from anti-national elements since a terrorist has visited the office, he said.

Questioning the silence of NIA, Bhalla, however, said, "They should probe the high-security places he has visited using BJP leader's identity. It is a matter of probe. The BJP should apologise over this."

"The terrorists are penetrating the cadres of the BJP and party, which calls themselves nationalists, should tell people what are these terrorists doing in the BJP," he said.

But Sharma termed it a conspiracy to target BJP leaders.

"His (terrorist's) intention was to undertake recte of BJP office and share the movement of the BJP leaders with Pakistan-based terrorists," he said.

"A conspiracy was hatched and his frequency of visiting BJP office increased. Raina is under threat. His visits to the office are a part of this conspiracy," he said.

Talib Had A Brief

district, where he had gone to convey his appreciation to the villagers who helped police arrest two most-wanted LeT militants -- Shah, the mastermind behind a recent series of explosions in Rajouri, and his associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama.

The two terrorists were overpowered by the villagers of remote Tukson Dhok early on Sunday and later handed over to police. Two AK assault rifles, a pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

Some pictures emerged on social media purportedly showing Shah with Bharatiya Janata Party leaders. One of the pictures shows Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina purportedly presenting Shah with a bouquet and a letter issued by party leader Sheikh Bashir on May 9, assigning him the role of the IT and social media in-charge of the party's Minority Morcha (Jammu province).

Responding to a question about Shah's association with the saffron party, the DGP said, "Such elements always make attempts to take cover at such places where they can continue their (anti-national) activities. It is a matter of happiness that he did not remain in the party for a long time. He had a brief association with the party."

"He is being questioned and we will share details with you once his interrogation is complete," he said when asked about Shah's intention behind joining the BJP.

The DGP said inimical elements try to outsmart the security arrangements.

"It is not just a matter of a political party. He (Shah) was also posing himself as a mediaperson. He is not the first mediaperson to be arrested as we have arrested many such people in the past and such arrests will take place in the future as well.

"They will try to take shelter and we are duty-bound to identify and nab them," the top police officer said.

Singh, who announced a cash reward of Rs 2 lakh for the villagers who overpowered the two terrorists before handing them over to police, said Pakistan and its agencies, through militant groups, are making repeated attempts to revive terrorism in Jammu province but "the Jammu police has played an appreciable role in thwarting their attempts".

"I have come to appreciate our young friends who showed exemplary courage and took on the two heavily-armed terrorists with bare hands, giving a clear-cut message

that we will not allow the revival of terrorism," the DGP said.

He said people living in the remote areas saw the brute face of militancy when militants used to forcibly intrude into their homes, take shelter and even exploit their women.

"The villagers have done a great job which is praiseworthy," Singh said, adding that terrorists are killing innocent people "at the behest of Pakistan and its agencies".

Referring to the attack on police personnel Firdous Ahmad in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Sunday, the DGP said the policeman challenged his attackers and escaped with two bullet injuries.

"The selective and targeted killings are part of the Pakistani conspiracy to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Singh said the people of Kashmir are fully cooperating with police and other security forces, leading to successful anti-militancy operations.

He said the people have always stood with the security forces. "There are some black sheep in every community but mostly, the people are with the establishment, with police and we are thankful to them," the DGP added.

PAGD Will

Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and was scrapped on August 5, 2019. The Centre had also bifurcated the erstwhile state into two UTs- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The Election Commission has set in motion the preparations for holding assembly polls in the Union Territory. It has initiated the revision of electoral rolls following the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Election Commission will publish the finalised electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, the union territory's first voters' list after the boundaries of the assembly seats were redrawn.

In a letter to the chief electoral officer of Jammu and Kashmir, the poll panel has given a timeline to complete various activities before the final publication of the electoral rolls.

Drone Spotted

reporters in Samba.

However, a BSF officer said there are no such reports about drone sighting.

Security forces were mobilised and a search operation was conducted, officials said.

On Monday morning, a massive search operation was launched in the entire border belt from Chilliari to Manguchak area to find out if the drone had dropped any object on the Indian side, they said.

Drones were also used in the search operation the area, they said, adding nothing has been found.

Security personnel have been asked to remain alert in view of threat of drones, they said.

Magnitude 3.2

no reports of any loss of life or damage to any property so far due to the tremor, the officials said.

Biker, Pillion Rider

a nearby health facility, where both of them were declared as brought dead on arrival", the official said.

The official in the meantime identified the deceased duo as Adil Ahmad Shah son of Nisaar Ahmad Shah and Rashid Ahmad Shah son of Ghulam Hassan Shah, both residents of Baba Yaptora Lolab.

"We have registered a case into the incident for further investigations", the official added.

Electric Shock

at the hospital declared him dead.

A police official told a local news agency GNS that the cognizance of the incident has been taken.

J&K Logs 58 Cases,

said, Srinagar reported the highest 25 new cases of Coronavirus and Baramulla, Kupwara and Kulgam reported one case each. No new cases of infection were detected in the remaining six districts of the Valley.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 18 fresh cases of virus, Kathua six, Udhampur three, and Rajouri one.

Also, the officials said that one more person died of Covid-19 related complications in Jammu division, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4757 in J&K—2332 in Jammu and 2425 in Kashmir.

"Moreover, 58 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 46 from Jammu division and 12 from Kashmir division," they added.

Police Sounds

are advised to act as responsible citizens while using internet and Not to provide wifi /hotspot connection to strangers otherwise action under law shall be taken against them if found to be an act of communication for subversive activities," the spokesperson said.

He also urged the internet users to keep hotspots or wifi with strong passwords and change passwords frequently.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Remote Rx

be chided as Rou'es Kath, which literally means Russian Sheep."

These remote medicos would be largely shrugged and snubbed in the strife society where cult medical status still draws and determines clinical patient footfall. Apart from being denounced as the "mediocre medicos", they faced othering due to a wrong medical move.

"With the result," Qayoom says, "many of us wouldn't advertise our medical degrees for the fear of labeling and libels. At times, a quintessential Kashmiri wit pierces you so deep that it creates an existential crisis for you!"

Decades later, chickens came home to roost for many vocal critics of the Russian doctors in Kashmir, as it surfaced how most of the Kashmiri students are being trained as doctors in Bangladeshi medical colleges.

Amid the Covid lockdown situation, some of these stranded students sent home SOS involving civil society and ministerial intervention in clearing decks for their homecoming.

"I remember how some people thanked pandemic for exposing the so-called medical scam in Kashmir," says Ruqaya Ali, a medical student in Dhaka.

"All and sundry in Kashmir were suddenly wondering—'How come so many Kashmiri students are studying Medicine in Bangladesh?' Some even thought that most of us are there in Bangladesh on the controversial PM-type scholarship. It was a totally crass and canard attempt to disrespect our hardwork and talent."

That public spectacle, however, soon turned ugly when many dismissed these doctors as "second hand" professionals — thus confusing the second-hand clothes aka "Bangladeshi maal" with this budding medical force of Kashmir.

"This mindset is problematic," continues Ruqaya. "People need to understand that Kashmiris have least opportunities available to them at home. Not all of us can quality NEET or make peace with the paltry education being imparted in North Indian institutes. Bangladesh for some of us is a preferred option, for its quality education and least distance. English as a medium of language further makes it a convenient campus for Kashmiris in the entire south and central Asian countries."

Even as the tagging has since then thawed just like the pandemic, the growing culture for Bangladeshi campuses is now determining a new routine and reality in Kashmir.

Apart from the preferred overseas campuses, like Ukraine, Singapore and Malaysia, Bangladesh has emerged as the most-desired medical destination for Kashmiri students since 2010.

Around 8,000 students from the erstwhile state are reportedly studying in medical colleges across Bangladesh. Further, around 2,000-plus students from J&K annually move to Dhaka for medical studies.

Apart from tagging, the tense and terminal state of affairs is now creating the same challenging situation for these students as faced by their predecessors in Russian campuses once.

It was the night of January 12, 2022, when a 22-year-old Kashmiri girl in Bangladesh breathed her last. Seema from Budgam was a second year MBBS student and a topper of AddinSakina Medical College Jessore. Her untimely demise sent shockwaves across the valley and unsettled everyone including Kashmiri students studying in Bangladesh.

The death, many Kashmiri students say, exposed the searing stress for degrees in Bangladeshi campuses. Many Kashmiri students called home and broke down. "When that angle-faced Budgam girl died, I became so restless that I cried for home like a child," says Hadiya, 23, a third year medical student. "I remember telling my parents: 'I'm fine but nobody knows what happened

to Seema. She was a brilliant student and everyone is coming up with their version of stories. I'm worried.'"

Those who follow a grueling routine to bring home medical degrees from these overseas campuses know how vicious the campus life gets at times. The grading system is so ruthless that it even tests the best in business, says Hadiya. "It works on a simple formula," she explains. "Bigger the campus, bigger the burden. At the end of the day, these institutions are mostly concerned about impeccable results for their own brand building and promotion. Sadly, it all comes at the cost of the young medical students."

Such is the level of stress that a few days before Seema's death, a Kashmiri girl attempted suicide but was somehow saved by other roommates.

Back home when Hadiya's parents knew about it, they became worried. "If we've had enough options to admit our children in native medical colleges," Hadiya mother told Kashmir Observer, "then we would've never thought of sending our wards to Bangladesh."

Much of this classroom stress stems from the medieval mindset, says Sakeena, another Kashmiri student pursuing Medicine in Bangladesh.

"Teachers there hold grudges over little things," she says. "Sometimes they don't like your way of talking and sometimes they don't like your style of greeting. All this nonsense becomes too much to tolerate and takes a toll on our mental health."

Before caught in the vortex of tagging and tension, students come to Bangladesh with dreams in their eyes. Not easy to pocket, few Kashmiri parents sell their land and some spend their whole life savings to fulfill the wish of their children. Same happened to Arshi, a girl from North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Her parents took a loan of Rs 40 lakh for supporting her medical education in Bangladesh. But in 2021, her father died due to Covid and she went into depression.

When she went back to college, she faced hostility of her teachers. "I'm so afraid and even get anxiety attacks because I always think, 'What if my teacher fails me in an exam?' I can't afford to fail. I sometimes feel that we're just being treated as money-making machines but it's not so."

Kashmiri students come from a disturbed place and are already harbouring a distressed mindset, Arshi adds. "Once a teacher asked me a question and I responded in the best possible manner. But I don't know what pinched him. He told me in front of the whole class: 'These Kashmiris have very weak English.' I was embarrassed in front of students of different nations. It's too much to bear. We're not there for facing this recurrent embarrassment."

These silent classroom cases often take an ugly turn. In the beginning of the year 2022, the management of the International Medical College in Dhaka issued a notice to a Kashmiri student—suspending him for six months.

When the Kashmiri students approached the management and pleaded that the issue pertaining to a football match was solved on the pitch itself, their pleas fell on deaf ears. The cold response forced the student to do the unthinkable.

On January 26, 2022, when the students were going for dinner, they heard noise coming from the hostel area. They rushed to the spot and found the suspended student hanging to the ceiling.

Somehow his friends saved him. Regaining his senses after 12 hours, the student once again tried to commit suicide with the oxygen pipe.

"We face a lot of problems in Bangladeshi colleges," says Saima, a Kashmiri student. "Students from other countries are also sailing in the same boat. I don't want to get expelled from college so please don't mention my full name."

On the face of it, these issues might

Chief Secretary Reviews Eid Ul Azha Arrangements

Directs Officials To Intensify Market Checking



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday directed officials to intensify market checking and ensure all commodities are sold at already fixed rates, besides ensure availability of all essential supplies in the market to avoid hoardings and profiteering.

Mehta passed these directions in a meeting with the Administrative Secretaries of different departments at Civil Secretariat here to review the arrangements for the upcoming festival of Eid-ul-Azha, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the meeting was also attended by the Deputy Commissioners and representatives from Health, PDD, Jal Shakti, FCS&CA, Legal Metrology, Animal Husbandry and many other departments.

Out station officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary took a review of the ar-

rangements being put in place for smooth celebrations of upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festivities and directed the concerned to ensure adequate supplies of ration and other eatables so that people do not face any difficulty in this regard

He also directed the officers to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity remains available to the people during the festival.

He also took stock of the rates fixed by the Government and directed the officers to intensify the market checking and ensure all commodities are sold at already Government fixed rates, besides ensure availability of all essential supplies in the market to avoid hoardings and profiteering.

The Chief Secretary further directed the concerned to undertake cleanliness drives in the localities so that it wears a festive look. He also said that proper arrangements should be put in place at Eid Gahs as per the past practice for the convenience of the devotees.

With Eye On Polls, AAP Moves To Reorganise Its J&K Unit

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday dissolved its Jammu and Kashmir unit to revamp its structure with an eye on the assembly election in the Union territory.

The new Jammu and Kashmir unit of AAP will soon be announced, the party's election in-charge for the union territory Imran Hussain announced on Twitter.

"In view of upcoming elections & completion of delimitation in J&K, AAP is in process of formation of its organisation till village/booth level in J&K," Hussain, who is also Delhi Food and Civil Supply Minister, said on the microblogging site.

"All current units in Jammu and Kashmir are dissolved with immediate effect. New AAP-J&K organisation will be announced soon," he added.

In a statement, the party said the decision to dissolve its Jammu and Kashmir unit has been taken as part of its expansion plan across the country.

The party has moved in to re-

structure its Jammu and Kashmir unit with the election commission setting in motion the process of holding assembly polls in the Union territory.

Earlier this month, the poll panel initiated the revision of electoral rolls following the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Election Commission will publish the finalised electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, the union territory's first voters' list after the boundaries of the assembly seats were redrawn in the delimitation exercise.

In a letter to the chief electoral officer of Jammu and Kashmir, the poll panel has given a timeline to complete various activities before the final publication of the electoral rolls on October 31.

Buoyed by its stupendous victory in Punjab assembly polls earlier this year, the Arvind Kejriwal-led party has gone on a drive to expand its base across the country, with a focus on states and UTs that are going to assembly polls in the



next two years.

In what was seen as a boost to the party's expansion plan in Jammu and Kashmir, former state minister Yash Paul Kundal, ex-

legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia, DDC member Taranjit Singh Tony and former Congress leader Surinder Singh Shingari joined the AAP in April.

Along with these prominent faces, more than a hundred local leaders including village heads, block development council (BDC) members and district development council (DDC) members also joined the party on April 8.

In May, former State Education Minister Harshdev Singh, who was also National Panthers Party chairman, joined the AAP.

Along with him, Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party's state president Rajesh Pargotra, State Secretaries Gagan Pratap and Purshottam as well as its Delhi unit chief Suresh Dogra also joined the AAP in the presence of the party's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and other senior leaders on May 7.

Amarnath Yatra

LG Takes Stock Of Arrangements At Baltal Camp

Observer News Service

BALTAL: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the Baltal base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra and took stock of the arrangements made to ensure a safe and smooth pilgrimage.

At the camp, the LG enquired about the facilities, quality of services, well-being of yatrins and volunteers, an official spokesperson said Monday. Sinha, he said, also carried out on-site inspection of Control Rooms established there and directed officials for regular inspection of lodging, food, health facilities, sanitation and taking care of cleanliness drives along the yatra route and Base camp.

"The Lt Governor observed that UT administration has made adequate arrangements to ensure a safe and smooth yatra," he said.

According to the spokesperson, the LG was briefed by the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal on various arrangements including power and water supply, sanitation, toilet units, rural haat, street lighting, healthcare facilities, availability of ambulances, veterinary services, fire tenders, Traffic situation etc.



The DC, he said, informed that adequate mobile oxygen units have been placed on various locations, besides men and machinery are in place at vulnerable spots to tackle any exigency.

"The Deputy Commissioner also briefed the Lt Governor about the day wise status of the Yatrins arriving at the Baltal Base Camp and Yatrins who have returned from the Holy cave after paying obeisance," he added.

While interacting with the yatrins, stakeholders, and members of larger management committees, the LG, as per the

spokesperson enquired about their experience of the ongoing pilgrimage.

Sinha, he said, also extended his best wishes for their safe spiritual pilgrimage.

"Later, the Lt Governor had food at the Langar established at the base camp," he added.

The LG was accompanied by his Principal Secretary Nitishwar Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar, and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Army.

SASB To Take 'Feedback' From Pilgrims On Facilities

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Pilgrims visiting the Amarnath can now give their feedback to the shrine authorities for improving facilities.

The Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) on Monday launched pilgrim feedback services (PFS), officials said.

People can rate their experience on overall yatra facilities, accommodation, sanitation and food quality in the camps, besides giving suggestions and comments.

The system is taking the feedback directly through SMS from all the people who have undertaken the yatra, an offi-

cial told PTI.

Over 55000 pilgrims had offered prayers on the fifth day of the pilgrimage at the shrine, located at a height of 3880-meter and housing the naturally formed ice-shivling.

The official said that feedback is being used for continuous upgrading of facilities.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation has also employed young research assistants for two months to get feedback from pilgrims in Jammu city.

The annual 43-day yatra commenced from the twin base camps -- traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and

14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- on June 30.

A total of 39,269 pilgrims have left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha. The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on Raksha Bandhan.

Mehbooba Blames ED, CBI For MVA Govt's Collapse

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday said the credit for bringing down the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra does not go to BJP or rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde but central investigating agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate and CBI.

"BJP or Eknath Shinde did not do anything remarkable. The credit for bringing down the government in Maharashtra should go to investigating agencies like CBI, ED and NIA," Mehbooba told reporters here when asked about the fall of Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government.

The former chief minister of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir said the institutions, which ought to be working for the betterment of the country, were working at the behest of BJP government.

"Today, Shinde has 50 to 60 people with him and the (MVA) government falls there (in Maharashtra)," she added.

In response to a question about



alleged hardships faced by people due to the stringent security measures for Amarnath Yatra, Mehbooba said the pilgrims were guests of people of Jammu and Kashmir but their presence should not cause losses to the locals.

"It is our duty to extend our warm hospitality to the pilgrims, but we will have to think about the people who are getting affected. The transporters are suffering and so are the businessmen dealing in perishable items like fruits and vegetables," she said.

Mehbooba said while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has taken notice of the complaints, he should ensure that the orders he issues with regard to resolution of these problems are honoured on the ground.

Man Held In Bhaderwah Over Hate Speech

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A man, who allegedly delivered a hate speech during a protest against former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's derogatory remarks on Prophet Mohammad, was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Monday, police said.

Adil Gafoor, a resident of Bhaderwah, was arrested on June 12 when the town was under curfew in the wake of communal tension triggered by Sharma's insulting remarks and several social media posts by local right-wing activists in her support.

"On June 9, following a bandh call, law and order problems

erupted in the Bhaderwah area as the people, on the instigation of some trouble creators, of Bhaderwah took out processions," police said in a statement.

"...Gafoor surfaced (was found) to be a mastermind who instigated the processionists and also delivered hate speech and derogatory remarks against a particular community from Jamia Masjid, Bhaderwah. Being a serious threat to public order, the accused person has been booked under the PSA and lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail, Jammu," it said.

Two cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code are already registered against Gafoor at Bhaderwah police station, the police said.

Police Books Notorious Car Lifter Under PSA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police in Central Kashmir's Budgam district have booked a notorious and habitual car lifter under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for his continuous involvement in vehicle theft cases.

Riyaz Ahmed Rather alias Riyaz Gani of Nasrullahpora is the kingpin of a vehicle-lifting gangs operating in various districts of J&K especially in Budgam, a police spokesperson said Monday.

"There was huge resentment among the public for his involvement in repeated criminal activities of car lifting/theft incidents as such there was every likelihood

of turning of said issue of car lifting into law & order problems," he said, adding that the habitual thief was booked under PSA. The police spokesperson also urged the community members to be aware of such thieves/fraudsters who steal the vehicles and thereafter sell these to innocent gullible people.

"People are as such requested not to purchase vehicles without verifying the credentials of vehicle documents and not to fall prey to such fraudsters who usually sell these vehicles at low rates. Besides, register a complaint to the nearest police station if any such suspicious or fraudulent activity is noticed," he added.

Effective Health Care Delivery Top Priority Of Admin: LG's Advisor



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar said on Monday that that effective health care delivery is top priority of present administration and the government is making concerted efforts to make quality healthcare available to citizens of J&K at their doorsteps.

The Advisor made these while speaking at the workshop on "Availability & Affordability of Medicines for All", organised by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Gol in association with J&K, Drug & Food Control Organization and Price Monitoring & Resource Unit (PMRU), J&K at Auditorium of Government Medical College (GMC), here.

Principal GMC, Srinagar, Dr. Samia Rashid; Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration

(FDA), Shakeel Ul Rehman Rathar; Drugs Controller J&K, Lotika Khajuria; HoDs of different medical departments of GMC, doctors, medical students, large number of pharma entrepreneurs and other concerned stakeholders were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the workshop, Bhatnagar said that this workshop is important as it concerns one of the core areas of our healthcare system the availability and pricing of medicines and medical devices.

He added that the government is giving top priority to the health sector

Speaking on the importance of this workshop, Bhatnagar highlighted that events like this will set up the eco system for addressing the issues of availability, overpricing and black marketing of medicines. He remarked that for controlling overpricing and black marketing of medicines, active role of all stakeholders is a must.

J&K Bank Launches 'Iss Eid Ghar Ghar Khushiyan' Campaign

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Extending extra benefits for availing its various loan products during the festive season of upcoming Eid, J&K Bank on Monday kick started a country-wide business promotion campaign titled 'Iss Eid Ghar Ghar Khushiyan'.

MD & CEO, Baldev Prakash launched the campaign at the Bank's Zonal Office Mumbai with General Managers, Divisional Heads, Zonal Heads, Cluster Heads and other senior officers attending the function through Video-Conferencing mode from Corporate Headquarters, Zonal and Cluster Offices across the country. Speaking on the occasion, Baldev Prakash said, "Keeping the consumer benefits at its heart, J&K Bank has devised 'Iss Eid Ghar Ghar Khushiyan' campaign for the season of festivity around Eid. I believe people will find the festive offer attractive enough to avail our products during the campaign period."

Expressing hope that the campaign will be successful, he urged all the operational heads to drive the promotional campaign aggressively in their respective geographies to meet the targets set under the campaign within the stipulated timelines.



"The campaign has been devised to boost the Bank's retail business", MD said, adding that the top performers would be suitably felicitated at the end of the campaign.

On the occasion, all the operational heads unanimously termed the campaign 'timely' and targets 'reasonable'. They expressed their commitment to make the promotional campaign a grand success.

Products in the campaign primarily include Fresh and Used Car Loan, Housing Loan, Two-wheeler Loan, Commercial Vehicle Loan, Consumer Loan, Construction Equipment Finance, Loan against Property and Easy Working Capital Finance. Notably, the loan processing charges of all these products have been halved while as the margin requirements have been suitably relaxed during the campaign period that lasts till 31st August, 2022.

Before the Hon'ble Court of Additional District Judge at Sopore

In the case of:
Abdul Rashid Hajam
S/o. Late Ghulam Qadir Hajam
R/o Amberpora Trzoo
Tehsil, Khoie
District, Baramulla

(Caveator)

Versus
PUBLIC AT LARGE

(Non-Caveator)

In the matter of:

Caveat petition under section 148A of civil procedure code for providing right of prior audience to the caveators before passing any order if the Non-Caveator/or from anybody from the public may choose to file any proceedings against Caveator before this Hon'ble Court.

Counsel for the Caveator
Adv.Aasif Abdullah & Associates
Addl.District and Session Court Sopore

ASHRAF KEERI

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.

CORRIGENDUM- I

For the E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 37 of 06/2022 DT: - 24-06-2022 issued vide this office No: - PHE/MRD /TS/1133-39 DT: - 24-06-2022 and published vide No: 2022_PHE_175935_1, Kindly treat "Job includes repairing / fabrication and providing / replacement of following items" as deleted from S. No. 1 to 44." Rest all the specifications, terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No: PHE/MRD/1306-11
Dated: 04-07-2022
DIPK-5469-22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar.

88 Golfers From South India To Play On Kashmir Greens

Tourism Deptt. working hard to make J&K golf capital of country: Hafeez



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To further promote the golfing circuit in Jammu & Kashmir, a golf tournament is being organized here in which for the first time golfers from extreme South India are playing.

The Golf tournament is being played at Royal Springs Golf Course, Srinagar and Lidder Valley Golf Course, Pahalgam.

Beginning today (Tuesday, July 5), the tournament is going to see participation of 88 golfers from the Addicts Golfing Society of Southern India besides their local counterparts.

The Addicts Golfing Society of Southern India is one of the country's oldest golf clubs established in 1940s and presently has a membership of 1300 drawn from all walks of life.

The Department of Tourism has made all requisite arrangements to make the tournament

a success.

In this regard, Secretary, Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez on Monday reviewed the arrangements for the tournament in a meeting of officers of concerned agencies.

Addressing the meeting, Sarmad Hafeez said the Department is working hard to popularise golf tourism and make Jammu & Kashmir as the golfing capital of the country. He said J&K has huge potential in golf promotion and the Department is actively working towards realising the same.

It may be recalled here, that the Golfing circuit of Jammu & Kashmir comprising the iconic Royal Springs Golf Course, Pahalgam Golf Course, historic courses like the Gulmarg Golf Course and Kashmir Golf Course besides Jammu-Tawi Golf Course provides a rich and varied world class experience to visiting golfers which is unparalleled in rest of the country.

Kashmir Off-Road Cycling C'ship 2022 Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The second edition of open Mountain Terrain Biking (MTB) cycling championship was held at Syedabad Ompora, Budgam.

The event was flagged off by Secretary Sports Council J&K and around 90 cyclists took part in it.

Wahed Ahmed finished first while as Parvaz Hussain and Yasir Arafat took the second and third position in senior category.

In the category of youth boys Ikhlaq Hussain finished first, while Zulfiqar Ali and Azaan Ahmed finished second and third.

Later, Nuzhat Gul Secretary J&K Sports Council (JKSC), Mush-taq Bashir, owner Downtown Heroes FC, Basharat Qureshi

senior cyclist, Dr Mohd Akbar Khan Member JKSC, were present on the occasion and distributed prizes among the winners.

While interacting with the budding cyclists, Secretary JKSC highlighted the importance of cycling and participation of youth in games and sports. She assured them that every possible step shall be taken by the Sports Council to build modern cycling tracks and walk ways in all the districts of J&K.

Secretary JKSC also applauded the encouraging role of Cyclist Dr Mohammad Akbar Khan and Gulzar Khan, a sports promoter from district Budgam, who have been very inspiring in creating a favourable atmosphere for this sport in the district.

District Roll Ball Championship 2022 Concludes In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The District Roll ball Championship 2022 concluded on Monday at Gindun Sports Complex, Rajbagh. The championship was organised by J&K Sports Council (JKSC) in association with J&K Roll Ball Association, Kashmir wing.

The championship was held between 2nd and 3rd July, and more than 90 participants along with match and team officials took part in the event.

Nuzhat Farooq, Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir was the chief guest on the occasion. She was accompanied by Manager Gindun Sports Complex, besides other officials. Competitions in U-11, U-14, U-17 and Senior categories were held.

Team Blues trounced Team Reds in the senior category in a closely fought contest by a margin of 11:9 goals while as in girls category Team Jasmine won against their rivals Team Marigold by 4:3 goals in a thrilling competition. Similarly in U-17 category Team A

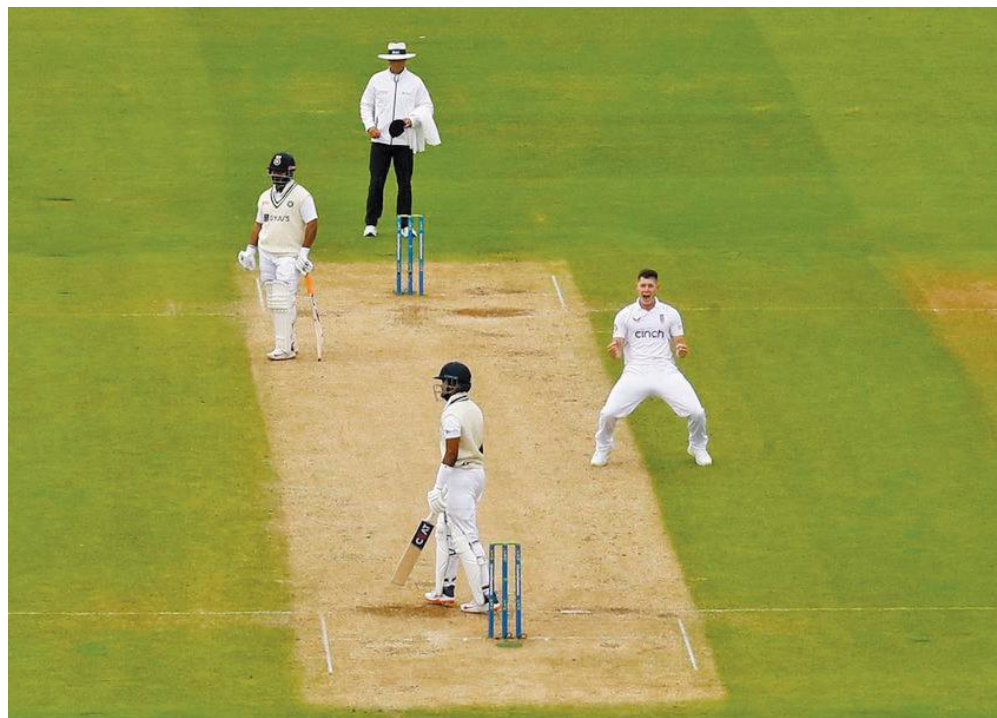
won by 13:9 goals defeating Team B in a battle of wits and in U-14 category Team Mehboob-ul Alam won against Team Naqshbandh by a margin of 5:4 goals.

Nuzhat Farooq, Divisional Sports Officer, Kashmir gave away the prizes to the participants and in her address on the occasion she appreciated the efforts of dedicated and experienced veteran sportsman Ashraf Dijoo for the grand success of this championship.

She also reiterated that the Divisional Sports Office has asked the concerned association to organise similar coaching camps and championships in other districts especially in Pulwama and Anantnag to tap the local talent.

While awarding Best Goal Scorer to Adeeb Wani for scoring 23 goals in this championship along with Best Goalkeeper award to Atif Lone, she said that our players have the potential and capability to make it big. The function concluded with the vote of thanks by Ashraf Dijoo.

Lees Gives England Flying Start In Record Chase



Reuters

BIRMINGHAM: England rode Alex Lees's unbeaten fifty to cruise to 107-1 in pursuit of a record chase on day four of the rearranged fifth test against India at Edgbaston on Monday.

India were all out for 245 half an hour into the day's second session, setting England a victory target of 378.

Lees, batting on 56, combined with Zak Crawley (46) to give

the hosts a rollicking start before Jasprit Bumrah ended the century partnership just before the tea break.

Ollie Pope was yet to open his account at the other end.

Lees and Crawley championed the attacking brand of cricket which is becoming the hallmark of the England test team since Brendon McCullum took over as the head coach and Ben Stokes assumed the captaincy.

They reached the 100-mark

inside 20 overs with Lees racing to a 44-ball fifty.

Crawley missed out on a half-century after deciding to leave a Bumrah delivery which jagged back to hit the top of his off-stump.

England's highest successful run chase came in 2019 when they reached a 359-run target in an Ashes test against Australia on the back of Stokes's brilliant unbeaten century.

Earlier, Stokes (4-33) ran through India's lower order.

Verbal Exchange With Kohli Part Of Game: Bairstow



Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: Star England batter Jonny Bairstow has played down the heated verbal exchange he had with senior India player Virat Kohli during the third day of the rescheduled fifth Test, saying it was part and parcel of the game.

At one point, the umpires had to intervene to cool down tempers.

"Nah, there was literally nothing to it," Bairstow, who hit 106 off 140 balls, said when asked about the heated exchange with Kohli.

"We've played against each other for a solid 10 years now. It's a bit of craic (having good

time, enjoyable social activity). We're fiercely competitive on the field and that's what it's about.

"We're playing Test cricket and we're two competitors. It brings the best out of us. Whatever it takes, you want to get your team over the line and that's part and parcel of the game."

After that altercation, Bairstow started chancing his arms and played a lot of lofted shots over mid-off and clipped a few towards the mid-wicket boundary.

Asked at the press conference after the third day's play if Kohli was "poking the bear", Bairstow replied, "It's a nice pun that in

it, really.

"We've been fortunate to play against each other for over 10 years now. So, we have had some battles on the field.

"I am pretty sure we will be able to have dinner. Don't worry about that," said Bairstow.

Bairstow's century was the cornerstone of England's 284 in reply to India's 416, a first innings deficit of 132 runs for the hosts. India were 125 for 3 at stumps on day three, extending their overall lead to 257 runs.

England are facing the prospect of a daunting fourth-innings target but Bairstow said "whatever we're set, we'll try and chase."

Spanish Football Federation Denies Probing Journalists

Agencies

MADRID: The Spanish soccer federation on Monday denied investigating journalists to determine who leaked audios and documents linked to president Luis Rubiales and Barcelona player Gerard Piqué.

The leaked material showed Rubiales and Piqué negotiating details of a lucrative deal to take the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia. Both have denied wrongdoing in the negotiations.

The Spanish daily newspaper El Confidencial, which published most of the leaked audios and documents, said Monday that the federation launched a probe into an El Mundo journalist to try to find out his involvement in the leaks.

The federation responded with a statement saying that it was only investigating two of its own employees as to try to determine their involvement in



the leaks.

It said they employees met with the El Mundo journalist, but reiterated that the investigation into them was legal.

The federation noted that the investigation is what led to the lawsuits against the employees, including Rubiales' uncle, Juan Rubiales.

The federation has been saying it has been targeted by a media campaign to disrupt Rubiales' presidency.

Spanish league president Javier Tebas again criticized Rubiales on Monday, saying it's time authorities do something to stop him from spying on people.

Inter-College Athletic Championship 2022 Begins At IUST

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A two-day Inter-college Athletic Championship for Men/Women 2022 was on Monday inaugurated at the Islamic University of Science and Technology in Awantipora.

The event is organized by The Directorate of Physical Education & Sports, IUST and is a first-of-its-kind event held in Kashmir. About two hundred participants, both boys and girls from different colleges of the valley are participating in the championship.

The two-day championship will include short/middle and relay races, Long Jump, Shot Put, and Javelin Throw. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Shakil Ahmed Romshoo (Vice-Chancellor, IUST) who was the Chief Guest at the event. Prof. Naseer Iqbal (Registrar, IUST) was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

On this occasion, Prof. Shakil A Romshoo said, "With the world-class sports infrastructure available, IUST endeavours to organize such sports events in the future as well. The recent para-athlete meet held at the

varsity was also first ever para-athlete meet in Kashmir. In near future, we plan to organize mega sports events with participation from other parts of the country. Such sports events also will help to develop a sense of leadership among the students."

"The focus is on the development of sports and empowerment of youth through sports and physical activities. This two-day event make us witness the unmatched sports spirit among the college boys and girls who very enthusiastically participated in different events of the championship," said Prof. Naseer Iqbal.

"Sports are essential for overall development of the youth. Events like this allow us to chisel the best among our athletes," said Dr. Hilal A Rather, Assistant Director, Directorate of Physical Education & Sports

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated the participating athletes for their exemplary efforts and distributed prizes among them. Dean Academic Affairs, Finance Officer, and other Heads and Deans were also present on this occasion.

Ganderbal Kickboxing Championship Begins



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A two-day District Ganderbal Kickboxing Championship began on Monday at Indoor Hall, Shepora, Ganderbal. The championship is conducted by Ganderbal Kickboxing Association under the aegis of Kickboxing Association J&K duly recognized with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Around 170-200 players from various schools, clubs and colleges are participating in this event.

The two day event was declared open by Fasil Ali Dar (Honourable Padmashree awardee) who was chief guest at the opening ceremony along with President Ganderbal Kick-

boxing Association.

They interacted with the participants and witnessed the demonstration by young boys and girls. On the occasion Fasil Ali Dar congratulated the organizing committee of the District Association for conducting such a wonderful, well-organized kickboxing event after a long time. On the occasion he counted the benefits of martial art sports for the youth in anti drug campaigning

General Secretary Ganderbal Association thanked the J&K Sports Council for providing Indoor Hall and other facilities to promote kickboxing at grass root level. This is the first kickboxing championship conducted after getting recognition from the

Arsenal Signs Gabriel Jesus From Manchester City



Agencies

LONDON: Arsenal signed Manchester City forward Gabriel Jesus on a long-term contract on Monday.

The Brazil international makes the move in a reported £45 million (\$54 million) deal. He scored 95 goals in 236 games over nearly six seasons at City and won the Premier League four times, League Cup three times and the FA Cup.

Jesus, 25, reunites with Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta, who was Pep Guardiola's assistant at City before taking over the Gunners.

"We spoke a couple of times about the club, the players, the project and the future," he told arsenal.com.

"I believe 100 percent in Mikel. I had a very good time with him

before, he's a very good guy and a very good coach as well.

"He helped me a lot. We would always stick together after the training sessions and do some finishing or something."

Arsenal needed reinforcement up front after the departure of Alexandre Lacazette, whose contract expired, and Arteta knew the man he wanted to come in.

"I'm very excited. The club has done a tremendous job to recruit a player of this stature," he said.

"I know Gabriel personally very well, and we all know him well from his time in the Premier League and being really successful here.

"This is a position that's been on our radar for a long time now and we have managed to get a player that we all wanted, so I'm really happy."