

Widom Quote!

Fears are nothing more than a state of mind
- Napoleon Hill

NEWS DIGEST

Two Hybrid Militants Held In Handwara: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Fridays claimed to have arrested two Hybrid militants in North Kashmir's Handwara, officials said. In a statement, the police said that on Aug 4, 2022, joint parties of Police, Army 21 RR and 92 Bn CRPF had arrested 03 hybrid militant in Handwara and recovered arms **More on P6**

Missing Retired Teacher Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A retired teacher, who was missing since yesterday from his home, was found dead on Friday in Feeripora area of Shopian district. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that Abdul Gani Rather(66) of Pudsoo village of Shopian was missing since Thursday. **More on P6**

Ordnance Shell Defused In Samba

JAMMU: Army troops detected and defused an unexploded ordnance shell in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Friday, officials said. Soldiers of the Tiger division assisted the civil administration in carrying out safe extrication of the unexploded ordnance shell from a heavily populated area near Kikri Morh in **More on P6**

9 Teachers Suspended For Not Hoisting Tricolor

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Nine teachers of two Government schools in Kishtwar district have been suspended for not hoisting the national flag in their schools on Independence Day.

The nine teachers posted at Middle School Batwari and Primary School Khandole were placed under suspension by Zonal Education Officer (CEO) Inderwal on August 16.

The official under Chief Education Officer's order has also constituted a three member committee to inquire into the matter. The committee has been ordered to submit the report within a week.

"We received information from ZEO Inderwal on 16th August, suggesting that nine teachers of two schools in Kishtwar had not hoisted the national flag in their

respective educational institutions. After getting information, it came to fore that the teachers had failed to hoist the flag and subsequently they were placed under suspension with immediate effect", Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kishtwar Sudarshan Kumar Sharma told Kashmir Observer on Friday.

The CEO further added that a three member committee has also been formed to inquire into the matter. "The three member committee includes the ZEO, a Headmaster and one principal. The team will conduct an in depth enquiry into the matter and will submit a detailed report to me within 7 days to proceed further in the matter," Sharma said, adding that the investigation will find out whether it was their ignorance or the suspended teachers had willingly not **More on P6**



WE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM ZEO Inderwal ON 16TH AUGUST, SUGGESTING that nine teachers of two schools in Kishtwar had not hoisted the national flag in their respective educational institutions. After getting information, it came to fore that the teachers had failed to hoist the flag and subsequently they were placed under suspension with immediate effect."

Experts Welcome Addition Of 2 More Wetlands To Ramsar Sites 'Shallabugh, Haigam Wetlands Will Get A New Lease Of Life'

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Shallabugh and Haigam wetlands in the Kashmir Valley are likely to get a new lease of life after being added to the list of Ramsar sites by the government of India, a move welcomed by the environmental experts for the preservation of the shrinking water bodies.

On August 14, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav announced that India has added 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites, marshes that are of



File Photo

international importance, bringing the country's total tally to 75. Among the 11, the government listed two

wetlands —Shallabugh and Haigam from Kashmir. Shallabugh wetland in Ganderbal is spread **More on P6**

Waqf Board Mulls Revised Rent Agreements

'Decision Taken In 4th Board Meeting Last Month, Agreement To Be Revised As Per Recommendations Of Rent Review Committee Of 2015-2016'

Srinagar: After removing the Mujavirs and their donation boxes from the shrines across Kashmir Valley, the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf board is now mulling revision of the rates of their properties across the Union Territory as per recommendations of Rent Review Committee of 2015-2016. Official sources within the

Waqf said that many shopkeepers holding the Waqf properties are still paying a meager amount as monthly rent for the shops, fixed by the authorities decades ago.

"The rates were increased by 120 per cent on April 01, 2018, but still the rent is meager," they said, adding that there is no fixed rent for all the shops and other establishments as the rates vary from place to place.

They further informed that the authorities have now decided to revise the rent agreement of shops and other establishments **More on P6**

Govt Warns Pvt Agencies Offering Security Services

Agencies

Srinagar: The J&K government has directed the agencies offering private security to verify the character and antecedents of the employees, warning stern action against the violators.

The move comes after the government has observed that some private security agencies have engaged or employed persons as security guards and supervisors without verification of character and antecedents.

Already, the government has notified the Jammu &

Weapons Dropping Case Accused Dies In Kot Bhalwal Jail

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A suspected member of a militant module involved in collection and ferrying of weapons and explosives dropped via drones along the International Border in Jammu frontier died after suffering a heart attack in the Kot Bhalwal jail here, officials said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the module involved in the May 29 explosive dropping case in Kathua, had arrested the accused earlier this month.

"Undertrial Muni Mohammad was offering 'namaz' along with the rest of the prisoners when he suddenly collapsed. He was shifted to a hospital where he was declared dead", **More on P6**

Kashmir Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Rules, 2022, in May this year, with an aim to regulate the functioning of Private Security Agencies (PSA) operating within the J&K UT.

"Amongst other stipulations, Rule 7 of the Rules, provides that before any person is employed or engaged as a Security Guard or Supervisor, the agency shall satisfy itself with the Character and Antecedents of such person in the manner as prescribed in the said Rule," an official document of the J&K Home Department reads. It states that **More on P6**



REVISION OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR ELECTORAL ROLLS

- 1 Summary revision of electoral rolls are undertaken by Election Commission from time to time according to laid down process. This is to enable young persons who become eligible to register themselves as voters. Besides, it also allows a person who has changed his ordinary place of residence to enrol at new location by getting himself deleted at the old location.
- 2 Number of Electors as published in Special Summary Revision of J&K State in 2011 was 66,00,921; and number of electors as on today in the electoral roll of J&K UT is 76,02,397. This increase is mainly due to the new voters, who attained the age of 18 years.
- 3 There have been media reports that more than 25 lakh additions will be there in the electoral rolls once the process of electoral roll revision starts.

This is a misrepresentation of facts, which is being spread by the vested interests. This revision of electoral rolls will cover existing residents of the UT of J&K and increase in numbers will be of the voters who have attained the age of 18 years as on 1.10.2022 or earlier.

- 4 There is no change in the special provisions for Kashmiri migrants for their enrolment in the electoral rolls of their original native constituencies. They will continue to be given option of voting at their place of enrolment or through postal ballot or through for specially setup polling stations at Jammu, Udhampur, Delhi, etc.
- 5 It is further clarified that there is no change in rules regarding buying of property and jobs in the Government of UT of J&K and have no link to representation of voters or otherwise.

Does Entitlement Make You More Likely To Cheat?

The Conversation

Why do people cheat? An intriguing study by two Israeli researchers in 2016 put forward a possible reason that has since become well established in the scientific literature and popular media. The researchers reported a series of experiments apparently showing that people told they have won a skill-based competition, such as a visual task, subsequently cheat more than others in games of chance, such as dice games. The proposed explanation was that winners experienced a sense of entitlement that induced them to cheat. The paper has been highly cited by other researchers. One scientific comment paper even pointed out its significance in the light of tax evasion costing governments US\$3.1 trillion (2.6 trillion) annually. But does the finding hold up to scientific scrutiny? We decided to replicate the study and investigate more closely the reasons why people do or don't cheat. Our new study, published in Royal Society Open Science, failed twice to replicate the original finding. We found that the original experiments were statistically

underpowered, meaning they used far too few experimental participants (43 in their main experiment) to sustain the conclusions that were drawn. There were also problems of experimental design and methodology, notably a failure to randomly decide which participants were winners, losers, or part of a control group that weren't told how they had done in the skill-based competition. We began by replicating the original research as closely as possible, but in a large-scale experiment (252 participants) to achieve adequate statistical power. We also assigned participants randomly to conditions. To assign winners and losers, we used the perceptual judgement test used in the original experiment. The test involves the difficult task of estimating which of several different symbols is the most numerous in briefly displayed slides similar to the one shown below. We put the participants in pairs and told them whether they had a better or worse score than their partner in the skill task. They were then put in new pairs and played a game of chance. The pairs then played a game of chance, also identical to the game in the original research. This involved rolling two dice

under an inverted cup and then peeking through a spyhole in its base to see the result. The players were told to help themselves to money from an envelope provided depending on what numbers the dice showed 25 pence for each dice spot. While it was impossible to tell who in particular cheated, collecting much significantly more than the average amount was evidence of cheating. We also assigned one-third of the participants to a control group. They were not told whether or not they had beaten their partner in the visual task before playing the dice game. Comparing the results to what we'd expect to happen by chance, a small but statistically significant amount of cheating seemed to have occurred, as in the original Israeli experiment. But our results showed no evidence that winning (or losing) had any statistically significant effect whatsoever on cheating, as can be seen in the graph below, where the dotted line shows the value expected by chance, without cheating. We also ran an even larger online experiment (275 participants) in which we assigned participants randomly to be winners, losers or control participants using the same perceptual test as before. In this experiment, each participant tossed a coin ten

times and claimed rewards (Amazon gift vouchers) depending on how many heads they tossed. The results were almost identical to our first experiment: we found a similar level of cheating and no evidence of any effect of winning or losing on subsequent cheating. We used standardised psychometric tests designed to measure differences between people that might influence cheating, including a sense of entitlement, self-confidence, belief in personal luck, and a few other factors. But only one, turned out to be statistically significant in all treatment conditions. Participants who dislike inequality cheated less than others. This is presumably because they had a stronger sense of fairness and considered cheating unfair. A sense of entitlement, on the other hand, was not significantly associated with cheating in any condition. Ultimately, what makes some people cheat more than others is not fully understood. But our research suggests people's feelings about inequality is one part of the explanation. There are also momentary circumstantial factors that encourage some people, but not others, to cheat.

BCG Vaccine For Tuberculosis Protects Diabetics From Covid-19: Study

Press Trust Of India

A widely used tuberculosis vaccine protected people with Type 1 diabetes from COVID-19, according to a study that demonstrates the potential of multiple doses of the Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) preventive against SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses. The study, published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine on Monday, was conducted on 144 patients with type 1 diabetes at the start of the pandemic, much before COVID-specific vaccines were available. Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in the US found that 12.5 per cent of placebo-treated individuals and 1 per cent of BCG-treated individuals had confirmed COVID-19, yielding a vaccine effectiveness of 92 per cent. The BCG-vaccinated group also displayed protective effects against other infectious diseases, including fewer symptoms, lesser severity and fewer infectious disease events per patient. No BCG-related systemic adverse events occurred, according to the researchers. BCG's broad-based infection protection suggests that, in addition to COVID-19, the vaccine may potentially provide protection against new SARS-CoV-2 variants and other pathogens, they said. The researchers are hoping the results



will pave the way for a large scale study of the effects of the BCG vaccine in patients with type 1 diabetes, considered among the most vulnerable groups to COVID-19. The BCG vaccine is an avirulent tuberculosis strain Mycobacterium bovis historically given to protect against tuberculosis and, since its introduction in 1921, has been the most widely administered vaccine in the history of medicine. Considered to be extremely safe, BCG is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines and is given to roughly 100 million children per year globally, the researchers said. BCG is also one of the most affordable medicines, costing less than a dollar a dose in many parts of the world, they

said. "Multiple studies have shown that adults with type 1 diabetes who are diagnosed with COVID-19 are at increased risk of severe illness," said Denise Faustman, director of the Immunobiology Laboratory at MGH. "We found that three doses of BCG administered prior to the start of the pandemic prevented infection and limited severe symptoms from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases," Faustman said. The researchers noted that unlike the antigen-specific vaccines currently in use to prevent COVID-19, BCG's mechanism of action is not limited to a specific virus or infection. The participants in the COVID trial had previously enrolled in a clinical trial

testing the effectiveness of the BCG vaccine for type 1 diabetes. Participants in the test group had received multiple vaccinations prior to the onset of the pandemic in early 2020. "This data set is unique and exciting because the patients were all vaccinated with multiple doses of BCG prior to the onset of the epidemic," said Hazel Dockrell, from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, who was not involved in the study. "Prior to the trial they had no known exposure to tuberculosis or prior BCG vaccination. This eliminates the major confounding factors that have limited other trials," Dockrell said. The results support the idea that BCG needs time to have a clinical effect, but its effects may then be very lasting and durable, the researchers said. The 144 adult type diabetics (96 BCG treated and 48 placebo) analysed in the COVID-19 trial were part of an ongoing Phase IIb clinical trial testing BCG as a treatment for adults with established type 1 diabetes. Patients were followed for COVID-19 related outcomes for 15 months, the researchers said. Outcomes for the COVID-19 trial included: COVID-19 infection rate, COVID-19 related symptoms, reduction overall infections disease and SARS-CoV-2 antibody-level presence and intensity, they added.

'Smoking, Alcohol, High BMI Main Causes Of Global Cancer Deaths'

Press Trust Of India

Smoking, alcohol use, high body mass index (BMI), and other known risk factors were responsible for nearly 4.45 million global cancer deaths in 2019, according to study published in The Lancet journal on Friday. The findings can help policymakers and researchers identify key risk factors that could be targeted in efforts to reduce deaths and ill health from cancer regionally, nationally, and globally. "This study illustrates that the burden of cancer remains an important public health challenge that is growing in magnitude around the world," said Christopher Murray, Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, US. "Smoking continues to be the leading risk factor for cancer globally, with other substantial contributors to cancer burden varying," said Murray, a co-senior author of the study. Using results from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors (GBD) 2019 study, the researchers investigated how 34 behavioural, metabolic, and environmental and occupational risk factors contributed to deaths and ill health due to 23 cancer types in 2019. Changes in cancer burden between 2010 and 2019 due to risk factors were also assessed. Estimates of cancer burden were based on mortality and disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs), a measure of years of life lost to death and years lived with disability. In addition to 4.45 million cancer deaths which made up 44.4 per cent of all cancer deaths in 2019, risk factors included in the analysis accounted for 105 million cancer DALYs globally for both sexes in 2019 - 42.0 per cent of all DALYs in that year, the researchers said. Behavioural risk factors such as tobacco use, alcohol use, unsafe sex, and dietary risks were responsible for the vast majority of cancer burden globally, accounting for 3.7 million deaths and 87.8 million DALYs in 2019, they said. The study shows that almost 2.88 million deaths in men (50.6 per cent of all male cancer deaths) could be attributed to the risk factors studied, compared to 1.58 million deaths in women (36.3 per cent of all female cancer deaths). The leading risk factors globally for cancer deaths and ill health for both sexes were smoking, followed by alcohol use and high BMI, the researchers said.

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Before The Hon'ble Court Of PDJ At Srinagar
 From office of the Advocate
Hamza Prince & Associates Lie. No.374/15

In the case of
 1. Nazira Bano D/o Ghulam Ahmad Khan R/o Illahi Bagh
 2. Yasmeena O/o Ghulam Ahmad Khan R/o Muniwar
 3. Tota Begum W/o Ghulam Ahmad Khan R/o Muniwar
 4. Manzoor Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Shah R/o Muniwar
 5. Farooq Ahmad Bazaz S/o Ali Mohammad Bazaz R/o Illahi Bagh
 6. Abdul Basit Bazaz S/o Farooq Ahmad Bazaz R/o Illahi Bagh
 7. Syed Sajad S/o Ghulam Jeelani R/o Nowshera
 8. Mohammad Faisal Shahjee S/o Manzoor Ahmad Shahjee R/o Munawarabad Srinagar

V/S (Caveators)
PUBLIC AT LARGE (Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 14B-A of C.P.C. The caveat has reason to believe/ apprehension that non caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble court and on the ground of Distorted facts/misrepresent and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at irreparable loss and inconvenience it would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Dal Weeds To Be Converted Into Biogas, Fertilizer

Agencies

Srinagar: With excessive growth of obnoxious weeds hampering the beauty of the famed Dal Lake, the government has decided to commercialize weeds by converting them into biogas and fertilizer.

The unbridled growth of obnoxious weeds is giving ugly look to the picturesque Dal Lake.

"Around 2.5 lakh cubic

Presently, several harvesting machines are operating removing weeds from Dal Lake. The weeds are also being removed manually by people then dumped at several places for rot.

Experts believe that around 40,000-50,000 tons of material, including silt and nutrients, are added annually to the lake boosting the growth of weeds.

The official believes that sewage flowing into



meters of weeds are being removed from the Dal Lake annually and we can avail full advantage by commercialization of weeds," a senior official of Lakes and Conservative Management Authority (LCMA) said.

"The conversion of weeds into fertilizer and biogas would prove futile for the economy of Kashmir. On one hand, we can clean the lake while on the other hand we would benefit from it," the official said.

Sources said LCMA has signed an agreement with NAFED for 96 kanals for a period of 26 years, for the construction, operation and management of the disposal facility on the scheduled lease rent.

the lake is the main contributor for growing weeds in the lake.

He said there are enormous nutrients like phosphate, methane in weeds, which are ideal for biogas and fertilizer purposes.

"There is a huge raw material of weeds available here and people can easily convert it for biogas and fertilizer purposes," he opined.

LCMA is responsible for providing lakes and civic services which includes the collection, transportation and disposal of weed/lily generated in the lakes. J&K LCMA currently disposes of the collected weed/lily at the designated dumping/processing sites. (KINS)

Two Cricketers Pool Money To Construct Turf Wicket

Agencies

Srinagar: With the selection of a few locals in IPL and national cricket team, Kashmir is set to see two turf wickets so that more and more youth get inspired towards cricket.

Tariq Ahmad Sofi and Sajad Ahmad Dar of Zainakote HMT Srinagar have spent around Rs 9 lakh in HMT locality for levelling the ground to ready the turf wicket.

Sofi said that whenever Kashmiri cricketers go for trials, they are unable to put any impression as they were being tried at turf wicket when they had a habit of playing at mats.

"Players are very much talented but there is only one proper turf wicket in SK stadium where everyone can't get an opportunity to play," he said.

He said that turf wicket is one of the main things which local youth were eager to witness and practice there so that they won't face problems once they will go for trails.

"We pooled Rs 9 lakh by requesting people in our area," he said, adding that the main contribution was made by Noora hospital, Kohinoor and others.

"Since April we have been working on it and the turf is ready and full ground has been levelled well with full greenery now and once our curator will okay it, we will inaugurate it. We are expecting that to happen this month," he said.

He said that from next month players can enjoy and learn cricket on turf wicket so that they can compete at national and international level. (KNO)

Janmashtami Celebrated With Religious Fervor

Agencies

Srinagar: The Janmashtami festival, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, was celebrated across Srinagar city. Attired in their colorful best with some kids dressed up as Lord Krishna, dozens of Kashmiri pandits today took out a procession here in Srinagar to celebrate 'Janmashtami.'

Amidst religious chants in praise of Lord Krishna, the procession began from the temple in the Habba Kadal area of the city and passed through Kralkhud, Barbarshah before reach-

ing the clock tower at the historic Lal Chowk before concluding peacefully at the place of its origin.

The Kashmiri pandits living in the Valley thronged various temples since this morning and participated in 'Puja Archana, Bhajan Keertan and Prasad Vitaran' before joining the march.

The march attracted the attention of the majority community who cheered the participants and even joined the dancing troupe to send a symbolic message that Kashmiri's are united and cannot be divided on



World Photography Day Celebrated In City

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: On the occasion of world photography, a meet up was held at Khanqah e Maula to celebrate the day. The event served as an opportunity for photographers and journalists to come together and showcase their work.

In a first, the meet up was organized by Pexels in the Kashmir valley, coordinated by Syed Qaarif Andrabi, a freelance photographer.

The participating photog-

raphers were given one hour to click pictures and upload on pexels.com. Ten photography enthusiasts took part in the event.

Photographers aspiring to take part in the contest can send their entries by 1st September, 2022.

After the last date for submitting the entries is over, the photographers securing first three positions will be awarded a cash prize of 600 US Dollars.

World Photography Day is commemorated every year on 19 August. On this day, photography enthusiasts come together

to celebrate the art of photography.

The origin of World Photography Day can be traced back to the 19th century. Two Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niepce developed 'Daguerreotype' in the year 1837. It was a photography process. The French Academy of Sciences officially endorsed the Daguerreotype on 9 January, 1839.

On 19 August, 1839, the French government acknowledged the invention and called it 'a gift to the world'.

60 Students Join Annual IIPA Debate At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual debate of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) held at the University of Kashmir saw an overwhelming participation of students.

More than 60 students from the University departments and degree colleges of Kashmir spoke for and against the motion on the topic, "Keyboard learning is not an alternative to formal

education".

The debate was organised jointly by KU's Department of Students' Welfare and J&K Regional Branch of the IIPA.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan presided over the valedictory-cum-prize distribution ceremony of the event as chief guest.

In her presidential address, Prof Nilofer said debating not only enables the debaters to evolve as better communicators, it also helps them to foster

critical-thinking which is vital for their overall personality development.

"We want our students to be ready to meet the further requirements of the ever-competitive world of academia. Their participation in extracurricular activities like these will go a long way in helping us realising this goal," the VC said, complimenting DSU, under the leadership of Prof Aneesa Shafi, for organising student activities regularly.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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


PRAYERS

FAJR	4:24
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:20
Magrib	7:18
ISHA	8:44

This Day In History

- 636 - Battle at Yarmuk: Muslims beat Byzantines
- 1641 - England & Scotland sign Treaty of Pacification
- 1828 - Hindi reform movement Brahmo Samaj founded by Ram Mohan Roy and Dwarkanath Tagore in Calcutta
- 1864 - 8th/last day of battle at Deep Bottom Run Va (about 3,900 casualties)
- 1900 - Great Britain beats France by 158 runs in Paris; cricket's only appearance at an Olympic Games
- 1905- Sun Yat-sen, Chinese revolutionary, forms the first chapter of T'ung Meng Hui, a union of all secret societies determined to bringing down the Manchus
- 1914 - Battle at Gumbinnen, East-Prussia: Russians beat Germans
- 1914 - Battle at Morhange: German troops chase French, killing thousands
- 1914 - Bavarian troops kill 50 inhabitants of Nomeny, France
- Ed Klepfer & \$31,500; Jackson involved in 'Black Sox Scandal' 1919
- 1918 - WWI: Britain opens offensive on Western front
- invasion in Mongolia
- 1940 - 1st Polish squadrons fight along allies in the Battle of Britain
- 1944 - Soviet offensive at Jassy & Kisjinev
- 1944 - US & British forces destroy German 7th Army at Falaise-Argentan Gap
- 1953 - General Fazlollah Zahedi arrests Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh in a CIA supported coup d'état
- 1960 - USSR recovers 2 dogs, 1st living organisms to return from space

From KO Archives

IAF May Launch Air Strikes In Kupwara

Srinagar (AP) The higher authorities in India have given a green signal to the Indian Air Force to undertake bombardment of those areas in border sector of Kupwara in northwest of Kashmir Valley where hard-core militants have been concentrating in a large number and have also struck at the army camps at least three times during the last three weeks.

The army may launch helicopter gunship strikes against foreign mercenaries in Kupwara forests from where they have been targeting army camps," a report from New Delhi said Thursday.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, however, has been a little reluctant to allow such extreme measures fearing that a large chunk of civilian population in the area might also be adversely affected. This is a very difficult task at hand which would require better skills than applied in the uninhabited mountainous Kargil-Drass sectors," Defence Ministry source said here Thursday. In Kupwara border district about one dozen places are having fighters hiding in the forests and upper reaches where even the army patrolling has been a difficult task in view of difficult terrain and mountain passes.

The places where militants are hiding include Lolab, Nowgam, Handwara, Bungus, Rajwar, Trihgam, Keegam and Chekibal, all of them very close to line of control and covered by thick jungles.

The defence sources said further that in recent weeks the fighters, all of them of foreign origin, have played havoc with the Indian forces with two senior officers and about one dozen soldiers killed in three attacks mounted right on their camps, an activity unheard so far in the militancy-affected Kashmir Valley.

At the same time, the Indian Defence Ministry high-ups have taken strong exception of what Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said here Wednesday what he alleged that it was due to weak defence system that militants were sneaking into Indian territory in thousands.

Official circles in New Delhi believe that it was yet another political gimmick of Farooq Abdullah who has failed on all fronts of public service and has brought the State of Jammu and Kashmir on the brink of financial disaster due to his government's rampant corruption and nepotism and favouritism.

An army commander of the victor force, however, said here that Kupwara border sector shall be taken care of fully so that there is no repetition of recent attacks on the Indian forces which sent shock waves among the rank and file of the forces.

(Kashmir Observer, August 20, 1999)

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Twitter Talks



“RBI raising repo rate by 50 bps is good move. But with wholesale price inflation 15.18% & consumer inflation 7.01% small businesses in India are making losses & closing. This may be good for big businesses but not good for the nation. We need fiscal policy to correct this”

@kaushikbasu

“A man asked a Muslim man: Why do your women cover their bodies and their hair? The muslim man smiled and took two pieces of candy out from his pocket. He opened one and ate it quickly, then he opened and ate the other one. “I love candy” he said”

@btwitsmir

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Price Control

The state government is likely to frame a monitoring cell to keep vigil over the rates and promises that the rates of vegetables, which have been skyrocketing over the recent past, would come down within a week. The Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution department has said the rates of various essential commodities would be checked by keeping a strict vigil and ensuring that the prescribed rates are strictly adhered to. According to the reports, the rates of various vegetables in the state had gone up around six times over the past couple of weeks and people are miffed at the indifferent attitude of the government. The fluid situation is reported to have come as a boon to black marketers who are selling the mass consumption items at a high premium. And, there is no uniformity in the prices in that tomatoes sell at something between Rs 30 and Rs 60 a kg. Even as the alarm bells have been sounded in Jammu, the scenario in the summer capital, Srinagar, is reported to be worse, with the administration officials in deep slumber. Prices are soaring by the day not only of vegetables but of every other commodity or service as well. Mutton is selling at Rs 150 a kg although its official rate is believed to be just Rs 125. Unlike Jammu, the CAPD officials in Kashmir are conspicuous by their absence not only from city markets, but from all the towns and rural areas as well. Indeed, it is not for the first time that they have left millions of hapless consumers to the mercy of unscrupulous traders, perhaps as a policy for the obvious reasons. The director of the department is also believed to be the price controller for his area. Interestingly, however, majority of the consumers might not even know him, save for having seen him on an odd television show.

Price control has been a nagging headache not so much for the state government as it has been for a vast multitude of people who find themselves helplessly sandwiched between the inert administration and unscrupulous traders. The law enforcing agencies do indeed show up periodically, particularly around some festival, to go round various markets not necessarily to book the economic offenders but allegedly to claim their pound of mutton with a quick buck to the boot. Come Eid, people watch the officials from the magistracy, police, weights and measures, and of course, the CAPD, checking the price lists, making queries from buyers and even taking some odd trader into custody. Immediately after the festivities are over, the law enforcing officials vanish from the scene like the proverbial horns from a donkey's head. What follows is common knowledge. It is a free for all for hoarders and profiteers who spare no meanness to fleece the hapless consumers even by precipitating an artificial scarcity. Even as the government has re-christened the erstwhile department of food and supplies as consumer affairs and public distribution department, ostensibly to make it into an effective tool for protection of consumer rights, the measure has miserably failed to create any impact on market behaviour.

Whether it happens to be a commodity or a service, the consumer are fleeced with gay abandon by their providers. The key government outfit has proved to be incapable of even taking note of the adverse media reports highlighting the economic offences almost daily. The general apathy of the state government towards protection of consumer rights can be gauged by the fact that it has failed even to find the presiding officer for its consumer commission although the all important position has been vacant for several months now, reportedly for some regional considerations.

Now that the government mulls constitution of monitoring cells to keep an eye on prices of essential commodities, it would be well advised to bring within their purview all sorts of commercially sold products and services, including passenger transport, cable service, water and power supply. One of the key ingredients in the proposed steps could well be the department of consumer affairs and public distribution itself which has been in need for a thorough revamp for quite some time now. Unless you have a well oiled apparatus armed with sufficient powers, equipped with the required wherewithal and manned with determined and motivated staff, the monitoring cells can be of no avail. And, the efforts of the department have not to be of a seasonal nature but, instead, have to be sustained in a manner that a perpetual awe is generated among the providers of various commodities and services, who over the decades have developed vested interests and even grown into mafias. Obviously, the government, which is never tired of holding out tall promises to provide good governance to people, should attach high priority to keep the market under a tight leash, more so as a pre-requisite to protect the consumer rights.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on June 30, 2007

Indefinitely Deferred

Normal life remains a distant dream for Pandits in the Valley



Upendra Kaul

Militants have struck in the Kashmir Valley once again. On Tuesday, they gunned down a Kashmiri Pandit and injured another member of the community. It seems that as soon as things appear to be improving for the few Pandits remaining in the Valley, things take a turn for the worse.

The numbers of Kashmiri Pandits started dwindling with the large-scale conversion of the population to Islam around the 13th century. Kashmiri is the mother tongue of both Hindus and Muslims from the Valley. The two communities have much in common in terms of eating habits, dress code and cultural heritage.

The survival of the community after these conversions depended on the whims of the rulers – the Mughals (1580-1750) and Afghans (1752-1819). The community appealed to Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur in 1675 and Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the early 19th century to save them from becoming extinct in the Valley. The Dogra regime (1846 to 1947) is seen as a good period for the community when its members used education to improve their status vis-a-vis the Muslims. Many left the Valley for better opportunities and a large section of those who stayed back became professionals and got government jobs.

In 1948, the community comprised 8 per cent of the state's population. After the Land Reforms Act was initiated by the Sheikh Abdullah government, Pandit landowners lost their land and migrated. By 1981, their population in the Valley had come down to only 5 per cent.

The exodus in the 1990s was a result of the targeted killings of Pandits. An estimated 1,00,000 Pandits left the Valley under very difficult circumstances. However, Kashmiri Pandits were not the only community to be targeted by militants. According to information accessed by an RTI activist (IE, December 15, 2021), 89 Pandits have been killed by militants while 1,635 persons of other faiths have also lost their lives since 1990. These figures could be disputed but the fact is that both Muslims and Pandits suffered at the hands of militants. However, the killing of Kashmiri Pandits got greater media coverage. Of course, the fear is much greater among the minorities. This led to mass migration, bringing down their popu-



Photo for representational purposes only. Credits PTI

The recently-released film, Kashmir Files, seems to have made the life of the Pandits living in the Valley even more difficult. There seems to be a feeling amongst Muslims that they are blamed for what happened in 1990 when everybody suffered

lation to less than 1 per cent in the Valley.

In 2010, as per government figures, there were only 808 Pandit families – 3,445 people in all – in the Valley. Several initiatives to attract Pandit families back to the Valley did not succeed. A Rs 1,168-crore package in 2008 by the UPA government couldn't draw even 2,000 youths from the community to return to the Valley. The recently-released film, Kashmir Files, seems to have made the life of the Pandits living in the Valley even more difficult. There seems to be a feeling amongst Muslims that they are blamed for what happened in 1990 when everybody suffered.

With the state under Central rule since August 5, 2019, it was hoped that things would improve for the Pandits. However, in the last few months, the problems seem to have increased for those who have chosen to be there. The killings of innocent people have petrified the community and there is a sense of demoralisation amongst them, especially because the militants who commit dastardly crimes manage to escape.

The empathy of Muslim neighbours is, no doubt, heartwarming. But the volatile political situation and the sporadic but continuous killings of Hindus since 2019 – including Bihari labourers – have increased the insecurity of Kashmiri Pandits.

The tourist season this year has been exceptionally good with those involved in the industry doing well. There has been no attempt to disrupt it, indicating that the separatists do not want to antagonise the locals. Only a handful of persons have bought land in the UT after the abrogation of Article 370, and that's confined mainly to areas closer to Jammu province.

For a Kashmiri Pandit like me who continues to have an intimate and affectionate relationship with the Valley and its people – this includes Gauri Kaul Foundation's healthcare initiatives – these killings are worrying. The local population's encouragement, along with my strong Kashmiri roots, gives our group the confidence to quietly continue our mission to provide good healthcare. But we realise that these contributions are no solution to the vexed problem of the Pandits. Normal life remains a distant dream for them.

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 Indian Express and is being reproduced here with permission from the author.

The writer is a cardiologist and founder director of the Gauri Kaul Foundation

The T in Exploitation

Gowher Ahmad Bhat

TOO often, as the government fails to accommodate all into the government sector, educated youth through the private sector. In Jammu and Kashmir, one of the largest private sector employers are the private schools. Thousands of teachers are working in these schools. Every school tries to hire those among the best qualified youth to make the teaching learning process in their institutions a success. They look for teachers who will cater and mutate according to the modern trends in the education sector and address the challenges of the ever growing competition. They look for those teachers who will satiate the knowledge thirst of the modern day students.

However, their quest is too often unethical. Job advertisements in Private schools are a symbolic fest that often tell the story in a glance. The “Qualifications” and “Experience” column against each teaching opening is written in bold letters, whereas, the “Salary” column is left ambiguous with an apparently generous “Pay is Negotiable”. Honestly, the Ad reads like a PR of the school, hiring only the best. However, for the wise, it is a manifesto of exploitation.

All of us know the untold story of this “negotiable pay”. The teachers have to undergo rounds of interviews and have to take oaths to follow terms and conditions of the institution to the T. However, god forbid, if the aspirant wants to discuss the specifics of the salary arrangement! They are told that they shall be put on probation for a month or more for a meager salary, until they prove their worth. A “suitable” salary is promised afterwards.

What is the suitable pay for a teacher who is to join a private school? A skilled labour earns at



least Rs 25000-30000 per month and a non skilled labour earns a monthly sum of Rs 15000- 20000. Skilled labours who have their own machinery and equipment earn more than the already stated figures. It is a known fact that the salary in most of the private schools does not even touch Rs 15000. There are many private schools where the salary of teachers is below Rs 5000. Many reputed schools are paying a salary to their teachers that puts a question mark on their name and fame. Despite having huge earnings and emptying the pockets of parents they pay only peanuts to the teachers. These helpless teachers neither have the provision of yearly increments nor are they provided any considerable hike on account of good performance. It is a sisyphian loop of hard work for empty appreciation. If anyone objects, they're deemed disposable and dismissed at the first instance of protest.

Behind every educated and qualified youth there is the blood, sweat and tears of their family. In lower middle class and middle class families, education is considered an investment. It is expected that a saviour is nurtured through quality education, who would grow

on to shoulder the burden of the family at the time of need. This is especially true if the family is poor.

However, with all the education, when some end up working in private schools as teachers, they cannot even afford medicines for their ailing parents. Contributing for groceries or spending on personal expenses is a luxury they can't afford. Imagine the plight of turning up all brushed up with knowledge, in well creased clothes. Can they even afford these in the first place? Can they even afford the technology that they're required to be familiar with and teach? These are all dusted under the carpet as “asking-for-too-much” demands. A private school teacher can't even take the liberties to buy resources for the teaching-learning process. Apparently, their “passion” and “dedication” should pay the school supplies shop.

As though things weren't already worse, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the condition of Private school teachers got worse. Many private school teachers were not paid their salaries for months without any consideration. They were pushed to starvation. The hardships faced by a private school teacher were evident from a video

that went viral on social media. The teacher in the video was walking by foot when a cab driver offered him a lift. It is then that he narrated his ordeal to the cab driver and stated that he had visited the school where he works for the very purpose of getting salary but to no avail. His condition was such that he had hoped to pay for a ride back to his home through the salary that never came. This is not the ordeal of only one helpless and poor private school teacher but a tale of almost all private school teachers.

The paying of low salary to the teachers puts a question mark on the very functioning of private schools. It rips apart the minimum wages guarantee act (MWGA). It is an exploitation of the asset of educated youth who are the life of successful nations. It is an insult to our education system. It is a joke on the literacy mission and its advocates. It falsifies the very purpose of imparting a sincere education.

The School Education Department and the Labour Department should come to the rescue of private school teachers and frame rules and regulations that will govern the basis of hiring of teachers by the private school owners. A salary fixation committee for private school teachers should be constituted and a respectable salary to be paid to private school teachers should be fixed. There should be a provision for a suitable and respectable yearly increment for the PST. A grievance redressal cell should also be put into place to look into the complaints logged by the private school teachers.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a Teacher and a Core Member of JKGLTF

Books With Life Lessons

G.N.Shakir

Emilie Poulsson has rightly said, "Books are keys to wisdom's treasure; Books are gates to lands of pleasure; Books are paths that upward lead; Books are friends. Come, let us read." Undoubtedly, books are key to infinite wisdom as they are written by men and women of deep knowledge gained from a long experience. Books give us knowledge, wisdom, vocabulary enrichment, ideas collection, familiarization with different types of writing formats, speaking fluency, imagination, intuition, reasoning skills, etc.

However, for quite a long time now, books prescribed in private schools have become points of criticism and sometimes points of hot discussions. Earlier, the discussions would happen in shops, in relaxing places or even in print media and nowadays social media pages are filled with such arguments and counter arguments. The argument that private schools compel their students to purchase books from their school stalls or book stores of their choice may be true. This can also be a fact that (not all but some) books are not scrutinized in terms of content before using them in classrooms. That is why books prescribed by private schools become points of criticism many times.

To me, there can be two reasons; one that most of the books prescribed by schools are from publishers of other states and the content differs from local ethos, local culture and broadly speaking, a local touch. Another reason can be that many school owners do not bother to check the contents published in the books before selling them to their students.

Now, if you have standard books written by authors having mastery on the subjects, with genuine content, presentable, attractive for kids and from local publishers, isn't that a good thing to be followed, propagated and encouraged by private schools?

And this has been made possible by some local publishers who have now come up with some quality publications and standard books for schools. Paradise Publi-



cation House Srinagar is one such publishing house which is purely an educational publishing company and has been in the field for the last many decades.

Right now, the publishing house has come up with three interesting series on General Knowledge, Cursive Writing and Art. All the three series are strictly designed, printed and published on high quality paper with attractive get up and child friendly illustrations.

"Meet the Global Knowledge (GK 360)", is a series of general knowledge books for classes 1 to 8. The series has been prepared on the basis of New Education Policy (NEP2020). It has been authored by F.A.Hafiz, a renowned educationist of J&K and compiled by Raze

“

Now, if you have standard books written by authors having mastery on the subjects, with genuine content, presentable, attractive for kids and from local publishers, isn't that a good thing to be followed, propagated and encouraged by private schools?

Graphix Team. The contents are genuine,

meaningful and intellectually compiled with catchy headings. All the lessons are organized logically under units and every lesson offers interesting advice for readers. The lessons have been supplemented with Help Boxes which help students solve the problems related to the activities.

Assignments have been given at the end that helps scale the real progress of students in terms of understanding the lessons. An interesting feature of the books is that pages regarding life skills and solutions to daily life problems have been included. In short, the series of books offers extra information to students and teachers beyond the scope of lessons.

"Kidcore" is a book on art and craft,

published by Paradise Publication House. This is a series of eight books for classes Nursery to Grade 5. Each book of this series has well graded activities supplemented with visual ideas. Printed on beautiful glazed paper with attractive illustrations and a very presentable title page, each book of this series has something new to offer to the teachers and the kids. The series is so designed that it can help students develop creativity and at the same time it can build self esteem in the students.

One more series published by the publishing house is a series based on Cursive Writing. The series is titled "Let's go with Doodling Hands". The series has been designed for students of introductory classes and from Grade 1 to Grade VII. Interesting thing about the books is that the first two pages of the books contain important instructions for teachers. These instructions help the teachers in arranging their writing class. It gives advice regarding the sitting position of a child while writing, holding of a pencil properly and tips on neat and legible handwriting. The books are simple, easy to understand for children and have specially been designed for young learners of handwriting. The series is aimed at being a good companion for both teachers and students. The books contain introduction to correct strokes of pencil, proper spacing and knowledge of four lines. It contains basic knowledge of handwriting rules, joining words to form sentences, vocabulary, word building, grammar facts, language based games and activities. The books are visually attractive and have the best layout design and illustrations.

More important is that the series of books is completely indigenous with an essential local touch of culture, heritage and ethos. The series is cost effective, helpful for all schools and worth reading. If incorporated in the school system, the series of books under review can serve the best possible purpose of knowledge, life skills and well oriented guidance of the new generation.

Five Books and Films on Partition's Trauma

Madhur Anand
Ajay Verghese
Amitabh Mattoo
Geetha Ganapathy-Doré
Uditi Sen

Editor's note: At midnight on Aug. 14, 1947, India achieved independence from British colonial rule and Pakistan was created as a separate homeland for Muslims. More than 200 years of British rule had come to an end – a painful process in which some 15 million people were displaced and another million or more killed. The trauma of the Partition is seared in the collective memory of the two countries to this day.

For the 75th anniversary of this momentous day, The Conversation asked scholars from the U.S., Canada, France, U.K. and Australia to provide a list of the best Partition films, literature or art. Here are some recommendations:

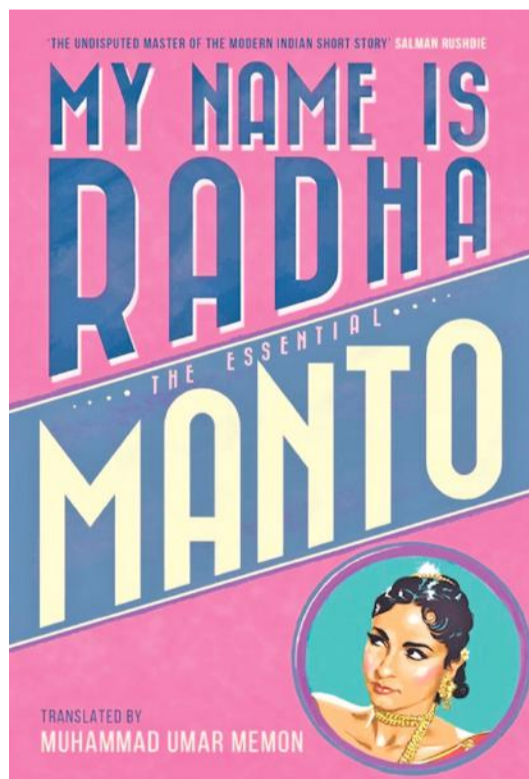
1. 'MY NAME IS RADHA: THE ESSENTIAL MANTO'

Recommended by professor Madhur Anand, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Partition in South Asia refers to that horrific year when an arbitrary red line was drawn across a map by British colonial rulers – namely, the last viceroy, Louis Mountbatten, and Cyril Radcliffe, a barrister from England who was given five weeks to draw the line that severed India and created Pakistan. The violence of that crooked line has traumatized an uncountable number of people. I know some of this history through the lives of my own parents.

While writing my memoir based in part on the Partition and my parents' childhood, I hunted for nonfiction books and memoirs written by witnesses, but when I found little, I turned to fiction and poetry. One of the most influential books for me was Saadat Hasan Manto's "My Name is Radha," a collection of translated short stories.

A former journalist and screenwriter, Manto was one among the millions who were displaced: Manto moved to Pakistan and wrote fiction about the lives of marginalized people. He wrote about Partition from the perspective of insane asylum residents and prostitutes and, in so doing, powerfully illustrated the un-



imaginable horrors and absurdities of Partition. He was tried in India for obscenity in his writing, but never convicted. He said, "With my stories, I only expose the truth."

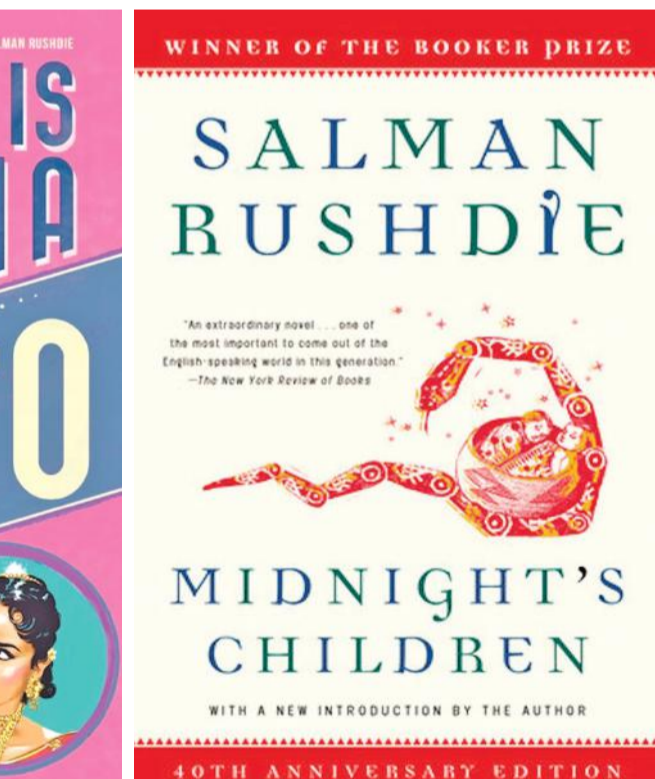
2. 'MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN'

Recommended by professor Geetha Ganapathy-Doré, "Université Sorbonne Paris Nord"

Salman Rushdie's "Midnight's Children," which won the Booker Prize in 1981, the "Booker of Bookers" in 1993 and was judged "Best of the Bookers" in 2008, has not aged one bit. Translated into over 24 languages, the book was adapted for the stage by British directors Simon Reade and Tim Supple in 2003. In 2012, filmmaker Deepa Mehta brought out a cinematic version of it.

It is a must read on the multiplicity of India: There are as many dreams of India as there are people in this dramatically diverse land – plus the "moth-eaten" Pakistan, as founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah described it, with a divided Punjab and Bengal.

History, in this novel, is inseparable from story, as its protagonist Saleem Sinai was born on the same day as the nation. The twin hero of "Midnight's



Children," Shiva, though he shares his name with one of Hinduism's most important deities, is ironically the son of a Muslim couple. Yet this embodies the hybrid nature of identity in the subcontinent, which is almost always multicultural. The epic narrative also incorporates the history of Pakistan and Bangladesh, which was carved out of Pakistan in 1971.

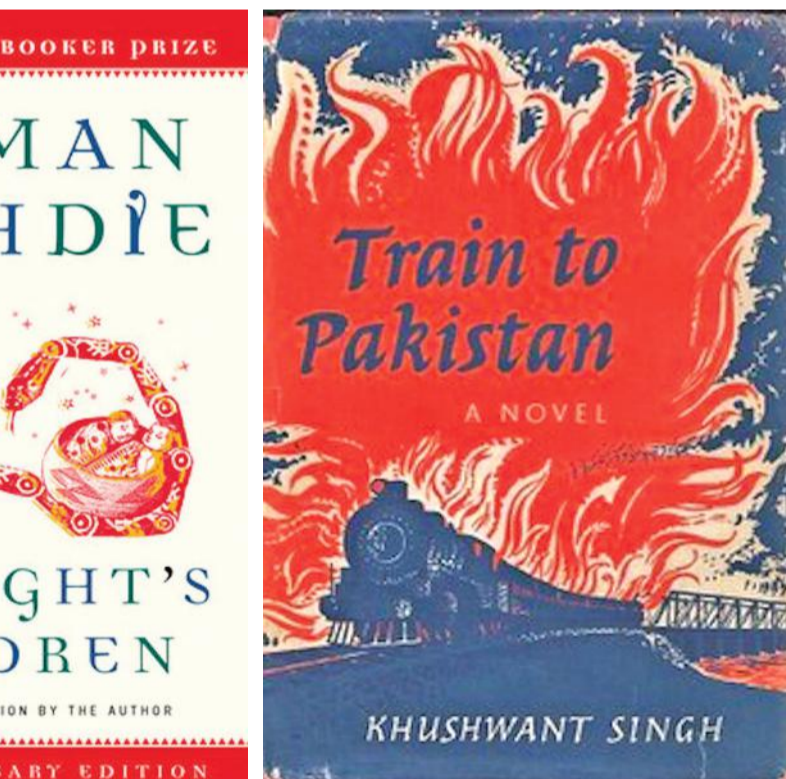
Writing back to the empire, asserting its independence in "chutnified" Indian English, this masterpiece of magic realism borrows the device of the storytelling scribe from the "Mahabharata," an ancient Indian epic.

"Midnight's Children" thus remains an incontrovertible narrative on decolonization and the birth of new nation states.

3. 'TRAIN TO PAKISTAN'

Recommended by professor Amitabh Mattoo, University of Melbourne, Australia

Khushwant Singh's "Train to Pakistan" is one of the most moving accounts of the Partition of India and the way local communities, which had lived peacefully for generations, were torn apart by the forces of communalism. As the Partition plan is announced in the summer of 1947,



millions of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs flee across the new border between India and Pakistan. Mass violence ensues.

"Train to Pakistan" is set in what at first seems like an island of hope: the imaginary village of Manmo Majra, on the border of India and Pakistan, inhabited primarily by Sikhs and Muslims. In the viciousness of the violence, this small village's traditional social structure and relative harmony is destroyed to a point where all sense of humanity is lost. There is still hope, however, in the resilience of love.

One day, a train arrives from Pakistan, "a ghost train" full of corpses of Hindus and Sikhs. The Sikhs are provoked to retaliate, with a plan to murder en masse Muslims leaving the village on a train traveling back to Pakistan. But a local outlaw, Jugga – a Sikh – sacrifices his life to save the train. He does so because he believes his Muslim lover, Nooran, is traveling on it.

4. 'EARTH'

Recommended by professor Ajay Verghese, Middlebury College, U.S.

Deepa Mehta's 1998 film "Earth" is a chilling story about the horrors

seen when she is abducted and taken away by a Muslim mob, and viewers never learn of her ultimate fate. Shanta's story is a reminder that Partition was not just about religion or land, but also about widespread, underreported sexual violence against women.

5. 'THE LONG GOODBYE' (ALBUM)

Recommended by professor Uditi Sen, University of Nottingham, U.K.

Riz Ahmed's album "The Long Goodbye" is a commentary on contemporary race relations in Britain. It explores British-Asian belonging in the context of rising racism and xenophobia, using the metaphor of a breakup. It takes a deeper look at the lyrical complaints of the dumped partner, whose pain and anger mirror the emotions of contemporary British Asian and Muslim communities – shot through with a historical awareness of the British empire and the Partition of India.

In the song "The Breakup (Shikwa)," "Britney baby" is the partner who took the money ("my stash was a quarter of the cash in the world") and labor ("my people built the west", "fought for you in the war"), and yet seeks to disown "the new kids" (the South Asian diaspora in the U.K.). It's impossible to separate what Ahmed says of the now from the then as he evokes the history of the equally impossible Partition of India.

Ahmed raps that during the Partition, Britain "carved a scar down my middle just to leave me stretched out." It's left a bloody legacy of conflict: "My Kashmir jumper still stained red" and "the bleeding never ends man."

He highlights how seemingly overnight, Muslims in India and Hindus in Pakistan became foreigners in their own home. Ahmed notes in the song "Where You From" that this racist question takes on a deeper meaning for British Pakistani Muslims, whose ancestors survived the Partition's displacement: "My ancestor's Indian but India was not for us."

Ahmed uses the Partition to lay bare the violence inherent in racist ideas of national belonging. "The Long Goodbye" dares listeners to learn from the past and imagine a form of belonging that celebrates being from "everywhere and nowhere."

By arrangements with The Conversation

Israel Scrambles To Stop Nuclear Deal That Benefits Iran



Agencies

Israeli officials have called on western nations to "walk away" from the negotiating table with Iran, out of fear that the US is on the cusp of returning to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Washington is currently studying the final text of the JCPOA-revival, which was approved by Iran and the EU earlier this week after 16 months of negotiations.

During a phone call with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on 18 August, Israel's interim Prime Minister Yair Lapid demanded that Europe send a "clear and unequivocal message that there will be no more concessions to Iran," according to Israeli media.

Lapid also met with the US ambassador to Israel and the chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee's West Asia Subcommittee, telling them: "In the current situation, the time has come to walk away from the table. Anything else sends a message of weakness to Iran."

Lapid specifically took aim at a clause in the draft text that allegedly posits that a UN investigation on Iran's nuclear program will be closed, if the nuclear watchdog concludes Tehran provided enough evidence to show they are not developing a nuclear weapon.

The interim premier reiterated that Israel "is not bound by any nuclear deal" and will continue targeting Iran's

nuclear program.

"The US knows and recognizes this," Lapid added.

Israel has previously carried out several assassinations and sabotage attempts inside Iran in hopes of scuttling talks to revive the JCPOA.

Tel Aviv is now preparing to send National Security Adviser Eyal Hulata to Washington next week with the aim of derailing a deal with Iran.

Furthermore, late on Thursday the White House National Security Council spokesperson said that reports "that we have accepted or are considering new concessions to Iran as part of reentering the 2015 nuclear deal are categorically false."

Europe, on the other hand, has remained more open to providing guarantees to Iran, as they regard the country as an attractive source of energy at a time when entire industries are facing collapse after losing access to Russian fuel.

In recent days, oil prices dropped three percent as anticipation grew about the US and Iran inching closer to a deal that would free up Iranian crude for the international market.

As talks about a possible deal increased, western media has tried to blame Iran for the brutal stabbing of Indian-born novelist Salman Rushdie, as well as for the alleged plot to assassinate former White House officials John Bolton and Mike Pompeo.

SC Terms Dolo Makers Rs 1000 Cr Freebies A Serious Issue

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday described as a "serious issue" the matter raised by an NGO relating to the CBDT's allegation against the makers of Dolo tablets that they had distributed freebies worth about Rs 1,000 crore to doctors for prescribing their 650 mg anti-inflammatory, fever reducer drug.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna was told by senior advocate Sanjay Parikh and advocate Aparna Bhat, appearing for petitioner 'Federation of Medical and Sales Representatives Association of India', that the market price of any tablet up to 500 mg is regulated under price control mechanism of the government but the price of the drug above 500 mg can be fixed by the Pharma company concerned.

Parikh alleged that to ensure a higher profit margin, the company manufacturing Dolo tablets distributed freebies to doctors to prescribe the 650 mg drug. The advocate also said he would like to bring more such facts to the knowledge of the court after a response is filed by the Centre.

"What you are saying is music to my ears. This is exactly the drug that I had when I had COVID recently. This is a serious issue and we will look into it," Justice Chandrachud said.

The bench then asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj to file his response to the plea by the petitioner in ten days and gave one week thereafter to the latter to file his rejoinder.

It listed the matter for further hearing on September 29.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes(CBDT) had on July 13 accused the makers of the Dolo-650 tablet of indulging in "unethical practices" and distributing freebies worth about Rs 1,000 crore to doctors and medical professionals in exchange for promoting products made by the pharmaceutical group.

The claims were made after



the Income Tax department had on July 6 raided 36 premises of the Bengaluru-based Micro Labs Ltd. across nine states.

A counsel sought permission from the court to file an intervention on behalf of the Pharma companies, which the court allowed saying it would like to hear them also on the issue.

On March 11, the top court agreed to examine a plea seeking direction to the Centre for formulating a Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices to curb alleged unethical practices of Pharma companies and ensure an effective monitoring mechanism, transparency, accountability as well as consequences for violations.

The top court had said that it wants to know what the government has to say on this issue.

Parikh had said that this is an important issue in the public interest. He submitted that Pharmaceutical companies are claiming that they are not liable for punishment as the bribe-takers are the doctors.

Parikh said the government should look into this aspect and the code should be made statutory in nature as "we all know what happened with Remdesivir injections and other drugs of those combinations."

The top court had then asked the petitioner why can't a representation be made to the government to which Parikh had said they have already done it.

He had said that they have been pursuing the issue with the government since 2009 and till the

time the government comes out with the code to regulate, this court may lay down some guidelines.

The petition said the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations of 2002 prescribe a Code of conduct for doctors in their relationship with the pharmaceutical and allied health sector industry, and prohibit acceptance of gifts and entertainment, travel facilities, hospitality, cash or monetary grants by medical practitioners from pharmaceutical companies.

"This Code is enforceable against doctors. However, it does not apply to drug companies, leading to anomalous situations where doctors' licenses are cancelled for misconduct which is actuated, encouraged, aided, and abetted by pharma companies. The pharma companies go scot-free", it added.

The petition claimed that though termed as sales promotion, in fact, direct or indirect advantages are offered to doctors (as gifts and entertainment, sponsored foreign trips, hospitality, and other benefits) in exchange for an increase in drug sales. It said unethical drug promotion can adversely influence doctors' prescription attitudes and harm human health by over-use/over-prescription of drugs, prescription of higher doses of drugs than necessary, prescription of drugs for a longer period than necessary, prescription of a higher number of drugs than necessary and prescription of an irrational combination of drugs.

Kerala Govt Fails To Persuade Fisherfolk To Withdraw From Vizhinjam Protest

Press Trust of India

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Fisheries Minister V Abdurahiman held talks with representatives of protesting fisherfolk on Friday over the construction of a port in Vizhinjam but failed to persuade them to withdraw from the agitation.

Discussions were held to resolve the problems being faced by the people living in the coastal belt of Vizhinjam due to the under-construction port. Emerging from the meeting, fishermen representative Msgr Eugene Pereira said they were "satisfied" with the discussions with the minister on various issues related to the coastal community.

However, the protest will continue till fully addressing the fishing community's major concerns of coastal erosion due to construction of the port, he said.

"When the minister asked whether the protesters would stop their agitation, we said one of the major concerns of the fishermen community was the construction of the port and its various impacts on the coastal region. We said they would only withdraw from the agitation if their demands had been fulfilled completely. So, the stir will continue," he told reporters here.

In the meeting, also attended by Transport Minister Antony Raju, the protesters were informed that a decision in connection with the construction of the port would be taken next week after consulting with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, sources said.

Expressing satisfaction over the government's assurance related to other issues of the fisherfolks, the representatives said the government has agreed to shift all the fishermen who have been staying in camps to rented houses, close to the upcoming Onam festival.

"The minister assured that a permanent housing facility would be set up for them and said suitable lands have already been identified in some places including a 175 acre land in nearby Muttathara for the same. It has also been assured that their rehabilitation process would be completed in a time-bound

manner," Pereira said.

The priest said though the issue of kerosene subsidy was also discussed during the meeting, but the minister pointed out that a decision can be taken only by the Chief Minister and the state cabinet as it would impose a huge financial burden on the state exchequer.

However, he assured that the matter would be considered favourably by the government.

The meeting was held hours after a tense situation prevailed in the Vizhinjam port area as hundreds of fisherfolk, mainly women from the nearby coastal hamlets, pushed their way into the under-construction port site demanding the authorities to address their long-pending demands regarding livelihood issues.

A large number of coastal people have been staging an intense protest outside the main entrance of the multi-purpose seaport, located at nearby Mulloor, for the last four days pressing their seven-point charter of demands including to stop the construction work and to conduct a coastal impact study in connection with the multi-crore project.

Intensifying their agitation, the protesters took out a march this morning and pushed their way inside the project site and raised slogans against the government and the port authorities alleging that the unscientific construction activities were the cause of increasing coastal erosion in the region.

A group of protesters knocked down the barricades and entered the port site but the police and the priests of the Latin Archdiocese, who led the protest, tried to calm them down and brought them back to the protest venue at the entrance.

The protesters have been alleging that the unscientific construction of groyne, the artificial sea walls known as "pulimutt" in local parlance, as part of the upcoming Vizhinjam port was one of the reasons for the increasing coastal erosion in the district.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Two Hybrid Militants

and ammunition from them. FIR No. 213/2022 u/s 13 UAPA and 7/25 Arms Act had been registered at Police Station Handwara and investigation was initiated.

The police spokesman further stated that based on leads developed during investigation, the role of two more individuals emerged in the conspiracy to carry out militancy acts, namely Aijaz Ahmad Bhat @ Hilal, S/o Khazir Mohd Bhat, R/o Humpora and Naseer Ahmad Mir, S/o Mohd Ramzan Mir, R/o Sagipora.

They have been arrested and based on their disclosure, a cache of arms and ammunition has been recovered by a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army 21RR and 92 Bn CRPF, he said.

The recovery includes 02 Pistols, 04 pistol magazines and 58 pistol rounds, and 06 grenades. Further investigation in the matter is underway, reads the statement.

Missing Retired

He said that today some locals spotted a body in Nallah Vaishav in Feeripora, following which a police party reached the spot and took the body into their possession.

The deceased was mentally unsound and was missing since yesterday, the official said, adding that the body will be handed over to legal heirs after medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, police have started further investigation in this regard.

Ordnance Shell

Balole Nala of Samba, they said. They demolished the shell safely, thereby averting a tragedy, the officials added.

9 Teachers

hoisted the national flag. Pertinently, the Union Territory Government had issued instructions to hoist the tricolor on all the buildings and schools across J&K on August 15 and to celebrate the Independence Day with zeal as a part of Government's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative.

However, as per the official, the

instructions were not followed by the school managements of Middle School Batwari and Primary School Khandole.

As per reports, PRIs of Khandole & Batwari had telephonically approached the higher ups on 15th August at 11 am, alleging that despite strict instructions from the district administration, not even a single teacher has turned up to hoist the national flag on the school building of Primary School Khandole and Middle School Batwari.

As the district administration got to know about the absence of teachers in two schools, the officials immediately requested the local Panchayat members to hoist National Flags on the premises of both the schools.

"Further action will be taken only after getting the report of the inquiry committee", CEO Kishtwar told Kashmir Observer.

The nine suspended teachers include Rafiq Ahmed, Piyare Lal, Ayaz Ahmed, Sajjad Ahmed Wani, Farooq Ahmed Bumal, Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Wani, Mohammad Sikandar, Shaida Banoo and Ghulam Hussain Butt.

Experts Welcome

over 1675 area hectares square kilometres while the Haigam wetland which is spread over 801.82 hectares is located in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Earlier, the government had added two water bodies—Wullar and Hokersar to the list of Ramsar sites.

Advocate Nadeem Qadri, environmental lawyer, told Kashmir Observer that Government of India is duty bound to protect, preserve and conserve these wetlands.

"It will definitely help the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to develop a comprehensive action plan for eco-restoration of both the wetlands," Qadri said.

He further said that both the wetlands will receive the international focus and the national importance for its management purpose.

It may be noted both the water bodies were notified of protected wetlands with the department of wildlife protection. There are a total six protected wetlands in Jammu & Kashmir.

Qadri who is also the Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Fund, Jammu & Kashmir argues that the addition will set the new trend for

the conservation and management of these important wetland ecosystems.

"I think the announcement will ultimately strengthen the conservation of all these water bodies with special focus on Ramsar sites," he adds.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international treaty for "the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands". It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran where it was signed on 2nd of February 1971. Since then, February 2, every year is celebrated as World Wetlands Day. India is one of the contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention.

Dr. Arshad Jehangir, noted environmentalist, told Kashmir Observer that this was a much needed step to save the wetlands as the water bodies have witnessed rampant encroachment over the years.

"These wetlands will be demarcated and different types of activities like encroachment will not be allowed now," he said.

While welcoming the step, Jehangir added that these wetlands have rich diversity of microfiber and host a number of birds during winter season.

Every year, thousands of migratory birds from different areas of the world arrive in Kashmir during winter when freezing temperatures in their summer habitats make food scarce.

The birds include teal, common pochard, merganser, northern shoveler, northern pintail, Eurasian wigeon, red-crested pochard, tufted duck, sheldrake duck, mallard, coot, gadwall, Brahminy duck, cormorant, Greylag goose.

They start arriving in October and stay until the end of April but their home—wetlands are being encroached rapidly.

According to reports, many migratory birds are now leaving earlier because of the shrinking of the wetlands. Advocate Qadri, however, argues that the wetlands need a strong action plan for their preservation.

"I must say the Hokersar wetland, being listed in Ramsar sites is not in a good condition and needs urgent attention from the government," Qadri added.

He said there needs to be an action plan and strategy to conserve these wetlands and to enhance the bird diversity.

An official from the Wildlife Department told Kashmir Observer

that the department manages wetlands through various activities like construction of bunds to regulate water level, de-silting and de-weeding, maintenance of water pools and water channels, anti-poaching/anti-grazing activities, awareness and publicity programmes, etc.

Rouf Zargar, the wildlife warden for South Kashmir, however told Kashmir Observer that the government has demarcated and protected all the notified wetlands in the valley and it is because of efforts of the department that two more wetlands have even listed in Ramsar sites.

"Why are millions of migratory birds from different parts of the world coming to these wetlands every year? Why don't they go to other water bodies? It is because of the good and natural habitations of notified wetlands that they take refuge in these wetlands," Zargar told Kashmir Observer

Accused Dies

an officer told PTI, adding that he suffered a heart attack.

The 36-year old Muni, who belonged to Rampura village of Kathua district, was slapped with charges 121 (Waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war against the Government of India), 121a (conspiracy) /122 (collecting arms with intention of waging war against the Government of India) of IPC, Explosive Substance Act, 16 (recruits any person or persons for commission of a terrorist act), 18 (hatching conspiracy) and 20 (being member of terrorist organisation) of UAPA and sent to Kotbalwal jail on August 10.

The case was initially registered at the Rajbagh police station in Kathua on May 29 and was re-registered by the NIA on July 30.

The NIA on Thursday carried out searches in five districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with its investigation into the dropping of weapons by Pakistani drones along the International Border, an official said.

According to police, the module was in operation for over two years and was involved in collection and ferrying of weapons and explosives dropped via drones from the Pakistani side along the International Border.

Waqf Board Mulls

belonging to Waqf.

Sources said that at a few places, the shopkeepers holding the Waqf shops have been asked to reach its head office in order to fix the new rent agreement. However, there was no official confirmation in this regard.

A top official of Waqf, when contacted said that the rates will be revised soon. "The process has been started to fix new rent agreements with the shopkeepers, who are holding the Waqf shops and other establishments," the official added.

Meanwhile, Executive Magistrate Tehsildar, J&K Waqf Board has also issued a public notice in this regard on 11-08-2022, which reads that as per the decision taken in the 4th Board meeting on 21-07-2022 the rent of all Waqf properties shall be revised as per recommendations of Rent Review Committee of 2015-2016, and arrears shall be calculated on the basis of 25th board meeting decision w.e.f 01-04-2018—(KNO)

Govt Warns Pvt

the Rule 4(7) provides that the Licensee shall immediately intimate the controlling authority about any Criminal Charges framed against the persons forming the agency or against a private security guard or supervisor engaged or employed by the agency in the course of performance of duties as PSA.

"A copy of such communication shall also be sent to the Officer in-charge of the Police Station where the person charged against resides," the document reads.

The directions have been issued at a time when many agencies in Kashmir are also offering domestic helps and maids.

These rules according to officials are also applicable to them as well. In the past, several instances of domestic helps fleeing from homes and indulging in criminal activities have come to the fore in the Valley.

Meanwhile the official document reads that the Rule 4(12) of the regulation Act provides that after commencement of its business, the security agencies shall provide monthly list of its management and those engaged by it to the controlling authority.

"They should also share such a list to the officer in-charge of the Police Station where the registered office is

situated," the document reads.

Notably, J&K Home Department has appointed the controlling authority for issuance of licenses under the PSA Regulation Act, 2005 and the rules made there under.

"However, it has come to the notice of the Controlling Authority that some private security agencies have engaged or employed persons as security guards and supervisors without verification of character and antecedents," the document reads.

The government has observed that intimidation regarding the framing of criminal charges against the persons forming the agency or against private security guards or supervisors engaged or employed by the Agencies in the course of performance of duties was not brought to the notice of the controlling authority.

"The security agencies are not providing monthly lists as envisaged under Rules 4(12), which makes such agencies liable for action," the document reads.

The government has enjoined upon all the private security agencies to get the verification of character and antecedents of security guards or supervisors done before employing them as stipulated in the Rules.

"Any criminal charges framed against any persons forming the agency or against private security guards or supervisors engaged or employed by the agency should be bring to the notice of the controlling authority," the document reads.

The government has also directed the agencies to provide monthly list of management and those engaged by the security agencies to the officer in-charge of the concerned Police Station.

Further, the government has impressed upon all the government, semi-government, State/Central public sector undertakings and the private institutions including Banks who are hiring the services of private security agencies not to hire the services of those PSA whose employees' character and antecedents have not been verified according to the manner as prescribed in the Jammu and Kashmir Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Rules, 2022.

"Any deviation on this count shall be viewed seriously and action, as warranted under law, shall be initiated against such agencies," it reads—(KNO)

315 New Covid Cases In J&K



Observer News Service
Ganderbal 7 each and Shopian 2. In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu detected a maximum of 27 new cases of infection, Poonch and Ramban four each, Doda 3, Kathua 2 and Rajouri 1. No cases were reported from the remaining four districts of Udhampur, Samba, Kishtwar and Reasi.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4779 in J&K as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

"Moreover, 480 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 70 from Jammu division and 410 from Kashmir division," they added.

In the Valley, they said, Srinagar reported the highest 103 fresh cases of virus, Baramulla 55, Budgam and Kulgam 28 each, Kupwara 17, Pulwama 14, Anantnag 13, Bandipora and

Doifode Sagar Dattatray Takes Over As DC Kupwara



Observer News Service
KUPWARA: Doifode Sagar Dattatray on Friday assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, relieving Khalid Jahangir who has been transferred as Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization.

Doifode Sagar Dattatray, a 2014-batch IAS officer, has been previously serving as OSD in the J&K Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission. Prior to this, he had also served on various prime positions including Deputy Commissioner

Reasi and Doda. He was received by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Ghulam Nabi Bhat and other senior officers and officials of DC Office.

Soon after assuming charge as Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Doifode interacted with officers and received feedback on office business.

He sought cooperation from officers to make administration more delivering to the general public of district Kupwara at large. He also appealed to officers to be accessible to the public at all times.

Pensioners Union Condolences Death of Kant

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: Central Govt Pensioners welfare association Kashmir (CGPWA:K) in an on-line emergent meeting has condoled the demise of its basic, founder member & General Secretary J.B. N Kant (IAS rtd) who left for his heavenly abode early morning on Thursday at his residence in Hyderpora.

Meeting chaired by President Mr MS Pandit recalled his services to public in various capacities as an able administrator & in particular his dedication in establishing CGPWA Kashmir chapter.

His untiring efforts in organising the Pensioners & collecting

of data from various banks only shows his complete dedication to service of mankind.

Members also remembered his follow up a case against BSNL authorities in consumer court which he pleaded single handily and won later which was not his personal but for common subscribers.

His death has definitely caused a vacuum which will not be easy to fill but says AI-Quran... "EVERY SOUL HAS TO TASTE DEATH"... Kant Sahab also completed his time & left after a brief spell of illness.

Prayers lead by secretary were offered for the departed soul & condolences & sympathies were expressed for the bereaved family.



KASHMIRI PANDITS ON FRIDAY celebrated Janmashtami, which marks the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, with zeal and religious fervor. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Isolated To Scattered Rains Forecast In J&K

Agencies
SRINAGAR: Weatherman has forecast isolated light rain and thunderstorms over Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours even as the minimum temperature recorded a rise on Friday.

A meteorological department official here also predicted "fairly widespread light to moderate rain and thunderstorm in subsequent two days. He said that 'isolated' forecast means chances of rain are around 1 to 25% and for 'scattered' one, probability is around 26 to 50% while that of fairly widespread means prospect is 51 to 75%.

Regarding minimum tem-

perature, he said that Srinagar recorded a low of 18.6°C against 19.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.2°C above normal during this time of the year for the summer capital, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 17.6°C against 16.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 2.1°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 15.6°C against 13.7°C on the previous night and it was 3.4°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 17.8°C against 14.9°C the previous night and it was 2.7°C above

normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 11.2°C against 11.0°C on the previous night. It was 0.5°C below normal for the north Kashmir place.

Kupwara town saw a low of 16.2°C against 18.1°C on previous night and it was 0.6°C above normal for the place during this time of the season, the official said.

Jammu recorded a low of 26.4°C same as on the previous night. It was 1.6°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 20.7°C, Batote 19.6°C, Katra 23.8°C and Bhadarwah 19.3°C. (GNS)

Coronation Of Vikar Widens Fissures In J&K Congress

Agencies
JAMMU: The coronation of Vikar Rasool Wani as Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief seems to have not gone well within the Ghulam Nabi Azad group, as former Minister Ghulam Muhammad Saroori refused to assume the post of Convenor of the Campaign Committee of the party's J&K unit.

Saroori, the senior leader who is also considered a loyalist of Ghulam Nabi Azad like newly appointed President Vikar Rasool Wani, refused to be part of any panel announced by All India Congress leadership, reports said.

However, both Rasool and Saroori belong to erstwhile Doda districts and remained to MLA for consecutive three terms from 2002 to 2018. Earlier both the Congress men fight to unseat the incumbent chief G A Mir and revolted in favour of Azad.

Sources told a local news agency KNO that Saroori, who was appointed as Convenor of the Campaign Committee with former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad as head got annoyed with the recent appointment. Sources close to Saroori said that the former minister was unhappy with high command over appointment of 'junior' as head of state unit.

Moreover, Saroori, Rasool, former Minister Prerzada Syed and Tariq Hameed Karra were shortlisted for the converted post but

Vikar remain the fortunate. "When the seniors are ignored and juniors are given responsibility, such things are bound to happen," sources close to Saroori said.

Earlier, Azad did not agree to take charge as the Campaign Committee chairman. Moreover, three other loyalists of the former J&K CM also resigned from the committees to which they were appointed.

While former MLAs Gulzar Ahmed Wani and Choudhary Mohd Akram resigned from the Pradesh Election Committee, another ex-legislator Haji Abdul Rashid Dar quit as the primary member of the party.

Meanwhile, newly appointed JKPCC president Vikar Rasool said that he will try to unite all miffed leadership by establishing one to one contact.

"The developments in the party is result of our healthy inner democracy. There are many who might not happy but my priority is to meet everyone and unite them to make Congress party strong," said Vikar Rasool

On being considered as junior by some leaders Vikar said that he is third generation Congress leaders, who won three elections in row and also served in organization from district to national level.

"My father was an MLC, my uncle was Congress leader I am third generation Congress men with 24 years of organizational experience from district level to national level," he said.

On resentment among Azad and other leaders, Vikar said "I am not reasons for Azad's refusals take charge as Head of Election Campaign Committee".

"Azad is Congress party's senior leader and he took decision on his own, I am not reason behind it," Vikar said.

Earlier, former JKPCC president Mir had resigned from his post in June. The party had held a series of meetings with the senior leaders in New Delhi to finalise the new team for J&K. Congress sources said that Mir, who remained the president of the J&K Congress since 2015, was asked to quit to pave way for the new organisational set-up.

Wani, 46, was considered close and loyal to Azad, who holds sway in both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir. Wani had also served as the minister of state.

Recently, the Congress had appointed senior leader Raman Bhalla from Jammu as its working president to keep a balance of power between the two regions of the UT



LG Releases Hindi Ghazal Anthology Of Satish Vimal



Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released the Hindi Ghazal anthology of noted litterateur & poet Satish Vimal at Raj bhavan here.

The book titled 'Nriya Maun Kaa' (The Dance of Silence) is Vimal's sixth hindi poetry collection. Vimal has nine poetry anthologies in Hindi, Urdu & Kashmiri to his credit.

The Lt Governor appreciated the work done by Satish Vimal in the field of literature.

"Satish Vimal is one of the most celebrated authors of the

country. His masterly works are enjoyed and appreciated equally by the literary connoisseurs and readers. I wish him success for many more such literary endeavors in future too", said the Lt Governor.

This ghazal anthology, published by Aakriti Prakashan, New Delhi comprises fifty seven hindi ghazals of Satish Vimal. Extracts from the articles of famous writers of India Ganga Prasad Vimal & Sh Gopal Dass Neeraj are included in the anthology. The book has been decorated by the sketches of famous artist of India Ms Kavita Mahajan.

PAHALGAM ACCIDENT 3 Injured ITBP Men Airlifted To AIIMS



Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI: Three Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) force personnel who were critically injured in a road accident while being de-inducted from the Amarnath Yatra duty were flown in to Delhi on Friday for specialised treatment.

They have been admitted to the trauma centre of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after being airlifted from Srinagar onboard an air ambulance service, a senior officer of the paramilitary force said.

The three jawans were critically injured and required spe-

cialised treatment, he said.

Seven ITBP personnel were killed while 32 others, including two Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, were injured when their bus fell into a gorge near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on August 16.

They were returning to their base after completing the Amarnath Yatra duty.

The border force, primarily tasked to guard the 3,488 km stretch of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, was part of the comprehensive security deployment for the annual 43-day-long Amarnath Yatra that ended on August 11.

4 Drug Peddlers Held In Awantipora: Police

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police claimed to have arrested four drug peddlers in Awantipora and recovered huge quantity of contraband substances from their possession.

A police spokesman said that Police Station Tral received a specific information that one person namely Showkat Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Mohd Bhat resident of Nadar Tral has indulged in drug peddling and hoarded huge quantity of narcotic substances in his residential house.

"On receipt of this information, a police party led by SHO Police Station Tral along with Executive Magistrate concerned raided the specific spot. During search, offi-

cers were able to recover 433Kgs of grinded Poppy Straw from the residential house. The accused along with other 03 associates were arrested on the spot. They have been identified as Tawseef Ah Rather son of Gh Rasool resident of Paner Tral, Muzafar Ah Lone son of Ali Mohd resident of Check Noorpora and M Saleem Khan son of Gh Ahmad Khan resident of Handoorra Tral. They have been shifted to police station where they remain in custody," police said.

Accordingly, a case under FIR number 132/2022 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Tral and further investigation has been initiated.

Dheeraj Gupta Chairs 86th Board Meeting Of JDA

Decisions Regarding Satellite Township, Housing Colonies, Commercial Projects Approved

Observer News Service
JAMMU: In a major initiative for expansion of Jammu city, the Jammu Development Authority is going to develop an Integrated Smart Satellite Township for a population of about 50 thousand along ring road at Bhalwal.

The decision to develop the satellite township was taken in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the JDA under the chairmanship of Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department on Thursday, August 18, 2022. It may be recalled a similar township has been decided to be developed by the J&K Housing Board.

The proposed township will be a completely self-sufficient state-of-the-art satellite town with all

modern infrastructure and amenities, including for commercial and institutional usage, and will also provide livelihood opportunities for its residents within the township. It will be for the first time in last three decades that the JDA will take up development of a housing colony of this scale in Jammu. The proposed township will fully take care of the expansion needs of Jammu city.

The Board further approved the revamping of drainage, road, water supply and power distribution infrastructure in under developed housing colonies of JDA viz Udhewyala, Gole Gajral, Birpur, Kot Bhalwal and Roop Nagar sector 6 with an estimated expenditure of Rs 66 crores which will touch the lives of population of more than ten thousand resi-

dents in these colonies. Grant of alternate plots to the allottees of Roop Nagar housing colony sector 6 (new) in other sectors of the same colony, who could not be handed over possession because of long legal disputes, was also approved by the Board.

Vice Chairman JDA, Pankaj Magotra presented a detailed agenda including the action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting before the Board for discussion covering several issues pertaining to the functioning of the JDA and new initiatives for the development of the urban infrastructure in Jammu city.

The Board was apprised by VC JDA that top real estates consultants of the country like KPMG, Knight Franks Ernst and Young, CBRE, JLL have been empanelled

as Transaction Advisors by JDA for the upcoming major infrastructure development project to be taken up in PPP mode which include Mass Flatted Housing Projects in Birpur, Samba for the construction of nearly 1200 housing units, development of prime commercial space in Rail head Complex, Development of Eco-resort and city forest at Sidhra, Redevelopment of Kalka colony near Bahu fort, Redevelopment of old Bus Stand Jammu, IT Tower near Fourth Tawi Bridge, Jammu.

The Board considered and approved various proposals for allotment of JDA land to Govt departments, paramilitary forces and other non-government entities as per the approved policy.

This also included allotment of nearly 150 kanals land in Bhalwal

to J&K Housing Board for the development of flatted accommodation for Economical Weaker Section (EWS) and construction of Demonstration Housing Project in association with the Central Govt Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWFO).

The Board constituted a committee headed by DC Jammu for evaluating the online applications received for more than 200 EWS flats proposed to develop by JDA so that only the rightful beneficiaries avail the benefits of this housing project.

The Board also directed VC JDA to identify land for the development of a housing colonies for different sections of the society. Approval was also accorded for the constitution of the new finance committee and establish-

ment committee for considering and settling the financial and employees related issues concerning JDA.

The Board advised Vice Chairman, JDA to personally monitor, actively pursue and secure the disposal of long pending legal cases involving JDA land and to sternly deal with the encroachers of JDA land. The Annual Audited Accounts of the JDA for the year 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 were also adopted by the Board.

The Board approved the construction of the 100 feet Tribute Wall with 100 feet height national flag in the Maharaja hari Singh Ji park for the commemoration of freedom fighters as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav celebrations.

The Tribute Wall will be one of its kind of the country with

names of freedom fighters carved in granite stone with a QR Code which will carry the stories of freedom fighters.

The Iconic Tribute Wall will create awareness about nearly 1000 freedom fighters and instil spirit of patriotism among the current and coming generations, besides, promoting national integration and an added attraction for visitors/tourists to the park.

Chairman, JDA Dheeraj Gupta concluded the meeting by advising that JDA should endeavour to speedily develop modern and affordable housing to meet burgeoning housing demand of all sections of society and to play a pivotal role in ushering in a new phase of infrastructure development in Jammu on the lines of most modern cities of India.

Lord's Test: SA Thrash England Inside 3 Days



Agencies

LONDON: South Africa skittled England out for 149 on Friday to win the first Test by an innings and 12 runs inside three days at Lord's and go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

South Africa had begun the day on 289/7 in response to England's first innings tally of 165 and batted for the first hour on Friday before being bowled out for 326 in their first innings, giving them a handy 161-run lead.

Nortje scored an unbeaten 28 not out off 42 balls as he dominated a 29-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Marco Jansen, who was dismissed for 48. Rabada was out third ball of the day as he pulled the ball leg side, only for Broad to pluck it one-handed out of the air for a brilliant catch.

It proved an emphatic triumph for South Africa's bowling attack, who nullified the threat of England's new attacking batting 'Bazball' approach, forging a 161-run first innings lead before dismissing their hosts in only 37.4 second innings overs.

Anrich Nortje took three wickets in the space of 10 balls to rip through the heart of the home batting, removing Jonny Bairstow (18 runs), opener Alex Lees (35) and Ben Foukes (0) in quick succession with a spell of fast bowling for figures of 3/47.

He was ably backed up by fellow quicks Marco Jansen, Lungi Ngidi and Kagiso Rabada, while spinner Keshav Maharaj proved a surprisingly successful early inclusion into the attack, taking the first two wickets before lunch with Zak Crawley (13) and Ollie Pope (5) both trapped leg before wicket.

Bangladesh Appoint Sriram As Technical Consultant



Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Bangladesh has appointed former India all-rounder Sridharan Sriram as a technical consultant for the national team till the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan, however, rejected reports that Sriram has been roped in as a coach of the national team.

"We had Sriram shortlisted and he is to come here on 21st (August). He is definitely not coming as head coach. He is coming as a technical consultant. He is coming here to work up till the T20 World Cup," Hassan told reporters on Friday. The T20 World Cup will be hosted by Australia from October 16 to November 13.

The BCB top official said the 46-year-old Indian's vast coaching experience with the Australian team and IPL side Royal Challengers Bangalore influenced the board to rope him for the short stint.

"Certain things were in consideration while taking him on-board. One is his IPL involvement and we wanted someone who is involved in high-grade T20 cricket and has experience. The World Cup is also in Australia and he has worked in Australia for a long time. For these two reasons, he was taken in as a technical consultant," Hassan said.

Sriram represented India in eight ODIs between 2000 and 2004 and also served as Australia's assistant and spin-bowling coach for a long time.

US Open Raises Prize Money To \$60.1 Million



Agencies

NEW YORK: This year's US Open will award a record USD 60.1 million in total player compensation, the US Tennis Association said on Thursday, with USD 2.6 million going to each singles champion, twice the runner-up total.

The prize money total tops the old mark of USD 57.5 million from last year, with an emphasis on boosting payouts for players in early rounds.

That means a boost to USD 80,000 for each singles competitor in the main draw first round and USD 121,000 in the second

round. Those figures represent hikes of 85% and 57% respectively since 2016.

The USTA arrived at the figures after consultation with the WTA and ATP Player Councils.

There will be more than USD 6.25 million distributed in qualifying rounds.

Doubles champions will be paid USD 688,000 per team, twice what the runner-up duo will receive.

Main draw matches for the year's final Grand Slam event on the New York hardcourts will begin on August 29.

ZIM vs IND: Skipper Rahul Needs Game Time In 2nd ODI



Press Trust of India

HARARE: Skipper KL Rahul would hope to get some valuable batting time as the Indian team is expected to recalibrate its goals to create some challenge for itself in the remaining two ODIs against Zimbabwe.

The gulf between the two teams would always make these kind of bilateral contests lopsided but bigger goal for the 'Men In Blue' would be to push the limits.

The immediate target for the

side would be to try and bat first in case Rahul wins the toss in Saturday's second ODI.

The early start on a bouncy track and sufficient nip in the air would pose some challenge for the batters.

Deepak Chahar had pointed out after the first game that there is little help for the bowlers during the second session and the only time there's some challenge for batters is the first hour of the match.

While 'Captain Rahul' showed his elder statesman like quali-

ties by letting Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill open in the first game, the 'Batter Rahul' also needs to get his priorities right before the Asia Cup.

He needs to quickly adapt to Team India's "attack at all costs from the onset" philosophy and that can't just happen overnight.

Against a side like Zimbabwe, which is not good enough to even challenge a top Indian domestic side, Rahul would get an ideal opportunity to experiment with his batting.

Match Starts: 12:45pm IST.

Sports Ministry Requests FIFA To Let Clubs Play AFC Matches

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Sports Ministry has requested the world football governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to allow Indian clubs -- Sree Gokulam Kerala FC and ATK Mohun Bagan -- compete in the tournaments as scheduled despite the ban on AIFF.

With FIFA suspending the All India Football Federation (AIFF) late on Monday, there was chaos as Gokulam Kerala women's team had already reached Uzbekistan to participate in their second AFC Women's Club Championship.

The women's team is scheduled to compete against a team from Iran on August 23 and one from the host nation on August 26 in Qarshi, while ATK Mohun Bagan is slated to play the AFC Cup 2022 (Inter-Zone semifinals) on September 7 in Bahrain.

The ministry wrote an email to FIFA and AFC, apprising them of the fact that Gokulam Kerala was already in Uzbekistan when FIFA's suspension of AIFF was announced.

"It has requested FIFA and AFC to therefore consider allowing the team to play in the AFC Women's Club Championship (West region) in the interest of the young players," Ministry said in a release.

The ministry said that it has also "reached out to the Indian embassy in Uzbekistan to extend assistance to the team in all possible ways. The ministry is also in constant touch with Gokulam team's management."

Former Captain Bhutia In Race For AIFF Top Job



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The legendary Bhaichung Bhutia on Friday filed his nomination for the president's post in the upcoming AIFF elections but getting through won't be easy for former footballer as several candidates with political leanings have also thrown their hats in the ring.

There are ex-footballers turned politicians and politicians who aspire to enter sports administration in the fray along with long-time sports administrator, who want to grab the top job in All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The deadline to file nominations for the post expired on Friday. The much-delayed elections are scheduled for August 28.

Bhutia's name has been proposed by his former national team colleague Deepak Mondal and seconded by "eminent woman player" Madhu Kumari.

However for him to succeed it is imperative that electoral college is not without former players. As of now FIFA statues do not allow their presence. A clear picture will emerge when Supreme court resumes its hearing on the issue on Monday.

Former Mohun Bagan and East Bengal goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey, a BJP leader from West Bengal, who has unsuccessfully fought one general and one state assembly elections, will be the biggest threat to Bhutia.

UNITED BOUND? Ancelotti Says Casemiro Wants To Leave Real Madrid



Agencies

MADRID: Casemiro is about to put an end to his successful stint with Real Madrid to reportedly join Manchester United, leaving the Spanish powerhouse without one of its main midfield anchors of the last decade.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Friday that Casemiro was in negotiations for a move and a deal was imminent, though he didn't specifically mention United.

He said he spoke with Casemiro and felt "there was no way back."

"He wants to try a new challenge, a new opportunity," Ancelotti said in a news conference. "The club understands. With all he's done for this club and the person he is, we have to respect it. There are talks right now, he's still a Real Madrid player at this stage, but he wants to leave."

Ancelotti said he didn't try to change Casemiro's mind about leaving.

"I haven't tried to convince him, I just listened, because I have spoken to Casemiro throughout my time here and he has helped us so much," Ancelotti said. "Having heard what he wants, there's no way back. If he doesn't stay, we'll have an enormous sense of gratitude to him for all he's done."

The 30-year-old Casemiro has

been with Madrid since 2013 and is regarded as one of the world's best holding midfielders. Madrid's midfield has been one of the best in the world in recent years with Casemiro playing alongside Toni Kroos and Luka Modric.

Casemiro helped the club win five Champions League titles and three Spanish leagues, among several other trophies.

Ancelotti said Madrid would have replacements for Casemiro, though, including young France midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni, who was signed in the offseason. The club has other players who could fill in as well, including Federico Valverde, Eduardo Camavinga, Dani Ceballos and even David Alaba, a defender who can play in midfield if needed.

"Tchouaméni was signed for this position and he's one of the best central midfielders on the market right now," Ancelotti said. "Then we've got Kroos, who can play in that position too, just like he did in my second year here, and there's Camavinga as well."

Ancelotti said the six midfielders he still has in the squad would be "enough to negotiate the season."

"They are six top quality players," the coach said.

Ancelotti said Madrid's targets will remain the same despite Casemiro's departure.

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