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Govt Survey Paints Grim Picture Of Drug Abuse In Kashmir

25% Unemployed Youth Involved In Substance Abuse, Addicts Spending Rs 88,000 A Month To Procure Heroin

Augib Javeed

Srinagar: A survey conducted by the Union Territory administration has brought to fore sensational revelations about rampant drug abuse in the Kashmir Valley, where over 25.2 percent of unemployed youth are found involved in substance abuse.

The survey has been conducted by the Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (IMHNS), Government Medical College, Srinagar, in collaboration with the social welfare department and Directorate of Health.

Although the report is yet to be made public, sources



from the department shared key findings of the report with Kashmir Observer.

The findings reveal that over 2.8% of the total population of Kashmir has been substance

6 IN ALL TEN DISTRICTS, 67,468 INDIVIDUALS

were having dependence patterns on psychoactive substances and among them 52,404 individuals were opioid dependent and heroin was the predominant illicit drug that was being used among the opioid users."

users, with 52,404 dependent on drugs currently.

The survey was conducted in

all 10 districts of Kashmir and provides a summary of prevalence of various substances in the districts and its associated factors.

The primary objective of the study 2022 in all the districts was to estimate the prevalence of various substances in Kashmir. The study also aimed to assess the pattern of illicit substance use with a particular focus on injection opioids.

The most commonly used psychoactive substance was opioids in every district of Kashmir, the report says.

"In all ten districts, 67,468 individuals were having dependence patterns on psychoactive

substances and among them 52,404 individuals were opioid dependent and heroin was the predominant illicit drug that was being used among the opioid users," it finds.

It also mentions that on an average, a user spends around Rs 88,000 a month to procure heroin. Overall prevalence of substance use was 2.87 % while as for any opioid was 2.23%. The age of initiation of heroin was 22 years, the report says.

It further finds that the substance use is predominant in young males with mean age of 28 to 15 years.

The Principal **More on P6**

Natipora Youth's 'Custodial Killing'

Court Orders FIR Against Munshi, Others

Augib Javeed

Srinagar: A local court on Friday directed the Crime branch to file an First Information Report (FIR) against police in connection with the alleged "custodial killing" of a youth in Natipora area of the city last week.

While passing the order, the court of City Judge, Srinagar directed the Station House Officer (SHO), Crime branch to get the case investigated by an efficient police officer to bring the 'culprits' to book.

The court order came a day after mother of 21-year-old Muslim Muneer filed a petition before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) seeking a probe into the alleged custodial killing of her son by police.

The petition was filed by Advocate Tasaduq Hussain Reshi on behalf of Shafiq Muneer, the deceased youth's mother.

While issuing the order, the court noted that police are bound to register an FIR and start the investigation when any information is given in relation to the commission of a cognizable offence.

"The police are mandated under law to register FIR of every cognizable offence once the same is disclosed and investigate the same. In the present case, the police have not done so," reads the order issued by the court.

It further adds that "The police are only to examine the matter from the point of registration of a case for the purposes of proper investigation and not for the purpose of finding merits of the case on appreciation of the facts stated and information brought to its notice by any person with regard to the occurrence."

The court noted **More on P6**

Development In J&K Not Possible Without Peace: LG

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Asserting that development was not possible without establishing peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday said some people were trying to provoke security forces and the administration so that some mistake is made and an unrest is fuelled.

Development can only take place when there is peace. This has to be kept in mind. There is no place in the world which has progressed when there was no peace, Sinha said addressing a function at the launch of District Export Plans at SKICC here.

Union Minister of State, Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel was also present. The LG said some people were continuously trying to foment trouble in the valley as they were not happy with the tourism growing here, industries being set up, economic scenario stabilising, and lives of people changing.

"Some people are trying to provoke security forces, us, so that security forces make some mistake and the people here come out on streets (to protest). But, we will not allow that situation to arise," the LG said.

The society has to come forward. The security forces are working hard round-the-clock for the safety and security of the common people, he said.

Sinha said the administration is working on a policy that innocent people will not be touched but the guilty will not be spared.

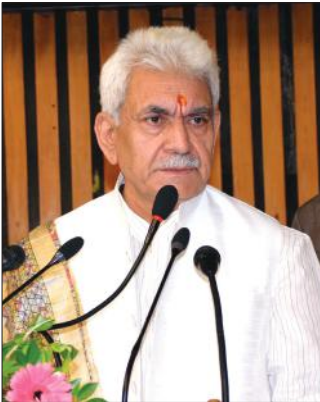
He said the steps being taken by the government with regards to development, were for the future of the people and their children.

So, come forward in making a new J&K, and there is need to create awareness in the society that unless there is peace, "we will not be able to achieve development. It is not just the responsibility of the government, but of the citizens here as well," he said.

Sinha said J&K has a huge potential for exports, especially its handicrafts, paper mache, horticulture produce, Pashmina and carpets.

He said the government was working on tripling the exports in the next five years.

"We have been working on it for the last two years with the Union Commerce ministry. Today, we have formulated a detailed plan for every district and in the coming days, we will try to export from every district of J&K. We are grateful to PM for his guidance and support. We are working on a target to triple the exports in the next five years," the LG added.



HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO ALL OF US to

display the great tradition of the UT to the world and open new vistas to tap the ever-growing global market for handicrafts."

The Lt Governor said in the last two years, the UT administration has taken several steps to identify and promote the exports of local products, resulting in a 54 per cent increase in the exports in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21.

He said J&K has emerged as a top performer, reaching third position among the **More on P6**



Two women with a child passing through a wooden bridge in the interiors of Dal Lake on a cloudy Friday afternoon. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Poonch Fratricidal Killings

Soldiers Train Guns At Each Other, 2 Killed

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Two soldiers were killed and as many injured on Friday in a fratricidal incident at an army camp in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A defense official told Kashmir Observer that the shootout incident took place at 156 Territorial Army battalion premises in Surankote area of the district at around 5:30 am on Friday.

According to the official, the shootout took place when two soldiers exchanged heated arguments over a personal matter and opened fire

on each other after losing their calm.

"The bullets also hit other soldiers, leaving them critically injured," the official, wishing not to be named, told Kashmir Observer.

The four soldiers were identified as Sepoys Ibrar Ahmed and Makhan Singh, Naik Imtiyaz Ahmed and Khalil Ahmed.

However, the official refused to reveal the identity of the two soldiers who opened fire on each other. But, if reports are to be believed then Sepoy Ibrar Ahmed and Naik Imtiyaz Ahmed had fired upon each other. **More on P6**

Govt Orders Probe Into Lolab Encounter

Police Had Claimed To Have Killed 4 LeT Militants

Observer News Service

The district authorities in North Kashmir's Kupwara on Friday ordered a magisterial enquiry into last month's anti-militancy operation in which the government forces had claimed to have killed four militants, including three Pakistani nationals. According to an **More on P6**

Rubaiya Identifies Yasin Malik As Her Abductor

Mufti's Daughter Also Identifies Three Others In CBI Court

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Rubaiya Sayeed, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed's daughter, appeared before a special CBI court on Friday in a case related to her 1989 abduction and identified JKLF chief Yasin Malik and three others as the ones who took her captive, officials said.

This is the first time Rubaiya has been asked to appear in the case. She had been freed after five militants were released in exchange. Rubaiya, who stays in Tamil Nadu, is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over investigations into the case in early 1990.

Rubaiya identified Malik,



who was present in the court through video conferencing."

"This is the person and his name is Yasin Malik. He was the man who threatened me that he will drag me out of the minibus if I refused to follow their diktat," Rubaiya told the judge.

She later identified him again through the pictures that were exhibited in the court.

The case had gone into virtual cold storage and was revived after Malik was **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S

J&K Sees 149 Fresh Corona Cases

Press Trust Of India

Jammu and Kashmir on Friday reported 149 fresh Covid-19 cases that pushed its infection tally to 4,56,605, officials said. Of the new cases, 73 were reported from the Jammu division and 76 from the Kashmir valley, they said. The death toll remained unchanged at 4,758. There are 856 active COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir. So far, 4,50,991 people have recovered from the viral disease, the officials said.

5 Youths Stopped From Joining Militancy: Police

Press Trust Of India

Five youths from Pulwama and Kupwara districts of Jammu and Kashmir were stopped from joining militant ranks, police said here on Friday. A case under UAPA has been registered and further investigation has been taken up, a police official said. According to the official, Police Station Kralkhud here on July 8 received an information through a reliable source **More on P6**

KU Announces Summer Break From July 23

Observer News Service

University of Kashmir on Friday formally announced summer vacations for main campus and its satellite campuses – which as per a notification are scheduled to start from July 23, 2022. "This is for the information of all concerned that the Teaching Departments of the University and its satellite campuses shall observe summer vacations from 23rd July, 2022 to 31st July 2022. However, all the departmental **More on P6**

Bear Mauls Elderly Man To Death

Observer News Service

An elderly man was mauled to death by a black bear in Pethkoot area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district, officials said here on Friday. A local news agency KNO quoting an official reported that the man identified as Mohammad Shafi Palal (60) of Hapatnar village of Quil Muqam in Bandipora was attacked and grievously injured by the bear. He said that man had died on the spot, while his body was **More on P6**

Driver Dies As Tanker Plunges Into Gorge

Observer News Service

A driver died after a vehicle rolled down into a deep gorge near Peerah on Srinagar-Jammu national highway in Ramban district on Friday, officials said here. A local news agency KNO quoting an official reported that a tanker, which was on way to Srinagar fell into a deep gorge after the driver purportedly lost control over the vehicle near Peerah area of Ramban, resulting in his on spot death. The driver has been **More on P6**

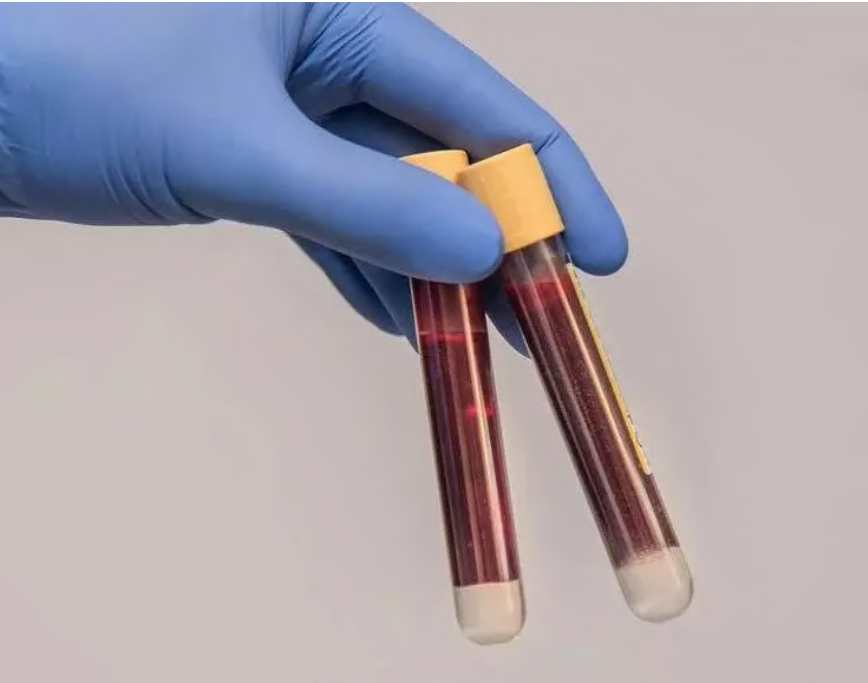
Amarnath Pilgrim Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

Agencies

A pilgrim enroute to the cave shrine of Amarnath from Pahalgam base camp in Anantnag district died on Friday after suffering a cardiac arrest, officials said. An official said that Mahaveer Prasad (66) son of Shri Gupta from Karnal Haryana, collapsed while on way to the cave shrine. He said that he was taken to Panjtarni medical facility, where he was declared dead on arrival due to cardiac arrest.

Simple Test Can Identify Blood Clots Related To Covid-19: Study

Researchers have used a minimally-invasive test to identify clots in small blood vessels in the skin of patients with severe COVID-19 that appeared normal, according to a study. These clots were not seen in the skin of patents with other types of severe infectious lung disease, or in individuals with only mild or moderate COVID-19, the researchers said. A skin biopsy is a procedure to remove cells or skin samples from for laboratory examination. The researchers said a skin biopsy can help assess tissue damage related to COVID-19 as well as help distinguish this blood vessel pathology from other forms of severe respiratory illnesses. Prior to this study, recently published in The American Journal of Pathology, invasive procedures such as nerve, kidney, or lung biopsy would have been required. "We were the first group to recognise that the lung disease of acute COVID-19 was different from other severe critical respiratory infections, and that the unusual pathology was systemic," said study lead investigator Jeffrey Laurence, from Weill Cornell Medicine institute in the US. The researchers collected



4 millimetre (mm) biopsy samples of normal-appearing skin from 15 patients who were in intensive care with COVID-19 and six patients with mild to moderate disease symptoms, such as fever, chills, cough, or shortness of breath. Biopsy samples from nine hospitalised patients with severe or critical respiratory or kidney disease who died before the COVID-19 era were also included in the study.

The researchers found that microthrombi or small blood clots were detected in 13 of the 15 patients with severe or critical COVID-19. No microthrombi were detected in the biopsies of patients who had mild to moderate COVID-19 or the pre-COVID-19 era patients with severe respiratory illness or kidney diseases, the researchers said. It is likely that these microvascular changes may be a unique characteristic of COVID-19 respiratory disorder

compared to other acute respiratory diseases, they said. An antiviral protein capable of blocking SARS-CoV-2 growth, MxA, was found in all six mild to moderate COVID-19 patients, indicating that their immune systems were actively fighting the virus, versus only two patients with severe to critical disease, according to the researchers. An interferon-induced inflammatory protein, SIN3A, was prominent in the mi-

crovascular of normal-appearing skin from patients with severe or critical COVID-19, but not in similar samples from normal control subjects, they said. Interferons and cytokines are molecules crucial for appropriate response to pathogens, damaged cells, or irritants in inflammatory response. Increased SIN3A levels in plasma and expression in the small vessels of skin were associated with the severity of the patient's disease and could contribute to the cytokine storm characteristic in such patients. A cytokine storm is a severe immune reaction in which the body releases too many cytokines into the blood too quickly. Laurence notes that these results have clinical implications. "Although anticoagulants were used in the pre-COVID-19 era in sepsis-associated pneumonias to reduce macrovessel thromboembolism, most randomised trials to date have not found this treatment benefits hospitalised patients who are critically ill with COVID-19 acute respiratory distress syndrome. "These drugs may not be capable of reducing the microvessel thrombosis found with SARS-CoV-2 infection," he added.

Teaching Young People About Climate Change Through Comics

Everyday Stories of Climate Change, with fictional characters but actual experiences, helps the youth understand climate change better

The Conversation

We know young people are angry, frustrated and scared about climate change. And they want to do more to stop it. However, the school system is not set up to help them address their concerns and learn the information they seek. There are no explicit mentions of climate change in the Australian primary school curriculum and it is mainly taught through STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) subjects in high school. More broadly, the main ways we talk about climate in the community and media are focused on science and economics. They tend to involve abstract ideas such as the planet is warming or rainfall is more unpredictable. While these are important components, they overlook the social, cultural and psychological ways people around the world are affected by climate change. So, how can we better support schools and teachers to approach climate change in a way that will suit young people's interests and concerns?

Our comic

We are geography and environment researchers who have written a comic that looks at how people around the world experience climate change. This is aimed at high school students, but will also appeal to university students and the broader public. Called Everyday Stories of Climate Change, it looks at the ways low-income families have had to adapt to climate change in five countries across three continents. It begins with a student, waking up in Australia and heading to school. Here the teacher notes that climate change is impacting people around the world, today we are going to explore some of these places.



government is trying to displace people from their lands, so that private businesses can build luxury hotels after hurricane Irma. The characters in the comics are fictionalised but their stories are based on research via interviews and surveys the comic authors did about people's experiences of climate change in Bolivia, Puerto Rico, Barbuda, South Africa and Bangladesh.

The importance of stories Researchers have long argued we need to put a human face on climate change and communicate in ways that resonate with people. This means, we need to do more than present a graph or rattle off statistics. Comics are an effective way to put a human face on issues because

they allow us to show first-person narratives and experiences. This can create both understanding of the issues and evoke empathy in readers. The comic is deliberately engaging and accessible. By showing real people going about their lives, it also challenges patronising ideas about people and places

adversely impacted by climate change in the so-called global south, which often portrays them as helpless victims. The comic also allows people to see the tangible, everyday ways people around the world live with, respond to and adapt to climate change. For example, the family in Puerto Rico raise their own chickens and grow their own vegetables so they can eat the food they want during food shortages after hurricane Maria. In drought-stricken Cape Town, people save the bathwater for the garden and plant drought-tolerant aloes. It is important to show these solutions as research suggests it gives people a sense of agency and hope they can adapt to climate change.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENIGNEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENIGNEER ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

B

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-TENDER NIT NO. 52/XEN/EDS/2022-23 OF 07/2022

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head Of Account
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Day to Day Civil Work of old block Legislatures at Hostel at M.A.Road Srinagar. (Part-A)	2.28 lacs	200/-	30 Days	DEE	2011-ASSEMBLY
2.	Day to Day Civil Work of old block Legislatures at Hostel at M.A.Road Srinagar. (Part-B)	2.27 lacs	200/-	30 Days	DEE	

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-07-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15.07.2022 from 10.00 AM.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	15.07.2022 from 10.00 AM.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	21.07.2022 upto 3.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21.07.2022 at 3.05 PM.

In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

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

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

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

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

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

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

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

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and Taxes:- The rate quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on Estates e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

13.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-

a. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

b. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan

c. All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration Form

d. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.

14. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest Clearance Certificate FORM GST-3B i.e. latest Clearance Certificate.

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

16. All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

17. Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No document (s) which has /have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

DIPK-6019/22

No. - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/3274-84/2022 /T-1
Dated:- 14-07-2022

Office of the Principal
Sheikh-ul-Alaam Secondary School
Affiliated with BOSE KMR.

Govt. Recognized No. Edu-2824-94 Panzan, Chadoora

Ref. No: SAMS PNZ 243/22 Dated 10-06-2022
Subject: Managing committee of sheikh-ul-alam secondary School, Panzan , Chadoora Budgam.

S.No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qual.	Occup.	Design.
1	Mohammad Hashim Bhat	Gh Mohd Bhat	Panzan	12th & Diploma	Retired Employee	Chairman
2	Firdous Ah. Bhat	Gh Rasool Bhat	Pannzan	12th Business	Business	Secretary
3.	Iqbal Mohd Dohbi	Ab Ahad Dohbi	Panzan	B.A	Business	Member
4.	Mohd Shafi Bhat	Ab Salam Bhat	Panzan	10Th	Farmer	Member
5	Mohammad Latief Sofi	Ghulam Nabi Sofi	Panzan	10th	Farmer	Member
6	Mohd Yousuf Dar	Gh Ahmad Dar	Namtehal	B.A	Pvt teacher	Member
7	Zahoor Ahmad Bhat	Gh Mohd Bhat	Yarikalan	M.A B.Ed	Principal of the school (prt)	Member
8	Ghulam Jeelani Bhat	Mohd Shafi Bhat	Devbagh Gopal saif	M.A. B.Ed	Business	Member
9	Muneer Ahamd Dar	Mohammad Hashim Dar	Panzan	B. Tech	Pvt Teacher	Member

fko

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR
HAZRATBAL SRINAGAR (J&K) – 190006

RESULT NOTIFICATION
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Mr. M Haider Mehraj S/o Dr. M Mehraj Ud Din, (Enrolment No. 2015-FOE-Ph.D.-Autumn-50) bearing Registration No. NIT- Ph.D.-153-2015 who pursued his research Programme in the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal (J&K) and submitted his thesis entitled "Hybrid Physio – Behavioral Biometric Recognition using Handcrafted and Deep Net Features" under the supervision of Dr. Ajaz Hussain Mir, Professor, Electronics & Communication Engineering Department, NIT Srinagar is declared qualified for the award of Ph.D. Degree in the discipline of Engineering on June 13, 2022 in the Faculty of Engineering (FOE), National Institute of Technology Srinagar.
No. NIT/ADE/Ph.D/Result/22/3246-55
Dated: June 13, 2022

Sd/
Associate Dean Examination

mp



Teenage Couple Attempts Suicide In Harwan, Girl Dies, Boy Critical

Agencies

Srinagar: In a tragic incident, a couple allegedly committed suicide by hanging themselves in Harwan area of Srinagar on Friday, following which girl died, while boy is stated to be critical and has been hospitalized.

Official sources said a 17-year-old boy of Koker Mohalla Harwan hanged himself at his home, following which his family members rushed him to SKIMS Soura

for treatment.

They said that the boy was having an affair with a girl and he is said to be in a critical condition at the hospital.

Family members said after hearing the news of her boyfriend hanging himself, a 17-year-old girl also hanged herself at her home in Theed Harwan.

Soon after the incident, she was rushed to PHC Harwan by her family members, however, she died at the health facility, they said. (KNO)

Minor Killed In Accident At Saidpora, Eidgah

Agencies

Srinagar: A minor boy was killed in a road accident on Ali Jan Road Saidpora, Eidgah area of Srinagar on Friday evening.

Official sources said that an eight-year-old Hudain Mushtaq Bhat, son of Mush-

taq Ahmad Bhat of Syedpora Iddgha was hit by a vehicle on Ali Jan road, resulting in his onspot death.

After completing the medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family for last rites.

Meanwhile, Safakadal Police has taken cognizance of the incident. (KNO)

DC finalizes preparations Activities For Har Ghar Tiranga

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to finalise the preparations and plan of activities for celebrations of Har Ghar Tiranga to mark the 75th Independence Day under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today chaired a meeting of Zonal, District Officers of all the Departments.

DC said the programme, which is being held from August 11 to August 16, 2022, is aimed at invoking a feeling of patriotism among the citizens and promoting a sense of respect for the symbols of Independence.

The DC stressed upon the Officers to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to make the programme a success.

On the occasion, the DC

asked the District heads of all the Departments to submit department wise requisitions for National flags to District Tiranga Centre which has been set up in the DC office for collection and stocking of the National flags for proper distribution among all the participant departments/stakeholders. He also enjoined upon them to deposit contributions of employees in the relevant account head.

During the meeting, Nodal officers for smooth observation of the event were also nominated respectively for residential, institutional and vehicular means.

The DC asked the officers of Rural Development Department to ensure active participation of PRIs in the programme at panchayat levels. While other officers were also directed to take all required measures for success of the programme.

NIRF RANKINGS 2022

KU Maintains Top Slot Among J&K Varsities

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The University of Kashmir has figured at 53rd rank in the assessment under National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) of the Union Ministry of Education. The varsity has shown remarkable qualitative improvement in key parameters related to academics and research. The University continues to be among top ranked universities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with an overall point score of 48.27 in the current ranking as compared to 46.97 in the previous one from amongst the universities ranked across the country.

In comparison to the figures of the last NIRF assessment, the University of Kashmir in the current assessment has shown a significant progress in several key parameters including Financial Resources and their Utilization (FRU) where the varsity has scored 7.42 points as against 4.25 in the previous ranking. In key parameters under Research and Professional Practices ((RP), the University has got a



point score of 8 in the PU (Publications) sub-category where it had scored 7.35 in the previous ranking. The University has also shown good progress in the QP (Quality of Publications) sub-category, scoring 11.34 in the current assessment as against 10.3 in the previous one.

In the Graduation Outcome (GO) category, the University has once again improved its score in the GPHD, which concerns the matrix for number of PhD students who have graduated from the institution, scoring therein 19.56 as against 17.03

in the previous ranking. Also, the University has scored better in the Women's Diversity as well as Peer Perception.

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) to rank India's top colleges and universities was released on Friday. The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the NIRF report. NIRF India Rankings 2022 have been announced for ten categories - Overall, Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Colleges, Architecture, Law, Medical, Dental and Research.

NIT Srinagar Gets 66th Rank In Engineering Category

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has secured 66th rank in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings 2022 in the engineering category. The results of which were released by the Ministry of Education on Friday.

The rankings were released under 11 categories. This includes overall, university, management, college, pharmacy, medical, engineering, architecture, ARIIA (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), law, and research institutions.

NIT Srinagar has secured 66th rank among the 3500 engineering colleges in India and the highest ranking in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal congratulated the faculty, research scholars, and staff members. "NIT Srinagar has done well in the NIRF rankings and it was the joint efforts and all have performed well," he said.

Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar, Nodal Officer, NIRF 2022 appreciated the efforts and active participation done by the NIRF team, faculty staff, and students which led to this great achievement.

Regarding overall scores, he said in all the pa-

rameters NIT Srinagar has performed well including 63.20 out of 100 marks in Teaching, Learning & Resources, 19.80 in Research and Professional



Practice, and 64.43 in Graduation Outcomes, 65.87 marks in Outreach and Inclusivity, 11.37 in perception level.

"This year under engineering discipline more than 3500 institutions had participated and among them, NIT Srinagar secured 69th rank. We are confident that we will reach the chair of triumph with the same team spirit in the forthcoming years too," he said.

Former NC leader Qaiser Ganai Joins AP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Qaiser Ganai member of the District Development Council (DDC) from the Khimber block of Srinagar, along with his supporters and workers joined Apni

Party (AP) on Friday. He was earlier associated with the National Conference (NC).

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari greeted the new entrants at a function at the party's headquarters in Srinagar.

سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن

اطلاع عام بسلسلہ بولی نیلام گھوڑے بزرگیہ سرمہبر

ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن کے پچانک واقع ٹینگہ پورہ ،بہ مالو بانی پاس میں مورخہ 21-06-2022 سے پانچ (5) گھوڑے بغیر کسی دعویٰ کے بند پڑے (ضبط شدہ) ہیں۔ ان ضبط شدہ گھوڑوں کے مالکان کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ مورخہ 18-07-2022 تک پچانک ہذا میں اپنے گھوڑوں سے متعلق شناخت ظاہر کرنے کے بعد جرمانہ و دیگر اکراجات ادا کر کے اپنے گھوڑوں کو واپس لے جائیں۔ بصورت دیگر ان ضبط شدہ گھوڑوں کو بذریعہ سرمہبر offers حاصل کرنے کے تحت فروخت کیا جائیگا۔ اس سلسلے میں ذریعہ نیلامی جانور کو تفصیلات و بیڑی آفیسر کے دفتر واقع ٹینگہ پورہ بانی پاس سے دفتری اوقات کے دوران حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔

لہذا خواہشمند اصحاب اپنی مہربند آفر مورخہ 19-07-2022 دن کے 2:00 PM تک و بیڑی آفیسر کے پاس پیش کر سکتے ہیں۔

no: smc/mud/264 dated : 14-07-2022

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- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI
CALENDAR
16- Zil- Hajj
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 49
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9: 24

This Day In History

- 1942 - French police arrest 13,152 Jews in Paris
- 1945 - Cruiser Indianapolis leaves SF with atom bomb
- 1956 - Karelo-Finnish SSR becomes part of Russian SFSR
- 1956 - King Faisal of Iraq begins visit to England
- 1966 - Nigeria becomes the first Anglophone independent state in Africa to become an associate member of European Economic Community
- 1969 - Apollo 11 launched, carrying 1st men to land on Moon
- 1971 - Franco appoints prince Juan Carlos as deputy in Spain
- 1979 - Premier/pres al-Bakr of Iraq is succeeded by Saddam Hussein
- 1980 - Polish railway workers block railway to Russia
- 1981 - India performs nuclear Test
- 1982 - NASA launches Landsat 4 to thematic map the Earth
- 1982 CDC report on AIDS symptoms in three hemophiliacs
- 1983 - 20 killed in Britain's worst helicopter accident
- 1983 - Sikorsky S-61 disaster: A helicopter crashes off the Isles of Scilly, causing 20 fatalities.
- 1985 - Bill to abolish Greater London Council receives royal assent
- 1987 - Great Britain performs nuclear Test at Nevada Test Site
- 1989 - South Africa's largest labour federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, holds its third annual congress and intensifies its campaign against apartheid
- 1990 - 400 die in a (7.7) earthquake in Philippines
- 1990 - Ukraine declares independence
- 1999 - John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and sister-in-law Lauren Bessette are killed in a plane crash off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Piper Saratoga aircraft was piloted by Kennedy.

From KO Archives

Soldier killed by CRPF men

Mistaken for a militant after girl's murder

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - A soldier was shot dead by CRPF personnel in an Anantnag village on Wednesday night minutes after he killed a local girl.

The soldier from the 49th RR was shot dead by a patrol party who mistook him for a militant on account of his plain clothes and furtive movements while fleeing from the scene of his crime.

Outraged by the killing of the girl, thousands of people came out into the streets today holding protests against the security forces and demanding that the body of the RR man be handed over to them.

The soldier had sneaked into the house of Muhammad Akbar Dar in village Changoo in Doom area through a window after climbing over a walnut tree, and demanded food and a place for the night.

Enraged when the family refused his demand, the soldier had shot and injured Dar's 19-year-old daughter, Zahida, who fell down in a pool of blood?

The family tried to catch hold of him, but he pumped a fatal shot into the girl and managed to escape from the scene. A CRPF patrol outside the village ordered the fleeing Soldier to stop, and opened fire taking him to be a militant, the KNS, quoting police sources as having said. He died on the spot after identifying the soldier, the CRPF left his body and weapons lying in the field.

The defence spokesman, Col V.K Batra, however, told the KNS that the soldier had committed suicide after killing the girl. The local population surged into the streets in a huge demonstration against the security forces, sitting on a dharna and disrupting traffic.

Demanding that the soldier's body be handed over to them, the villagers said he had entered Dar's house with evil intentions and had molested his daughter before shooting her dead.

The senior superintendent of police in Anantnag, Aashiq Husain Bukhari, however said, that no molestation had taken place.

(Kashmir Observer, 16 July, 2005)

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Editorial: (0194) 2502327
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Twitter Talks



"Global power is about military power & deterrence - being played by the US
Global influence is about offering prosperity & cooperative security to BRI nations in return for deference to China's opinion on their foreign policy. It is US' chess game versus China's Wei Qi!"
@pravinswahney

" The Indian rupee weakens to a record low, near 80 to a dollar. This is worrying because India's official inflation is much less than US inflation. This means, under normal circumstances, the rupee should have got stronger instead of weaker "
@kaushikbasu

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Misplaced Tantrums

Over a dozen persons, including two former and senior bureaucrat, accused of involvement in the infamous exploitation scandal and lodged in Srinagar's central jail at present, went on an indefinite hunger strike last week against what they termed as 'denial of justice' to them 'at all levels.' They refused the breakfast on Saturday and handed over a letter addressed to the superintendent of jail which, however, did not carry the signature of the prime accused, Sabeena. "We are on a hunger strike. (We) protest against denial of justice 'at all levels,' the letter said. Among other things, the accused jail inmates listed a number of grounds for the protest, including "denial of forum to project our cause, denial of legal assistance and non-consideration of bail applications." They also took an offence at the handcuffing of seven of the accused when they were produced in the court of chief judicial magistrate on Friday besides protesting the 'lack of security' en-route and inside the court premises. A day earlier, some of the high-profile accused in the scandal created unruly scenes in the court, even repeatedly shouting at the judge inside the court room as some of "their relatives" tried to attack his office from outside. Seven accused, including the former additional advocate general, Anil Sethi, the DIG of border security force, K S Padhi, and the kingpin Sabeena, were brought to the court hooded and handcuffed which they contended was "against the Supreme Court guidelines." Anil Sethi even objected to the presence of mediapersons in the court. Amid all the shouting, however, there was pin drop silence for a while after the judge warned the accused of "landing in trouble." Some persons even tried to attack the court and banged its doors forcing the police to resort to a mild lathicharge to disperse the crowd. Having thrown the tantrums, the accused relented later and called off their strike after the jail superintendent forwarded their memorandum to the director general of police and the divisional commissioner. Nevertheless, the court has initiated action, including contempt proceedings, against Anil Sethi and some others for "using intemperate language against the judge and the court."

Obviously, the accused must know that no civilized society can countenance the heinous crime they are accused of. By creating a ruckus within and outside a court, they certainly cannot escape from the legal consequences of their alleged deeds. It goes without saying that a mere statement of the victims in the sexploitation case is more than enough to take legal action against the accused. Judicial pronouncements have made it abundantly clear that no further evidence would be required to proceed against a rapist. In the sex scandal that rocked Kashmir in April this year, India's premier investigating agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation, which has been entrusted with perhaps the most challenging of criminal cases, is understood to have taken all the precautions to ensure that no innocent person was implicated. For that matter, its sleuths corroborated the evidence provided by the victims again and again to lay their hands at the accused after being convinced about their involvement. On their part, the courts too are leaving nothing to chance. Indeed, the investigations and the trials are being carried out under the watchful eyes of people, who are equally concerned in the case which has shattered their faith in the entire system they breathe in. Nobody can deny that the act of forcing scores of unsuspecting girls, many of them minor, into prostitution after administering drugs and filming them nude, cannot be taken as an ordinary crime. By any stretch of imagination, it is an extraordinary crime of an enormous import and calls for an equally extraordinary response not merely from the established legal system but from the society as a whole. Based on sheer common sense, indeed the dictates of mass conscience, like it is in certain Muslim countries, a summary trial followed by capital punishment could be the most deterrent and effective response in such a case, if the prospective victims of such barbarity were to be insured against similar risks at the hands of beasts who are present in the society aplenty and who will always be on the prowl for them. There is no denying that those who are never tired of painting such deterrent laws as barbaric have themselves demanded death penalty for rapists. The home ministry in New Delhi is already seized of the matter and is believed to be contemplating an amendment in the constitution to provide for such a punishment for rapists. One would expect the government in Jammu and Kashmir to bring in such a legislation to ensure that flaws do not have the better of the law in the instant case and that a deterrent law is put in place before the judicial process reaches its final stage.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on July 12, 2006

Skills Enhancement: Way Forward for Indian Madrassas

Asad Mirza

Ever since their emergence, the Madrasas in India have persisted with a curriculum that has seen few changes. The fact that literally, lakhs of Muslim children acquire their primary, and perhaps their only formal education, in these Madrasas where only literature and Islamic studies with a cursory knowledge of social sciences thrown in, are taught, should be a matter of concern not only to their parents but also to anybody concerned with education in any manner. The format of education imparted to the students of Madrasas ought to be modified keeping in view the shifting demands of the job market – a concern that can no longer be under-played. And this is perfectly possible without an erosion of the cultural and religious identity.

Developing suitable answers for today's dilemmas requires an examination of the essentials of education. Education involves transference to others, of knowledge and values accumulated by mankind. Even though schools and teachers have been part of the process of education for hundreds or even thousands of years, it is the spirit of inquiry that has enriched mankind with knowledge. We learn through reading, experience by watching others and by observing the world in general. Inculcating a spirit of scientific enquiry in students will perhaps be the best manner of propelling them on the path of learning.

Even though this may be the general agreement, it is a fact that in this country particularly, whenever an attempt is made to institute any profound change, a resistance begins to act from its very inception. The critics flinch at the vision of a Madrasa system where modern education or skills enhancement would jettison religious knowledge and make education "worldly" and "impersonal".

It is a matter of satisfaction to note that of late, some Madrasas have realised the significance of modern education, and have introduced teaching science, English and Computer skills in their curricula. For example the two largest Madrasas in India, Darul Uloom-Deoband and Nadwatul Ulema-Lucknow have braced themselves to be the harbinger of change and have introduced English language teaching and computer skills as part of their curriculum. But both have not been able to bring about any noticeable improvement in the quality of education they impart to their students.

It is often argued that if modern education is so sensational, why hasn't it brought any notable improvement to education in the few Madrasas that have adopted it? In reality, in spite of modern education being imparted, thousands of Madrasas don't have a well-formulated curriculum, and/or couldn't implement it even if they wanted to, as they don't have sufficiently trained and proficient staff.



Representational Image (PTI)

It is also a fact that in the earlier years of madrasa education, the founders of Darul Uloom-Deoband, insisted on imparting skills enhancement to their students. Thus enabling them to earn their livelihood and also continue with their religious duties. These skills enhancements included calligraphy, book binding, printing and tailoring. However, over time these components were removed from the madrasa training.

But as it is, the wheels of history continue turning round and round, and indeed nowadays Skills Enhancement has become a buzzword for the whole world, not just for madrasa students. In the given scenario, madrasa authorities could very well take advantage of different skills enhancement programmes run by the GoI, government and private institutions and different universities and colleges throughout the country.

Madrasa authorities across India can collaborate with National Skills Foundation of India, National Skill Development Corporation, NSIC, Delhi Skill & Entrepreneurship University, Jamia Millia Islamia, AMU and Jamia Hamdard University to name a few, to initiate skills enhancement and development programmes for their students.

In addition, madrasas can also collaborate with various NGOs, who have a credible record

of delivering Skills Enhancement and personal-ity development courses over the years.

Madrasa students have an edge over students of the modern education system, their memorisation capacity is honed so well that this capacity can be utilised to guide them through various skills enhancement courses related to computers and IT, like data analytics and programming. In the past, organisations, which had embarked on this path, reported highly encouraging results.

If the madrasa authorities in collaboration with central bodies like the Ministry of Minority Affairs and Maulana Azad National Foundation carry forward such successful programmes, whose results have been quantified and documented well, then this could augur well both for the country and madrasa. It will also ensure taking the sting out of the critic's blame that madrasa students are inferior to the students who have pursued courses under the modern education system.

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

Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. www.asad-mirza.blogspot.com

Boris Johnson and Decline of Thatcherism

Peter Osborne

Tory Party to its financial backers. Like many senior members of the government front bench, he's done business offshore, jointly owning a film financing business that cropped up in the Pandora Papers.

In the days when trade unions called the shots, there were frequent meetings at 10 Downing Street between Wilson, Murray and the union bosses to thrash out counter-inflation policy over beer and sandwiches, which I've been told were often prepared in the tiny Downing Street kitchen by Mary Wilson, the prime minister's wife.

Under the Johnson/Elliott regime, the prime minister and his cabinet meet their financial supporters at lavish London parties. The most recent of these plush events took place at the Victoria & Albert Museum last month, where prizes were auctioned off for Tory funds. An African safari trip reportedly went for £65,000 (\$77,000), a shooting weekend for £37,000, a wine tasting for £30,000, and a dinner with Johnson and two former Tory prime ministers for £120,000.

What a message this sends out at a time when a growing number of British people don't know how to pay for their next meal.

Few billionaires are soft touches. They tend not to write cheques out of the goodness of their hearts, so I suspect some want a return for their money: contracts, access, planning consent, legal changes.

The begging bowl

Now let's look at the Tory leadership campaign. The super-rich fought hard to keep Johnson, with 22 of the richest donors declaring "unwavering support" for the now disgraced prime minister as recently as a month ago. Meanwhile, some had been carefully nursing alternatives: an investigation for the Byline Times last week showed that 14 front-runners for the leadership contest had secured £307,000 in donations over the last 12 months.

That included £65,000 for Tom Tugendhat, with a large proportion from Lord Michael Spencer, a shareholder in GB News. Priti Patel, whose

campaign flopped, received £140,000, including a £100,000 donation from oil trader Pierre Andurand.

Meanwhile, the limit for spending on leadership campaigns has been quietly lifted to a prodigious £300,000. No wonder candidates are forced to hand out the begging bowl to donors.

Other candidates receive payment in kind. Aristocrat Baron Howard of Riving, a former private secretary to Enoch Powell, allowed candidate Liz Truss to base her campaign headquarters in his grand and convenient Westminster home.

The Tory leadership campaign has seen vicious personal infighting, but precious few policy differences. All accept Johnson's policy of deporting migrants to Rwanda. None have challenged his attacks on the basic tenets of liberal democracy, including on judges and the rule of law.

None has spoken out against attacks on the European Convention on Human Rights, the privatisation of Channel 4, or the stealthy privatisation of the BBC. None has called out the stretch of big donor money at Tory central office. It is perhaps significant that Rishi Sunak, the only candidate not to advocate hefty tax cuts, has a family fortune estimated at £700m, so he has no need for donor support.

Too much power

For the Labour-supporting union barons 50 years ago, read today's Tory billionaires. They have been allowed too close to power. They have too much power. It is the job of a responsible government to keep billionaires at bay, not to obey their orders.

This structural surrender to the interests of the super-rich, part of the wider problem of the Americanisation of British politics, has corrupted the Conservative Party. Not one Tory candidate has even dared to say this. When I rang one up to suggest he do so, he showed no interest, and brought our conversation to a speedy end.

The postwar era in Britain can be divided into two parts. In the

wake of the Second World War, the Attlee government built a social democratic state, the National Health Service, the welfare state, and a mixed economy with trade unions given a seat at the top table. In the 1970s, partly because of the global oil crisis, that system collapsed, and Britain entered a period of mortal crisis that ended with the rise of Thatcher. She established a new system that some commentators labelled neoliberalism.

It's one measure of the irresponsibility of the Tory leadership battle that not one candidate mentions this. Thatcherism was so successful that it ended up being championed by former Prime Minister Tony Blair's New Labour. But today, it is in collapse. It pains me, a onetime admirer of Thatcher, to acknowledge this. But the system she championed has degenerated into an obscene system of government by and for the super-rich.

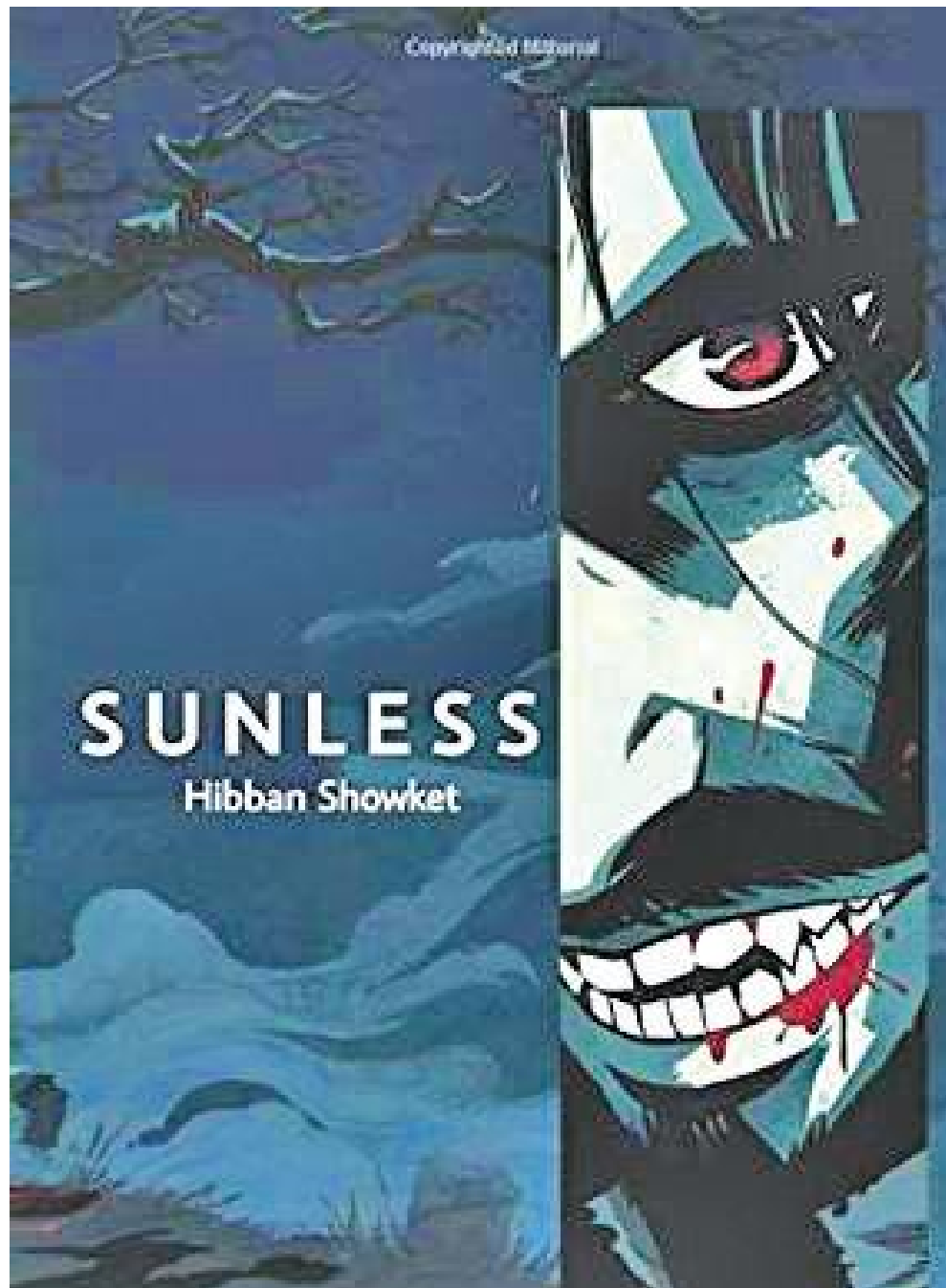
Recently, I asked myself who I preferred: the Tory donors who pull the strings in the modern Conservative Party, or Mick Lynch, general secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

The answer is Lynch. Every time. He's loyal, palpably decent, straight-up, and stands up for his people. He knows what he talks about. He pays British taxes and isn't based offshore. I suspect that most people feel the same.

There's an enormous opportunity here for Keir Starmer's Labour. Britain has already embarked upon the early stages of a massive - and hugely painful - economic and social crisis. It's one measure of the irresponsibility of the Tory leadership battle that not one candidate mentions this. Nor does Starmer. The economic system created by Thatcher - and her disciple Blair - has finally failed.

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 The Middle East Eye

The author won best commentary/blogging in both 2022 and 2017, and was also named freelancer of the year in 2016 at the Drum Online Media Awards



BOOK REVIEW

Sunless: Our Own Vampire Diaries?

Sunless is a tale of loyalty and betrayal; love and animosity; justice and tyranny. Dominated by a blend of misery, suffering, and loss, the story evokes a mixed bag of emotions in the reader's mind

Ahmad Pathan

What happens when a band of bloodthirsty thugs in the town of Divilton conspire against mankind? The story narrated in *Sunless*, a thriller novella, revolves around the protagonist, Zuke, who was orphaned at a very young age and sets out on a stupefying adventure to unravel his true identity. Initially oblivious to the dark past haunting his murdered family, he leads a life plagued with the untimely losses of his loved ones, as his soul alternates between periods of hope, courage, anger, and sorrow. As he wanders in the jungles of Divilton, the 118-page novella introduces mysterious, supernatural characters who inspire and more often, agitate him to unearth the legacy of his parents from within his heart and join the battle against evil. The book also presents an account of the power struggle between two rival factions of vampires, the Red Skulls and the Black Skulls. The former is sympathetic to humanity and vows to protect them against the latter till their last breath. However, due to the gullible and complacent nature of human beings, as alluded to in the book, the dark forces momentarily triumph over the light of truth. But in the end, there is a clear victory of good over evil, which chalks out a perfect conclusion to the story. The final pages of the book leave the reader on the edge of their seats as Zuke finally attains salvation after fulfilling his mission on earth.

Sunless is a tale of loyalty and betrayal; love and animosity; justice and tyranny. Dominated by a blend of misery, suffering, and loss, the story evokes a mixed bag of emotions in the reader's mind. One can remark that the title of the novella accurately describes the mood of the book, portraying Zuke as a resilient character who, in spite of being deprived of the light of hope and happiness throughout his life, chooses to side with humanity and its allies for the sake of peace, and seek revenge for the cold-blooded killings of his beloved and his family.

Although the book is divided into 4 parts, the author, Hibban Showkat, has made a beautiful attempt to knit the plot in a manner so as to preserve the sui generis nature of each of these parts. I have observed that the subdivision of the book into 26 distinct chapters plays a minimal role in enhancing the overall plot of the story, as it can be observed that the partitioning has been arbitrarily carried out. However, it does not negatively impact the reading experience in any way. The setting of the novel is predominantly rural and heavily dotted with references to the natural beauty and landscape of Divilton and its adjoining areas, which kindles a plethora of imagery in the reader's eyes. As indicated in the prologue, the story is completely detached from reality and is heavily dominated by fictional characters, notably the vampires, John, Alex, and the antagonist, Jordon. Its fictional details are devoid of any underlying values and wisdom, but the tale is genuinely engaging and easy to follow. The story is narrated in first-person, which immerses one into the world that the author is trying to depict. There is a structural consistency within the text, through which each segment of the story unfolds in a way that reveals new details with an aura of mystery, intensity, and suspense.

When I first read the novel, I could sense that Hibban is heavily imbued with the writing style of Western writers like Dickens and Bukowski. It was so refreshing to observe the beauty of the syntax of the English language that was portrayed by the young writer in his work. While engaging in an informal chit-chat a few months ago, Hibban confided in me that he was apprehensive about pouring in all of his thoughts and ideas into the novel, for it could be a bad idea to exhaust all your creativity in your first novel. According to me, the end result was nevertheless a masterpiece for a young boy of age 16.

Hibban was in 10th grade when he published *Sunless* three years ago, in 2019. The book came into existence

after a year of excruciating hard work and perseverance. "I must have rewritten the entire novel a number of times, until I was confident about submitting it to a publishing house. I was on an emotional rollercoaster that year."

Hibban's work, despite having an excellent plot and emotional appeal to it, is unable to manifest its true grace owing to a lack of revision and editing by an external agency.

In recent years, a culture of self-publishing has prevailed in the Kashmiri literary circles, especially among young writers and novelists. Self-publishing has in fact attracted criticism due to the absence of proper reviewing authority to weed out inappropriate and copied content, which can be done only by carrying out proper due diligence. The imprints of traditional publishing giants have swarmed the market, resulting in an unhealthy glut of unedited and plagiarized books. *Sunless* has been an unfortunate victim of this vicious situation. Its pages are full of obvious grammatical errors, which could have been easily sifted out with sincere efforts. The characters, especially that of the Hermit, should have been given expository backstories to further elaborate on the motive of their actions. In chapter 4 of part 3, John refers to an 'ancient curse' of their ancestors, which has been casually used to change the entire course of the story without providing any further context. Such discrepancies could have been avoided by the author.

To conclude, the novel is very unique for the region, having been inspired by the famous show, *The Vampire Diaries*. Individuals looking for thriller novels with a similar storyline should definitely check out the book on e-commerce sites. Hibban Showkat was one of the earliest teenage authors of Kashmir, heralding the era of young writers being celebrated and publicized in the valley. Such prodigies time and again illustrate the amount of talent veiled in the Himalayan mountains, waiting to be tapped for the welfare of our society.

“A culture of self-publishing has prevailed in the Kashmiri literary circles, especially among young writers and novelists. Self-publishing has in fact attracted criticism due to the absence of proper reviewing authority to weed out inappropriate and copied content, which can be done only by carrying out proper due diligence. The imprints of traditional publishing giants have swarmed the market, resulting in an unhealthy glut of unedited and plagiarized books. *Sunless* has been an unfortunate victim of this vicious situation

Can Too Much Happiness Or Sadness Kill?

Adam Taylor

Dying of a broken heart was just a figure of speech until 2002 when Dr Hikaru Sato and colleagues at Hiroshima City Hospital described it in a study. Sato named the condition takotsubo cardiomyopathy. It was quickly dubbed "broken heart syndrome".

More recently, scientists have discovered that you can also die of an excess of happiness. And it is the same condition: takotsubo cardiomyopathy. Naturally, it's being called "happy heart syndrome".

So what is takotsubo cardiomyopathy – or takotsubo syndrome, as it is also known? And why do some people die of it?

First, it should be stressed that takotsubo cardiomyopathy is rarely fatal. As with other cardiomyopathies (disease of the heart muscle), most people recover within a couple of months without long-term heart damage.

It is so named because people with the condition have an abnormally shaped left ventricle – the main pumping chamber in the heart. Sato thought the shape – narrow at the top and ballooning at the bottom – resembled the ceramic pots used to trap octopuses (takotsubo), hence the name.

This ballooning weakens the heart muscle, affecting its ability to pump blood effectively.

MORE CASES OR BETTER AWARENESS?

A study of around 135,000 people in the US found that the number of people diagnosed with this condi-



tion increased steadily over the 11 years that the study was conducted (2006-2017). It is more common in women (88%) and seen most commonly in people aged 50 and over.

Doctors are probably finding more cases now because there is better awareness of the condition, people are living longer and there are better diagnostic tools to detect it.

Until recently, this "broken heart" syndrome was shown to be associated with significant emotional or physical stress. The exact mechanism by which the stress causes the change in the heart's shape and the subsequent symptoms – chest pain and shortness of breath – is still not fully understood.

Doctors have noted similar harm-

ful changes to the heart in people with conditions, such as pheochromocytoma (a rare tumour on the adrenal glands) and central nervous system disorders. In these conditions, there is an excess of catecholamines, which are hormones, such as adrenaline, noradrenaline and dopamine, made by the adrenal glands. This provides a hint of the possible

role of these hormones in takotsubo cardiomyopathy.

The role of these hormones in broken heart syndrome has been further cemented by the exact same ballooning of the heart's left ventricle being witnessed in patients treated with these catecholamines while undergoing cosmetic rhinoplasty ("nose job").

In stressful situations, these catecholamines are increased and they affect the body, particularly the heart where they are involved in increasing the heart rate and strength of the heartbeat. This effect in stressful situations is not a surprise, as often the body and mind go into a fight-or-flight mode, which triggers the release of these catecholamines.

Stressful events that can trigger takotsubo syndrome include receiving bad news (such as a cancer diagnosis), the loss of a loved one, domestic violence, a car accident and even public speaking.

THE FLIP SIDE

Most recently, researchers in Germany have described patients with takotsubo syndrome triggered by happy events, such as a wedding, the birth of grandchildren and winning the jackpot.

Of 910 patients in the study who had an emotional trigger for takotsubo syndrome, 37 had happy heart syndrome and 873 had broken heart syndrome. Unlike broken heart syndrome, which mainly affects women, happy heart syndrome was mostly observed in men.

The researchers found that deaths and complications from happy heart and broken heart syndrome are about the same, that is to say, rare. So don't worry about getting emotional about life's big events. They're very unlikely to kill you. But if you do feel pain or pressure in your chest, always seek medical help.

By Arrangements with The Conversation

Delhi Court Grants Bail To Zubair; "Voice Of Dissent Is Necessary For A Healthy Democracy"

Agenceis

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday granted bail to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair in a case related to his alleged objectionable tweet in 2018 on a Hindu deity, observing that "the voice of dissent is necessary for a healthy democracy".

Zubair, however, will remain in jail as he has been remanded to judicial custody in some of the FIRs registered against him by the UP Police for allegedly hurting religious sentiments.

Zubair will be sent to the concerned jail in Uttar Pradesh after his release, according to a Tihar jail official here. The journalist is currently lodged in Tihar jail since July 2.

Granting relief to the journalist, Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala said Indian democracy and the political parties are open for their criticism and that merely criticism of any political parties is no ground to invoke section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) and 295A (outraging religious feelings) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

"Undoubtedly free speech is

the proper foundation of a democratic society."

The court further said the Hindu religion is one of the oldest religion and most tolerant and that followers of the Hindu religion are also tolerant.

Six separate FIRs have been lodged against Zubair in Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar and Hathras districts in UP.

The court directed Zubair to furnish a bail bond of Rs 50,000 and one surety of like amount, and directed him not to leave the country without its prior permission and not to repeat the offence. The journalist was also ordered to ensure that his tweet or retweet, or any material on social media content is not even touching boundaries of the offence punishable under Section 153A and 295A of IPC.

It said the accused is not required for any custodial interrogation and the alleged act would come into the category of offence only when it is done with a guilty intention.

The judge noted that till today the police have failed to establish the identity of a said Twitter user who felt offended by the

tweet of the accused and based on whose complaint the present case was filed.

In response to prosecution's argument that the words "Before 2014" and "After 2014" used by the accused in his tweet have hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community and is sufficient to incite the feeling of hatred among people, the court said the followers of the Hindu religion are tolerant.

"Hindu religion is one of the oldest religions and most tolerant. The followers of the Hindu religion are also tolerant. Hindu religion is so tolerant that its followers proudly name their institution/organisation/facilities in the name of their Holy God or Goddess," the judge said.

A large number of Hindus proudly name their children in the name of their Holy God and Goddess, he added.

"The website of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India reveals that the number of companies is incorporated, in the name of Holy Hindu God or Goddess. Therefore naming of an institute, facility or organisation, or child in the name of Hindu Deity on the face of it,

is not violative of Section 153A and 295A IPC unless the same is done with malice/guilty intention," the judge said.

The court noted the use of words "Before 2014" and "After 2014" by the accused in his tweet was meant to point towards a particular political party. The BJP-led NDA came to power in 2014.

"In Indian democracy, the political parties are open for their criticism. The political parties are not shying away from the public to face the criticism of its policies. The voice of dissent is necessary for a healthy democracy. Therefore, merely for the criticism of any political parties, it is not justified to invoke sections 153A and 295A of IPC," the judge said.

He said that democracy is a government by the people via open discussion.

"The democracy can neither work nor prosper unless people go out to share their views. Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India gives freedom of speech and expression to its citizen."

He said that a free exchange of ideas, dissemination of information without restraints, dissemination of knowledge, airing of

differing viewpoints, debating and forming one's views and expressing them, are the basic indicator of a free society.

"This freedom alone makes it possible for people to formulate their own views and opinions on a proper basis and to exercise their social, economic, and political rights in a free society in an informed manner. The liberty of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) brings within its ambit, the corresponding duty and responsibility and puts limitations on the exercise of that liberty."

"The applicant has posted the image of the scene of a movie 'Kisi se na kehna' released in the year 1983. This movie was certified by the Central Board of Film Certification, which is a statutory body of the Government of India, and is available for the public view since then. No complaint is stated to have been filed till today that the said scene of the movie has hurt the feelings of a particular community of society," the court noted.

The court said police authorities are bound to proceed in the investigation as per provisions of CrPc.

Walmart And Flipkart Announce MoU With J&K Govt To Create A Robust Ecosystem for MSMEs to Grow Their Business



Srinagar: Walmart and Flipkart today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (a Government of J&K Undertaking) to create an ecosystem aiding capacity building for MSMEs in the region. Through this partnership, Walmart and Flipkart will enable local MSMEs to digitize their businesses and sell products online across the country. Furthermore, this work provides the opportunity to potentially access Walmart's global supply chain which will enable them to tap into its global market.

Through Swasti, Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Program (Walmart Vriddhi) provides entrepreneurs and MSMEs with free training, in-depth support, growth opportunities, and the right tools to grow and expand their business. Additionally, to facilitate business growth and development of small and medium enterprises, training seminars and mentorship workshops are organized routinely. Currently, MSMEs are enrolling for the program from Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Surat, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Agra, Panipat, and other tier 2 and tier 3 cities across India.

At the MoU signing, in the august presence of Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Shri. Manoj Sinha and Honorable Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Smt. Anupriya Patel, it was highlighted that Jammu & Kashmir was witnessing increased investment in the MSME sector with demand for Jammu

& Kashmir made goods rapidly growing in India and across the world. This is expected to help provide employment to local youth and establish Jammu & Kashmir as an aspirational investment destination. The MoU with Walmart and Flipkart on programs like Vriddhi was hailed as a welcome collaboration that will help unlock the region's true potential, creating an inclusive business environment.

Walmart Vriddhi, which launched in 2019, is designed to equip 50,000 Indian SMEs with the business skills they require to profit from Walmart, Flipkart, and other domestic and international marketplaces. Presently, Vriddhi is training thousands of MSMEs across multiple states and regions to expand their local capabilities, grow and expand their business and become part of global supply chains. With personalized feedback and one-on-one advisory sessions, the online program provides an all-inclusive learning experience.

On this development, Nidhi Munjal, Vice President, Supplier Development – India, Walmart, said, "We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and support their efforts to grow and build a robust MSME ecosystem. Through our Walmart Vriddhi program, we are eager to provide high impact training along with equal opportunities for MSMEs to access online and offline markets domestically and internationally. This partnership will be significant for our ongoing efforts to help make local MSMEs competitive and self-reliant."

India, EU Hold Human Rights Dialogue; Concur On Safeguarding Freedom Of Activists, Journalists

Agenceis

New Delhi: After a fresh round of human rights dialogue, India and the European Union on Friday concurred on the importance of safeguarding freedom, independence and diversity of civil society actors, including human rights defenders and journalists.

A joint press statement said the 10th India-EU human rights dialogue allowed for discussions on a wide range of human rights issues, but it did not elaborate on them.

The talks took place over a week after Germany, a key member of the EU, criticised Indian authorities over fact-checker Mohammed Zubair's arrest saying "Journalists should not be persecuted and

imprisoned for what they say and write." India had trashed the comments made by a German foreign ministry spokesperson.

"India and the EU reiterated their commitment to protecting and promoting all human rights. In this context, as open and democratic societies, they emphasised the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights," the statement said.

It said the two sides exchanged views and concerns on civil and political rights, rights of persons belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and opinion both online and offline.

Creation Of Standalone Air Defence Command May Prove Counter-Productive: IAF Chief

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Creation of a standalone air defence command may prove counter-productive as all elements of the nation's air power need work in close coordination to confront all possible future security challenges, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said on Friday.

The Chief of Air Staff also said that independent air defence systems in the field will have very little relevance in tomorrow's wars unless they are a part of a larger integrated air defence system.

His comments at a seminar came amid ongoing deliberations on the ambitious theaterisation initiative that entailed creation of an integrated air

defence command.

"While there is a need for close coordination between all elements within the same airspace to ensure aerospace safety as well as effective air defence, creation of an AD (Air Defence) command may prove counter-productive because air defence operations are inextricably linked to counter air operations and all offensive operations, as the success or failure of one, will dictate the demands on the other," the IAF chief said.

"The AD and offensive missions are interdependent and if executed in isolation, these would not only be disjointed but also ineffective in design or execution of the joint strategy," he added.

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari

said modern 4.5 and fifth generation aircraft have omnirole capability and to restrict those aircraft to any one role would lead to their underutilisation.

"Flexibility, one of the characteristics of air power, gives a planner the freedom to swing roles depending on the air situation and this must be capitalised on," he said.

The theatre commands are being planned to integrate the capabilities of the three services and to ensure optimal utilisation of their resources.

The Department of Military Affairs headed by India's first Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat last year had asked all the three services to carry out independent studies on the theaterisation plan for its rollout.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Survey Paints

investigator of survey was conducted by Dr Yasir Rather MD Professor, Department of Psychiatry, IMHANS, GMC, Srinagar, while Dr Fazle Roub (DM in Addiction Medicine) Consultant, Drug De-addiction center, IMHANS, GMC was the Co-Principal Investigator of Survey.

The team found out that since a couple of years, there has been an "exponential increase" in the extent of use of substances in the valley.

The report mentions that despite its (drugs) existence in our society, its extent and prevalence and associated factors aren't well documented.

"Absence of appropriate data leads to lack of formulation of public policies for managing the increasing substance use in the valley. Thus, there was an urgent need of research to assess the pattern and prevalence of illicit substance use in Kashmir valley, in order to further formulate effective programs and policies for dealing with drug use," it notes.

In this survey, a standard and validated tool, WHO ASSIST (v3.0) was employed to elicit information about the pattern of substance use as well as injection pattern of substance use Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) was used to collect a sample of 1500 participants- 150 from each district.

"Appropriate measures were taken in order to ensure genuineness, high ethical standards and proper procedures to be followed during data collection," the report says.

The study analysed alcohol, opioids, cannabis, and sedatives. The survey was conducted independently for each district and the findings projected for the population of Kashmir Valley, the report said.

Court Orders FIR

that "keeping in view entry No. 23 of SRO 202 of 1999 of JK Government dated 03-06-2022 relating to the Crime Branch which reads thus "23 Cognizable offences committed by or relating to public servant", this Court is of the opinion that Crime Branch has the jurisdiction to deal with the offence of the kind involved in the present case as in the present case, cognizable offences against public servants have been made out."

It further added that "thus, SHO Police Station, Crime Branch is directed to get an FIR registered in the case against the accused."

The court, however, noted that they won't pass any direction as far as the prayer for the direction to conduct Test Identification Parade (TIP) in the case and for collecting the CCTV footage of Police Station, Nowgam is concerned.

"It is the domain of the investigating agency and the Court cannot interfere in the same," the order reads.

In the petition moved before the court, Shafiqah had sought directions to the Station House Officer (SHO) Crime Branch, Srinagar to

lodge an FIR under relevant Provisions of law against accused persons and all other unidentified Police officials who allegedly tortured her son Muslim in custody.

On Saturday last, Muslim was summoned to the police station Nowgam in a case pertaining to the theft of a two-wheeler. Hours later, he was allegedly dropped home dead, setting off protests by his family and neighbours.

While the family accused police of custodial killing, the latter rubbished the charge claiming that Muslim was a drug addict. Later, police suspended an official and initiated an inquiry into the death of the youth.

Development In J&K

UT's in Export Promotion index and improving 13 positions in overall ranking.

With its rapidly growing economy, expanding market and industrial base, J&K is determined to construct a strong edifice of export ecosystem, he said.

Sinha said Jammu Kashmir region possesses several comparative advantages like climate and rich art and craft culture.

The Lt Governor said every district of J&K is blessed to have local products with potential to go global. Nine GI tagged products, more than 50 export potential products have been identified and institutional mechanism is created in all the districts to provide support for export promotion, he added.

District Export Plans prepared by DGFT and Industries Department is a huge leap in the campaign of AatmaNirbhar Bharat, which is connecting rural and urban India equally with the mainstream of economic development. It will help village industries, handloom industries of Jammu and Kashmir to achieve great strides in the export sector, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor also called upon the stakeholders to change marketing approach and focus on becoming exporters of finished products instead of just being the suppliers of raw materials.

I am confident that through the institutional mechanism of District Export Promotion Committees established in all the districts, we will fix the targets, take appropriate action on the support given to the local industries and efficiently convert Export Plans to Export Actions, cementing strong and economic foundation of the UT, he said.

The G-20 summit to be held next year will provide such a "historic opportunity to all of us to display the great tradition of the UT to the world and open new vistas to tap the ever-growing global market for handicrafts," he said.

The Union Minister of State Patel, while speaking on the occasion, termed it as an important step towards realizing the Prime Minister's vision of making the districts of J&K strong economic hubs, besides giving further impetus to the exports from the Jammu and Kashmir region.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is committed to strengthen each district of Jammu and Kashmir to optimally leverage their potential through District Export Hubs, she said.

Patel said the District Export Plans of the UT of J&K shall provide single source access to all stakeholders, industry and sector-wise exports data, along with user-friendly detailed data analysis.

Soldiers Train

The official said that one soldier [Sepoy Ibrar Ahmed] died on the spot while the three injured personnel were airlifted to army hospital in Udhampur.

"However, upon reaching the hospital another soldier [Naik Imtiyaz Ahmed] succumbed to his injuries. Naik Khalil Ahmed and Sepoy Makhan Singh are stable now," the defence official said, adding that the army has ordered a court of inquiry to ascertain the facts related to the incident.

Pertinently, the incident took place when the soldiers were being deployed for Road Opening Party (ROP) duty.

As per a data compiled by The wire from different sources, between January and August 2020, 18 members of the security forces died by suicide and six died in fratricidal incidents, making a total of 24 such deaths.

The report further stated that in 2019, according to the annual human rights review by the Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), 19 members of the armed forces reportedly died by suicide while three were killed in a fratricidal incident in Udhampur district. The total number of deaths by suicide and fratricide for all the 12 months of 2019 was 22.

Govt Orders

official spokesperson, the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Lolab has been appointed as enquiry officer to conduct the magisterial probe under section 176 Cr.Pc. in the anti-militancy operation at Chandigam Lolab on June 19 resulting in the killing of 4 militants.

"In this connection, the general public is hereby informed that if any person has any kind of information regarding the subject. He/she may submit or record his/her statement in the office of SDM Lolab within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice," he said.

On June 20, a police spokesperson had claimed that four Lashkar-e-Taiba militants — Bambar Khan, Al-Bakash, Aftab Bhai of Pakistan besides Showket Ahmad Sheikh of Sedow village in Shopian were killed in an encounter in Chandigam area of Lolab.

He had further claimed that it was on Sheikh's disclosure that the operation was carried out. Sheikh, he had said, was the mastermind behind an IED blast in a private vehicle in which one soldier was killed and others injured."

Rubaiya Identifies

picked up by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2019 on charges of "terror funding".

In January last year, the CBI, with help from special public prosecutors Monika Kohli and S K Bhat, framed charges against 10 people, including Malik, in the Rubaiya kidnapping case that turned out to be a turning point in the Valley's volatile history. The release of the five JKLF members was seen as a morale booster for militant groups, which had started raising their heads at the time.

During the hearing, Rubaiya recorded her statement before the special judge and during the course she identified Malik, who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment in a funding case, and three others as her abductors.

Ahead of Rubaiya's statement, Malik had appeared in the same case on July 13 during which he asked the court for ensuring his physical appearance so that he could cross question the witnesses in the case or else he would sit on indefinite hunger strike in prison.

Malik told the court that he was awaiting a response from the government till July 22 failing which he would start his indefinite hunger strike.

The JKLF chief is at present lodged in the high-security Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in Delhi in May. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 militant-funding case registered by NIA.

Rubaiya was abducted near Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989 and freed from captivity five days later on December 13 after the then V P Singh government, supported by the BJP at the Centre, released the five militants in exchange.

Other charged in the case are Ali Mohammed Mir, Mohammed Zaman Mir, Iqbal Ahmad Gandroo, Javed Ahmad Mir, Mohammed Rafiq Pahlloo, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wajahat Bashir, Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh and Showkat Ahmad Bakshi.

During the investigation, accused Ali Mohammad Mir, Zaman Mir and Iqbal Gandroo voluntarily confessed before a magistrate about his role in the Rubaiya kidnapping. Besides, four others made confessional statements before CBI's Superintendent of Police.

"Since the accused persons besides admitting of their own guilt have also narrated about the participation of other accused persons namely Malik, Javed Ahmed Mir and Mehraj-U-Din Sheikh, which can also be used against them as one of the pieces of evidence," the court had said in January last year.

The 10 are among the two dozen accused named by the CBI in its chargesheet filed before the court. Among the others, top JKLF commanders Mohammad Rafiq Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Lone are dead and 12 are absconding.

These are Halima, Javed Iqbal Mir, Mohammad Yaqub Pandit, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Khurshheed Ahmad Dar, Basharat Rehman Noori, Tariq Ashraf, Shafat Ahmad Shangleo, Manzoor Ahmad, Gulam Mohammad Taploo, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Nissar Ahmad Bhat.

In March 2020, the special court framed charges against the JKLF chief and six others in another case related to the gunning down of four IAF personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar in January 1990.

5 Youths Stopped

that a group of miscreants have gathered at Babadamb Naqashpora ground and were convening a meeting.

As per the information, the group included Bilal Ahmad Malla, resident of Siver Harden Lolab, Haseeb Farooq, resident of Prichoo Pulwama, Shah Fahad Shabir, resident of Tangpona Pulwama, and Reyaz Ahmad Mughal, resident of Reshiwari Aawoor Kupwara, the official said.

The group has a known history of being linked with TRF wing of banned militant outfit LeT and have been known to have had conversations over phone with their militant handlers in Pakistan controlled Kashmir (PcK), he said.

The official said as per the inputs, the whole group was in a bid to join militant ranks after Eid-ul-Adha.

Since these activities of the said group were prejudicial to the security of the country, and considering the reliable inputs about their efforts to join militant ranks, they were arrested on the spot, the official said.

Based on further investigation, another accused -- Mohammad Imran Dar, resident of Bundroo Pulwama -- was arrested, he said.

Dar was also making efforts to join militant ranks, the official added.

KU Announces Summer

offices shall function normally and the Heads of the Departments/Directors of Campuses/centers shall ensure that the examinations (theory/practical), if any, are conducted as per schedule," reads a notification.

"Also for the convenience of the students and research scholars, the departmental labs and hostels shall remain functional during the period of summer break", it reads further.

Bear Mauls Elderly

recovered today morning and was brought to district hospital Bandipora.

The official said that after medico-legal formalities, the body will be handed over to his relatives for last rites.

Driver Dies As

identified as Javed Ahmad son of Mohammad Yousuf of Chamalwass Banihal.

The official said that a case vide FIR number 110/22 under section 279, 304A IPC has been registered at the concerned police station.

Over 5,400 Pilgrims Leave Jammu Camp For Amarnath

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The 16th batch of over 5,400 Amarnath pilgrims left Jammu city on Friday morning for the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal in Kashmir, officials said.

The annual pilgrimage, which was suspended from Jammu last Sunday due to bad weather resumed on Monday. A flash flood triggered by heavy rains near the cave shrine on Friday last week led to the death of at least 15 people.

The 43-day-long pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas commenced on June 30 from the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

A total of 5,461 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas

here in a convoy of 220 vehicles amid heavy CRPF security, the officials said.

They said 1,975 pilgrims heading for Baltal were the first to leave the Bhagwati Nagar camp in 86 vehicles around 3.30 am followed by a second convoy of 134 vehicles carrying 3,486 pilgrims for Pahalgam at 4.25 am.

With this, a total of 93,987 pilgrims have left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Valley since June 29, the day the first batch of pilgrims was flagged off by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

So far, over 1.52 lakh pilgrims had offered their prayers at the cave shrine, the officials said.

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

Five pilgrims died of heart attack and two porters died after they fell into a gorge on Nunwan-Chandanwari track in Kashmir on Thursday, they said.

NIRF 2022 Rankings: KIIT 20th Best University in India

Observer News Service

BHUBANESWAR: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University has been ranked 20th best in the country among all public and private universities in the NIRF India Rankings 2022, which was released by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister in New Delhi on 15th July 2022.

KIIT-DU has improved its position in this annual national-level ranking exercise compared to last year when it had achieved the 21st position. Different Schools of KIIT also fared exceedingly well in the prestigious ranking. KIIT's consistent

improvement in the ranking list, being placed among top 20 universities in the country, is a testament to its sustained focus on imparting quality education and research activities.

"I firmly believe that slow and steady wins the race, and wish KIIT to keep climbing up the ladder and continue to strive towards excellence", said Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISSL.

The staff, students and parents expressed their happiness over the performance of KIIT and hailed Dr. Samanta and his efforts in guiding the institution towards excellence and improving academic performance year after year.

Absence Of Democracy In J&K Feeding Alienation: NC

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference Friday said the "absence of democracy" in Jammu and Kashmir is "feeding alienation" among the people of union territory.

The situation with regards to democracy in J&K stands incoherent vis-a-vis the remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of the Bihar Legislative Assembly in Patna, NC MPs Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi said in a joint statement here.

"There is disquieting evidence everywhere in Jammu and Kashmir on the backsliding of democracy in Kashmir," the two MPs said.

They said J&K was "missing out" on evolving democratic discourse referred to by the PM who has rightly said that in a democracy, legislative bodies have the role of echoing the wishes and aspirations of people.

"It was the same legislature that spearheaded the flight of J&K from feudalism to democ-

racy. It was the same legislature that passed the legislations like land to tiller and abolished the feudal system.

"It was the same institution that had protected the pluralistic visage of Jammu and Kashmir and protected the cultural, linguistic, electoral, employment and land rights of the people of J&K. Having such a historic citadel disposed of is unthinkable," they added.

The MPs said having people of J&K "illogically and illegitimately" deprived of popular Government is a violation of constitutional guarantees.

"Air-dropped and unrelated bureaucrats could not be the substitute for a legitimate elected government. It is the people's government, and powerful legislature that can take on the existing challenges in the state. A remote controlled system cannot empathise with people's suffering, their aspirations.

"Denying 1.20 crore people their democratic rights is violative of the country's democratic setup and federalism," they said, demanding a "course correction".

In Ladakh, Dalai Lama Pitches For Dialogue To End India-China Border Disputes

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Friday began his month-long visit to Ladakh and said India-China border disputes should be resolved through "talks and peaceful means" as use of military is an outdated option.

The spiritual leader's visit to Ladakh is expected to rile China as it comes amid the military standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at several friction points in eastern Ladakh.

A top government functionary said the visit of the Dalai Lama to Ladakh was a "completely religious" one, and no one should have any objections to the tour.

"India and China are most populated countries and neighbors. Sooner or later, you have to solve this problem (border disputes along the Line of Actual Control) through talks and peaceful means," the Dalai Lama told reporters in Jammu before leaving for Ladakh.

"Use of military force is outdated now," he said.

The government functionary said it is not for the first time that the Dalai Lama is visiting a

border region. He said the spiritual leader has been to Ladakh as well as Arunachal Pradesh several times in the past.

"The Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader and his visit to Ladakh is completely religious. Why should anyone have objections to the tour," the government functionary said.

Earlier this month, China criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for greeting the Dalai Lama on his 87th birthday, saying India should stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs.

However, India rejected the criticism and asserted it is a consistent policy to treat the Dalai Lama as an honoured guest of the country.

This is the Dalai Lama's first visit outside Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh in the last two years as he was mostly confined to the hill station due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Dalai Lama had visited Ladakh in the past. He had visited Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh) too but he could not undertake any visit in the last two years due to the pandemic," the functionary said.

Har Ghar Tiranga: J&K Govt Forms Panel To Oversee Drive

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir on Friday constituted a seven-member committee to ensure successful conduct of Har Ghar Jhanda programme across the Union Territory.

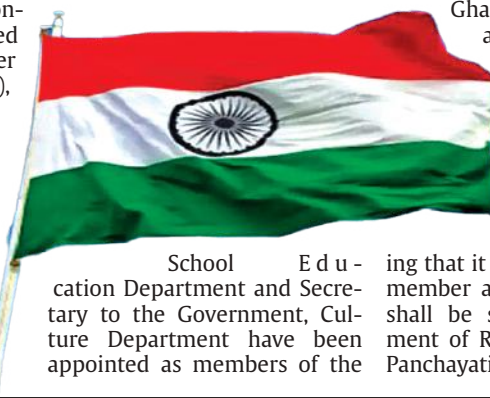
As per a local news agency KNO, the government has constituted a committee headed by the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home department.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of Committee for celebration of Har Ghar Jhanda Programme in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir," reads an order, issued in this regard by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the Government.

Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing & Urban Development Department, Principal Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department, Principal Secretary to the Government, Youth, Services & Sports Department, Principal Secretary to the Government,

committee, it said, adding that Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj has been appointed as the member secretary of the panel.

"The Committee shall ensure successful conduct of Har Ghar Jhanda Programme across the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in consultation with Government of India, as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," the order reads, adding that it can co-opt any other member as may deem fit and shall be serviced by Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.



School Education Department and Secretary to the Government, Culture Department have been appointed as members of the

MUHARRAM PREPARATIONS

DCs Told To Address Requirements Of Shia Dominated Areas

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Address Developmental requirements of the Shai dominated areas on priority to facilitate people during the month of Muharram ul Haram, directed Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole to Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Divisional Heads of various line departments.

The Div Com issued these directions while taking review of arrangements with respect to availability of drinking water, electricity, health facilities, sanitation and repairing of roads for forthcoming Muharram ul Haram.

He on the occasion stressed on the officers to ensure that all the essential requirements are met in time.

The Div Com asked DCs to conduct meeting with the stakeholders and associations of Shia community to get appraisal of demands and needs besides asked them to hold district level meetings to ensure all the necessary requirements are put in place.

Pole exhorted concerned to repair and upgrade the roads particularly where Muharram processions take place traditionally.

He further asked them to conduct spot visits to assess area wise needs. Besides, he directed SSPs to provide security to Muharram processions and Imambars.



The officers of the Health department were asked to keep first aid, medical teams and ambulances available in the areas and shall also accompany with processions to respond immediately with requisite treatment.

Besides, he directed for organizing blood donation camps in coordination with associations and involvement of Red Cross and NCC Volunteers in Blood donation camps.

Traffic police was asked to chalk out an advance traffic management plan for movement of general transport on particular days of processions in different areas besides asked them to publicize the same well in advance in print and electronic media.

Moreover, HoDs of PHE and PDD were directed to ensure regular, uninterrupted supply of drinking water and electricity respectively so the general public does not face any inconvenience.

Also, SMC and Urban local bodies were asked to conduct sanitation drives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to clean the routes and localities besides procession routes and Imambars.

NIA Court Dismisses Bail Plea Of Phd Scholar, Journalist

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Special Judge NIA court Jammu on Friday dismissed bail application of Journalist Fahad Shah and PhD scholar Aala Fazili in connection with alleged "highly provocative and seditious" article published in 2011.

In a statement issued here, State Investigation Agency (SIA), which is investigating the case, said that the Special Judge NIA, Jammu dismissed the bail application of accused persons namely Abdul Aala Fazili son of Late Mohammad Rafi Fazili of Humhama Chowk near Airport Road Budgam and Peerzada Shah Fahad son of Basir Ahmed Shah of Samboora Pulwama, at present Dawood Colony, Anchar, Soura, District Srinagar, Kashmir, J&K, "involved in Unlawful Activities to propagate the false narrative of the secessionist as well as the (militants) to disintegrate the sov-



ereignty and unity of Union of India and to motivate the Kashmiri youth to exhortate the subversive activities against the popular government in case FIR No. 01/2022 U/s 13, 18 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UA(P)A) and 120B, 121, 124, 153B of Indian Penal Code (IPC), being investigated by State Investigation Agency (SIA), Jammu.

The SIA said that the accused Abdul Aala Fazili had written an article "The Shackles of Slavery will Break" and published it in the monthly magazine "The Kashmiri Wala" as a part of the "ongoing strategy to build and propagate the false narrative against Union of India to disruption the territorial integrity by seceding the Jammu and Kashmir and annexing with Pakistan." The write-up is highly provocative, seditious and intended to create unrest in Jammu and Kashmir to abet the gullible youth to take the path of violence and create communal unrest, it said.

"It is worthwhile to mention here that the State Investigation Agency (SIA) is a Special-

ized Agency, which has been constituted by the Government of Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for the investigation and prosecution of militancy-related cases," it said, adding, "State Investigation Agency (SIA) has begun a war against the mentors of these types of false narratives."

FIR Files After Lord Shiva's Idol Found Damaged In Doda

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Police Friday booked some unidentified people after a Lord Shiva idol was found damaged in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda, with officials suspecting frosting might have damaged it as it is in the open.

The incident took place in Ram-Rachna meadow, also known as 'Chota Mani-Mahesh, in Marmat tehsil which is situated around 90 kilometres from Doda town. Locals and a priest found the idol, located at a height of 12,300 feet, partially damaged, they said.

"After receiving a written complaint at police post Goha, we immediately registered an FIR under IPC section 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class) at the police post and an investigation has been taken up," SSP Doda Abdul Qayoom said.

"Accordingly, police from Goha, along with the temple committee, visited the spot. Our team is camping near Ram-Rachna and the investigation is going on," he said.

The Ram-Rachna meadow remains snow-covered for six months, and the idol of Lord Shiva there is made of concrete.

Every year, nearly 20,000 to 25,000 pilgrims from Doda, Udhampur, Kathua and Ramban districts visit the high-altitude meadow between July and September after the snow melts to offer prayers.

As per initial investigations, the idol might have been damaged due to frosting as it is made of concrete and is in the open, a senior officer who visited the spot and is part of the investigation said.

"The idol remains under snow at sub-zero temperatures. A picture clicked in April also shows some signs of wear and tear on the idol," he said.

The administration has appealed for calm and requested people not to fall prey to exaggerated social media reports.

Earlier, officials said the FIR had been registered in connection with a vandalised idol.

On Monday, an idol of Lord Hanuman was found damaged at Dhamlar-Morha village in Mahanpur, triggering a protest by locals. Prior to that, a temple was vandalised in the Sidhra area of Jammu on April 8, followed by a similar incident at Vasuki Naag temple in the upper reaches of Doda district on June 5 and the alleged damaging of an idol in Kathua district on July 12.

Digi Pay Sakhi Scheme Providing Financial Access To Remote Areas With Transparency: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Digi Pay Sakhi Scheme is providing financial access to the people of remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir with greater transparency, an official spokesperson said Friday.

The people belonging to the village areas now are able to take the benefit of the additional banking and financial services. It is one of the initiatives that has been started by the Prime Minister to take banking services to the doorstep of the people.

In an endeavour to promote door to door digital banking and financial services in remote areas of Jammu Kashmir, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) has trained 125 women from Self Help Groups as DIGI-Pay Sakhis in 2000 villages under Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, led administration is taking several ground breaking steps to transform the lives of women of Jammu and Kashmir especially those living in rural areas by engaging them in gainful livelihood interventions.

Lieutenant Governor, during the launch of Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi' in the UT last year distributed 80 Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPs) among the DIGI-Pay Sakhis under JKRLM.

At the launch event, Lieutenant Governor said that DIGI-Pay Sakhi has introduced financial inclusion within the UT's Self

Help Group (SHG) ecosystem creating much needed financial access points with greater transparency even in remotest of the areas.

Apart from depositing money, the village population can also avail the benefits of additional banking and financial services such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana, registration of Kisan Credit Card etc under this mission.

Under the mission, Rural Livelihoods Mission, J&K has trained DIGI-Pay Sakhis in financial services training courses run by BSE in J&K. The DIGI-Pay Sakhis are also spreading awareness among rural women to avail maximum benefit of various central and UT sponsored schemes.

Believing that Nari Shakti's social and economic independence is the bedrock of any nation's progress, the J&K administration has started a mass movement for socio-economic uplift of women across the UT. The three new initiatives of Digi-Pay, Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi besides several other programs of women empowerment such as Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together will further supplement the efforts of J&K government in empowering women and making them a key partner in UT's development journey.

Notably, J&K government is working to set up Women Industrial Estate at Udhampur to further strengthen the Women Entrepreneurs ecosystem in J&K.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in-----

GIST OF E-TENDER

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2022-23/61/e-tendering

Dated:- 14.07.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Original equipment manufacturers of Lifts or their authorized dealers/ representatives or Registered / reputed and experienced firms for the following works-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In Lacs)	Time of completion (in months)	AA accorded vide	Technical sanction vide
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Two (02) No. 13 Passenger MRL Lift(+ 2) along with allied works and AMC for 01 year post two years normal warranty period at OPD Block of Govt. Super Specialty Hospital, Srinagar.	40.00	1000	0.80	04	Govt. Order No: 810 JK(HME) of 2020, Dt: 16-10-2020 conveyed vide Principal GMC, Srinagar's letter No: MC/Plan/OPD/329/528-32, Dt: 18-05-2022	MHCHD/TS/30 Dated 07/22

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 14.07.2022(18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 14.07.2022 (18.00 hrs).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 15.07.2022(10.00 hrs) to 30.07.2022(14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 30.07.2022 (16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

No: MHCHD/TS/3298-3304

Dt:14-07-2022

DIPK-6041-22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

SC Agrees To Hear BCCI Plea To Amend Its Constitution



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday said that it will hear next week the plea of the Board of Control for Cricket in India seeking to amend its constitution with regard to the tenure of its office bearers including President Sourav Ganguly and Secretary Jay Shah.

A bench of Chief Justice NV Ramana and Krishna Murari was told by senior advocate PS Patwalia, appearing for the BCCI, that their application was filed two years ago and direction was given by the court to list the matter after two weeks.

"But then Covid happened and matter could not be listed. Please list this matter for urgent hearing because amendments to the constitution are in pipeline for two years now", he said.

Patwalia said the earlier order of the court says that amendment to the constitution can only be done with prior permission of the court. The bench said it will see that the matter is listed for next week.

Earlier, the Justice RM Lodha-led committee had recommended reforms in the BCCI which have been accepted by the top court.

According to the recommendations, there should be a three-year cooling off period for the office bearers of the BCCI after a tenure of six years once a post comes to an end at the state cricket association or at the BCCI level. The BCCI, in its proposed amendment, has sought abolition of cooling off period for its office bearers which would enable BCCI president Ganguly and secretary Shah to continue in office despite them having completed six years at respective state cricket associations.

The constitution of BCCI, which has been approved by the top court stipulates, a mandatory three-year cooling off period for anyone who had served two consecutive terms of three years each in state cricket association or in BCCI.

While Ganguly was an office bearer in the Cricket Association of Bengal, Shah had served in the Gujarat Cricket Association.

Indian Athletes To Stay At 5 Different 'Villages' During CWG



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Commonwealth Games-bound Indian athletes and officials will be staying at five different "Villages" with women's cricket team being put up in a separate facility in the Birmingham city centre.

India is sending a 215-member athlete contingent across 16 disciplines for the Games beginning July 28. The overall contingent size including team officials stand at 325.

Usually, all athletes stay in the dedicated Games Village but the organisers of Birmingham 2022 have arranged five different accommodations for athletes. More than 5000 athletes are set to take part in the sporting extravaganza.

In an official communication to concerned national sports federations, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has informed

them about about the staying arrangements and the need to undergo an RT-PCR test for COVID-19 72 hours prior to their arrival in the UK.

Athletes taking part in swimming, athletics, gymnastics, squash, hockey, will be staying in Commonwealth Games Village Birmingham (CGB) while the ones in badminton, boxing, table tennis, weightlifting and triathlon will be put up in Commonwealth Games Village NEC (CGN).

Participants in wrestling, judo and lawn bowls will be based out of Commonwealth Games Village Warwick (CGW) while the cricketers will be in Commonwealth Games Village City Centre (CGC). All games will be at the famous Edgbaston Cricket Ground.

With the cycling event set to be staged in London, the track team will be staying at the Satellite Village (SVL).

Tokyo Chosen To Host 2025 Track World Championships



Agencies

EUGENE: Track and field officials awarded the 2025 world championships to Tokyo on Thursday, bringing runners, jumpers and throwers back to the home of last year's Olympics, where they competed in front of mostly empty stands.

The World Athletics Council awarded the championships in a bidding contest that also included Nairobi, Kenya; Silesia, Poland; and Singapore.

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said it was a close vote, but Japan won on the strength of, among other things, "human resource" available in Tokyo to put on the event and strong commercial partnerships.

He did not rule out the possibility of track's marquee event some day making it to Kenya or another country in Africa — a continent

that has never held the event.

"It is really important that we work together with Africans to make sure that their time comes, and their time comes when it's right," Coe said.

Japan spent more than \$1.4 billion to build the stadium for the Olympics, which were postponed by one year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, then held last summer under restrictions that prevented fans from attending.

The state-of-the-art track in Tokyo helped Sydney McLaughlin and Karsten Warholm each break world records in their 400-meter hurdle finals. Warholm ran in 45.94 seconds and McLaughlin finished in 51.46 but broke that record earlier this year (51.41) in Eugene.

World Athletics also awarded its cross country championships to Medulin, Croatia in 2024 and Tallahassee, Florida in 2026. (AP)

This Too Shall Pass, Stay Strong: Babar Azam Backs Kohli



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Pakistan captain Babar Azam has backed Virat Kohli to come out of his prolonged lean run with the bat after the former India skipper was again dismissed cheaply in the second ODI against England at Lord's.

Kohli was out for 16 off 25 deliveries as India faced a 100-run drubbing against the hosts.

While Kohli got off to a good start with the bat, hitting three boundaries, he soon fell to David Wiley, as he got an outside to England captain Jos Buttler.

Pakistan skipper Babar, however, extended his support to Kohli with a message.

The 27-year-old star batter took to Twitter and wrote, "This too shall pass. Stay strong."

Babar's support for Kohli came after current Indian captain Rohit Sharma threw his weight behind his predecessor.

"For someone who has won so many matches for India, you need one or two innings to bounce back. That's what I feel and I am sure all those who follow cricket will think similarly," Rohit said at the post-match

press conference on Thursday. Kohli also received backing from England captain Buttler who maintained that just like every cricketer, it is important to keep in mind the former is "human" and can have a couple of low scores before getting back into form once again.

Kohli has managed to score only 158 runs from seven ODI games so far this year with only two fifties to his name. The 33-year-old though remains in the third position in the ICC ODI rankings behind Pakistan's Babar and Imam ul Haq.

Kohli Doesn't Need Any Reassurance: Rohit Sharma



Press Trust of India

LONDON: India skipper Rohit Sharma has once again come to the defence of Virat Kohli after the batter was out for 16 in the second ODI against England to extend his prolonged lean patch.

At the post-match press conference following the team's 100-run drubbing to England here on Thursday, Rohit looked agitated as he interrupted a scribe even before he could complete his question on Kohli's poor run of form.

"Kyun ho rahi hain, yaar. Matlab mujhe samajh mein nahi

aata, bhai. (Why is there so much of discussion... I can't understand this)," Rohit said.

"He has played so many matches, over such a long period of time. He is such a great batter, so he does not need reassurance."

Making a comeback after sitting out the first ODI because of a groin strain, Kohli was dismissed after striking three boundaries at Lord's, once again leading to discussions on his poor form.

In the preceding T20I series Kohli had scores of 1 and 11, and was also dismissed cheaply in the fifth Test against England,

forcing legends such as Kapil Dev to wonder why he could not be dropped.

But Rohit maintained the Indian No. 3 does not need any reassurance and his spot in the team is secure.

"As I have said previously, form can go up and down, it's part and parcel for every cricketer's career. Even the greatest of the cricketer would have his share of ups and downs."

"For someone who has won so many matches for India, you need one or two innings to bounce back. That's what I feel and I am sure all those who follow cricket will think similarly."

Asia Cup: PCB Wants Sri Lanka To Retain Hosting Rights



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Pakistan Cricket Board will support Sri Lanka in its bid to host the Asia Cup from August 27 despite civil and political unrest in the island nation.

Sri Lanka have managed to successfully host the Australian cricket team without any security breach despite civil unrest after former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country in the midst of an acute financial crisis.

A PCB source said that chairman Ramiz Raja had spoken to top SLC officials and assured them that Pakistan will push for the Asia Cup to remain in Sri Lanka as scheduled from August 27 to September 11.

"The PCB chairman has assured his counterpart that Pakistan wants Sri Lanka to host the regional event as it would mean revenue earnings for the host country and will also boost their tourism," the source said.

The source also said that the

PCB had also assured the Sri Lankan cricket authorities that the Pakistan team will play its Test matches in Galle and Colombo despite the ongoing unrest in the country.

He informed that although no official Asian Cricket Council (ACC) meeting is scheduled in the coming days, all the members being present during upcoming ICC Board meeting in Birmingham from August 22, will give them a chance to discuss a range of issues including hosting rights for the next Asia Cup in Pakistan.

"Since all the ACC members will be present, there will be discussions on the sidelines and Pakistan is clear that Sri Lanka must host the Asia Cup unless their board decides otherwise," the source added.

"Pakistan's point of view is clear that it has a long-standing relationship with Sri Lankan cricket and both have always supported each other in times of need."

Sports Court Upholds Football Bans On Russian Teams



Agencies

LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND): Russia remains barred from Europe's leading soccer competitions including the Champions League after the Court of Arbitration for Sport rejected appeals by the national soccer federation and four clubs on Friday.

CAS upheld decisions by UEFA and FIFA which excluded Russian national teams and clubs following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Russia was already excluded from men's World Cup qualifying and the women's European Championship. Its clubs won't feature in competitions like the Champions League in 2022-23.

"The panel finds it unfortunate that the current military operations in Ukraine, for which Russian football teams, clubs, and players have themselves no responsibility, had, by reason of the decisions of FIFA and UEFA, such an adverse effect on them and Russian football generally, but those effects were, in the

panel's view, offset by the need for the secure and orderly conduct of football events for the rest of the world," CAS ruled.

The ruling adds that FIFA and UEFA did not exceed their authority while dealing with "unforeseen and unprecedented circumstances."

The decision leaves national champion Zenit St. Petersburg out of the Champions League group stage. Another Russian team, Sochi, will be left out of the Champions League third qualifying round draw, scheduled for Monday. If Russian had been allowed to take part, it wasn't clear where their home games could be hosted or if Ukrainian clubs would boycott.

The decision Friday was widely anticipated by Russian clubs. They have been making plans to schedule domestic cup games on the dates when European games will be played next season.

Russia's national soccer federation said it "strongly disagrees with the CAS decision and reserves the right to continue protecting its own interests." (AP)

Augsburg Scraps Game Against Qatari Club After Fans Complain

Agencies

AUGSBURG: German Bundesliga club Augsburg said Friday it has called off a friendly match with Qatari club Al-Duhail after criticism from fans.

Augsburg was due to play Al-Duhail during a training camp in Austria on Sunday but has now canceled those plans and will play fellow German club Schalke instead.

"We were aware of the sensitivity of a friendly game against a Qatari club," sporting director Stefan Reuter said in a statement. "Now an alternative with Schalke 04 has come up at short notice, so we have sent this signal and called off the game against Al Duhail."

One influential Augsburg fan group had branded the game "sportswashing" of Qatar's image and highlighted human rights concerns over the treatment of women, LGBTQ people and migrant workers. The group also backs a call for fans to boy-

cott the World Cup in Qatar in November and December.

Last month, fans of English club Watford said they persuaded the management to call off a friendly against the Qatar national team



over human rights concerns around the World Cup host nation.

Two other German clubs are sticking to plans to face Saudi Arabia-owned Newcastle in friendlies despite criticism from fans. Third-division 1860 Munich was playing Newcastle on Friday and top-tier Mainz will play Monday. Mainz defended its decision by saying a cancellation would bring "serious legal and economic consequences." (AP)