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KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Saturday 09 July 2022 | 09 Zil Hajj | 1443 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 159 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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Of Stress, Summits, Scholar—Kashmiri Mountaineer's Peak Odyssey

Zaid Bin Shabir

A few minutes before dawn on the 29th May 2022, a group—which seemed like a swarm of ants—set off towards a draining elevation in Kashmir countryside, just outside the main town of Kishtwar. The only difference was that it was a flock managed by three summit shepherds.

The man at the front was spooked by the early wind. The second caretaker, stationed in the middle of the fleet, was supposed to minimize exposure to injury, making sure that everyone ascended with the utmost caution. The last one—whose sporadic shouts alerted everyone about

the ridgelines and bare patches, buzzed up the silent mountains—was keeping a hawkish eye on trekkers at the back of it.

In Kashmir's mountain sites, a summer windstorm is a nuisance and a lure for both new high-climbers and the veteran guides. Its beguiling appearance certainly runs some people out of the high elevations but draws many others into it.

That day, there was nothing intrepid about that particular outing of these human-ants. The deceptive windstorm was neither a nuisance nor a lure towards nature's calmness. Some thought it was just a normal hike up a minor mountain of Arshan valley (known for its unremarkable four alpine lakes) which

cuts through the mountain pass of Sinthan Top—a popular tourist destination located between Anantnag's Breng Valley and Kishtwar's Chenab Valley—but most of them including the hawkish-eyed caretaker were there for an uncanny reason.

But, wouldn't it be cosmically stupid to kick off a hike without a meaning to enjoy nature on the way? This wasn't true for Amir—the affable and the hawk-eyed caretaker.

The young and restive millennial from the valley along with hundreds of newly recruited trekkers was venturing the Arshan heights to de-stress himself from the trace amounts of stress, increased heart rates, lost sleep, emotional interruptions,



anxiety, exasperation that daily entails and they were definitely there to detox themselves from

the intense desire to hide behind a phone which has become a default metric of living in the

urban slum of the valley.

"These hike ups aren't just a sight-seeing expedition but a trip to soothe one's soul to such an extent that they forget all of the worldly worries and troubles," Amir told me before gearing up for a new trek to Dumail—a pristine camping spot near central Kashmir's Naranag.

"At an elevation of several thousands, there's no one except you and your creator. These elevations help you find a purpose for yourself. It's the exact same place where you find glory—a reason to live."

In recent years as distress evolved to become a synonym of mental normalcy in Kashmir, the counselor chambers have changed into the **More on P6**

Militant, Soldier Killed In LoC Firefight

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Army on Friday foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district by killing a militant.

A local news agency KNO quoting official sources reported that soldiers noticed some suspicious movement along the LoC and challenged the intruders.

They said that militants attempted to infiltrate in Tangdhar and subsequently were challenged by the alert troops deployed along the LoC.

They added that militants opened fire, which was retaliated effectively, in which one militant got killed. The official sources also said **More on P6**

Cloudburst Hits Amarnath Cave, 15 Dead; Scores Missing

Observer News Service

Srinagar: At least fifteen people were killed and over thirty went missing after a cloudburst hit the mountain cave shrine of Amarnath near Baltal in central Kashmir triggering flash floods damaging pitched tents and community kitchens erected for the yatra during the 43-day pilgrimage.

An official on the ground said about 30-35 people are missing while five have been rescued.

NDRF Director General Atul Karwal told PTI that a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was based in the affected area even as two more teams from nearby locations of Barari Marg and Panchtarni have reached there.

"We have three teams comprising about 75 rescuers in action right now," Karwal said.

Meanwhile, an official of the union territory administration said that the Amarnath yatra, which began on June 30, has been temporarily suspended in



view of the tragedy, adding a decision on its resumption will be taken after rescue operations end.

The cloudburst struck around 5.30 pm amid heavy rainfall, officials said.

According to the automatic weather station at the holy

cave, the area received 31 mm rainfall from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

The gushing waters hit the base camp outside the shrine, damaging 25 tents and three community kitchens where the pilgrims are served food, according to officials.

Karwal said 13 people were killed, adding all the security forces and NDRF rescuers present in the area are working to ensure that relief and rescue operations are conducted for as long as required. However, several media reports **More on P6**

PM Anguished Over Loss Of Lives

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on the cloudburst near the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, and said all possible assistance is being provided to the affected. At least 15 people were killed in the cloudburst Friday evening, damaging 25 tents and three community kitchens, officials said. The cloudburst struck around 5.30 pm amid heavy rainfall, they said. "Anguished by the cloud burst near Shree Amarnath cave. Condolences to the bereaved families. **More on P6**

LG Closely Monitoring The Situation

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah about the loss of lives in a cloudburst near the Amarnath cave shrine. The LG spoke to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Home Minister Amit Shah and briefed them about the incident and ongoing rescue operation, an official spokesperson said. He said that the centre is extending all **More on P6**

Govt Sets Up Helpline

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday set up a helpline for the Amarnath Yatra, which has been suspended after a cloudburst near the holy cave left 10 persons dead and scores of others missing. The Lt Governor administration and the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) gave out four telephone numbers where people can get information about the cloudburst. "Helpline numbers for Amarnath Yatra: NDRF: 011-23438252 011-23438253 Kashmir Divisional Helpline: 0194-2496240 **More on P6**

Pilgrims Pray At Arafat As Hajj Reaches Climax

Agencies

Mount Arafat—Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims from around the world raised their hands to heaven and offered prayers of repentance on the sacred hill of Mount Arafat in Saudi Arabia on Friday, an intense day of worship considered to be the climax of the annual hajj.

Multitudes stood shoulder to shoulder, feet to feet, for the emotional day of supplication in the desert valley Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) delivered his final sermon, calling for equality and unity among Muslims.

The experience sent many pilgrims to tears. Muslims believe prayer on this day at Mount Arafat, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of the holy city of Makkah, is their best chance at salvation and spiritual renewal. The pilgrims set out for Arafat

before dawn, chanting as they trekked. They remain there until nightfall in deep contemplation and worship.

Men wore unstitched sheets of white cloth resembling a shroud, while women wore conservative dress and headscarves, their faces exposed.

The hajj is a once-in-a-lifetime duty for all Muslims physically and financially able to make the journey, which takes the faithful along a path traversed by the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) some 1,400 years ago.

Strict pandemic limits had upended the event for the past two years, effectively canceling one of the world's biggest and most diverse gatherings and devastating many pious Muslims who had waited a lifetime to make the journey. This year's pilgrimage marks the largest since the virus struck, although the attendance **More on P6**

MUSLIMS WILL MARK THE END of the pilgrimage with Eid al-Adha, or Festival of Sacrifice. The holiday commemorates the prophet Ibrahim's (AS) willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail at God's request.

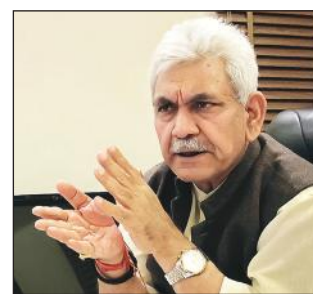
LG Cancels Police SI Recruitment; Recommends CBI Probe

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday cancelled the police sub-inspector recruitment following allegations of irregularities and recommended a CBI probe into the selection process.

Taking to Twitter, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the culprits will be brought to justice soon.

JKP Sub-Inspector recruitment has been cancelled & a CBI probe has been recommended



into selection process. Culprits will be brought to justice soon," Sinha said.

"It's a first big step towards

securing future of our youth & govt will soon decide future course of action for fresh recruitment, the LG said.

Last month, Sinha had ordered an inquiry into the selection of police sub-inspectors after allegations of fraud in the recruitment process surfaced.

The list of successful 1,200 successful candidates was declared by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board on June 4.

Over 97,000 candidates had appeared in the **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

ITBP Officer Shoots Self Dead

Observer News Service

An ITBP officer on Friday shot himself dead with his service weapon on duty in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. Prem Chand, who was posted as Assistant Sub-Inspector of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), shot himself at Mini-secretariat in Poonch Town, they said. He was rushed to hospital where he was declared brought dead, they said. Police have registered a case and started investigation, they said.

House Collapse Kills Man

Observer News Service

A 55-year-old man was killed while his other family members had a narrow escape after a landslide hit his Kacha house in Bandikamkhan area of Mandi in Poonch district, reports said on Friday. They said that the incident happened during night and the man, Abdul Karim Mir (55) was sleeping inside his kacha house. While he died on spot, the other family members had a miraculous escape. **More on P6**

J&K Closes 101 New Corona Cases

Observer News Service

The daily Coronavirus cases continue to show an upwards trend as over a hundred people on Friday tested positive for the deadly infection in Jammu and Kashmir, even as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours. According to officials, 56 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were detected in Jammu division and 45 others in Kashmir Valley, taking the total number of people **More on P6**

Doctor Killed In Ramban Road Accident

Observer News Service

A doctor was killed when his car skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Friday, officials said. The accident took place near Sangaldan town, they said. The deceased has been identified as Dr Muzaffar Ahmed Wani, a resident of Kulgam district, the officials said. Wani was on the way to home in Mahore, Kulgam, where he was posted as medical officer, they said.

Traffic Resumes On Banihal Highway

Observer News Service

One-way traffic movement resumed on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway after remaining suspended for several hours since Friday morning following landslides triggered by heavy rain in Ramban district, officials said. Vehicles carrying Amarnath Yatra pilgrims, that were stranded on the highway, have been allowed to move towards Kashmir, they said. **More on P6**

2 Washed Away In Rajouri Flash Floods

Observer News Service

Two people were washed away in flash floods triggered by heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday, prompting security forces to launch a rescue operation during which one body was recovered, officials said. The two were carrying out extraction of sand from Darhali Nallah using an earthmover and a tipper near Atlee Balla area in the early hours of Friday, they said. Sudden **More on P6**



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2

Covid-19 Endemic Stage Two Years Away, US Study Suggests

Press Trust Of India

The Covid-19 disease may reach endemic stage in the US in at least two years, according to a modelling study conducted in rats.

The researchers noted that illnesses like the common cold and the flu have become endemic in human populations, meaning everyone gets them every now and then, but for most people, they aren't especially harmful.

To develop a better understanding of when and how Covid-19 might become endemic, researchers at the Yale School of Medicine in the US turned to rats, which, like humans, are also susceptible to coronaviruses.

By collecting data on coronavirus reinfection rates among rats, they were able to model the potential trajectory of Covid-19.

Animals like pigs and chickens live with endemic coronaviruses, too, and a key factor identified in the spread of animal and human coronaviruses alike is their tendency to evoke what is known as non-sterilising immunity, they said.

"It means that initially there is fairly good immunity, but relatively quickly that wanes," said Caroline Zeiss, a profes-



sor at Yale School of Medicine and senior author of the study published in the journal PNAS on Tuesday.

"And so even if an animal or a person has been vaccinated or infected, they will likely become susceptible again," said Zeiss.

Over the past two years, scientists have come to see that SARS-CoV-2 yields non-sterilising immunity. People who have been infected or vaccinated are still at risk of reinfection. So experts expect that the virus won't go away any time soon.

Zeiss and her colleagues observed how a coronavirus similar to one that causes the common cold in humans was

transmitted through rat populations.

The researchers modelled the exposure scenario to resemble human exposures in the US, where a portion of the population is vaccinated against Covid-19 and where people continue to face natural exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

They also reproduced the different types of exposure experienced by people in the US, with some animals exposed through close contact with an infected rat (high risk of infection) and others exposed by being placed in a cage once inhabited by an infected rat (low risk of infection).

Infected animals contracted an upper respiratory tract in-

fection and then recovered. After three to four months, the rats were then reorganised and re-exposed to the virus.

The rates of reinfection showed that natural exposure yielded a mix of immunity levels, with those exposed to more virus through close contact having stronger immunity, and those placed in a contaminated cage having higher rates of reinfection.

The takeaway, Zeiss said, is that with natural infection, some individuals will develop better immunity than others. People also need vaccination, which is offered through a set dose and generates predictable immunity.

However, the study showed, with both vaccination and natural exposure, the population accumulates broad immunity that pushes the virus towards endemic stability.

The team then used this data to inform mathematical models, finding that the median time it could take for SARS-CoV-2 to become endemic in the US is 1,437 days, or just under four years from the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

In this scenario, according to the model, 15.4 per cent of the population would be susceptible to infection at any given time after it reaches endemic phase.

The virus is constantly going to be circulating. So it will be important to keep more vulnerable groups in mind. We can't assume that once we reach the endemic state that everybody is safe," said Zeiss. Four years is the median time predicted by the model, she said, so it could take even longer to reach the endemic stage.

This doesn't take into account mutations that could make SARS-CoV-2 more harmful, the researchers said.

"Coronaviruses are very unpredictable, so there could be a mutation that makes it more pathogenic, said Zeiss.



J&K Bank

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Zonal Office Srinagar

Extension of time

With reference to the tender notice No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22-Dt:-21-04-2022, followed by extension notice no. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22-Dated:-23-05-2022 issued by this office, regarding advertisement for premises for Branch Brein, Nishat, the last date for receipt of the tenders is extended up to 18th of July, 2022. The tender documents can be downloaded from the link www.jkbank.com. The parties who have already applied need not apply again.

Other terms and conditions shall remain the same.

No. jkb/zokc-1/Est/22-Dated:-08-07-2022

DIPK-NB-2286/22

Sd/-
Zonal Head
ZOS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform general public that I have lost my drug license under name and style Mattoo Pharmacy Lic. No.1107/08 situated at Kaka Sarai Karan Nagar Srinagar. Now I have applied for duplicate of the same. If anybody having any objection this may contact drug department within three days. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated time.

Khalid Nazir Mattoo
S/O Nazir Ahmad Mattoo

inf

DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SHOPIAN

Dated: 08/07/2022

Sub. Change of Title (Name & Style) & Change of Line of Activity in favour of M/s Rizwan Bakery & Confectionary.IE GagrenShopian.

That the unit namelyM/S RIZWAN BAKERY & CONFECTIONARY IE GAGREN SHOPIAN under the line of activity " Bakery& Confectionary Manufacturing, having proprietors, 1. ArifaMahmoodW/oRiyaz Ahmad Sofir/o GagrenShopian& 2. Parvaiz Ahmad MirS/o Mohammad Shareef MirR/o GagrenShopian is formally registered with GM DIC Shopian vide Regd. No 01/015/11/00233/PMT/MSME Dated. 19.05.2022.

The unit holders now want to change the Title(Name & Style) & line of Activity from Rizwan Bakery & Confectionary,under the line of activity " Bakery & Confectionary Manufacturingto Mir Brothers Joinery Millsas New Line of Activity Manufacturing of Joinery items. In this regard if any body has any objection with regard to the above mentioned subject in favour of above mentioned unit,He/Shemay file an objection to the office of GM, DIC Shopianwithin a period of Seven Days from the date of issuance of publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained.

General Manager,
District Industries Centre,
Shopian

fko

Twitter Says It Removes 1 Million Spam Accounts A Day

Associated Press

Twitter said it removes 1 million spam accounts each day in a call with executives Thursday during a briefing that aimed to shed more light on the company's fake and bot accounts as it tussles with Elon Musk over spam bots.

The Tesla CEO, who has offered to buy Twitter for \$44 billion, has threatened to walk away from the deal if the company can't show that less than 5% of its daily active users are automated spam accounts.

Musk has argued, without presenting evidence, that Twitter has significantly underestimated the number of these spam bots -- automated accounts that typically promote scams and misinformation on its service.

Twitter said on the call that the spam accounts represent well below 5% of its active user base each quarter.

Fake social media accounts have

been problematic for years. Advertisers rely on the number of users provided by social media

Securities and Exchange Commission for years, while also cautioning that its estimate might



platforms to determine where they will spend money. Spam bots are also used to amplify messages and spread disinformation.

The problem of fake accounts is well-known to Twitter and its investors. The company has disclosed its bot estimates to the US

be too low.

Last month, Twitter offered Musk access to its firehose of raw data on hundreds of millions of daily tweets, according to multiple reports at the time, though neither the company nor Musk confirmed this.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora

Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject: Mechanical and Electrical works required for commissioning of Water Supply Scheme Hariparigam New under NRDWP. Electrical & Mechanical works to be carried out at Water Supply Scheme Brenty Batpora (Tube well) under NABARD.

Reference: This Office ENIT No.: 21 (S No. 01 & 02) of 2022-23 Dated: 21-06-2022 issued vide No: - JSD/PHE/MDSA/1043-45 Dated: 21/06/2022.

Due to poor response of the ENIT 21 (S No. 01 & 02) of 2022-23, the above said works are hereby extended upto 11/07/2022 (04:00 pm) and the opening date of the Technical Bid is 12/07/2022 (12:00 pm) and other terms and conditions of the ENIT's remains same. Inconvenience caused is regretted.

No:- JSD/PHE/MDSE/Camp/04
Dated: 08/07/2022

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
South Awantipora

DIPK-5742/22

Office of the Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

DATE EXTENSION

Due to poor response received from Fresh: e-NIT No. 23 OF 2022-23 01,03,05,07,08,09,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,20,23,25,27 and 28 respectively, enit No30 OF 2022-23 UNDER SI No: 03,06,12 and 14 respectively and Enit No/29 OF 2022-23 UNDER SLNo:1,2,3,4,5,06,07,08,10,11,12,13,14,15, the critical dates are hereby extended as below:

1	Bid submission end date	12.07.2022 04.00 PM
2	Date and time of Bid opening	14.07.2022 11.00 AM Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the said NIT Shall remain unchanged.

NO/PHB/4135-55

D A T E D: 04.07.2022

DIPK-5567/22

Executive Engineer
JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FEROZPORA BASIN IRRIGATION DIVISION TANGMARG

(Office Phone No.01954-254611) (Email Address: fbdivisiontangmarg@gmail.com)

Tender clarification

Ref:-This Office E-Nit No.24 Of 2022-23 issued under endorsement No.FBID/ CC/1854-73 Dated:- 03-06-2022 for the work namely Construction of tube well irrigation scheme WariporaTangmarg (Civil + Electro Mechanical) .

This office has received some queries regarding various items of work involved in the above subjected Tender. These queries were in writing as well as telephonic.

The matter was examined thoroughly and the Executive Engineer MICD was also informed. Regarding the items of work involved in mechanical components of the Bid, the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar vide his No.MICD/857-50 Dated:-01-07-2022 has reported that

"It is here by submitted that the office has already provided the APENDEX in tender document regarding offered makes models of tender equipment wherein the tenderer can quote the model make and remarks if any which may be decided by tender accepting committee at the time of opening of tender /offering reasonable rete."

Furthermore there were some queries regarding rate structure of various items advertised. The interested bidders are informed that due care was taken of those items which were found below the market rates and due appreciation was already incorporated in the original estimate and same was reflected in the tender as overall appreciation.The bidders must be aware that some items have always fluctuating rates in the market and at the time of uploading of tenders those items are in tendon with market but due to their fluctuating nature there may be some difference with the advertised rates as on date as such the rates of such items cannot be decided in advance. Further more the quality of pipes for item 55 and 63 may be read as GI Pipes (Light Weight).

Here it is important to inform all the bidders that the rates advertised are always tentative that is why bidders are asked to provided their own rate structure in the advertised BOQ and the bidders are assured that at the time of Evaluation of the bids, genuinity of rates will have priority.

Yours Faithfully,
No. 2622-23
Dated:- 04-07-2022

DIPK-5574/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
F.B.I Division Tangmarg

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
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Twitter Talks



“SMC hoppers will come to your door step to collect sacrificial animals left over. Kindly dont pollute streams and rivers”
@RJSameenKhan
“People should understand that cracking casual jokes that’re racist/misogynistic/homophobic etc and saying they didn’t mean any of it, is hugely problematic. Stop normalising offensive humour”
@wordswala

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Forced out

By putting in his papers, the first chairman of the State Accountability Commission, Justice (retd) R P Sethi, has exposed the chinks in the government’s much-hyped war on corruption.
In absence of an official word, it is not clear whether the resignation has been accepted by the governor. Going by some sketchy reports that have trickled out, the governor has forwarded it to the chief minister seeking the advice of the government “on this important issue.” At the same time, he is reported to have told Justice Sethi “to approach and seek the indulgence of the chief minister” on various issues which might have created an atmosphere of uncertainty over the fate of the Commission. However, the no-nonsense former judge of the Supreme Court rightly refused to do so asserting that “in view of the prevailing situation, it was not proper for him to speak to anybody in the government.” Although the indications about the souring of relations between the government and the highest constitutional body charged with rooting out the canker were available only days after it was hesitatingly set up by the PDP-led government around the end of its 3-year stint, the inevitable seems to have come at the most unlikely time, when the chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, is in the midst of an all-out offensive against corruption in both administration and politics. The way the authorities have sought to create hurdles in the functioning of the high-profile body said to be a “deemed high court” ever since its creation did not leave even a grain of doubt in public mind that the government was not serious enough in its commitment to stamp out corruption from public life. For some time past, the Commission did not hold its joint sittings as required under the Act, perhaps for the most trivial of the reasons; that it didn’t have space on the dais for all its three members to conduct the hearings. Although Justice Sethi sought an amendment in its section 13 to enable constitution of separate benches to hold simultaneous sittings in Jammu and Srinagar, the government chose to sit over the proposal. Earlier, he had also asked for an independent investigating apparatus and the basic infrastructure in the shape of staff and accommodation.
Ironically, the ruling PDP, which led the coalition government for the first half of its 6-year incumbency, and established the State Accountability Commission not so much as a matter of conviction as to fulfill its main election pledge, never seemed to be serious in ridding the state of the cancer of corruption in public life. This was amply demonstrated by the delay it allowed in setting up the body for no strong reasons. By the time it was eventually formed, Jammu and Kashmir had earned the dubious distinction of being second most corrupt state after Bihar.
Much was expected of the incumbent chief minister, who has vowed to give the people a corruption-free administration during his stint, for which the SAC could have been the most lethal weapon available to him. Sadly, however, it has been during his tenure that the Commission has encountered most roadblocks. Going by the reports, the sinister nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals must have disenchanted Justice Sethi before he decided to take the harsh option. A large number of complaints the Commission received were against some sitting and former ministers and top bureaucrats who must have worked overtime to create the impediments. Indeed, Justice Sethi would not, on occasions, mind an unorthodox way to take on the corrupt which had even led to the raising of some eye-brows during the recent budget session of the state legislature inasmuch as the chief minister too was carried away by the insinuations of some members. Soon after his swearing in as SAC chairman, he had made no bones to even inspire sting operations to identify the corrupt. In his fight against corruption, he was keen to even assign a role to the Fourth Estate. Indeed, the gravity of the malaise would definitely call for an unconventional approach including a summary trial of the accused. Undeniably, the existing rules and procedures have proved to be totally ineffective to tackle corruption to the extent that various vigilance organizations find themselves embarrassingly unmatched for their daunting task. It is an open secret that they have themselves degenerated into corrupt outfits. With corruption cases accumulating by the day, the government has adopted a procedure under which the accused officials are even rehabilitated after some time of their suspension. All said and done, the government should come clean on its disposition towards the State Accountability Commission and its role as the premier constitutional body to rid the state of corruption in public life. The way the SAC, particularly its chairman, has been treated leaves one with an inescapable feeling that the government is not serious and sincere in rooting out corruption. The chief minister, in particular, needs to allay the misgivings created more so after the resignation of Justice Sethi.

The article is originally an editor from KO’s archives and was originally published on May 12, 2006

Amir Suhail Wani

From having the greatest gifts that the British constitution can bestow on a prime minister – a large majority to get legislation through the House of Commons and an election mandate to force things through the House of Lords – he is now a political loser

Rescuing Philosophy in Kashmir

The University of Kashmir doesn’t have a Department dedicated to the study of philosophy and this has been a contributing factor in our disengagement with the philosophical traditions of our own and their progression

A few days ago, Kashmir University’s Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) in collaboration with Indian Council of Philosophical Research New Delhi organised a seminar on ‘Kashmiri Philosophers and the Indian Knowledge System’ and the irony is not lost to any keen observer that the University of Kashmir doesn’t have a Department of Philosophy.

Kashmir has historically been the cradle of wisdom, learning and scholarship housing such philosophers as Vasugupta, Utpala, Abhinavagupta and dozens others, who casted the light of their wisdom upon the world around. Kashmir’s transition to Islam only furthered this process of intellectual chiming which culminated in the works of exegetes, poets and thinkers like Yaqoob Sarfi, H. Nowsheri, M.A.Badhakshi and others.

This continuity of intellectual tradition testifies that there has never been a point in our history when our land was intellectually barren or sterile. Kashmir continued to be the philosophical capital of the neighbouring countries inspiring such luminaries as Sankara to make a pilgrimage to this place in the quest of knowledge and spiritual contentment. Kashmir may not have to its credit, the scientific discoveries or technological advancements but it certainly has the honour of producing and housing literary and philosophical icons throughout ages. The ground for philosophy was so fertile that Kashmir has its own schools of Gnosis like Kashmiri Shaivism and Rishism. These facts have been restated so that we can understand the tragedy of what it means not to have the Department of Philosophy at our highest seat of learning – The University of Kashmir.

Philosophy has earned the reputation of being too abstruse, far removed from masses and unconcerned towards the lives of people in its mundane and pragmatic dimensions. This understanding is misconstrued and rests upon the distorted image of the subject. Philosophy is in fact the repository and treasure-trove of theoretical frameworks which underlie and define our engagement with our culture, fellow humans and our own selves. This understanding reclaims the department of philosophy as a space of cultural preservation and reconstruction bringing it closer to the pragmatic and practical dimensions of human life. In a paradigm like this, the absence of the Department of Philosophy at the highest seat of learning reflects the indifference and heedlessness we as a nation tend to have towards our culture, the legacy of tradition and our lackadaisical



For Representational purpose only

attitude in preserving the same. The rich and complex philosophical and literary tradition we had inherited from the glorious past is slipping from our hands and in absence of institutions and departments, individual efforts are going to make marginal differences.

Not having the Department of Philosophy has had its consequences like the bigger and paradigmatic ones as recounted above and more immediate and localised effects which are aired now and then. One of the salient and prominent effects of this has been the discouraging effect on students who want to pursue their higher studies in the subject of philosophy. Not having the Department of Philosophy, either steers them to places outside the valley or they give up the idea of pursuing higher education in the subject altogether. This is not only tragic but shameful too for a society which boasts of its philosophical past to see its children giving up the subject for the want of the department. Students have been raising their voice time and again and have been repeatedly requesting the authorities to initiate the process for establishing the department, but their voice seems not being paid attention to.

The importance of philosophy and its prominence as an academic discipline is well known. Plato said that, “an unexamined life isn’t worth living”, philosophy is the examination of life. It is a meta-science which defines, describes, corrects and elaborates upon the concepts used by other sciences. Philosophy is indispensable for our ability to understand other disciplines. Many important questions about a discipline, such as the nature of its concepts and its relation to other disciplines, are philosophical in nature. Philosophy of science, for example, is needed to supplement the understanding of the natural

and social sciences that derives from scientific work itself. Philosophy of literature and philosophy of history are of similar value in understanding the humanities, and philosophy of art (aesthetics) is important in understanding both the visual and the performing arts. Philosophy is, moreover, essential in assessing the various standards of evidence used by other disciplines. Since all fields of knowledge employ reasoning and must set standards of evidence, logic and epistemology have a general bearing on all these fields. In absence of this ground work, little progress is possible in other fields of intellectual and academic order, which depend so much on the concepts and frameworks served by philosophy. It has both the role as an active academic discipline which sifts truth from falsehood and has simultaneously the role of pointer in our lives, pointing us in the right direction whether we are confronted with an ethical dilemma or a problem of epistemological order. Even those who hurl criticisms of various orders against philosophy do philosophize one way or the other, thereby validating the necessity of philosophical outlook and the necessity of philosophy as an academic discipline.

It remains to be seen how long the authorities will postpone this seminal and indispensable necessity of setting up the department of philosophy. This is decisive for our intellectual engagement with the wisdom traditions of the world and more importantly the tradition we all have bequeathed in Kashmir.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a writer and columnist based in Srinagar

On Boris Jhonson’s Exit

David Allen Green

Today Boris Johnson, the prime minister of the United Kingdom, announced his resignation. The resignation of any prime minister is significant, but this one is remarkable.
Johnson has not lost any vote. In December 2019, he led the Conservative Party to an emphatic victory at the general election. His government has a substantial majority in the House of Commons. A few weeks ago he decisively won a vote of confidence of his party’s members of parliament.
And yet he is going against his will. From having the greatest gifts that the British constitution can bestow on a prime minister – a large majority to get legislation through the House of Commons and an election mandate to force things through the House of Lords – he is now a political loser.
He had everything a prime minister could want and it is now to be taken from him.
Political journalists and historians will for some time discuss how this fall came about. But from a constitutionalist perspective, this resignation shows both the strengths and weaknesses of the office of prime minister.

On the face of it, the office has immense power. In theory, the prime minister and their party are subject only to the discipline of general elections. But since 1974 every single prime minister has either gained office or lost office between general elections – or, with the cases of Theresa May and Boris Johnson, both.
This is because a prime minister depends on the confidence of both the cabinet and their parliamentary majority. When that confidence goes, they tend to go – usually with dignity, or – as with Johnson – arrogant defiance. These losses of confidence are, in turn, shown through things other than straight votes. They can be shown by calls for leadership elections and they can be shown by resignations and refusals to serve as ministers.
A prime minister could seek to ignore such signals. If so, they would eventually face formal parliamentary votes of no confidence or dismissal by Queen Elizabeth. There were fears that Johnson would “fight on” after the extraordinary spate of resignations and letters of no confidence over the last few days. But he has not.
A feature of a working constitution is that repugnant things can be spat out by the body politic. The casual dishonesty and cynicism of the current prime minister meant that he has been

ejected, only two-and-a-half years after his great general election victory. He may stay on for a while, so that the governing party can select a successor.
For him – and the United Kingdom polity – to have gone from the general election of 2019 to today’s resignation – has been quite the journey. We have now had three prime ministers in six years, and our politics is still in its post-Brexit unstable state. The next prime minister may go on for ages, or may be the next short-lived prime minister.
Whatever happens next, the truth remains that for all its public prominence, the office of prime minister is quite weak, once its holder loses the confidence of others in the polity. Johnson’s mistake was to think such constitutional restraint would not apply to him. But such hubris was always going to meet its nemesis.

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

The author is Former central government lawyer and legal commentator

A Meaningful Eid Gift SEERAT BOX FOR KIDS

“Seerat Box consists of eight major books that aim to instill Qur’anic ideas in the minds of kids. These eight books include The Book of Faith, The Book of Kindness, The Book of Rhymes, Environment and Quran, and The Book of Two Holy Lands. Arguably, four of these books from all the ideas on which this initiative has been based



Aaqib Anjum Aafi

Islam has focused a lot on the correct upbringing of the children. Traditions of Rasulullah ﷺ significantly discuss the duties of parents towards their children, and a true and correct upbringing is the major one. In contemporary times, where parents are occupied with their “work-load”, or their offices, they get very little time to spend with their children. This emotional gap between children from their parents often comes with the worst of repercussions. To address this burning issue, there have always been attempts made by many Muslim academics, activists and scholars, aiming to help parents in preserving the faith and belief of their children, at the least, by something, as little as a “vacation activity book”.

A few years ago, Sufyan Gigani, started publishing several age-group based activity books, from Gigani Publications, in Mumbai. This was hailed by scholars such as Mawlana Sajjad Nomani. Named as “Vacation Activity Journal”, Gigani’s endeavour received wide attention from Muslim parents. It comes differently for three age groups viz. 5-7, 8-10 and 11-16.

However, Gigani’s journal activity journal puts most of the load on the little kids, and doesn’t help much in bridging the parent-child gap. As the name of the vacation activity journal indicates, the little kids would play with the activity book and solve its puzzles when they were on vacations. Gigani, subject

to his various other endeavours, was not able to take this further, and this stopped in the Ramadan of 2021.

In the early 2022, there came another such endeavour, called “Seerat Box”, aiming to bridge the gap between parents and the kids. Thought of by Zeya Ahmad Quadri, Seerat Box consists of eight major books that aim to instil Qur’anic ideas in the minds of kids. These eight books include The Book of Faith, The Book of Kindness, The Book of Rhymes, Environment and Quran, and The Book of Two Holy Lands. Arguably, four of these books form all the idea on which this initiative has been based. The Seerat Box wants to keep the kids well informed about intricacies of time, and has thus included topics such as Earth, Space and Quran, Living Creatures of Quran, and Healthy Foods of Quran. If these eight topics are studied separately, they happen to form the primary basis of an upright Islamic society. In order to aid this idea, Zeya has taken Islamic stories from Amna Khurshed, and added two little story booklets to the Seerat Box, namely, “Mere Sohne Mohne Bache” and My Dear Kids, interestingly, a similar name in two different languages. There is another booklet named “Our Beloved Prophet”, spreading over not more than ten pages.

Besides books and booklets, there are certain activities that kids need to complete under the supervision of their parents. The best the Seerat Box gives us besides a platform of mak-

“This is something that makes it unique, at least in the developing publication of Islamic books in India, most of which, in my opinion, do not take care of copyrights for the most part

ing the minds of little kids, is its aid in bridging the gaps between parents and kids. According to Zeya, when his son was over one year old, he was searching for some material that he could utilise in his upbringing, but he failed to find anything meeting the standard of the time, making him realise a need to produce such a thing that could cover this gap. He believes that his first priority was that he wanted to tell his son who his Creator is, and connect him with the life of the Prophet from his early days without leaving anything beneficial and necessary from the modern age.

His search began with exploring material for the upbringing of his own son, and ended in the creation of “Seerat Box” aiming to help other parents as well in this noble endeavour

of upbringing.

Zeya’s idea has basically been to take care of the contemporary standards with traditional ideas being taken care of as well. Zeya did not want his child to grow under the influences of the West and this was the basis of his idea behind the creation of Seerat Box.

The books of Seerat Box thus utilise all possible modern means that could be used to attract a child to some specific idea.

Seerat Box contains two booklets of stories which aim to entertain kids. These stories have been taken from the writings of Amna Khurshed. Zeya says that he skimmed over and about three hundred books of stories available in the market but they are quite old. The stories that had been published about three decades ago continue to be published without any slight modifications, thus they do not meet the ideals and standard of our time, and this is why something new was required. The elders in our families have had a habit of telling little stories unrelated to real world, such as about fairy legendary women. Due to these stories being world, it had become very difficult for children a number of things, and these required explanations, and sometimes a change in the complete story. The search to look for compatible stories led him to the blogs of Amna Khurshed. According to Zeya, “Amna is aware of the psyche of the children of this age and takes care of their behaviour in her stories. She tells stories in a very attractive and

beautiful approach”. Amna is not widely acclaimed but Zeya’s thought that she should be appreciated and known around, taking inspiration from her stories, he decided to begin this through the Seerat Box.

Zeya Quadri comes from Muzaffarpur, in Bihar. He received his primary education at his hometown, and received his higher secondary education from Jamia Millia Islamia. He has a B.Tech and an M.Tech from Dehradun. Having such an educational background, he has followed in the footsteps of contemporary necessities. He has avoided taking anything from Google Images or directly copy-pasting the stories. Any art that has been used in the Seerat Box, he has paid for it and purchased its license from the copyright holder. This is something that makes it unique, at least in the developing publication of Islamic books in India, most of which, in my opinion, do not take care of copyrights for the most part.

Limitations exist in every second thing but Seerat Box aims at inspiring a specific age-group. In my opinion, Seerat Box is a successful try in this and it should receive more significant attention. A few days are left for Eid al-Adha, and I feel good in calling this a “nice Eid gift”. It should be given a try!

The author is a biographical researcher and founder of Deoband Community Wikimedia. He goes on Twitter as @AnjumAaqib

My Friend, Abe San

Narendra Modi

Shinzo Abe - an outstanding leader of Japan, a towering global statesman, and a great champion of India-Japan friendship - is not among us anymore. Japan and the world have lost a great visionary. And, I have lost a dear friend.

I first met him in 2007, during my visit to Japan as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Right from that first meeting, our friendship went beyond the trappings of office and the shackles of official protocol.

Our visit to Toji temple in Kyoto, our train journey on the Shinkansen, our visit to the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, the Ganga Aarati in Kashi, the elaborate tea ceremony in Tokyo, the list of our memorable interactions is indeed long.

And, I will always cherish the singular honour of having been invited to his family home in Yamanashi prefecture, nestled among the foothills of Mt. Fuji.

Even when he was not the Prime Minister of Japan between 2007 and 2012, and more recently after 2020, our personal bond remained as strong as ever.

Every meeting with Abe San was intellectually stimulating. He was always full of new ideas and invaluable insights on governance, economy, culture, foreign policy, and various other subjects.

His counsel inspired me in my economic choices for Gujarat. And, his support was instrumental in building Gujarat’s vibrant partnership with Japan.

Later on, it was my privilege to work with him to bring about an



unprecedented transformation of the strategic partnership between India and Japan. From a largely narrow, bilateral economic relationship, Abe San helped turn it into a broad, comprehensive one, which not only covered every field of national en-

deavour, but became pivotal for our two countries’ and the region’s security. For him, this was one of the most consequential relationships for the people of our two countries and the world. He was resolute in pursuing the civil nuclear agreement

with India - a most difficult one for his country - and decisive in offering the most generous terms for the High Speed Rail in India. As in most important milestones in independent India’s journey, he ensured that Japan is there side by side as New In-

dia accelerates its growth. His contribution to India-Japan relations was richly recognised by the conferment upon him of the prestigious Padma Vibhushan in 2021.

Abe San had a deep insight into the complex and multiple transitions taking place in the world, the vision to be ahead of his time to see its impact on politics, society, economy and international relations, the wisdom to know the choices that were to be made, the capacity to make clear and bold decisions even in the face of conventions and the rare ability to carry his people and the world with him. His far-reaching policies - Abenomics - reinvigorated the Japanese economy and re-ignited the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship of his people.

Among his greatest gifts to us and his most enduring legacy, and one for which the world will always be indebted, is his foresight in recognising the changing tides and gathering storm of our time and his leadership in responding to it. Long before others, he, in his seminal speech to the Indian Parliament in 2007, laid the ground for the emergence of the Indo Pacific region as a contemporary political, strategic and economic reality - a region that will also shape the world in this century.

And, he led from the front in building a framework and architecture for its stable and secure, peaceful and prosperous future, based on values that he deeply cherished - respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, adherence to international law and rules, peaceful conduct of international relations in a spirit of equality and shared prosperity through deeper economic engagement.

The Quad, the ASEAN-led forums, the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative, the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure all benefited from his contributions. Quietly and without fanfare, and overcoming hesitation at home and scepticism abroad, he transformed Japan’s strategic engagement, including in defence, connectivity, infrastructure and sustainability, across the Indo Pacific region. For that, the region is more optimistic about its destiny and the world more confident about its future.

During my Japan visit in May this year, I had the opportunity to meet Abe San, who had just taken over as the Chair of the Japan-India Association. He was his usual self - energetic, captivating, charismatic and very witty. He had innovative ideas on how to further strengthen the India-Japan friendship. When I said goodbye to him that day, little did I imagine that it would be our final meeting.

I will always be indebted for his warmth and wisdom, grace and generosity, friendship and guidance, and I will miss him dearly.

We in India mourn his passing as one of our own, just as he embraced us with an open heart. He died doing what he loved the most - inspiring his people. His life may have been cut short tragically, but his legacy will endure forever.

I extend heart-felt condolences on behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf to the people of Japan, especially to Mrs. Akie Abe and his family. Om Shanti.

The author is the Prime Minister of India

SC grants interim bail for five days to Alt News co-founder Zubair in UP Police FIR but he will be in custody in a Delhi case

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday granted five-day interim bail to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in connection with an FIR lodged against him in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh for allegedly outraging religious sentiments but he will remain in custody as per the order of a Delhi court in another case.

The top court also barred Zubair from posting anything on Twitter and said he shall not tamper with any evidence, electronics or otherwise.

The court, however, clarified that its interim bail order is with respect to the First Information Report (FIR) lodged in Sitapur and has nothing to do with a separate case registered against the journalist in Delhi. Zubair is currently in judicial custody in Delhi.

During the hearing of the journalist's bail plea, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Zubair, said it is ironical that the persons who made hate speeches are on bail while the petitioner, who exposed the hate speeches made by them, is now in custody.

"What this country has become?" Gonsalves asked, and pointed out that Zubair's work was to expose such hate speeches and fake news.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and JK Maheshwari issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government on Zubair's plea and listed it on July 12 for further hearing before a regular bench of the top court.

"In the meanwhile, the petitioner shall be granted interim bail in connection with FIR No. 0226 dated June 1, 2022 lodged at Police Station Khairabad, District Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh for a period of five days from today or until further orders of the Regular Bench on terms and conditions to be imposed by the Judicial Magistrate-I, Sitapur, which shall include the conditions that the petitioner shall not post any tweets and shall not tamper with any evidence, electronic or otherwise in Bengaluru or anywhere else", the bench said in its order.

The bench clarified that it has not stayed the investigation in the case registered against Zubair at Sitapur and that the police can seize the laptop and other electronic gadgets, if required.

Taking note of the submission by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the petitioner is in judicial custody in Delhi in connection with a different offence, the top court said it is not concerned at this stage with any FIR other than the case lodged in Uttar Pradesh which is the subject matter of the proceedings before it.

An FIR was lodged against Zubair in Uttar Pradesh under Indian Penal Code section 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings) and section 67 of the IT Act here on a complaint by Hindu Sher Sena Sitapur district president Bhagwan Sharan on June 1.

Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on June 27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through one of his tweets.

India Issues 'Show-Cause Notice' To SpiceJet After Plane Makes Emergency Landing In Karachi



Agenceis

India's aviation regulator has issued a warning notice to airline SpiceJet after a review of recent incidents — including an aircraft's emergency landing at Karachi airport — showed "poor internal safety oversight and inadequate maintenance actions" by the airline.

The airliner carrying 132 passengers and 12 crew members from Delhi had on Tuesday made an unexpected landing at Jinnah International Airport Karachi after reporting some fault and seeking permission from authorities.

India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said that a review of several incidents involving SpiceJet's planes since April 1 showed that "the aircraft either turned back to its originating station or continued landing to the destination with degraded safety margins".

On July 5 alone SpiceJet reported two mid-air problems.

In one incident, SpiceJet was forced to divert its Boeing 737 plane to Karachi due to an indicator light malfunctioning. Both planes landed safely.

In the second case, the side windshield outer pane of its Bombardier Q400 aircraft cracked mid-flight. In the second case,

"The review transpires that poor internal safety oversight and inadequate maintenance actions has resulted in degradation of the safety margins," the DGCA said in its letter in which it has given the airline three weeks to respond.

"From the above it may be deducted that SpiceJet has failed to establish a safe, efficient and reliable air service," the watchdog said in its letter dated July 5 which was made public by India's civil aviation ministry on Twitter on Wednesday.

SpiceJet, whose shares fell to their lowest since March 2020 in morning trade, said it is committed to ensuring a safe operation

for its passengers and crew.

"We have been regularly audited by DGCA. All our aircraft were audited a month ago by the regulator and found to be safe," the company said, adding that all its flights are conducted in compliance with aviation regulations.

In September, during a financial review of the airline, the DGCA found that SpiceJet's suppliers were not being paid regularly leading to a shortage of spares.

The regulator did not name the suppliers and the company did not provide direct comment on the issue.

"Passenger safety is paramount," India's civil aviation minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, said on Twitter.

"Even the smallest error hindering safety will be thoroughly investigated and course-corrected," he said.

Shares of the Indian budget carrier have fallen 43.4 per cent so far this year, compared to a 17.6 per cent fall in rival Interglobe Aviation.

ED issues FEMA penalty notices to Amnesty India, ex-CEO Aakar Patel

Agenceis

New Delhi: Amnesty India International Pvt. Ltd and its former CEO Aakar Patel have been slapped with penalty of Rs 51.72 crore and Rs 10 crore respectively for contravention of the foreign exchange law, the ED said on Friday.

The federal agency said it initiated action against the two on the basis of information that Amnesty International, UK had been remitting "huge amount" of foreign contribution through its Indian entities (non-FCRA companies) following FDI route, in order to evade Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) to expand its NGO activities in India.



This was despite denial of prior registration or permissions to Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) and other trusts under FCRA by the Ministry of Home Affairs, it said.

The Enforcement Directorate said the show cause notice of penalty was issued as the funds received "violated" Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) provisions.

Cycle Pure partners with Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt to inaugurate the Statue of Peace

Agenceis

Bengaluru: Cycle Pure Agarbathi partnered with Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt to inaugurate the Statue of Peace of Swamy Ramanujacharya in Srinagar, Kashmir in the presence of H H Yathiraja Jeeyar Swamy and Honourable Home Minister Amit Shah. On the occasion, HH Yathiraja Jeeyar Swamy lit Cycle Pure's 6 feet Akhand Agarbatti.

Sharing his thoughts on the event, Mr. Arjun Ranga, Managing Director, Cycle Pure Agarbathi, said, "We are

honoured and grateful to be a part of this historic occasion. We take pride in being a Made-in-India brand. As a home worship brand that is committed to doing the right thing, our philosophy of hope, peace, compassion and service to society resonates with that of Swamy Ramanujacharya. His legacy lives on almost after one millennium since he travelled the length and breadth of India to spread his teachings and serve the society. It is heartening to see Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt strive to carry forward his philosophy."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Of Stress, Summits

steep stretches of mountains. In 2019—when boots on the ground were multiplied to enforce "new order" in his homeland ahead of the abrogation of J&K's semi-autonomous status—Amir got flattened and engulfed by stress, but in a few days when the air had cleared a bit, he found himself high climbing through an elevation—alive and in peace.

"Most of the mystics in Kashmir have found 'salvation in elevation'," Amir turns thoughtful while explaining his altitude experiences. "Following their footprints, most of the veterans and fresh flock of trekkers are now finding solace amid darkness at these elevations."

At an altitude, the mountaineer argues, the confined birds are able to unwind and freshen up themselves and return back to the urban spaces as a revitalized soul with clear insights.

And a five-year trekking career has definitely played its part of flaring a new acumen in Amir, who, among his peers, is not just an admired character for his unparalleled expertise for exploits on rocks and snow but also for his attentiveness in finding peace for others as someone who understands the self-recrimination caused by the distress in the urban space.

This young hiker has become a kind of a survivor and a friend who'd come to his brethren to provide and seek emotional succor and support.

Down the hills, Amir works as a taxation-service provider which itself enhances the fact that his professional life is an appropriate example of a radical change. It all started in 2014 when as a young business graduate, Amir was taken by a group of acquaintances for a climb on a fiercely easy elevation of Wasturwan—a dense and green forest range located in the mid-Himalayan range of South Kashmir's Pampore.

"Donning a formal shirt, jeans pants and formal loafer shoes, I was cursing myself for being too absurd to climb that treacherous path," he recalls. "It was a fairly easy trek but as a newcomer, I'd to face the brunt of breathlessness. But, with each tip and toe, the curiosity akin to the breathlessness, kept on growing and the drive to explore kept on augmenting."

And perhaps, that's exactly what proved to be a coming of age for Amir who soon became known for climbing peaks that rise thousands of feet above Kashmir's remote and urban places including the magnificent Gangabal Lake and Nundkoul.

In just five years, Amir has made his way up many of J&K and Ladakh's most forbidding peaks. His best-known ascent, he says, are the 21-lake trek of Pir-Panjal and StokKangri. At an elevation of 20,080 feet, StokKangri is the highest elevation in Ladakh.

But, in the past half a decade, there're a lot of mysteries he had noticed while actually being part of Kashmir's drive towards the lofty peaks. "There're some unexplored peaks in Kashmir which do something to you. There's some kind of a magnet atop these peaks, which just pulls and attracts you towards them."

Sometimes, you feel there's someone sitting adjacent to you and silently speaking words of god," Amir told me before enrolling himself in the elite group of Basic Mountaineering Course at Kashmir's famed Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM & WS).

Despite coming this far in his altitude career, there're certain things which even baffle this young trekker who keeps on dating mountains like no other person in Kashmir valley.

He was among the first persons who had voluntarily rushed to seek the details and traces of the missing Bemina scholar—for whom more than 400 people have searched through sticks and stones across the humble town of Naranag, making his case the rarest of rare.

"In Hilal's case," Amir says, "I've my own reservations. Had he been mauled by a man-eater beast, there would definitely have been some traces—blood, tarnished piece of cloth."

So, does that mean Hilal has vanished in thin air? "It seems so," Amir made a pause with a calculated silence and quickly added, "Mystery is a part of Kashmir's mountains. Even though I haven't encountered one myself, I'm not ruling it out. Just because I haven't faced it, doesn't mean it doesn't exist."

Perhaps, he's right.

Back in early nineties, a foreigner who was in Kashmir for an elevation expedition had also disappeared, never to be found again. Even the participation of active high command and government agencies could not trace her, gradually declaring her whereabouts "untraceable".

Some three decades later, the missing status of Bemina scholar is now baffling Amir. "I don't know what could have happened," he said. "But, it seriously seems like a case of 'Trekking gone wrong.'"

But away from the maddening crowd, whenever Kashmiris go for these exploratory rambles to seek some moment of solace in their life, the mishaps and the mysteries are something which has the least scope to happen at the same time.

"Most of Kashmir's peaks are under a close watch," says Amir with a sense of curiosity in Hilal's case.

Besides this, there're definite tracks laid by the European hikers who've been frequenting Kashmir for these mountains, that too, at a time when the valley's own mountain people have dismissed these elevation enthusiasts as wayfarers and drifters having "no purpose" in life.

"Let me be very frank to you," Amir says, "Kashmir is like a climbing world's folk-song, filled with mysterious musings and melodies that have always remained open to new interpretations. It took us a lot of years to actually realize why these foreigners used to throng our part of the world. But, these are definitely some exhilarating times as we may have finally realized that more than the clinical treatment there's always a clean air treatment available to us and that is to seek height in one's life."

In the post-pandemic era, many young Kashmiris have understood the meaning of mountains making Amir hopeful about the valley's peak passion.

"The awareness about the importance of these elevations is building up in Kashmir," Amir says. "Much of it has to do with the weary life we've been living in Kashmir since 2019. We saw it during pandemic how young Kashmiris sought some solace in these summits."

However, a decade back, Kashmir was more hesitant of these mountains, the ramblers says. "Kashmiris have finally grasped that it is not only a matter of these mountains being at stake but of their identity, wellbeing and peace of mind."

But, while detailing his altitude acumen akin to a captive chronicle, Amir intricately built conversation that actually stressed on one important thing:

"Today, Kashmiris being the mountain people, need mountains more than ever."

Militant, Soldier

that the one soldier was also killed during the exchange of fire, while search operation was going on in the area.

28 JKAS Officers

also been inducted.

The induction process of local officers into the IAS has taken place after 12 years.

Induction was cleared at a meeting chaired by UPSC member and attended by additional chief secretary agriculture, Atal Dulloo, principal secretary general administration department (GAD), Manoj Kumar Dwivedi and two Joint Secretary level officers deputed by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Government of India.

Of the 28 inducted officers, eight have got 2013 as the year of allotment, five have got 2016, four 2017 and 11 have got 2018 as the year of allotment.

J&K Govt

Commissioner (Migrants), J&K, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department.

Kuldeep Krishan Sidha, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, has been transferred and posted as Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), J&K.

Pankaj Gupta, JKAS, Joint Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation, according to the orders.

Ms. Rimpay Ohri, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Joint Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation.

Pilgrims Pray

by 1 million worshippers remains less than half of the pre-pandemic influx.

All pilgrims selected to perform the hajj this year are under age 65 and have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Pilgrims spend five days carrying out a set of rituals associated with the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) and the prophets Ibrahim and Ismail, or Abraham and Ishmael in the Bible, before him. The rituals began on Thursday with the circling of the Kaaba, the black cube in the center of Makkah's Grand Mosque, which Muslims around the world face during their daily prayers wherever they are in the world.

Around sunset on Friday, the pilgrims will march or take a bus 9 kilometers (5.5 miles) west to the rocky desert of Muzdalifa, where they comb the area for pebbles to carry out the symbolic stoning of the devil. That rite will take place on Saturday in the small village of Mina, where Muslims believe the devil tried to talk Ibrahim out of submitting to God's will.

Pilgrims stone the devil to signify overcoming temptation. The ritual is a notorious choke-point for surging crowds. In 2016, thousands of pilgrims were crushed to death in a gruesome stampede. Saudi authorities never offered a final death toll.

In their most noticeable effort to improve access, the Saudis have built a high-speed rail link to ferry masses between holy sites. Pilgrims enter through special electronic gates. Tens of thousands of police officers are out in force to protect the areas and control crowds.

With so many people from so many places crammed together, public health is a major concern. Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry urged pilgrims to consider wearing masks to curb the spread of coronavirus, although the

government lifted a mask mandate and other virus precautions last month.

The ministry also advised pilgrims to drink water and be aware of the signs of heat stroke in the desert, where temperatures can exceed 40 degrees Celsius (105 degrees Fahrenheit).

Once the hajj is over, men are expected to shave their heads, and women to snip a lock of hair in a sign of renewal.

Around the world, Muslims will mark the end of the pilgrimage with Eid al-Adha, or Festival of Sacrifice. The holiday commemorates the prophet Ibrahim's (AS) willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail at God's request. Muslims traditionally slaughter sheep and cattle, dividing the meat among the needy, friends and relatives. (AP)

Cloudburst Hits

put the death toll at 15.

According to media reports, choppers have been pressed into service to airlift the seriously wounded people to the hospitals. Senior officials of the administration are also keeping a close eye on relief and rescue operations.

ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said all the forces are working tirelessly to ensure each and every missing person is accounted for. President Ram Nath Kovind said he was distressed to know about the loss of lives in the cloudburst.

"My condolences to the bereaved families. Relief and rescue measures are in full swing to provide succor to those stranded. I pray and hope that the yatra be soon resumed," Kovind tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed anguish over the incident.

The 43-day Amarnath yatra began after a gap of three years. In 2019, the yatra was cancelled midway ahead of the Centre abrogating Article 370 provisions of the Constitution. The pilgrimage did not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. (With PTI inputs)

PM Anguished

Spoke to @manojinsha Ji and took stock of the situation," Modi said in a tweet.

"Rescue and relief operations are underway. All possible assistance is being provided to the affected," he said.

The gushing waters hit the base camp outside the shrine, damaging 25 tents and three community kitchens where the pilgrims are served food, officials said.

LG Closely

the assistance.

"Our priority is to save the lives of people. Instructions have been issued to provide all necessary assistance to pilgrims. I am closely monitoring the situation," the LG said.

Sinha, the spokesperson said expressed grief over the loss of lives in the tragic incident.

"Deeply pained by the unfortunate incident of cloudburst at Shri Amarnathji holy cave, in which precious lives have been lost. I send my heartfelt condolences to bereaved families", the LG added.

Govt Sets

Shrine Board Helpline: 0194-2313149," the public relations department of the government and the SASB tweeted from their respective handles.

"Focus of administration is on rescue operation with NDRF, SDRF, JKP and other teams in action," the administration added.

At least 10 persons -- mostly pilgrims -- died

after a cloudburst struck the holy cave area in south Kashmir Himalayas around 5.30 pm and damaged three langars and 25 pilgrim tents.

Scores of persons have been reported missing as a massive rescue operation has been launched by various government agencies.

Meanwhile, an official of the union territory administration said the Amarnath yatra has been suspended for the time being in view of the tragedy.

A decision on resumption of the pilgrimage will be taken after rescue operations are completed, he added.

LG Cancels Police

exam for the posts. However, soon after the declaration of the result online, unsuccessful candidates took to the street alleging fraud in the recruitment process.

House Collapse

A police officer said that soon after getting the information, a police party was rushed to the spot.

J&K Clocks 101

infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 455807.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 39 new cases of virus, while Kupwara registered six. No fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from eight other districts of the Valley.

In the winter capital, they said, Jammu reported 42 new cases of virus, Udhampur four, Kathua three, Samba and Ramban two each while Rajouri, Doda, and Reasi reported one new case each.

Also, the officials said that no fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. So far, 4757 persons have succumbed to the virus—2332 in Jammu and 2425 in Kashmir.

"Moreover, 74 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 55 from Jammu division and 19 from Kashmir division," they added.

Traffic Resumes

"The traffic on one way of the highway has been restored and Amarnath Yatra pilgrims taking the Baltal route, who were stranded at Chanderkoot in Ramban since morning, have been allowed to move," an official said.

The landslides and mudslides have been cleared, he said.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was blocked by shooting stones, landslides and mudslides at places in Ramban district, they said.

Earlier, Deputy Superintendent of police (headquarters) Ramban, Pardeep Sain, who is also the yatra officer at Chanderkoot, had said that heavy showers lashed the Ramban sector between 3 and 4 am.

He had said that the highway was closed at Mehaar, Cafeteria Mode, Chamba, Anokhifall, Melamode, and Pantiyal.

2 Washed Away

flash-floods in the river washed away the duo along with the earthmover and the tipper, the officials said. The Army, police and locals launched the operation to trace the two people who were washed away in the flash floods near Darhali Nallah, they said.

The body of Sajad was recovered and efforts are on to trace the other person, Ibrar, the officials added.

After 22 Years, Farming Activity Resumes Along IB In Kathua

Press Trust Of India

KATHUA: Farmers resumed agriculture activities on the zero line along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Friday, after a gap of almost two decades, officials said.

They said the farming activity was resumed with the help of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the civil administration.

The BSF pressed four bullet-proof tractors into service and started ploughing the land to clear it of wild bushes and make it ready for the wheat crop, the officials said.

Thousands of acres of land near the border fencing, spread across 22 villages from Paharpur to Londi in Hiranagar sector, is lying unattended for the past 22 years due to frequent ceasefire violations by Pakistan, they said.

The officials said the natural growth of wild grass and bushes helped Pakistan to push infiltrators and dig underground tun-

nels, which posed a major security challenge.

The farmers of the neighbouring country are cultivating the land up to the zero line on their side but the farmers on this side stopped farming activity due to frequent firing from the Pakistani side, they said.

"The farming activities have resumed. This is third season of such activity. We want that farming should take place in these areas to increase agriculture economy," Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Rahul Pandey said.

"It will benefit farmers. It is a moment of happiness," he added.

Director, Agriculture, K K Sharma said, "The focus of agriculture activity is from Kathua to Poonch. It is our target to ensure the cultivation of the border land along the zero line." BSF officials said the force is ready to provide all sorts of help to farmers in carrying out the cultivation of land on the zero line.

Over 6,100 Pilgrims Leaves For Amarnath Cave From Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Amid tight security, the tenth batch of over 6,100 Amarnath pilgrims left from here on Friday for the twin base camps of 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

A total of 6,159 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here in a convoy of 249 vehicles amid heavy security of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said.

Of these, 4,754 are males, 1,220 females, 35 children, 139 sadhus and 12 sadhvis, they said.

They said 2,037 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 95 vehicles around 3.30 am followed by the second

convoy of 154 vehicles carrying 4,122 pilgrims for Pahalgam.

A total of 63,487 pilgrims have reached the valley from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp since June 29 — when the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

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.

So far, over one lakh pilgrims have offered prayers at the cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, officials said.

The yatra is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Govt Okays Flood Protection Works In Kashmir Valley

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, accorded administrative approval to the Jhelum flood protection works by Jal Shakti Department in Kashmir division.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Administrative Council approved the Project-Comprehensive Plan for River Jhelum and its tributaries, Phase (II) Part (A), amounting to Rs 1623.43 crore under the PM's Development Package.

The proposed works are based on the existing site conditions and issues of the main Jhelum downstream of Sangam upto Wullar Lake, flood spill channel and outfall channel including tributaries in order to safely mitigate a flood threat of 1700 Cumec (60000 cusecs). Channel improvement and protection works at vulnerable spots in river Jhelum, flood spill channel and outfall channel have been proposed to tackle the drainage congestion issues for safe passage of flood waters and to minimize the loss to life and property.

The project comprises various components including improvement in discharge carrying capacity of river Jhelum to 1700 cumec; bank / toe protection works; raising of bunds/embankments; re-sectioning/channel improvement of main Jhelum and flood spill channel; re-modelling / renovation of bridges at various RDs in the OFC; measures to check erosion at vulnerable reaches of main Jhelum, outfall channel and flood spill channel and its tribu-



Directorates Of Social Welfare Department Renamed

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved for the change of nomenclature of Directorates in the Social Welfare Department.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The decision will rename the Mission Directorate, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS); Mission Directorate, Integrated Child Protec-

tion Scheme (ICPS); and State Resource Centre for Women (SRCW) as Directorate Mission Poshan; Directorate Mission Vatsalya; and Directorate Mission Shakti, respectively.

The decision will streamline the implementation of various social welfare schemes in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, besides, bringing them in consonance with the new umbrella schemes of the Government of India. Accordingly, various schemes of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, GoI will be re-distributed among the three Directorates.

taries; and dredging/widening of outfall channel including navigation channel at Sopore.

Besides enhancing the carrying capacities of river Jhelum and outfall channels, the project will also regulate silt input from tributaries by anti-erosion works proposed at absolutely critical spots and rejuvenate/ increase the life of the water bodies like Hokersar and Nowgham by re-sectioning of the cannettes / inside channels and construction of inlet/ exit regulating gates.

The project will protect the flood-prone areas along Jhelum in Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla,

Anantnag, Pulwama and Bandipora districts and will generate 119 Lac man-days employment for skilled and 381 Lac man-days employment for unskilled workers, respectively. It will be completed in three years.

The project was conceptualized on the basis of recommendations made by a three-member group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission which was constituted shortly after floods of September 2014 on the instructions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. It will mitigate the flood threat of 1700 Cumecs (60000 cusecs) in the Jhelum basin.

BJP Will Form Govt In J&K With 'Full Majority': Raina

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Exhorting party leaders to walk the extra mile to reach out to the people, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Friday said the party is all set to form the government in the union territory with "full majority".

Raina said the party will ensure that the nation is strengthened, both internally and externally, and is ready to lead the world.

"With dedicated efforts of the BJP leaders, the party is all set to form government with full majority in Jammu and Kashmir on its own," Raina told the party members at a workshop.

The three-day workshop for office-bearers, leaders and members is being held at a health resort at Patnitop in Udhampur district to discuss and brainstorm various issues confronting the government and the country.

Raina said these sessions carry in-depth knowledge of the party's ideology, policies and principles.

"These training sessions lead to the steady maturity of party activists," he said, adding the

BJP activists must reflect the party principles in his or her day-to-day activities.

The BJP unit chief also spoke about the national and international policies adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

Elaborating on the role of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in the Indian society, its prant karyaah Vikrant Sharma said, "A need was strongly felt to unite the society which can successfully protect the boundaries of nation in future as well."

Senior BJP leader Mahesh Sharma explained the concept of 'Ekatma Manavvaad' or 'integral humanism' and said during the pre- and post-Independence era, a debate on the adoption of either 'Vayaktivaad' (individualism) or 'Samaajvaad' (socialism) was underway, but both concepts were incomplete and they led to conflicts.

It is at this point that Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay proposed 'integral humanism', which believed that an individual, society, universe or nature and the supreme power are all integrated and cannot be separated.

Medical Staff Treks 28 Kms To Reach Nomads In Kausarnag

Observer News Service

KULGAM: A team of doctors, paramedics from Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments along with Health department visited Kausar Nag to provide necessary healthcare to the livestock of migratory population.

The team reached Kausarnag covering 28 Kilometers by foot through mountains and tedious terrain and provided healthcare to the livestock in these high al-

titude behaks. Besides, a team from the health department also carried Health check-ups of these migratory people and their children.

On the occasion, free medicines were also provided to these people by the teams.

Meanwhile, these migratory people mostly from Rajouri, appreciated and thanked the District Administration Kulgam and concerned Departments for providing them best services and care.

NC Set To Fight Multi-Front Battle In J&K: Farooq

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Batting strongly for collectivism and better coordination at all levels in the party, National Conference president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Friday said the party is set to fight a multi-front battle in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Srinagar MP also exhorted party functionaries to amplify their efforts to reach out to wider sections of society across the Union Territory.

"As far as the NC is concerned, it is set to fight a multi-front battle (in Jammu and Kashmir)," Abdullah said while interacting with a number of delegations at his residence here.

Elaborating on the multi-front battle, he said, "On one front, we have to strive for an

atmosphere, where basic needs of our people, including development and job creation, are addressed. On the other front it has to keep up its peaceful and constitutional fight for the restoration of people's abridged rights".

The former chief minister said the "NC has long been associated with the real political aspirations of the people" and they are looking towards the party to protect Jammu and Kashmir's cultural, social, political frontiers and cultural individuality as ever before.

"To achieve this goal, the party's moves have to be marked by collectivism and better coordination at all levels," he told the NC functionaries.

Abdullah exhorted the party functionaries to amplify their efforts to reach out to wider sections of society across Jam-

mu and Kashmir.

He said that for the NC to deepen its roots ever more than before, "it is imperative for our functionaries to value the party workers".

"Strengthening of the bottom-up model holds the key towards making the party stronger to take on the challenges in the future", he added.

On Thursday, Union minister Jitendra Singh said it was for the Election Commission (EC) to decide when assembly polls would be held in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is ever ready for elections.

The EC has set in motion the preparations for holding assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, the first since the Centre revoked its special status and made it a Union territory in August 2019.

INTIZAAMIA COMMITTEE AISHMUQAM EXTENDS EID UL AZHA GREETINGS!

AISHMUQAM: The intizaamia committee Hazrat Zain u din Reshi RA while extending Eid ul Azha greetings have urged people to adhere to the basic principles behind this festival and develop the sense of sacrifice and patience in day to day life ,president Mohd Yaqoob Gadiyal and Gen secretary Moulana Zahoor has extended greetings to Wakaf chairperson,CEO Wakaf and other authorities as well and have appealed the administration to allow hassle free movement of devotees to the shrine of Aishmuqam which is thronged by the devotees from all over the country,the intizaamia committee of the shrine has decided 8:am for the Eid prayers in the mosque adjacent to the revered shrine in consultation with the Wakaf local administration.

INFO

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) IN SEARCH OF TECHNO-MANAGERIAL LEADERS

C-DAC, a premier Scientific Society of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India is engaged in various R&D activities of national importance.

In order to spearhead its centres, C-DAC invites applications for the post of Executive Directors to be filled up by way of Direct Recruitment/ Transfer (Absorption) failing

Executive Director

Pay Level -14
(Rs. 144200-218200)
Number of Posts - 03

Initial Posting: Kolkata, Mohali and Thiruvananthapuram.

How to Apply: Interested candidates may visit "careers" page of

www.cdac.in for the detailed notification. Last date for online application would be the day falling after 30 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

Note: Addendum/further communications in this regard, if any, will be notified in C-DAC's website only.

ADVT.NO. CORP/GR.A/03/2022

Director (HRD), Corporate Office

Advancing Technology for National Development

cdacp 061321/2009/2223

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET No: 23e-Tendering/2022-23

Dated:05-July-2022

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Head of Account
1.	REPAIRS/RENOVATION OF COMMUNITY HALL AT KASHI MOHALLA BATALMALOO SRINAGAR*	Rs. 44.99	Rs. 2250/-	Rs. 89,980/-	25 days strictly	AAY/ BEE	Capex 2021-22

• Accord of Administrative Approval:

• Order No. 133 SMC of 2022, Dated: 28-01-2022.

• Technical Sanction.

• Order No. 10 of 2022, Dated: 07-06-2022(ELECTRIC PART).

✓ T.S No. 536, Dated: 13-06-2022(CIVIL PART).

• Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	05-07-2022
2	Document download date	05-07-2022 05:00 PM To 14-07-2022 04:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	05-07-2022 05:00 PM To 14-07-2022 04:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	15-07-2022 11:00 AM
5.	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	16-07-2022 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% inshape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC and must be made after the date of publication of e-NIT failing which the bid shall not be accepted.
- The L-1 contractor shall have to furnish the performance security@3% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security@3% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L1.
- In Case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer/bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 15-07-2022 11:00 AM.

No.SMC/EELRWD/961-970
Dated:05-July-2022.

DIPK-NB-2262-22

Er. Sajad Ahmad Kawoosa,
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

HEMA COMPLEX, SECTOR-03, CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU | ZAM ZAM BUILDING RAMBAGH, SRINAGAR

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

NOTICE

Subject:-Selection for the post of Jr. Librarian Divisional Cadre Jammu and Divisional Cadre Kashmir in Culture Department.

Whereas, the Culture Department vide Indent No. CUL/GEN/38/2020 dated 29.09.2020 followed by another Indent No. CUL/Gen/38/2020 dated 03.12.2020 among other posts requisitioned 48 posts of Jr. Librarian with the Division-wise breakup as follows' and

Divisional Cadre Kashmir Item No. 48

OM=12, SC=02, ST=02, OSC=01, ALC/IB=01, RBA=03, PSP=01,EWS=02 **TOTAL=24**

Divisional Cadre Jammu Item No. 49

OM=12, SC=02, ST=02, OSC=01, ALC/IB=01, RBA=03, PSP=01,EWS=02 **TOTAL=24**

Whereas, these 48 posts were notified by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020 under Item No. 48 and 49 respectively; and

Whereas, as per the Indent/Notification the qualification prescribed for the posts is as follows: **"BA/B. Sc./B. Com with certificate course in Library Science"; and**

Whereas, as per the Notification the selection is to be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only; and

Whereas, as per the criteria the written examination/CBT examination of the candidates who were falling under module/domain of Jr. Librarian-Librarian-Photo Librarian etc. was conducted from 27.10.2021 to 02.11.2021 in multiple shifts; and

Whereas, as per the procedure the document verification of the shortlisted candidates was conducted in the month of January, 2022 and thereafter supplementary document verification was conducted in the month of February, 2022; and

Therefore, in view of the above, the candidates who have applied for the post of Jr. Librarian (Divisional Cadre Kashmir & Divisional Cadre Jammu) under Item No. 48 and 49 of Notification No. 04 of 2020 and appeared in the CBT test held for the said Items from 27.10.2021 to 02.11.2021 are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to submit their **Certificate Course in Library Science** within five days from the date of issuance of this notice. The Kashmir based candidates shall submit their certificate in the office of J&K Services Selection Board Zam Zam Building Rambagh, Srinagar and Jammu based candidates shall submit their certificate in the office of J&K Services Selection Board, Hema Complex, Sector-03, Channi Himmat, Jammu.

By order

No:-SSB/Sel/Secy/2022/5138-43
Dated:- **06/07/2022.**
DIPK-5671-22

Sd/-

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS,
Secretary,
J&K, Services Selection Board
Jammu/Srinagar.

India To Tour Australia Twice In Next FTP Cycle



Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: The Indian team could tour Australia twice in the next Future Tours Programme (FTP) cycle from 2024-2032, with the number of Tests per series increased from the existing four to five.

According to a report in the Age, Cricket Australia (CA) has "recently informed a range of broadcasters, both domestic and international, of the fact that it has secured two full Test tours by each of India and England over the next FTP, with India's tours increased from four to five-match series."

The last two Test tours of Australia, which comprised four matches in each series, were won by India, triumphs that went down in history as two of their greatest.

The current ICC FTP, running from 2018 to 2023, ends with the men's 50-over ICC World Cup, to be played in India in October-November next year.

The full FTP is likely to be formally announced later this month, around the ICC's annual meeting in Birmingham on July 25 and 26.

India has always been a huge

draw for Australian crowds more so in recent years, with the last four-match series Down Under giving the financially struggling CA a major boost with an expected revenue of 300 million Australian dollars.

"Seasons without Test-match visits by England or India generally mean a reduction in crowds and broadcast audiences - part of the reason why CA itself works on a multi-year financial model to balance fluctuations in the international schedule," said the report in the leading Australian daily.

It did not come as a surprise when CA, at the end of the rubber, expressed gratitude to the BCCI for the "sacrifices" it made to ensure a smooth conduct of what proved to be an epic contest.

A second-string Indian team, led admirably by Ajinkya Rahane, braved all odds to defeat a full-strength Australia side by three wickets at "fortress" Gabba to win the series 2-1 and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

CA acknowledged the role played by the Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI in successfully completing the tour amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



TEAM INDIA CELEBRATES AS they romped to a 50-run victory over England in the first T20I at Edgbaston on Thursday. (Photo via BCCI)

7 Captains In 7 Months Not Ideal: Ganguly



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: For someone who has always believed in continuity, Sourav Ganguly says having seven India captains in as many months "isn't ideal". But things panned out that way owing to factors that were beyond anyone's control.

As he rang in his 50th birthday with friends and family in London, the BCCI president, and one of Indian cricket's most fascinating characters, spoke on the issue of multiple captains.

Q: We have had Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah as India captains and now Shikhar Dhawan for ODIs. Continuity has been affected. What's your take on that?

SG: I fully agree that it is not ideal to have seven different captains in such a short span of time but it has happened because of unavoidable situation. Like Rohit was all set to lead in South Africa in white ball but before the tour, got injured. So we had KL (Rahul) leading in ODIs and then for this

recent South Africa home series, KL got injured one day before the series would start.

In England, Rohit was playing the warm-up game when he had COVID-19. No one is at fault for these situations. The calendar is such that we have had to give players breaks and then there have been injuries and we need to factor in workload management also. You got to feel for head coach Rahul (Dravid) as in every series, due to unavoidable circumstances, we have had new captains.

Pressure On Returning Kohli Ahead Of 2nd T20I



Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: Star India batter Virat Kohli would be desperate to come out of his prolonged lean patch when he makes his T20 return after five months with the second game against England, here on Saturday. Kohli, who last played a T20 international in February, has featured in only two games since India's underwhelming campaign in the T20 World Cup in October-November when he was captain of the national side.

The only T20 cricket he played since then was in the IPL but there too he was far from his best.

Kohli and other seniors getting frequent breaks as part of the team's rest and rotate policy gave opportunity to fringe players like Deepak Hooda, who will be difficult to drop on Saturday after the performances he has come up with.

Batting at Kohli's position, Hooda has made a big impact and also showed ominous form in the series opener against England, scoring a 17-ball 33.

If India decide to retain Hooda, then Kohli could open alongside skipper Rohit Sharma

at the expense of Ishan Kishan, who has also been consistent at the top.

The opening position is something Kohli is quite familiar and his last half-century in T20 Internationals also came at the top.

With Kohli expected to take another break for the five T20s against the West Indies, the two games against England assume more importance as far as his future in the T20 set up is concerned.

Kohli has 'been there and done that' but with the younger lot playing fearless cricket, he will need to come back to his best.

Smith, Labuschagne 100s Power Australia On Day 1



Agencies

GALLE: Steve Smith ended his century drought and Marnus Labuschagne struck his first Test hundred abroad to steer Australia to 298/5 on day one of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle on Friday.

Prabath Jayasuriya, one of the three debutants fielded after five COVID-19 cases in the Sri Lanka camp, claimed three wickets, either side of the tea break but Australia appeared on course for a massive first innings total.

Smith was not out on 109 not out at stumps, his first century after a gap of 16 innings, which included 14 fours.

Alex Carey was unbeaten on 16 at the other end with Australia pressing for a 2-0 series

sweep.

Usman Khawaja combined with Labuschagne in a 55-run stand to help Australia overcome the early loss.

The 134-run partnership between Labuschagne and Smith put Australia in a strong position but Jayasuriya struck again after the break.

Jayasuriya, Kamindu Mendis and Maheesh Theekshana made their test debut for Sri Lanka, who made four changes to the squad who were beaten inside three days in the series opener also in Galle.

Angelo Mathews, who was withdrawn after the first innings in the opening test after testing positive for COVID-19, returned to strengthen Sri Lanka's bid for a series-levelling victory.

Ronaldo Missing United Tour Amid Doubts Over Future At Club

Agencies

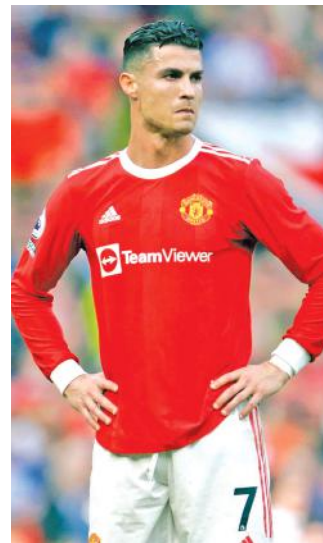
MANCHESTER: Cristiano Ronaldo will miss Manchester United's preseason tour to Thailand and Australia amid doubts over his future at the club.

United said Friday that the 37-year-old forward had been granted additional time off to deal with an unspecified family issue that prevented him from reporting back for practice this week.

The Portugal star has reportedly asked to leave United.

Ronaldo only returned to United last season after 12 years away from Old Trafford but the team finished in sixth place and only qualified for the Europa League rather than the more prestigious Champions League.

The tour will feature games against Liverpool, Melbourne Victory, Crystal Palace and Aston



Villa. It will be new manager Erik Ten Hag's first chance to work in depth with the squad. (AP)

Blatter, Platini Acquitted On Charges Of Defrauding FIFA



Agencies

BELLINZONA (Switzerland): Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini were acquitted on charges of defrauding FIFA by a Swiss criminal court on Friday, a rare positive outcome for the pair who were among soccer's most powerful figures before being embroiled in corruption investigations.

The case was centered around a \$2 million payment from FIFA to Platini with Blatter's approval in 2011, for work done a decade earlier. The verdict followed an 11-day trial last month at the Federal Criminal Court of Switzerland in Bellinzona.

"Following the decision of the judges of the Court of Bellinzona, this morning, I wanted to express my happiness for all my loved ones that justice has finally been done after seven years of lies and manipulation," Platini said in a statement. "The truth has come to light during this trial."

"I kept saying it: my fight is a fight against injustice. I won a first game. In this case, there are culprits who did not appear during this trial. Let them count on me, we will meet again. Because I will not give up and I will go all the way in my quest for truth."

Swiss prosecutor Thomas

Hildbrand had requested a 20-month suspended sentence for both Blatter and Platini.

Blatter announced his plan to resign early as president, in June 2015, in the fallout from a sprawling American corruption investigation — ending his 17-year reign. A separate but cooperating case by Swiss prosecutors led to the Platini payment being investigated.

The fallout ended Platini's campaign to succeed his former mentor and saw the former French soccer great removed as president of UEFA, the governing body of European soccer.

"Believe me, going from being a legend of world soccer to a devil is very difficult, especially when it comes to you in a totally unfair way," Platini added.

Both Blatter and Platini have long denied wrongdoing and claim they had a verbal deal in 1998 for Platini to get extra salary that FIFA could not pay at the time. Platini signed a contract in August 1999 to be paid 300,000 Swiss francs (\$300,000) annually.

That defence first failed with judges at the FIFA ethics committee, which banned them from soccer, and later in separate appeals at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. (AP)

Sports Ministry Launches Online Portal For Schemes, Rewards, Benefits

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Deserving athletes and former sportspersons will now not be required to run after national federations and government offices to get their rewards and dues as the Sports Ministry has made the processes online.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday launched three major initiatives of his department -- online portal for schemes of department of sports, national sports development fund (NSDF) website and revised scheme of cash award, national welfare and pension to sportspersons.

While active athletes who seek recognition and rewards from the government can now apply online on the portal of department of sports, corporates, PSUs and individuals can contribute to NSDF fund on its newly-built website.

Thakur termed the initiatives "revolutionary", saying they will help in bringing transparency and accountability, besides giving a push to the government's digital India mission.

"We will continue to provide



युवा कार्यक्रम
एवं खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS
AND SPORTS

facilities to our athletes but if we can integrate technology with these facilities it can be very beneficial.

"If an athlete had to seek for rewards and recognition from the government after a good performance, they had to go via the federation or SAI earlier, then it went through scrutiny and it took almost a year or two for these athletes to get their dues," he said during the launch.

Thakur also appealed to the countrymen, private entities and PSUs to contribute to the NSDF for the development of Indian sports.

Asked if the process of National Sports Awards, given on the National Sports Day, can be made online, the minister said: "I will take it as a good suggestion. We will take note of this."

All contributions to NSDF will get exemptions from income tax.

Pogačar Wins Tour De France Stage 7 To Extend Lead



Agencies

LA PLANCHE DES BELLES FILLES (France): Tadej Pogačar won his second Tour de France stage in a row in the first summit finish of the race to extend his lead in the yellow jersey on Friday.

Pogačar caught, first, Lennard Kämna, who came agonizingly close to a breakaway win, and then Jonas Vingegaard with one last sprint at the top of La Planchette des Belles Filles, a ski resort in the Vosges mountains of eastern France.

"It was really, really difficult, especially in the end, the last

part. When Jonas attacked, he was so strong," Pogačar said. "I had to push to the finish line."

Pogačar started the day with a four-second lead over Neilson Powless and ended it with a 35-second advantage over Vingegaard. "A little bit is always good, but still, we know in cycling no gap is enough," was the verdict of Pogačar, who praised Vingegaard as "probably the best climber in the world" at the moment.

Geraint Thomas, the 2018 Tour winner, sat third, 1 minute, 10 seconds back, and his Ineos Grenadiers teammate Adam Yates was 8 seconds further behind.