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J&K Retains Safe Tourist Destination Title In New NCRB Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Known for its breathtaking beauty and unmatched hospitality, Jammu and Kashmir has been declared as one of the safest places for foreign tourists in India in the latest report prepared by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB).

As per NCRB's Crime in India report, J&K has registered zero cases of crime against foreigners in J&K

during 2021. "There was no case of violence, sexual assault, rape, forgery, theft and cheating reported from Jammu and Kashmir against the foreigners who visited the region in 2021," the report says.

Pertinently, in the last three years, J&K has registered only two cases of crime against foreign tourists. The statistics available in the report have signified that last year, J&K was once again able to retain the



KO File Photo

title of Safe Tourist destination. In 2019 and 2020,

J&K recorded one each case of crime against foreigners,

THERE WAS NO CASE OF VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, rape, forgery, theft and cheating reported from Jammu and Kashmir against the foreigners who visited the region in 2021."

which were among the lowest in India.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, President Kashmir Hotel and Restaurant Owners Federation, Wahid Malik said that the latest NCRB figures will help J&K's tourism

industry to gain international traveler's confidence.

"If you remember, last year also J&K was nominated as a safe destination for foreign travelers, especially solo women travelers. J&K has always been

known for hosting foreigners and I guess, the latest figures will help local stakeholders to gain confidence of tourists and improve international footfall in the region."

Echoing similar views, a deputy Director from J&K Tourism department said that since Covid lockdown was eased, J&K Tourism had shifted focus on attracting visitors from key overseas markets.

"Since 2021, **More on P6**

PM Anguished Over Deaths In Kishtwar Mishap

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed anguish at the loss of lives in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district and announced compensation to the families of the victims.

Eight people were killed and three others suffered serious injuries when their car skidded off the road and plunged into a 300-feet gorge in Kishtwar on Tuesday.

The PMO quoting Modi tweeted, "Saddened by the accident in Kishtwar. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover at earliest. Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000."

Sonia Gandhi's Mother Passes Away

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's mother Paola Maino passed away at her home in Italy on Saturday and her funeral took place on Tuesday, the Congress said here.

The Congress president had left on August 23 to visit her ailing mother, who was in her 90s.

"Smt. Sonia Gandhi's mother, Mrs. Paola Maino passed away at her home in Italy on Saturday the 27th August 2022. The funeral took place yesterday," AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter on Wednesday.

Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi **More on P6**

Irregularities In SI, FAA Recruitment

LG Warns Of Strict Action Against Culprits

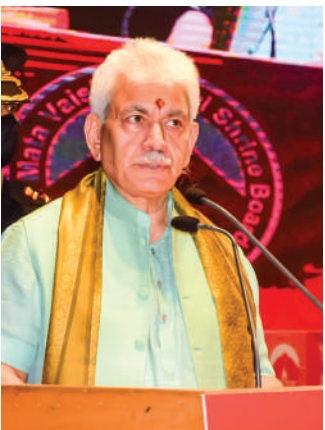
'I Want To Assure Youth That There Will No Compromise On Transparency And Merit'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two days after cancelling the recruitment process of Finance Accounts Assistants and Junior Engineers and recommending a CBI probe, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday warned strict action against the culprits involved in alleged irregularities into the selection process.

"There were complaints of irregularities in the recruitment examination of Sub-Inspector, Financial Account Assistant and Junior Engineer. High-level committee investigated into the allegations without delay and keeping in view the recommendation of the committee, the investigation of these three examinations has been handed over to the CBI," the LG said.

Sinha made these remarks while attending the celebration of 37th Foundation day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and 12th Annual day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi



Gurukul, Charan Paduka at Katra on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, warned that strict action shall be taken as per the law against the culprits for alleged irregularities in recruitment examination of Sub-Inspector, Financial Account Assistant and Junior Engineer.

"I want to assure the youth that there will no compromise on transparency and merit. Justice will be ensured, their **More on P6**

'Committed To Development Of Religious Tourism'

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that his administration is committed to the development of religious tourism in the city of temples, to attract more tourists who come to visit the holy places of worship. Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with a delegation of Jammu Civil Society (JCS) at Raj Bhavan here, an **More on P6**

I WANT TO ASSURE THE YOUTH that there will no compromise on transparency and merit. Justice will be ensured, their ability and merit will be respected and strict action will be taken against all those elements who have unethically tried to harm the future of meritorious aspirants."

Uniform Academic Calendar

All Board Exams In J&K To Be Held In March

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday ordered a "uniform academic calendar" in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The order in this regard has been issued by Principal Secretary to the Government School Education Department Alok Kumar and follows recommendations of a committee formed for the purpose.

The committee for implementation of "Uniform Academic Calendar" for both the Divisions of Jammu and Kashmir in sync with the Higher Education Department and rest of the country was constituted on April 30 here.



KO File Photo

The committee said that the theory examination in Jammu and Kashmir be conducted from 1st week of March as per the present Academic calendar of Jammu Summer Zone

(except in difficult areas of Jammu region) and some areas of Kashmir region.

The examination in these difficult areas, the committee said, shall be **More on P6**

Congress Suffers Another Blow In J&K

Ex-JKPCC President Peerzada Sayeed Quits, Joins Azad's Caravan

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Former PCC president Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed on Wednesday resigned from Congress and pledged support to veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is likely to float his political party in Jammu and Kashmir.

There has been an exodus from the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress since Azad quit the party on Friday, with 64 more leaders including a former deputy chief minister resigning on Tuesday.

There is a limit to tolerance. I was feeling suffocated in the Congress party. So, it is with a heavy heart that I am snapping my ties with the party after nearly 50 years, Sayeed,

who was a minister in several governments in Jammu and Kashmir, told reporters.

Sayeed said his decision to leave the Congress party was based on the feedback he received from his constituents in the Kokernag assembly segment.

The people I represent said... the party leadership was not paying any attention to the feedback from the ground. In my 50 years in the party, Congress has never been in such bad shape. I had to listen to my constituents, he added.

At the press conference with Sayeed was former MLC and party leader Mohammad Muzaffar Parry. Dozens of lesser-known leaders and workers owing allegiance to Sayeed were also present. **More on P6**

Landslide Kills Two In Budgam

Two people were killed on Wednesday after coming under a landslide in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Mushtaq Ahmad Parray and Fayaz Ahmad Parray, both residents of Budgam, were extracting sand on Wednesday evening when they came under a landslide, reports said. Both the men, reports said, remained buried under the landslide till the rescue workers recovered their bodies after an operation. The bodies, reports said, were shifted to a nearby health facility for necessary medico-legal formalities, they said. Meanwhile, police have taken **More on P6**

J&K Closes 140 New Corona Cases

As many 140 more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday while no fresh fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to officials, 115 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were detected in Kashmir Valley and the remaining 25 from Jammu division, thus taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 477784. In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 36 new cases of virus, Anantnag 19, **More on P6**

Teen Girl Killed After Car Overturns

A 16-year-old girl was killed and three others injured in a road accident in Tulail area of Bandipora district on Tuesday. News agency GNS quoting officials reported that a Maruti car bearing registration number JK05G 2093 turned turtle at Neeru Tulail, resulting in injuries to four persons. The injured persons were shifted to SDH Gurez, where a girl namely Insha Parveen daughter of Mohammad Munnawar, a class 10 student at Higher Secondary School Rajouri Kadal Srinagar, succumbed shortly after, they said. **More on P6**

IAF Rescues Israeli National In Ladakh

The Indian Air Force on Wednesday rescued an Israeli national who was stuck at a height of more than 16,000 feet near Markha Valley in Ladakh. "On 31 August 2022, 114 Helicopter Unit received a call for casualty evacuation from Nimaling Camp near Markha Valley. The Israeli national, Atar Kahana, was suffering from high-altitude sickness, including vomiting and low oxygen saturation," a Srinagar-based defence spokesman said. He said Wing Commander Ashish Kapoor and Flt Lt Rhythm Mehra as aircrew number 1 **More on P6**

Youth Injured Due To Electrocutation Dies

A youth, who was injured due to an electric shock in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Tuesday evening, succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday. 22-year-old Danish Nisar of Gangarhama was injured due to electric shock, while unloading a truck at Bamloora, reports said. The injured youth was shifted to district hospital Ganderbal, from where he was referred to SKIMS Soura. However, Nisar succumbed to his injuries during treatment at SKIMS Soura, reports said.

Mainly Dry Weather Predicted In J&K

Mainly dry weather with possibility of isolated light rain was forecast in Jammu and Kashmir for next 24 hours by the weather department here on Tuesday. A meteorological department official here said that there was no large change expected in the weather till weekend. Regarding the rainfall in last 24 hours till 0830 hours today, the official said that Kupwara received 0.5mm and Pahalgam 0.4mm while other observatory stations had no rain. Regarding minimum temperature, the official said that Srinagar **More on P6**

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Rivers Worldwide Are Running Dry Here's Why And What We Can Do About It

The Conversation

Rivers around the world have been drying up recently. The Loire in France broke records in mid-August for its low water levels, while photos circulating online show the mighty Danube, Rhine, Yangtze and Colorado rivers all but reduced to trickles.

It is not just rivers that are running low but the reservoirs they replenish, leading to water shortages in many parts of the world including the UK. Yet floods have wreaked havoc in many of these rivers in the last decade, in some cases only a few months before the recent drought. So what is happening to them?

Climate change has many guises. The Earth system is interdependent, so when something changes, it cascades to affect lots of other things. When atmospheric temperatures rise, weather patterns affect where, when, and how much rain will fall. Therefore, water distribution changes across regions, and the rivers adapt accordingly, which affects how much freshwater is available for people to drink.

Freshwater makes up a tiny fraction of all water on the planet, and much of it is locked away in ice. While this has been true for as long as humans have been around, climate change is altering where freshwater is found: such that, in general, places with plenty are getting more while places with little are getting less.

Differences in how water is distributed are increasingly stark, not just across regions but also over time. When a river's behaviour becomes more extreme, consistently breaking records for highest and lowest water levels, river scientists say it is becoming more flashy . Some desert rivers are very flashy and only flow at certain times of the year.

A river's flashiness reflects how much



water is available, which depends on the climate. Though a river can have higher or lower flows for longer periods of time, it may still transport about the same volume of water over a year.

Management strategies are typically designed according to how a river has behaved in the past. But we must take account of the full extremities of how rivers can flow, because how it seems now is not how it has always been, and not how it always will be.

Flashy futures?

Rivers are wild watercourses that have shaped the land for billions of years, which is a lot longer than humans have been around. Rivers naturally morph as their environment changes, which includes the climate, rainfall, vegetation, sea level and many other things. Geologists can read clues of these changes from rocks and landscapes.

We tend to adapt rivers to us more than we adapt to them. Engineering measures limit their ability to make natural changes such

as flooding or forging a new course. Urban rivers may be encased in concrete and their flow somewhat straightened, while drains in paved cityscapes rush water to rivers without it needing to drain slowly through soil.

Such human-engineered changes can make rivers flashier. If there is a drought, water leaves the land faster while if there is a lot of rain, it accumulates in one place more rapidly. As rivers respond to global change, we need to find ways to prioritise their natural coping strategies in how we manage them.

That could involve so-called slow-water strategies such as China's sponge cities : urban areas with abundant trees, ponds and parks to absorb water and alleviate droughts and floods.

There is a lot of work ahead of us to ensure that we cherish and manage a stable and safe supply of water from our increasingly unruly rivers. Respecting and working with nature can ensure enough clean water not just for humans, but for all living creatures and the environment too.

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Sheikh Javaid

S/o Late Ghulam Nabi Sheikh

25th August 2020

DAD

Missing you on your 2nd Anniversary

A dad's love is special

A gift beyond compare

You only know the meaning

When he is no longer there

A special time

A special face

A special dad

I Can't replace

With an aching heart

I whisper low

I miss you dad

And love you so

Nosheeba Javid

INF

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir

FRESH NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO: 01/CE/PMGSY/KMR OF 2022-23 dated 29-08-2022

Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir on behalf of Government of Jammu & Kashmir invites Percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for upgradation of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No	Name of Work with Package No. and Name of Division	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs in lacs.)	Cost of document (Rs in lacs.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time of completion For Construction work	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor	
1	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL01-DK Marg to Saikhangan via BohDradgan (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK18-3004, Length=6.72 Kms, Block D, Maing, PMGSY Division Kulgam.	503.09	60.37	563.46	0.10	11.27	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
2	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL01-Damhal Bongam to BB DK Marg via KhulAhamadabad (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK18-3009, Length=6.605 Kms, Block DamhalHaniPora, PMGSY Division Kulgam.	491.61	58.99	550.60	0.10	11.01	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
3	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from T01-Chawalgam to DB Shopian via Nilloo (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK18-3001, Length=7.63Kms, Block Kulgam, PMGSY Division Kulgam.	718.93	86.27	805.20	0.10	16.10	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
4	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL02-RD 5000m of T02 to BB Devsar via Khalooral.ankarPombay (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK18-3010, Length=6.532 Kms, Block Pahloo, PMGSY Division Kulgam.	464.57	55.75	520.32	0.10	10.41	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
5	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL01-Mohipora to Rekhamia via Kakren, Begamy (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK18-3008, Length=5.25 Kms, Block Pombay, PMGSY Division Kulgam.	384.63	46.15	430.78	0.10	8.62	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
6	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from T03-Adijan to Yaripora via NillooArehkhesjogipora (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK18-3002, Length=8.40 Kms, Block Pombay, PMGSY Division Kulgam.	431.55	51.79	483.34	0.10	9.67	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
7	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL03-MARHAMA TO CHEKI DADO (BAGHAT ROAD) (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK01-3013, Length=5.10 Kms, Block Bijbehara, PMGSY Division Anantnag.	343.70	41.24	384.94	0.10	7.70	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
8	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL01-Arwan to Melhura via Laktipora (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK01-3015, Length=3.108 Kms, Block Bijbehara, PMGSY Division Anantnag.	205.09	24.61	229.70	0.10	4.59	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
9	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL16-Salar Ashmuqam Road (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK01-3010, Length=3.114 Kms, Block Dachnipora, PMGSY Division Anantnag.	269.08	32.29	301.37	0.10	6.03	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
10	Upgradation and Maintenance of road from MRL14-BL Road Hatigam to Nowshera via Mahind (Batch-I, 2022-23) Package No. JK01-3014, Length=4.115 Kms, Block Dachnipora, PMGSY Division Anantnag.	339.67	40.76	380.43	0.10	7.61	548 days	1 st 21-09-2022 At 11:30 A.M	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.

1. Date of release of Invitation for Bid through e-procurement: 29-08-2022.

2. Cost of Bid Form: Rs 10000/- per package (non-refundable) only in form of cash.

3. The payment of Bid Security and cost of Bid documents to be done online on e-tendering website along with the submission of Bids.

4. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and bids should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). *Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in.

5. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://pmgstenders.gov.in from 02-09-2022 (10:30 AM) to 19-09-2022 upto 4:30 PM. The bids uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 21-09-2022 at 11:30 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

6. The complete bidding process will be on line.

7. The advertised rates are inclusive of GST. The bidder shall quote %age (above or below) for the construction component only. The deductions on account of GST / Income tax will be at the prevailing rates and will be deposited with concerned quarters. In case of change of these rates, the extra burden will be borne by the allottee contractor.

8. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 01-09-2022 at 11:30 AM in the Office of Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir at Engineering Complex Bund Road Rajbagh Srinagar to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.

9. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). *Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in.

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11. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Materials. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

12. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period of not less than ninety days after the date of award of the contract.

13. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

14. The site for the work is available.

15. The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of original copy of affidavits and credit facility must be delivered by the first lowest bidder in the office of Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) at Engineering Complex, Bund Road Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir on a date not later than three working days after the opening of financial qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

16. The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3-Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as non-responsive.

17. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://pmgstenders.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of Chief Engineer PMGSY Kashmir, Engineering Complex Rajbagh, Srinagar Kashmir.

18. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employers shall not be held liable for any delay in the system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employers shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify and check the website for the latest information related to the tender. Corrigendum (if any) will be posted on the https://pmgstenders.gov.in. All future correspondence/ corrigendum shall be published on the same website which should be regularly monitored by the intending tenderer.

Note:- The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.

DIPK-9025/22

No: CE/PMGSY/KMR/e-Tendering/ 5061-95

Dated: 29-08-2022

Sd/-

Chief Engineer

PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kmr



Workshop On ‘Scientists As Film Makers’ Held At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A three day workshop titled as “Scientists as Film makers and Science Communication” organized by PG Department of Physics, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar concluded on Wednesday. The event was presided over by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal and he was chief guest for valedictory section.

In his key address, Prof Sehgal said the primary objective of the workshop was promotion of Science Communication skills among the students and its importance in context with modern research.

“Narrating stories through visual is important medium of communication and youth should come forward to take the lead the subject.

In his message, Institute’s Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said science film engages viewers visually and viscerally more so emotionally thereby potentially reach wider audiences.

“Educational film can easily be used as a powerful tool in classrooms around the world. It is the practice of informing, educating, raising awareness of science-related topics, and increasing the sense of wonder about scientific discoveries and arguments,” he said.

Welcoming the guests Dr. M A Shah, Head, PG Department of Physics said that films are most powerful tools for communicating science to the general public.

“This workshop could help to promote a new generation of scientists-as-filmmakers and stimulate other others to design specific programs for training students in science filmmaking, thereby communication and reaching to larger audiences,” he said.

Dr. Shah advised the scholars and students of the Department to make film of their work regular phenomena so that new comers could benefit.

Prof S Rubab Coordinator of Programme, gave a brief outlook of the programme in context with New education Policy.

The concluding session was also blessed by Prof Abdul Liman, Dean Students Welfare, Prof Niyaz Ahmad Sheikh, Former HoD Maths, Parents of new entrants to NIT, Expert Mr Jalaludin and all Physics family.



City Dwellers Raise Eyebrows Over Concrete Park Demolition At Lal Chowk

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The demolition of Concrete Park at city Centre Lal Chowk, carried out by the city administration has raised eyebrows among city dwellers.

Many people voiced their concern on the social networking site Facebook after a video went viral on social media in which laborers were seen demolishing center park near Ghanta Ghar.

Voicing their resentment over the move, netizens called for accountability in the public sector saying demolishing the already existing park is a waste of taxpayers’ money.

However, officials say the works taking place in and around Lal Chowk are part of the redevelopment plan to make the city Centre a place where pedestrians can move around freely.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, CEO Srinagar Smart City and Commissioner SMC Athar Amir said the demolition is being done in order to pave way for a Plaza.

“At the place of Concrete Park, a plaza will be put in place, a place where people can walk and sit” he said.

He also said works carried out in and around Lal Chowk are part of the massive redevelopment plan of the city centre.

“Under various smart city projects, Electricity lines are being constructed underground at Residency Road and M.A. Roads which once completed will help in the city centre pedestrian friendly.

CLEARs AIR ON “NARROWING OF CITY ROADS”

Clearing the air on rumor mongering by some that some city roads

were being narrowed under the garb of Smart City Projects, CEO Athar Amir said various city roads are being redeveloped to maintain uniform carriage width.

He said the road works are being done under the standards set by the Indian Road Congress.

“Some city roads do not have uniform road width, so the idea is to maintain the uniformity of the road so that the traffic flows smoothly. The extra space on the road will be developed for on street parking” he said.

“Once completed, there will be ample space to park vehicles on both sides of the road and proper spaces for pedestrians and cyclists”

He further said that the present day works being executed under the Smart City Projects are done once in a lifetime.

JKTPO Organizes “StartUp Mock Pitching” Workshop

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) on wednesday organized a full day StartUp Mock Pitching workshop for StartUps based in Kashmir at Conference Hall, Sannat Ghar, Bemina here in the presence of domain experts from Invest India, DPIIT.

BB & GG (LLP), Daskdán Innovations, Occasions, Baraqah, Wani Agro Tools Plant, SESTI, Agro Tech Plant, Sky Robo Drones, Fastbeetle and other StartUps participated in this physical session and got valuable learnings for idea pitching & presentation skills.

One of the participating StartUp “Fastbeetle” is an emerging StartUp in logistics domain and has been covered in national media as well. BB & GG (LLP) is working on waste management in AgriTech space. Daskdán Innovations is using AI for herbal renaissance. Baraqah’s aim is to revolutionize modest wear and make modest wear at par with western wear. Wani Agro Tools Plant has developed innovative products to help farmers. SESTI is working with the marginal farmers by leveraging technology in both production and marketing of the produce to create better crop output, enhanced income for the farmers and jobs for the landless people.

Natipora's Iram Lane Residents Urge Admin To Repair Road

Agencies

Srinagar: The residents of Iram Lane sector-G Natipora on Wednesday urged the government to repair roads in the locality.

Despite being a vital

road, the inhabitants said that the road is in dilapidated condition and is craving for attention over the past many years.

They said that the road passes through dozens of areas but its condition is dilapidated for past

many years as the government has neglected it.

They further said that the distance that can take 20 minutes to cover takes an hour owing to potholes all over the road. Residents urged the government to repair the road.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Ist Corrigendum to the Open e-Tender Notice

Ist Corrigendum to the Open e-Tender Notice no. 4-W/DCE/C/JAT/02/2022-23 dated: 29.09.2022 is being issued wherein Approx. Cost indicated in para-2 of NIT as Rs.469.29 crs may be read as Rs. 469.29 lakh. All other conditions of NIT will remain unchanged.

Tender Notice No.: 4-W/DCE/C/JAT/02/2022-23 Dated: 31.08.2022

2235/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh, Sopore
Phone:01954-221082/221096
E:amid.zobara@jkbmail.com

AUCTION NOTICE

Owing to non-payment of long outstanding loan by the below named borrower, the Bank has seized the hypothecated vehicle in terms of agreement, which is parked in Bank's Zonal Office at Amargarh, Sopore.

S. No	Name Of Borrower	Name Of Branch	Registration No.	Make & Model	Parked at
1.	Safeer Ahmad Baba	Watergam	JK05F-3611	N.P Truck (Ashok Leyland 25181C, 10 Tyre) Chasis No. MB1CTCFD6HPGX2997 Engine No. HGPZ103913 Model-2017	Zonal Office Baramulla, Amargarh Sopore

The Bank has decided to put the said vehicle at auction 'As is where is basis '. The vehicle is available for inspection on any working day between **02.09.2022 to 16.09.2022** at Bank's Zonal Office at Amargarh, Sopore. Sealed quotations affixed with two rupee revenue stamp are invited from the interested parties for the purchase of said vehicle to be accompanied by Call Deposit Receipt for **Rs.2,47,500/- (being 25% of Reserve Price of Rs 9.90 lacs)** pledged to Authorized officer, The J&K Bank Ltd. IAPM Department, Zonal Office Baramulla which is to be deposited with J&K Bank, Branch Watergam, Baramulla by or before 17/09/2022 during working hours. The tenders will be opened on 19/09/2022 at 11.00 am at Bank's Zonal Office Baramulla in presence of the bidders who choose to remain present on the given date and time. The successful bidder shall have to deposit the entire qualified auction amount within seven (07) days. The Bank reserves the right to withdraw/cancel the bid/auction of the vehicle at any time/stage without assigning any reason thereof and shall neither entertain any claim/liability of any other person/s of whatsoever nature. All attendant charges/dues/taxes including transfer of ownership/permits etc. shall have to be borne and be the responsibility of the purchaser exclusively of his own.

Ref: JKB/ZOB/IAPM/2022-23/-
Dated 31.08.2022

DIPK-NB-3569/22

Authorized Officer

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**

04 Safar
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :37
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:08
Magrib	7:02
ISHA	8: 26

This Day In History

- 1939 - Adolf Hitler orders extermination of mentally ill through the "T4 Euthanasia Program," arguing that wartime "was the best time for the elimination of the incurably ill"
- 1939 - Physical Review publishes 1st paper to deal with "black holes"
- 1939 - Switzerland proclaims neutrality at the outbreak of WWII
- 1939 - World War II starts when Germany invades Poland by attacking the Free City of Danzig
- 1939 - Last day of 1st-class cricket in England before the declaration of war against Germany; great slow left-armers Hedley Verity finishes with amazing figures of 7 for 9 v Sussex to give Yorkshire the County Championship
- 1942 - German troops land on Taman peninsula
- 1943 - Chiang Kai-shek again becomes Chairman of the Nationalist Government of China
- 1947 - With a victory by Armed in the Washington Park Handicap, Calumet Farm becomes the first stable to surpass \$1 million in annual earnings; leads all owners with total earnings of \$1,402,436.
- 1950 - 13 North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines
- 1956 - Indian state of Tripura becomes a territory
- 1961 - 1st conference of neutral countries held in Belgrade
- 1961 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakhstan/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1961 - The Eritrean War of Independence officially begins with the shooting of the Ethiopian police by Hamid Idris Awate
- 1962 - 12,000 die in an earthquake in western Iran

From KO Archives

Pak Troops Can Hit Drass Town, Close Srinagar-Leh Highway Says MP

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A Rajya Sabha member, R K Anand today claimed that contrary to government's claims, Pakistani forces were still in occupation of six key Indian positions in Kargil sector including Point 5353 in Mushkoh valley.

Accusing the army authorities of indulging in cover up operations, Anand demanded a five-member all party parliamentary committee visit to Pt.5353 to ascertain the factual position. He claimed that besides Pt.5353, five other key features Point Aftab-1, Point Saddle Ridge, Point Bunker Ridge, Shangruti and Dhalunag in Mushkoh valley and Kaksar region were still being occupied by Pakistani forces and from these posts, Pakistani troops could target the strategic Srinagar-Leh highway.

Anand claimed that reference to any grid map of the area drawn by Pakistani and Indian generals in the wake of 1972 Shimla Agreement would clearly show that contrary to claims made by Director General of military operations officers, Pt.5353 was 300 to 500 meters within Indian side of the LoC and not on no mans land as claimed. The defense erected by the Pakistani forces on the Pt.5353 means that the enemy forces can hit Drass town, its military helipad as well as paralyse movement of army and civilian convoys on Srinagar-Leh highway between Zoji-la Pass and Drass, the MP elected with JMM support told newsmen here.

The MP said while army authorities were now claiming that the peak was on the LoC and formed part of features 9 which Indian and Pakistani officials had agreed not to occupy under the 1972 agreement, Indian troops had made an unsuccessful bid on it on May 18, 1999 which was given up after suffering 18 casualties.

Anand released at the press conference army correspondence between the attacking platoon commander Major Navneet Mehta and his commanding officer on why the attack went wrong.

The MP said the Point 5353 was the most strategic and highest feature dominating the Mushkoh valley and had been occupied Kargil posts, a daring helicopter borne operation overseen by then Srinagar based Corp Commander and army chief designate Lt.Gen. S Padmanabhan in 1992-93, when during the height of militancy Pakistani troops had tried to disturb convoys of Leh-Srinagar highway. Anand said Indian forces during their occupation of Point 5353 had in written reports indicated that the feature gave them total dominance of the area including means to disrupt Pakistani communication links to major Pak controlled Kashmir towns like Gultari, Shasam and even areas closer to Baltistan.

(Kashmir Observer, September 01, 2000)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE CHADOORA

TEL-FAX 01951-258538, Email:-eomcchadoora@gmail.com

NOTICE

Name of Contractor/Agency:-NGO Yuganter.

Whereas, this office has allotted one CT/PT Titled “Construction of Community type Latrine under Swachh Bharat Mission at MC Chadoora” located at Sub District Hospital Chadoora vide allotment No. ULB/EEK 2016-17/2336-38 Dated: 02/08/2016 infavour of M/S YUGANTER (NGO), Whereas, this office has already paid CC 1stpayment modefor construction of Community type Latrine under Swachh Bharat Mission at MC Chadoora” located at Sub District Hospital Chadoora at the tune of Rs. 3,34512 (Rupees three Lacs thirty four thousand five hundred & twelve only). Whereas, you have failed to submit the final bill to this office till date of the said CT/PT for release of said outstanding payment.

Whereas you have once again advised/requested to submit the final bill within a period of 7 days, if you failed to submit the bill during the stipulated time, then this office is liable to surrender/return the same amount to higher authorities, and you have not any type of claim/demand against the Department.

Sd/-
No:-MC/CHD/2022/1366-69
Dated:-27/08/2022
DIPK-NB-3508/22

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Municipal Committee,
Chadoora.

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Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider

Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja

Switchboard: (0194) 2106304

Editorial: (0194) 2502327

Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

K O V I E W

Challenge Of Militancy

Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Monday said a "strategically planned" final assault is required to eradicate the militancy from the Union Territory. Chairing a crime review meeting at the police headquarters in Jammu, the DGP said the security forces have put in more efforts to consolidate peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir. He directed officers to increase the area domination exercise, particularly in border areas, to restrict infiltration. He also stressed all-out efforts to neutralize the terror ecosystem which, according to him, is providing oxygen to the militancy and prompting youth to take up arms. Earlier, the DGP in a statement had voiced concern that the militancy in the Valley is tending to become faceless.

Though security forces have killed over 500 militants since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, the militancy continues to pose a formidable challenge. The militants have struck recurrently to announce their presence. The predominant targets of their attacks in the last two years have been civilians including those belonging to minorities.

As many as 118 civilians, including 21 Hindus, among them five Kashmiri Pandits, have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370, the Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai recently told parliament. The minister, however, informed the House that there has been a substantial decline in the militancy-related violence in the last three years.

And it is true. The militant activities have come down substantially. The objective of the ongoing counter-insurgency campaign has been to eliminate militancy by attempting to kill all the militants within a specific timeframe. Viewed from that perspective, the security agencies have been exceptionally successful following the withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. It is expected that the killings of the militants at this rate could drastically reduce their number. This, in turn, is expected to alter the political dynamics in the Valley and usher in peace. However, whether this would address the deeper factors underpinning the current state of affairs is impossible to predict. More so, when the current uncertainty goes back three decades. The militancy has gone through its crests and troughs but has never been wiped out. One can't, however, deny the fact that an uneasy peace has by and large held after the abrogation of Article 370.

What does the near future, therefore, hold for Kashmir? Many a security expert hope that the continuing successful anti-militancy operations would substantially reign in the militancy. It, however, remains to be seen whether the contemplated final assault on the militancy would deliver results. The coming weeks and months would be crucial on this score.

OTHER OPINION

Foes And Floods

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message, in a tweet on Monday evening, expressing condolences to the victims of the flooding in Pakistan, is a welcome gesture, especially after weeks of silence over what has been one of the worst natural disasters in the neighbourhood in recent times. More than 1,100 people have died, and over 33 million people have been affected, as officials say one-third of the country is under water, and estimate about \$10 billion in damage to homes, roads and infrastructure. The floods have also affected standing crops, and as the waters recede, fears of disease as well as food shortages are expected to rise. In addition, the worry that the devastating floods have been caused due to climate change is a worry for all of South Asia, one of the world's regions most vulnerable to global warming. On Tuesday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres launched a global appeal for aid to Pakistan, that he said had been hit by a "monsoon on steroids", indicating unnatural climate patterns. Countries such as the U.K., the U.S., China, the UAE, Qatar and Turkey have already dispatched aid to Pakistan, and many others have promised help, while the IMF announced a \$1.1 billion bailout tranche on Tuesday, as part of ongoing negotiations with the country that is already steeped in an economic crisis. Given that the crisis will only deepen at this point, Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail also said on Monday that he may propose lifting the trade ban imposed on India after the Jammu-Kashmir reorganisation in 2019, so as to import Indian vegetables and essential commodities. Thus far, Islamabad has only made exceptions for pharmaceutical imports from India during the COVID-19 pandemic, and India's humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Despite the poor state of India-Pakistan ties, both New Delhi and Islamabad must put aside their domestic considerations, and seize the moment to help those stranded in the flooding as best they can. India cannot pride itself as being the "first responder" in the neighbourhood — as it has been for Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Afghanistan — if it fails to see the suffering right at its land boundary with Pakistan. It would be churlish and short-sighted of Pakistan to reject an opportunity to lift the trade ban with India that has only hurt its own interests, and to give up a source of affordable supplies at a time of such calamity. And it would be both tragic and ridiculous if the enmity between the two countries would not allow them to work together at a time such as this, even as their governments allow their cricket teams to play each other for financial considerations. Significantly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif are due to travel to Uzbekistan in September for the SCO summit. While a more lasting dialogue, that has been suspended between the two countries for nearly a decade over the terrorism issue, is unlikely, the leaders must find the time to discuss ways to mitigate the catastrophe at hand.

The Hindu

Ali Bakir

For a long time, the Middle East region has been one of the most volatile regions in the world.

Instability, conflicts, rivalry, and struggles among its key regional heavyweights have been the norm to the extent that one could not remember the last time when all these players agreed on something.

In a surprisingly contradicting manner, the Middle East is currently witnessing an unprecedented pace of reconciliation among the regional powers

However, in a surprisingly contradicting manner, the Middle East is currently witnessing a rare moment of regional de-escalation and an unprecedented pace of reconciliation among the regional powers. Several key players have been reaching out to each other to normalise relations and open a new page. Business, security, and diplomacy have been at the core of the talks between these countries' top leaders and key decision-makers.

The process started with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reaching out to Iran at the end of 2020 and Saudi Arabia reaching out to Qatar at the beginning of 2021. Afterward, intensive diplomatic engagements kicked off between Egypt and Qatar, Turkey and Egypt, UAE and Turkey, Turkey and Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran, and Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

In most cases, the engagement between the intelligence communities of the adversaries ensured an apolitical and professional environment for the politicians to communicate in order to work out their differences. Likewise, business, trade and investments provided strong and solid incentives for the involved parties to seek common ground and achieve a win-win situation.

Comprehensive review

In January 2021, Egypt resumed its diplomatic relations with Qatar after years of tensions. The top diplomats of the two countries exchanged visits. They established a follow-up committee to settle issues of bilateral concern and a high joint committee to boost cooperation between the two capitals.

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi met Qatar's emir three times, in Baghdad in August 2021, Beijing in November 2021 and in Cairo in June. As ties improved, Doha pledged in March to invest \$5bn in the Egyptian economy in the coming few years, which will add to the billions of dollars it has already invested.

As for Turkey and Egypt, their rapprochement started officially in May 2021. Delegations from the two countries led by deputy foreign ministers conducted two rounds of exploratory talks in 2021, one in Cairo in May and the other in Ankara in September. They addressed bilateral issues and a number of regional issues, particularly the situation in Libya, Syria and Iraq, and the need to achieve peace and security in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The normalisation has been going forward slowly but steadily. In April, Turkey's foreign minister did not rule out the reciprocal appointment of ambassadors with Cairo and a meeting at the foreign ministerial level. Turkish Minister of Treasury and Finance Nureddin Nebati visited Egypt in June, the first by a Turkish minister to Cairo in nine years.

In 2021, the two regional rivalries, Saudi Arabia and Iran, sat down together for the first time in years following an Iraqi effort to facilitate talks between them in Baghdad. Riyadh cut off diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016 after the storming of its embassy in Tehran.

The first round of the exploratory talks between them kicked off in September. Despite the short-lived setback in March when Iran announced the suspension of talks, officials of the two countries conducted a fifth round of talks in April.

Security issues, Yemen, and the reopening of their embassies were among the topics discussed. While Tehran has stressed the importance of resuming diplomatic relations, Riyadh asserted that it wants to see more practical actions from Tehran first.

The rapprochement between the UAE and Turkey was surprisingly quick, given the tense state of relations in the last decade or so. Approaching each other with a clear and direct agenda, mostly revolving around the mutual benefits of boosting trade, investment, and business in a win-win situation, was determinant.

In November, Mohammad bin Zayed (MbZ), Abu Dhabi's crown prince at the time and the de facto ruler of the UAE, paid a visit to Turkey, the first of its kind in nine years. His visit was preceded by a visit of the UAE's national security advisor Sheikh Tahoun bin Zayed to Ankara in August 2021. Turkey's president reciprocated by visiting Abu Dhabi in February. A lavish reception was arranged for him.

These visits resulted in a number of agreements, memorandums of understanding, and deals that inaugurated the opening of a new page between the two capitals.

When it comes to Turkey and Israel, Israel's President Isaac Herzog paid a landmark visit to Ankara in March this year, the first of its kind for an Israeli president in 15 years. Several developments prepared the ground for this visit, including a rare phone call between the two presidents in July 2021, a secret visit of Israel's Foreign Ministry Director-General Alon Ushpiz, to Ankara in January, and a delegation of senior Turkish officials flying to Tel Aviv in February.

The involvement of the Israeli government means that rebuilding bilateral relations must be done in a measured and cautious way. However, during the last year, intelligence cooperation took the upper hand between the two sides.

Moreover, the two parties have been mulling over the possibility of carrying Israel's gas to Europe via Turkey, which — if realised — will be a game-changer in the Eastern Mediterranean. To build on the visit of the Israeli president and consolidate the rapprochement, Turkey's foreign minister visited Israel in May, in parallel to visiting Palestine.

As for Saudi Arabia and Turkey, although the rapprochement between the two countries started as early as October 2020, when King Salman and President Erdogan exchanged several messages and phone calls, the normalisation process stalled on certain issues for approximately a year.

Two factors contributed to this situation: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's personal position on the murder of the Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at his country's consulate in Istanbul in October 2018, and the lack of an adequate formula to reset the bilateral relations following this incident.



eral relations following this incident.

Finally, the two parties managed to achieve a breakthrough, which resulted in the visit of President Erdogan to Riyadh in April this year and his meetings with King Salman and the crown prince.

In reciprocation, Mohammed bin Salman visited Ankara in June. Despite the apparent progress, no apparent economic, political, or security agenda was announced till that time.

A suitable environment

These normalisation processes could not have happened without certain developments on the international, regional, and sub-regional levels. These developments set the scene for regional de-escalation, creating a suitable environment and common ground for the conflicting parties to sit down together, discuss shared interests, reconcile, and normalise their relations in an unprecedented manner.

The defeat of Donald Trump in the US presidential elections in November 2020 had a tremendous impact on the nature of the regional dynamics at play since 2021.

Countries that depended for so long on Trump as a transactional president to prioritise and enforce ideological, divisive, and confrontational regional agendas suddenly found themselves in an unfavorable position following the triumph of Joe Biden in the US presidential elections.

A new president in the White House meant a new game to play in the region. In particular, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt followed the same path after failing to realise their regional agenda. Israel lost the investment in Kushner's project dubbed "The Deal of the Century".

Additionally, Tel Aviv was already undergoing an internal change with the defeat of Israel's longest-serving prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who had stayed in power for 15 years.

As for Turkey, it felt the need to avoid being overstretched regionally. Therefore, it balanced its hard power with soft power to cash in on its successful military activism in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Nagorno-Karabakh, and the Eastern Mediterranean, in terms of political and economic gains.

The Al-Ula declaration on 5 January 2021 was the first major outcome of Biden's ascendance to the White House. The declaration stemmed originally from a bilateral understanding between Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The agreement ended the blockade imposed by the Saudi-led bloc comprised of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt on Doha and opened a new page between Qatar and its neighbors.

As a result, the al-Ula agreement accelerated the reconciliation process within the GCC and triggered a chain reaction of several regional diplomatic engagements that opened the door for reconciliatory initiatives.

Although the UAE and Egypt were not initially happy with the agreement due to the fact that Saudi Arabia did not consult with

In a surprisingly contradicting manner, the Middle East is currently witnessing an unprecedented pace of reconciliation among the regional powers

them on it, they saw it as an opportunity to follow relatively flexible agendas. This approach helped them diversify their regional relations, prioritise their key issues, and advance their own interests.

Accordingly, Egypt reached out to Qatar, and the UAE reached out to Turkey. Likewise, the al-Ula agreement allowed Ankara to strengthen its relations with the small Gulf countries and pursue normalisation of relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

In addition to these two major developments, several other critical factors contributed to the new regional dynamics at play, thus creating a rare moment of unprecedented de-escalation and regional reconciliations.

These include: the end of the 2011 Arab uprising era, Washington's de-prioritising of the region and decreasing its security commitments to several countries, including Gulf countries; the Covid-19 pandemic, the renewed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiations with Iran; and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The continuation of the American re-focus and shift of resources towards China prompted the GCC states to accelerate their diversification and hedging strategies. As a result, countries like Turkey, Israel, and Iran gained more importance in this situation.

The power fatigue resulting from following highly contrasting geopolitical and ideological agendas and the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the post-2011 era encouraged the conflicting regional players to follow pragmatic behaviour and prioritise the economy, business, trade, and interest-based agendas rather than ideological ones.

As the pandemic began to recede in 2021-2022, these regional players were in a good position to approach each other with a pragmatic/economic mindset that aimed to compensate for the devastating economic and financial losses caused by the pandemic. This was evident in the case of Egypt-Qatar, UAE-Turkey, Turkey-Egypt, and the Israel-Turkey rapprochement efforts.

The Russian war against Ukraine gave more importance to the Eastern Mediterranean region and its oil and gas resources, thus creating a positive atmosphere for countries to reach a common ground for a win-win situation, especially in the case of Turkey, Israel, and Egypt.

Challenges ahead

Despite the positive impact of this unprecedented de-escalation in the region, there are questions regarding the sustainability of the reconciliation and the resilience of the normalisation processes.

Moreover, it is not quite clear yet whether this is a temporary situation driven by the tactical calculations of some of the countries involved or a newly emerging norm and trend based on strategic calculations. Regardless, several challenges will soon test this new phenomenon in the Middle East.

The regional and international dynamics that have led to this rare moment of de-escalation and reconciliation among the different regional players, in particular, are not constant and subject to sudden changes.

The highly volatile situation means possible shifts in these dynamics in the near future cannot be ruled out and may thus negatively affect the process resulting in a regression.

Additionally, one obvious characteristic of the current normalisation processes is that they are highly based on the nature of the personal relations between the decision-makers of the countries in question. While this might be good when it comes to surpassing bureaucratic hurdles that may cause long delays in the normalisation of relations, it may indicate weak institutional relations.

An under-institutionalised relation makes the reconciliation between the relevant states fragile and highly vulnerable vis-a-vis political fluctuations in the future. Furthermore, a dramatic change at the top level in any of the primary regional players might trigger different kinds of intra-regional relations.

Several other factors are worthy of closer observation in the near future and might test the current regional normalisation and de-escalation moment. These factors include:

Firstly, the 2024 US presidential elections are very critical and determinant to the region as they might bring another transactional Trump-like president to office. A poll conducted by Associated Press (AP) in May found that President Joe Biden's approval rating has hit a new low, with only 39 percent approving his job performance.

While AP noted that Republicans' disapproval of Biden has remained steady — less than one in 10 GOP respondents approve of him — his popularity among Democrats has declined throughout his presidency.

While no US president has served two non-consecutive terms in US history — with the exception of President Grover Cleveland, who served as the 22nd and 24th president of the United States from 1885 to 1889 and again from 1893 to 1897 — there are strong speculations on

dangerous as Iran will likely move closer to producing a nuclear bomb.

This scenario will trigger a nuclear arms race. In both cases, the outcome of the negotiations might reshape the alliances in the region based on the position vis-a-vis Iran.

The Ukraine war effect

Fourth is the emerging food insecurity in the Middle East. In 2019, Russia and Ukraine exported more than 25 percent of the world's wheat. Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, as well as sanctions against Russia, are disrupting the exports of wheat, grain, corn, and other essential food sources, causing their prices to skyrocket globally.

A second wave of Arab uprisings might force regional players to reconfigure their alliances based on the security of the regimes

Several Arab countries, as well as Israel and Turkey, depend on importing wheat from Russia and Ukraine. Egypt, the world's largest importer of wheat, depends on Moscow and Kyiv to secure more than 70 percent of its local demand.

Besides Egypt, several Arab countries are severely exposed. If the war is set to prolong, then one should not rule out that a looming food crisis coupled with skyrocketing food prices would trigger uprisings.

This scenario will have political, economic, and security implications. A second wave of Arab uprisings might force regional players to reconfigure their alliances based on the security of the regimes.

Fifth, spoilers and developments in the Eastern Mediterranean. Russia's weaponising of energy during its war against Ukraine has put Europe at the mercy of Moscow. This situation created an urgent interest in Europe in finding alternative energy sources to meet demand, reduce its dependence on Russian gas, and manage the risk exposure vis-a-vis Moscow.

One untapped source of gas lies in the Eastern Mediterranean basin. Considering the regional de-escalation, the US and some European countries have been signaling the possibility of utilising the hydrocarbon resources of the region.

Utilising the untapped resources of the Eastern Mediterranean and resolving the conflicts between the different players would require taking into account Turkey's holistic approach on the issue as well as a pipeline that would extend from Israel to Turkey instead of the unfeasible EastMed pipeline from Israel to Greece via Crete, passing through waters claimed by Ankara.

Despite the very positive regional atmosphere resulting from the normalisation processes, it is hard to anticipate whether some of the relevant players are charting this new path out of genuine desire, or they are just being pragmatic

Not content with these developments and with the fact that its major regional partners — the UAE, Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia — have been normalising their relations with Turkey, Greece has emerged as a spoiler.

It is actively working to undermine the de-escalation environment and drag other players, such as the US, into its own problems. If this behaviour continues, it might negatively impact the region and seriously test some of the reconciliation and normalisation processes.

Keeping the momentum

Despite the very positive regional atmosphere resulting from the normalisation processes, it is hard to anticipate whether some of the relevant players are charting this new path out of genuine desire, or they are just being pragmatic, putting their sword in their sheath, lying low, and waiting for the right moment to return to their old policies.

Having said this, if there is a genuine will to turn the de-escalation moment into a sustainable situation, then we should see key regional countries taking at least some of these following measures in the near future.

It is quite vital that the involved parties establish a mechanism capable of containing/solving the problems that might arise in the future

First, prioritising the economic aspect of bilateral relations. The economic space is a de-politicised space by nature, which can easily help establish a win-win formula for the involved parties. Building on economic interests will cement the reconciliation processes and provide it with real and tangible gains for all parties.

Although rentier states might not be so interested in such benefits, the post-Covid-19 pandemic era, the Russian war against Ukraine, and the desire to diversify the economy compels these parties to seriously consider the economic dimension.

Second, identifying areas of common interests in other domains such as security and politics. Then building on these while trying to maintain a separation between politics, economics, and security in times of tension to avoid cutting all ties at once. This way will guarantee minimum damages and enable the parties to keep the communication open on other non-conflicting issues.

Third, engaging in a constructive discussion on the areas of difference between the major regional powers. In this sense, it is vital that the involved parties establish a mechanism capable of containing/solving the problems that might arise in the future.

Additionally, aiming to keep intelligence channels open and working. Security is important to everyone. Due to their geographical position, and feelings of insecurity, some countries tend to prioritise security relations. Keeping an open channel will not only deepen the cooperation on security issues but also might help facilitate the way to discussing some unresolved political issues.

The absence of these measures will signal weak reconciliation and normalisation processes and will make them extremely vulnerable to the aforementioned challenges that are expected to test the current regional configurations sooner or later.

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 Middle East Eye

The author is a research assistant professor at Ibn Khaldun Center for Humanities and Social Sciences

Sheikh Hasina's September Stop Over

Significance of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's upcoming India visit

Dr Arpita Hazarika

After almost three years, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is going to Delhi again on a state visit on September 5. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit is very significant in India-Bangladesh bilateral relations. The Modi government also wants to give special importance to this visit. Because in the changing geo-political situation, New Delhi considers Dhaka as its most 'trusted friend'. On September 6, the two Prime Ministers will have a private meeting and a delegation level meeting. Sheikh Hasina will address major business meetings like the Indian Chamber of Commerce the next day i.e. September 7. She will present the picture of how both parties can benefit if Indian investors invest in Bangladesh. The next day she will return to Dhaka via Ajmer Sharif.

Why is this visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina so important?

The temporary power shortage in Bangladesh is going to end as Bangladesh's largest thermal power project 'Maitri' is going to be inaugurated during her visit to India. Despite considerable 'pressure' from the Bangladesh government, the Teesta water distribution agreement could not be implemented mainly due to the objection of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. This time there will be significant progress if not all of it. The demand for wheat in Bangladesh is increasing. In this situation, the Modi government has given permission to export wheat through the Hili border in Dinajpur. It should be remembered that this will be her last visit to India before the upcoming elections in Bangladesh. As a result, India will not return Sheikh Hasina empty-handed. During Sheikh Hasina's visit this time, there is a bright possibility of finalizing the trade agreement called 'CEPA' (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) between the two countries. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently approved the draft of this agreement in the cabinet meeting. Now just waiting for India to agree on this. It is being touted as a 'landmark' or landmark agreement for free and duty-free trade in hundreds of goods between India

and Bangladesh. If this is the joint testing service, one stop service will be launched. It will increase investment. As a result, exports will increase by 3-5 billion dollars beyond the current (about 1.28 billion dollars) export earnings. After the signing of the

Manu, Dharla, Khoai, Muhuri, Gomti and Dudhkumar rivers. In this, the issue of finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the withdrawal of Kushiara river water becomes important. Bangladesh wants to use Kushiara water to facilitate the

sina in the capital during her visit to Delhi? The central government of India has invited as per rules. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave a message to the country's Hindu community on Janmashtami before her visit to India. She said, 'Don't think of yourself as a minority. All people have equal rights in Bangladesh regardless of caste and religion.'

The Bangladesh government has requested \$4.5 billion in assistance from the International Monetary Fund or IMF. Economists say that the increase in the price of oil and gas, machinery and raw materials in the international market has created a huge pressure on the country's reserves. Bangladesh approached the IMF donors to handle that pressure. Last year, Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves were 45.5 billion, but by July 20, it had dropped to 37.67 billion dollars. In addition to the increase in the prices of fuel oil, gas, food products in the international market, imports have increased a lot. Bangladesh has not faced such economic problems with foreign exchange for the last decade. Because both remittances and exports have done more or less well during this period. But now due to the situation that has developed in the world, there is a negative impact on remittances. Exports are good, but the rate at which imports have increased has created pressure on the balance of payments. Bangladesh's infrastructure is improving rapidly. Now it's time to set up various industries. In that case, in order to get raw materials and technical assistance quickly and cheaply, India will have to enter into some kind of financial agreement, which is not dependent on dollars in the parlance of economics. Bangladesh and India are gradually moving in that direction, only at this moment the leaders and ministers of the two countries need to be helpful to each other in tackling the crisis.

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

The author is an Gauhati is a India based researcher in Gauhati University



FEATURE IMAGE: BANGLADESH PM SHEIKH HASINA

CEPA agreement, if the trade barriers are removed, the import picture of Bangladesh will also change. As most of India's products and services are compatible with Bangladesh's economy and culture, and due to low transportation costs and time savings, Bangladeshi importers will turn to India instead of Far Eastern countries for the same products. Then the amount of import from India will increase. In that case, the current import of 7 billion dollars will increase by 4-7 billion US dollars.

Before Sheikh Hasina's visit, a ministerial meeting of the Joint River Commission (JRC) was held in Delhi on August 25. On August 23, JRC secretary level meeting was held. It discussed the water sharing agreement of

cultivation of 5 thousand acres of land in Sylhet. This would require India's permission to withdraw water from the same river. Besides, the Ganga water sharing agreement will expire in 2026. There is supposed to be a joint survey for maximum utilization of this common river water. After more than a century, the meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) of the two countries is being held in Delhi. The matters agreed by the JRC in terms of water sharing or water management of several important common rivers of the two countries will be fulfilled in the meeting of the two Prime Ministers. This time, the question is - Will the Chief Minister of West Bengal, who has held back the Tista Agreement, come and meet Sheikh Ha-

Trusting Science in Post-pandemic World

Nicholas B Dirks

In recent years, and especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, attacks on science and scientists have been escalating to an alarming degree. Health officials and the broader scientific community have pleaded with policymakers and the public to "follow the science." Yet such slogans fall flat with those who have little regard for scientific authority, not least because science proponents have been using the same blanket term as those who attack it.

When we encapsulate all of science within a single word, we implicitly equate it with truth. In fact, many fields of science are still undergoing constant revision. The importance of this distinction became all too clear during the early stages of the pandemic, when health authorities were charged with providing guidance to the public before all the details about the virus were known.

Science has always come under attack. From Galileo's demonstration that the Earth is not at the centre of the universe to Darwin's argument that human beings descended from earlier apes, scientists were long seen as a threat to religious authority and its own claims of true knowledge.

One might have thought that modernity would have finally given science a decisive advantage, leading inexorably to more general acceptance of its findings. But a constantly evolving process is not a sure-footed competitor to those trafficking in timeless absolutes. And though it may feel counter-intuitive, scientists themselves should resist the popular characterization of science as a body of knowledge.

In his 2019 book, *The Crisis of Expertise*, sociologist Gil Eyal argues that the appeal to "science" and the moral panic about the "assault on science" are beside the point, because not all of "science" is in fact under assault. No one, for example, "disputes quantum mechanics, nor, for that matter, is any solid-state physics dis-



cipline under assault." Indeed, most of science is widely seen as "settled," whether formally in terms of fundamental theories and understandings, or informally in the sense that most people assume that planes can fly, gravity is real, and hydrogen peroxide can bleach your hair.

And yet, while most people trust medical professionals with everything from their annual check-ups to their cancer therapies, they also subscribe to a wide range of idiosyncratic notions about health, pharmaceuticals, and medical procedures. What the science journalist Michael Specter calls "denialism" is reflected in a broad array of biomedical issues, from fear of vaccines to belief in the

The dilemma is that the scientific fields most relevant to policy debates are in a constant state of testing, revision, and debate by scientists themselves. But that is exactly how it should be

effectiveness of nutritional supplements and, sometimes, miracle cures.

Eyal points out that most debates around science concern "what is called 'regulatory science' and 'policy science,' a collection of sub-disciplines, research programs, and techniques that have in common the need to arrive at a policy recommendation." These debates tend to reach a fever pitch when there are contentious public-policy issues that are inextricably bound up with ongoing science - as in the case of vaccine mandates, masks, drug approvals, and decarbonization (which entails massive allocations - or reallocations - of resources).

In all these cases, the peril arises

after the experts have made their views known. When the process moves into realms beyond the purely scientific - legal disputes, public policy, even electoral politics - trouble frequently ensues. If expertise is seen to be associated with one side in legal proceedings, political debates, and cultural questions (such as diet and lifestyle), that perception tends to undermine rather than buttress the authority of science and scientists more generally.

The dilemma is that the scientific fields most relevant to policy debates are in a constant state of testing, revision, and debate by scientists themselves. But that is exactly how it should be. As the philosopher John

Dewey argued in the early twentieth century, science proceeds not as a single truth or set of truths, but as a method; it is not a body of knowledge, but a process for developing more reliable knowledge. This focus on method is meant to ensure that scientific research and discovery proceeds in a rigorous and transparent fashion. The distilled version of the scientific method taught in grade school hardly captures the wide range of ways that scientists practice their disciplines and test their hypotheses.

As important as it is to ensure that science advances methodically, we must also not lose sight of the possibilities opened up by thinking outside the box. Historically, we owe some of the most important scientific discoveries to the imaginative brilliance of visionaries such as Galileo, Darwin, Albert Einstein, James Watson and Francis Crick, and Jennifer Doudna (the 2020 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her work on genome editing).

Just as good science requires a balance between creativity and method, so, too, building trust in science requires scientists and their public advocates to communicate their findings and processes more effectively. That includes being open about the uncertainties - and serendipities - that are inherent to scientific discovery, and drawing clear distinctions between what is and is not considered settled science.

We must accept, and impress upon the public, that science owes its greatest achievements not only to its perpetual expansion into new frontiers, but also to its abiding humility. Otherwise, the public will continue to be disappointed - and disillusioned - by many types of scientific claims. - Nicholas B. Dirks, a former chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, is President and CEO of the New York Academy of Sciences. - Project Syndicate

- Khaleej Times

HC Directs Telegram To Disclose Details Of Channels Violating Copyright Law

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has said the defence of free speech and the right to privacy cannot be used by any entity, including an infringer, to escape the consequences of illegal actions.

The remark was made by the high court while directing messaging platform Telegram to disclose in a sealed cover the details of channels, including their mobile numbers and IP addresses, disseminating certain content in violation of copyright law.

Justice Prathiba M Singh, while dealing with a lawsuit by a coaching centre and its owner against the illegal sharing of its teaching material on various channels on the platform under masked identities, stated that Telegram's reliance on the laws of privacy and right to freedom of speech and expression was completely inapposite in these facts and circumstances."

The judge said unless the identity of the operators of the infringing channels is disclosed, the plaintiffs would be rendered remediless for recovering damages.

Reliance was placed by Telegram on the laws of privacy protection under Article 21 of the Constitution and Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution, which protects the right to freedom of speech and expression. The same is completely inapposite in these facts and circumstances.

"The right to freedom of speech or the right to life including the right to privacy cannot be used by any person or entity, let alone an infringer, in order to escape the

consequences of illegal actions, said the high court in its order dated August 30.

In response to Telegram's submission of it being an intermediary under the Information Technology (IT) Act and thus being obliged to not disclose the details of the originator of the information, the high court opined that mere disabling or taking down of channels was an insufficient remedy as these channels were clearly hydra-headed and were surfacing one after the other owing to the ease with which they can be created.

The provisions of the IT Act and the Rules, it added, have to be construed harmoniously with the rights and remedies provided to the copyright owners under the Copyright Act and even the IT guidelines do not, in any manner, obviate the duty of Telegram as a platform to take all effective steps required to protect the intellectual property rights.

Justice Singh also clarified that merely because Telegram chooses to locate its server in Singapore, the copyright owners cannot be left completely without any remedy against the actual infringers in law.

Unless and until the identity of the operators of these channels who are ex-facie infringers of the Plaintiffs' copyright are disclosed, the Plaintiffs are rendered remediless for recovering damages. 'Take down' or blocking orders are merely token relief for the interregnum and without monetary relief of damages, coupled with mushrooming of infringing platforms, the copyright owner's spirit to create and write may be considerably negated, said the high court.

Delhi-Based Businessman Behind Zubair's Arrest: Police

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Twitter user behind the arrest of fact checker and Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair is a 36-year-old Delhi-based real estate businessman who originally belongs to Ajmer in Rajasthan, police said on Wednesday.

Police officials, who have been working to establish the identity of the Twitter handle @balajiki-jaini operating under the name Hanuman Bhakt, did not disclose the businessman's name.

They said there is no evidence of his affiliation with a political party.

"The investigation has revealed that the anonymous Twitter handle was operated by a 36-year-old real estate businessman who originally hails from Ajmer in Rajasthan and presently lives in Dwarka," a police official privy to the probe said. Police tracked him following a response from Twitter using an IP address and he was sent a formal notice to join the probe, the official added. The businessman said in his statement to the police that his religious sentiments were hurt.

The official did not share details of when the notice was sent and the statement recorded.

Zubair was arrested on June



27 for allegedly hurting religious sentiments through a tweet against a Hindu deity in 2018. He was in custody for 24 days on allegations of hate speech and is now out on bail.

According to police officials, the businessman took note of the 2018 post and tweeted, tagging Delhi Police and urging it to take action because his "religious sentiments" were hurt.

A complaint was subsequently filed, leading to the arrest.

Two days after Zubair's arrest, the businessman deleted his Twitter account only to re-activate it the next day with the same name and handle.

The account now stands suspended.

The businessman had moved from Ajmer to Delhi some years ago with his family, police said.

Multiple FIRs were lodged against Zubair in Uttar Pradesh -- two in Hathras and one each in Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad and Chandauli -- for allegedly hurting religious sentiments.

He was released on bail after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail, saying the "exercise of the power of arrest must be pursued sparingly".

Cases under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code have been registered against him, including criminal conspiracy (Sections 120B), promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, language, etc (Section 153A) and deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings (Section 295A).

THE INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED that the anonymous Twitter handle was operated by a 36-year-old real estate businessman who originally hails from Ajmer in Rajasthan and presently lives in Dwarka."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Retains Safe

J&K Tourism department has launched many promotional campaigns that showcase tourism offerings of the Union Territory. With a massive contribution of local industry stakeholders, the department was able to receive more foreign footfall this year. And when it comes to hospitality, nothing beats J&K," the official said, adding that NCRB data on trivial crime rate against foreigners is a testament to J&K's peace loving character.

Kashmir's hospitality sector stakeholders who have already lost hundreds of crores as tourist footfall nosedived in 2020 say that the stories about Kashmir being unsafe for tourists are exaggerated.

Interestingly, while Kashmir's credentials in ensuring no-crime against foreigners maintains an exemplary appearance, the report on the contrary reveals that there have been 14 cases registered against foreigners for committing crimes in J&K in 2021.

LG Warns

ability and merit will be respected and strict action will be taken against all those elements who have unethically tried to harm the future of meritorious aspirants," the LG said.

Observing that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul is the center of knowledge and wisdom, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that the Gurukul is a perfect medium to develop the future leaders who will be well accustomed with the Modern, Traditional, and Spiritual Education.

"From the last 12 years the Gurukul is paving the way for the strong spiritual-cultural foundation of J&K. The affiliation of Gurukul with Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi is an important step towards revival of Sanskrit in J&K and connecting students with science and spirituality," the LG said.

"At Gurukul, we must encourage original ideas among the students and nurture their mind so that they can learn higher values of life and dedicate themselves towards nation building. It should be our endeavor that necessary changes should be made in the syllabus as per the National Education Policy," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson said that in the last two years, the administration has tried to reshape the education system in J&K according to the National Education Policy.

"Work has been done to develop all the institutions from school to university level as centers of change in consciousness. Today our youth are giving priority to service to society along with personal aspiration and that is a notable transformation after a long time," Sinha said.

"We have launched several important initiatives in the last two years, including the flagship program 'Student- Teacher Mentorship' which is a revolutionary step towards enhancing learning outcomes by

identifying the learning gaps. In Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Gurukul also, the teachers will get an opportunity to radically change their teaching method by assessing the needs, capability and interests of the students. It will also lead to commensurate changes to the syllabus to inculcate ideas based on future requirements," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG appreciated the efforts of the management for affiliation with the Central Sanskrit University and expansion of the Gurukul as far as Student intake is concerned.

Sinha, he said, also highlighted the measures undertaken to cater to the needs of 8-9 lakh devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine every month.

The LG also remembered the key role of Jagmohan, former Governor of erstwhile J&K in the constitution of SMVD Shrine Board.

"Keeping in view the heavy rush of devotees, we are constantly improving the facilities to make their pilgrimage hassle-free. In the last two years, new projects have been sanctioned for better facilities and resources and important steps have also been taken for crowd management at the holy shrine. The work on Sky Walk will be completed by December," the LG said, as per the spokesperson.

"MoU between National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) and Katra Development Authority that was inked on 30th August 2022 will create one of its kind intermodal stations for the devotees bringing services like helipad, railway station, bus stand, auto stand, parking, five star hotels, and other modern day facilities at one place," he added.

Enlisting a host of new initiatives taken for ensuring that pilgrims from all over the world get state-of-the-art facilities and further strengthening the linkage between the local economy and pilgrimage, the LG, as per the spokesperson said that the government is working on development and promotion of spiritual tourism circuit.

"Efforts are being made for conservation and revitalization of spiritual cultural heritage and to bring prominent spiritual and religious places like Purmandal- Utterbehni, Mansar-Surinsar and Shiv Khori on the religious tourism circuit of the country which will also generate livelihood opportunities for the locals," the LG said.

"As many as 18 projects for conservation of places with spiritual cultural importance have been started in Jammu, Kathua, Ramban, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur which were neglected for years. After waiting for seven decades, all these sites will be restored and the surrounding infrastructure will also be developed and comprehensive and holistic development of the entire area will be ensured," he added.

According to the spokesperson, Sinha also laid the foundation stone of various projects of Shrine Board and Gurukul, including a new hostel for the expansion of Gurukul and

accommodation facilities for Shrine Board's employees at Ardhkuwari and Banganga.

The LG, he said, also announced hardship allowance for 1450 SMVDSB employees posted at Higher Altitude, besides rolling out new RFID system for the convenience of the passengers.

The system will ensure seamless access control with minimal hassle to devotees. For better crowd management and tracking of the Yatrics, 29 counters and control rooms have been set up in Katra and verification counters have been set up at 7 locations on the track.

'Committed To Development

official spokesperson said Wednesday. The delegation led by Pardeep Gandotra, he said, apprised the Lt Governor about the problems faced by people while performing the darshan of Bawe Wali Mata Temple, which included overcrowding, traffic congestion around the temple area etc.

He said that the delegation also put forth the demand of development of the temple area for attracting more tourists and generating employment.

"While interacting with the members of the delegation, the Lt Governor observed that UT administration is committed to the development of religious tourism in the city of temples, to attract more tourists who come to visit the holy places of worship," the spokesperson said.

He further said that a Rakesh Joshi-Senior Vice President Of HDFC Bank along with Cluster Head Ms Shubhra Mishra and Branch Manager Ms Anuradha Razdan also met the LG and discussed the expansion of the their banking network and participation in priority sectors including lending as well as financial assistance to MSMEs.

The delegation, as per the spokesperson also apprised the LG about various CSR activities being undertaken by the bank in Jammu Kashmir.

"The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts made by HDFC Bank and encouraged them to participate in self employment schemes started by the government of Jammu Kashmir," he added.

All Board Exams

delayed and held from 2nd week of April as per the calendar proposed when these areas are fully accessible and the delivery of the examination stationary and confidential material is ensured.

Even though if examination in these difficult areas shall be conducted separately, the result of these examination can be declared simultaneously, as although the 'difficult' areas' constitutes of approx. 30-35% of the area the J&K, the total number of students from these areas is not more than approx. 10-12%.

Since the areas are sparsely populated and the evaluation of Answer Scripts shall take less time, it said

"The recommendations of the

Committee were examined in the department and it has been decided to operationalize Uniform Academic calendar in the J&K," reads the order.

The government has also issued guidelines which provide that the students who appear in Class 10th and 11th examination shall be provisionally admitted in Class 11th and 12th respectively after conclusion of Board examination.

Students, who are declared unsuccessful in the results, shall be permitted to continue their studies in Class 11th and 12th till the result of Bi-annual/Annual Private examination are declared, the guidelines reads. In respect of the candidates who fail to pass in Bi-annual examination, provisional admission shall be cancelled, they said.

J&K Board of School Education has been asked to restructure the examination schedule from Classes 10th to 12th by holding annual (Regular) examination of Jammu Division/Kashmir Division excluding hard zones/areas in the month of March.

Annual (Regular) examination of hard zones/areas of Jammu Division and Kashmir Division/Union territory of Ladakh shall be held in the month of April, the guidelines provide.

However, the result of Annual (Regular) examination of Jammu Division/ Kashmir Division including hard zones/areas and Ladakh shall be declared in the month of June, as per the guidelines.

The Annual Private/Bi-annual examination in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh shall be held in the month of August and its result shall be declared in the month of October.

The J&K Board of School Education has been asked to issue a detailed examination schedule including schedule for submission of application form etc.

"J&K Board of School Education shall notify the list of hard zones/difficult areas separately."

Other Schedules viz. Registration, renewal of Registration, Migration, Inter-School Migration, Eligibility, Subject change etc shall also be notified separately by J&K Board of School Education, guidelines said.

"The examination schedule shall be applicable with immediate effect from the current session."

Congress Suffers

Asked if more leaders were going to switch sides in the coming days, Sayeed said there were not many left in the Congress now.

Who is left in the Congress now? All the senior leaders have left the party, he added.

Several former ministers and legislators from Jammu and Kashmir are among those who have resigned from the party and thrown their weight behind Azad, who quit the grand old party after nearly 50 years of association.

Asked about the timing of his resignation, Sayeed said he was in regular touch with Azad over the past many

SC Notice To NHRC, Others On Pleas Challenging Constitutional Validity Of Polygamy, Nikah Halala

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought the response of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Commission for Women (NCW) and National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to pleas challenging the constitutional validity of polygamy and 'nikah halala' among Muslims.

A five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice Indira Banerjee impleaded NHRC, NCW and NCM in the matter and issued notices to them. The bench, also comprising Justices Hemant Gupta, Surya Kant, M M Sundresh and Sudhanshu Dhulia took note of the submission of senior advocate Shyam Divan for petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who sought their impleadment.

The case will be heard after the Dussehra holidays.

Upadhyay has sought a direction to declare polygamy and 'nikah halala' among Muslims as unconstitutional and illegal.

The apex court had in July 2018 considered the plea and referred the matter to a constitution bench already tasked with hearing a batch of similar petitions.

The apex court had issued notice to the Centre on the petition filed by a woman named Farjana and tagged Upadhyay's plea with a batch of petitions to be heard by the constitution bench.

The petition by the lawyer sought a declaration that extra-judicial talaq is cruelty under Section 498A of the IPC, nikah halala is an offence under Section 375 of the IPC, and polygamy a crime under Section 494 of the IPC, 1860.

The apex court, which on August 22, 2017 banned the age-old practice of instant 'triple talaq' among Sunni Muslims, had on March 26, 2018 decided to refer to a larger bench a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of polygamy and 'nikah halala'.

While polygamy allows a Muslim man to have four wives, 'nikah halala' is a process under which a divorced Muslim woman has to first marry another person, consummate it and get a divorce from the second husband, if the couple were to remarry after a compromise.

The pleas were referred to a larger bench by the Supreme Court after an earlier five-judge constitution bench in its 2017 verdict kept open the issue of polygamy and 'nikah halala' while quashing the practice of 'triple talaq'.

It had also issued notices to the Law and Justice Ministry, the Minority Affairs Ministry and the National Commission of Women (NCW) at that time. Some petitions have also challenged the practices of 'Nikah Mubah' and 'Nikah Misyar' -- two types of temporary marriages where duration of the relationship is specified and agreed upon in advance.

In one of the petitions, a woman named Sameena Begum has said by virtue of the Muslim Personal Law, Section 494 of the Indian Penal Code (punishment for marrying again during lifetime of husband or wife) was rendered inapplicable to Muslims and no married woman from the community has the avenue of filing a complaint against her husband for the offence of bigamy.

years. Azad would often express helplessness saying no one listens to him in the party. We told him to leave the party and pledged to join him, he added.

Sonia Gandhi's

and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who are abroad, are said to have attended the funeral. The three leaders had on Sunday attended an online meeting of the Congress Working Committee, where the schedule for election to the party president's post was decided.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders of various parties conveyed their condolences to Sonia Gandhi and her family.

"Condolences to Sonia Gandhi ji on the passing away of her mother, Mrs. Paola Maino. May her soul rest in peace. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the entire family," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and other Congress leader extended their condolences to the party chief and other family members.

"Congress family expresses its deepest condolences on the sad demise of Mrs Paola Maino, Congress president Mrs Sonia Gandhi's mother. We pray for the departed soul and stand in solidarity with the bereaved family," the Congress said on its official Twitter handle.

"It's very saddening to know about the demise of Congress President Smt Sonia Gandhi ji's mother Mrs. Paola Maino ji. My deepest condolences to Sonia ji, Rahul ji, Priyanka ji and all family members. May God give them the strength to bear this loss. May the departed soul rest in peace," Gehlot said on Twitter.

In his message, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said: "I join my father and other family members in conveying our heartfelt condolences to Mrs Sonia Gandhi ji, to Rahul, Priyanka and the entire family on the sad demise of Mrs Gandhi's mother. May the soul of Mrs Maino rest in eternal peace," he said.

Another Congress MP Manish Tewari said, "My profound condolences on the sad demise of Hon'ble Congress President Mrs Sonia Gandhi ji's revered mother Mrs Paola Maino. May God give the Hon'ble Congress President and her family members the strength and fortitude to bear this unfortunate and tragic loss. (PTI)

Landslide Kills

cognizance of the incident and started further investigations. (ONS)

J&K Clocks 140

Baramulla 18, Budgam 14, Pulwama 10, Ganderbal 7, Kupwara 5, Bandipora and Kulgam 3 each. Shopian was the only district in the Valley where no new cases were reported.

In the winter capital, they said, Jammu reported a maximum of 21 new cases of infection, Udhampur 3 and Doda 1. No new cases were registered in the remaining seven districts of Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramban and Reasi.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4782, as no new death was reported in the UT during the last 24 hours.

"Moreover, 240 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 47 from Jammu division and 193 from Kashmir division," they added. (ONS)

Teen Girl Killed

The other three persons after receiving treatment at SDH Gurez were then referred to SKIMS Soura for preferential treatment, they said.

A police official has in the meantime also confirmed the incident and said that cognizance has been taken for further investigations. (Agencies)

IAF Rescues Israeli

and Squadron Leader Neha Singh and Squadron leader Ajinkya Kher as aircrew number 2, got airborne within minutes, for this time-critical mission.

"Following the shortest route, the aircraft reached the spot within 20 minutes of flying time and spotted the casualty on the Gongmaru La pass at an elevation of 16,800 feet," the spokesman said.

He said the aircrew number 1 carried out a thorough recce and landed at the mountain pass with the assistance of aircrew number 2 and picked up Kahana from the pass in the turbulent weather conditions.

"The casualty was recovered expeditiously within the limited time of one hour at Air Force Station Leh," he added. (PTI)

Mainly Dry Weather

recorded a low of 16.6°C, same as on the previous night. The temperature was 0.9°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 14.4°C against 14.6°C on the previous night. However, the temperature was 0.7°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 10.4°C against 12.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 14.0°C against 13.8°C the previous night and it was 0.1°C below normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 9.5°C against 9.2°C on the previous night. It was 1.2°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 16.0°C against 14.1°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 1.9°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said. (GNS)

Wular Lake To Have Non-Motorable Walkway: Govt



Agencies

GUROORA: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang Kundbarao Pole said that the government is going to construct a non-motorable walkway around the Wular lake in North Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the Wular festival organised by Wular Battalion, 26-Assam Rifles and district administration Bandipora on Tuesday evening, Pole, as per the news agency KNO said that beautiful non-motorable walkway will be developed around the lake which will attract more and more tourists.

"Odisha's Chilika Lake is famous for tourism all over the

world but the Wular lake is more beautiful than that in terms of biodiversity and other natural varieties," he said, adding that the Wular has the potential to change the socio-economic condition of the people.

Pole said on an average 8 lakh tourists visited Kashmir every year including Yatris till 2019. He said the valley witnessed unprecedented inflow of tourists after December 2019 and on an average 1.5 lac tourists visit JK, while about twenty lac tourists visited this year so far.

He further said that the government has started registering rooms for home stays so that every house can spare a room for tourists and earn their livelihood.

Started With Rs 5 Cr Capital In 1956, LIC Turning 67 Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Life Insurance Corporation of India, a leading financial conglomerate with operations in 14 countries, is entering in to 67th year of its existence on 1st September 2022.

A premier financial institution of the country, it has immensely contributed to propagate the message of life insurance to reach all insurable people at an affordable cost. Beginning with an initial capital of Rs.5 crore in 1956, LIC today has an asset base of Rs.42,30,616 Crores, with Life fund of Rs.37,35,759 Crores. Despite two decades of opening up the insurance sector, the company remains the market leader and holds the majority of the market share viz 63.25% in First Year Premium income and 74.62% in number of Policies.

During the year 2021- 2022, LIC sold 2.17 Crore new policies and registered a growth of 7.92% in terms of First Year Premium income by collecting an amount of Rs.1.98 Lakh Crore as at 31st, March 2022. Our Pension and Group Superannuation Business vertical crossed one trillion mark successively for three years in a row by collecting Rs.1,43,938 Crores as New Business Premium Income. In the current year also LIC is holding 64.96% market share in First Year Premium. In 2021-2022, LIC settled 267.23 lakh claims amounting to Rs.1,92,568 Crores.

Through its 8 Zonal Offices, 113 Divisional Offices, 74 Customer

Zones, 2048 Branch Offices, 1564 Satellite Offices, 44900 Premium Points and Life Plus Offices, over one lakh employees, 13.26 Lakh Agents, Customers are assured to be provided with best of our services. In addition, LIC partners with 74 Banks to enhance productivity and reach. LIC has an impressive distribution channel that provides qualitative and quantitative improvements in business.

LIC has a bouquet of 33 plans for sale under Individual Business as on 31.03.2022. Each plan is tailored to the needs of different segments of society, including endowment insurance, term insurance, child insurance, annuities, micro insurance, health insurance and unit-linked products. Optimal products are provided according to changing needs. LIC has introduced two new plans LIC's Bima Ratna and LIC's Dhan Sanchay and modified Aadhaar Stambh, Aadhaar Shila, pension plans Jeevan Akshay VII (Plan 857), Jeevan Shanti (Plan 858) and Saral Pension (Plan 862).

To facilitate servicing of the policies in an efficient manner, LIC has embraced latest technologies to keep pace with the times. Policyholders can pay their premiums through various online modes. The adoption of Artificial Intelligence in Digital Initiative is continued with the launch of Jeevan Saakshya Mobile Application which is an AI based digital existence certificate submission for Pension Policyholders.

J&K Colleges To Be Ranked On Performance, Excellence

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department is all set to launch a comprehensive ranking system for the colleges of the Union Territory.

This was announced at a meeting chaired by Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal at the Civil Secretariat here Wednesday

Elaborating on the idea, the Principal Secretary informed that the Higher Education Department had decided to carry out a ranking of all Higher Educational Institutions in J&K based on asset of transparent criterion and a unique index. The IIT Jammu would be the knowledge partner of the Higher Education Department and would design the unique index as well as a special portal to collect the information and rank the colleges. For this purpose an MoU would be signed between the Directorate of Colleges J&K and the IIT Jammu.

The two autonomous colleges of J&K viz. GDC Baramulla and GCW Parade would assist the Directorates of Higher Education in this exercise. A core team consisting members from Govt College Parade, GDC Baramulla and Director Colleges would help in the creation of indices and primary data would be provided by the department to the IIT team for formulation of ranking indices. The IIT team would be responsible for creating an index of colleges based on the department's suggestions, creation of an online portal/ dashboard and processing of raw data to prepare the final college rankings.

Director IIT Jammu, Dr Manoj



Singh Gaur was also present at the meeting along with his team of experts expressed happiness at the opportunity of carrying out such an exercise which would be among the first such initiatives in the country. He elaborated that the performance of the college in a diverse range of activities including academics, sports activities, research, placement, innovation, diversity, quality would be used to develop an index which in turn would be used to rank the colleges. It was told that an 'internal system' already exists which broadly ranks colleges as: outstanding, good, very good, average and poor. Additionally, the colleges are also subject to rankings under NIRF, NAAC and other rating agencies which categorise the colleges based on different parameters.

The Higher Education Department has already declared 2022 as the year of Excellence and the Principals of all the colleges have been given broad guidelines for achieving excellence under five broad segments: Achievements under Academic Excellence, Enhancing Skills and

Employability, Research and Innovation, My College My Pride, Rewarding Efforts and Achievement. The Principal Secretary also noted that the feedback system launched by the department is already operational and is providing the students an opportunity to provide feedback about the quality of learning experience. Similarly, the teachers have also been facilitated by the system to provide inputs on the infrastructure and other administrative aspects of their respective colleges.

The Principal Secretary expressed the hope that the proposed College Ranking System would encourage the Higher Educational Institutions to strive for excellence and would also enable the department to spot and incentivize the leaders and handhold those who needed assistance.

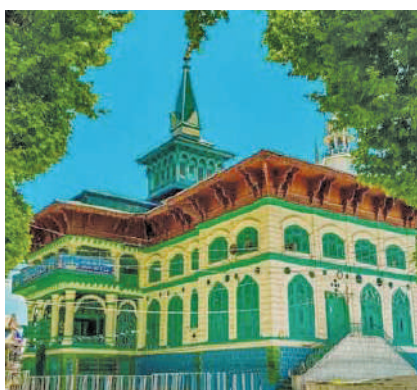
Those present at the meeting included Special Secretary, Rakesh Badyal; Director Colleges, Dr Yasmeen Ashai; Principal GCW Parade, Dr SP Saraswat; Principal GDC Baramulla, Dr Mohammad Farooq Rather and Dr Sourabh.

Panel Formed To Probe 'Misappropriation Of Donations At Bijbehara Shrine

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board has constituted a committee to enquire into the allegations of irregularities and misappropriation of funds and properties at Ziyarat Shareef Hazratbal Khiram located in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

According to an order, J&K Waqf Board has constituted a four-member committee to enquire into the allegations and has been asked to submit a detailed report within 3 weeks.

The order stated that chairperson J&K Waqf Board as well as the Central Office J&K Waqf Board has received several complaints regarding misappropriation, irregularities and mismanagement of donations and properties at the shrine by the Committee constituted by



the Government in 2015.

It added that the matter was viewed very seriously by the chairpersons J&K Waqf Board and therefore, a four-member committee has been constituted to conduct a preliminary enquiry into the matter.

The order stated that a committee of four members headed by private secretary

to chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Masroof Sultan and senior accountant Fayaz Ahmad Rather, supervisory accounts section Nazir Ahmad Wani, and Muhasil Accounts Section Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh as its members is constituted to conduct a preliminary enquiry into the allegations of misappropriation, irregularities and mismanagement of donations and properties.

The committee has been asked to submit a detailed report along with recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer, J&K Waqf Board, within a period of 3 weeks.

"The Committee may extend the period of enquiry even beyond the given time period, if required, to ensure all genuine concerns of the general public are addressed," reads the order.

MD Scholastic India Holds Interactive Session With Head Of Schools

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Neeraj Jain, MD Scholastic India conducted an interactive session with the heads of prominent schools to emphasise the importance of reading and comprehension in schools.

The interaction with the principals of schools helped promote a reading culture with the young ones.

"Studies conducted by Scholastic have shown that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance and if children read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who do not, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general

knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures," he said.

"Reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background. Scholastic India brings the best of the reading material in its book fairs and reading programs curated especially for all levels of readers of different genres," he added.

To inculcate a love of reading in the Kashmir Valley, Scholastic is conducting Book Fairs in schools, best known for building stamina in students to read more. With the book fairs students discover through a wide treasure trove of age appropriate selection of books, and access fun and interesting activities!

Transparent, Accountable System Established In J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Government has established a unique system through which every work is being put into public domain thereby establishing a greater accountability and transparency in the work culture as well as ensuring that money is spent as per the developmental needs of the people, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

He said that the government is undertaking several reforms which will help to further fine-tune the developmental strategy and give an impetus to the efforts fast tracking development here.

"The proper documentation of development projects with photographic evidence and geo-coordinates is an effort towards enhancing transparency and accountability in the execution of works. 32889 works are available online on Empowerment portal for citizens to check and ensure they are being done as per defined specifications," he said.

According to the spokesperson, The UT of J&K has achieved an unprecedented level of transparency in the financial management through a host of financial reforms and interventions made by the Government which include the activity-wise online release of funds through "BEAMS" (Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System); EMPOWERMENT (Enabling Monitoring and Public Overview of Works Being Executed & Resources for meaningful Transparency) portal which gives details of projects and related expenses and puts then in public domain, making administrative and technical approvals, e-tendering, geo-tagged photographs mandatory for payments; online billing through "JK Payment System"; streamlining of GST; e-stamping; e-GRAS; digital payments; implementation of GeM; publication of important manuals relating to Budget and

Audit, Back to Village and My Town My Pride initiatives and 100% physical verification of projects.

He further said that the administration has successfully implemented innovative initiatives in this regard which inter alia included BEAMS, online submission of bills through J&K PaySys, mandatory administrative approvals, technical sanctions and e-tendering, digital payments, GFR, GeM and related measures which have greatly helped in bringing financial discipline in government departments here.

"Key reforms introduced by the Jammu and Kashmir government in its financial structure envisaging added transparency and accountability have brought UT's fiscal system at par with any other progressive arrangement across the country," the spokesperson said.

"Promoting good governance in the financial management has been one of the core objectives of the government. The financial system in J&K is one of the most transparent systems anywhere and is among the key changes that have taken roots in the Union Territory," he added.

The spokesperson further said that the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, during her recent visit to J&K said the abrogation of Article 370 brought impetus in financial activities, transparency in administration and growth in UT's economy.

"In the past two years, work that has happened in J&K is absolutely stunning. The government procurement, recruitment, government spending of its resources, taxation or deployment of resources, whatever it be, they are now available online 24x7 with all transparency," she asserted. So in terms of bringing transparency in governance, in terms of being transparent itself tells you that they are accountable for every one rupee which is being spent on ground, she added.

Info Dept Accords Warm Send-Off To Nazir Drabu

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Joint Director of Information Kashmir accorded a warm farewell to Nazir Drabu, Cameraman on his superannuation today after rendering more than two decades of dedicated service in the department.

The Joint Director Information, Kashmir, Inam ul Haq Siddiqui on the occasion highlighted the contribution of the official towards the department and congratulated him on attaining superannuation.

He also wished him a happy and prosperous post retirement life.

Deputy Director (PR) Kashmir, Bilal Mukhtar; Assistant Director, Mohammad Aslam Khan; District Information Officer Ganderbal, Aafaq Gadda and officials of the department also lauded the contribution of retiring official and wished him a healthy post retirement life.

The retiring employee thanked all their colleagues for their support and cooperation during his tenure in the department. A gift hamper was presented to the retiring official on behalf of the Department as a mark of honour and affection.

2 JeM Terrorists Killed In Sopore: ADGP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two terrorists of Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) were killed, while a civilian sustained injuries in an encounter between police and security forces in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday, police said.

According to police, two terrorists were killed after a search operation turned into an encounter in Bomai village of Sopore on Wednesday evening. A civilian identified

as Ali Mohammad Ganai also sustained injuries during the exchange of fire between the two sides. Ganai, who was hit by a bullet in his leg, is stable.

"The killed 02 #terrorists were affiliated with JeM #terror outfit. Identification is being ascertained. 01 civilian also received injury during the #encounter & he has been shifted to Srinagar hospital where his condition is stated to be stable," police tweeted while quoting ADGP Vijay Kumar.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION – IV.

Pampore Kashmir – 192121

Email: xentlmd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-1

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/10 of 2022-23 for Replacement of oily gravel on existing transformer beds of 220/132kV Transformer bank-II and 132/33kV Transformer at grid station Zainakote is extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	05-09-2022 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial	06-09-2022 at 14:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

--sd--

Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV Pampore

DIPK-NB-3560 -22

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, KASHMIR

Message for Farmers

All the orchardists/farming community of the valley are advised not to Purchase/use the below mentioned batch No's of pesticide products in their fields, which has been declared as **Misbranded** by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage Faridabad.

The details of **Misbranded** Pesticide products are as under:-

S. No	Trade name of the Product	Active Ingredient	Batch No.	Date of manufacture	Date of Expiry	Manufactured/Marketed by
1	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05% GR min	PJ21I034	29.09.2021	28.09.2023	M/s Pushpa J. Shah/ F.M.C India Pvt. Ltd.
2	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05 %GR min	PJ21J035	01.10.2021	30.09.2023	
3	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05% GR min	PJ21J036	02.10.2021	01.10.2023	
4	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05% GR min	PJ21J037	03.10.2021	02.10.2023	
5	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05 %GR min	PJ21J038	10.10.2021	09.10.2023	
6	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05 %GR min	PJ21J040	12.10.2021	11.10.2023	
7	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05% GR min	PJ21J041	13.10.2021	12.10.2023	
8	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05% GR min	PJ21J042	14.10.2021	13.10.2023	
9	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05% GR min	PJ21K045	01.11.2021	31.10.2023	
10	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05 %GR min	PJ21L051	06.12.2021	05.12.2023	
11	Miracle	Triacntanol 0.05 %GR min	PJ21L052	07.12.2021	06.12.2023	
12	Cyclone	Chlorpyrifos 50%+cypermethrin 5%EC	FIL/CLE1211	12.08.2021	11.08.2023	M/s Fil Industries Pvt. Ltd.
13	Wilstrong	Captan70%+Hexaconazole 5%W.P	WS21CXB006	15.04.2021	14.04.2023	M/s Shreeji Pesticides Pvt. Ltd./ Willowood Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd.
14	Flyover	Triacntanol 0.1%E.W	WS21TCA002	30.03.2021	29.03.2023	M/s Shreeji Pesticides Pvt. Ltd./ Willowood Crop Sciences Pvt. Ltd.

All the Enforcement Officers/ Inspectors are directed to seize stocks of the above said pesticide product under Batch No's: PJ21I034, PJ21J035, PJ21J036, PJ21J037, PJ21J038, PJ21J040, PJ21J041, PJ21J042, PJ21K045, PJ21L051, PJ21L052 and FIL/CLE1211, WS21CXB006, WS21TCA00 **proceed** further as per the provisions of Insecticides Act-1968 and Rules made there under.

Sd/-

Deputy Director Law Enforcement
Kashmir

DIPK-9048-22



THE FUTURE: Young football players learn how to stop the ball during a training session of J&K Sports Council's 'Open Football School' at Synthetic Turf TRC on Wednesday.

MYMP: Various Sports Events Continue Across Valley



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Sports Council's 'My Youth My Pride' attracted a huge crowd at Kulgam as various sports events were held in the district on Wednesday.

Two cricket matches were played at Nowgam, Devsar Ground and in the first encounter, Aakran Seniors were pitted against Akhran Juniors. The Juniors lost to seniors by 9 runs and from seniors Sameer was the highest scorer with a score of 41 runs, while Shakir, Adnan and Faizan bagged 2 wickets each for Seniors.

Sameer was adjudged player of the match.

In another match of the day, Achnak Akhran were pitted against Government High School Akhran. Achnak Akhran after winning the toss decided to bat and folded at paltry 46 runs. Irfan was pick of the bowlers for GHS Kulgam who claimed 3 wickets while conceding only 7 runs.

However, GHS innings folded at 32 runs with none of the batsmen able to handle the bowling attack of the opponents.

Adnan was pick of the bowlers for Achnak Akhran claiming 4 wickets in one over, and was awarded player of the match.

In another event of the day, Akhran Playfield hosted a couple of hockey matches. In the first match, Kulgam Kings playing against Akhran Stars won the match with 3 goals with opponents able to enter goal only once.

Milad scored 2 goals and Afnaan scored one goal for the winners while Ashfaq's single shot

to the net was the only saving grace for the Akhran Stars.

In the second match played at the same venue, Boys High School Kulgam played against Kulgam Stars. Basit scored 4 and Adil Shaber hit 2 for Kulgam Stars to end the match 6-2.

Matches in the discipline of Kho-Kho in the district were in progress when the report was filed.

The 3rd District Srinagar Yogasana competition organised by District Srinagar Yogasana Association affiliated to J&K Yogasana Association under the aegis of J&K Sports Council was held on Wednesday in the Multiplex Sports Hall Pologround, Srinagar.

Around 400 participants competed with each other in different age categories. The competitions were held in the categories of Traditional, Artistic Singles, Artistic Group and Rhythmic events for both boys and girls.

Superintendent of Police East Srinagar Sahil Sarangal inaugurated the championship earlier in the day and the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P.K. Pole presided over the function as the chief guest at the conclusion of the event.

A number of football matches were also played in renovated Bakshi Stadium Srinagar among many educational institutes of Srinagar, with prominent among them being Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar and Burn Hall School, Srinagar.

The participants were drawn from the different institutes of district Srinagar including schools and colleges.

LG Rolling Trophy Trials Continue In Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Cricket trials for boys under LG Rolling Trophy were conducted at various venues across different zones of district on Wednesday.

The trail witnessed impressive participation of cricketers/play-

ers from the different panchayats with zeal and zest.

Speaking on the occasion, DYSSO Budgam Gurmukh Dutta said that this is a great initiative by the Sports Department to pick the best hidden talent and explore and channelize the energy of youth in the right direction.



TEAM INDIA romped to 192/2 in 20 overs in their second Asia Cup 2022 T20I match against Hong Kong on Wednesday. Suryakumar Yadav with 68* (26) and Virat Kohli with 59* (44) top-scored for the team. The duo shared a blistering partnership of 98 runs from 42 balls, with the last five overs of the innings producing 78 runs for the team. Hong Kong batters made a valiant 152/5 in 20 overs, effectively handing India a 40-run win.

India, Pakistan Fined For Slow Over-Rate In Their Asia Cup Opener

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India and Pakistan have been fined 40 percent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate in their opening Group A match of the Asia Cup.

Jeff Crowe of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanctions after Rohit Sharma and Babar Azam's sides were ruled to be two overs short of their respective targets after time allowances were taken into consideration.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," said the ICC in a statement.

"Both captains pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing."

On-field umpires Masudur Rahman and Ruchira Pillayaguruge, third umpire Raveendra Wimalasiri and fourth umpire Gazi Sohel levelled the charges.

India had won the high-profile game by five wickets, courtesy an all-round effort from Hardik Pandya.

Pakistan had to keep an extra fielder inside the circle towards the end of India's run chase due to the slow over rate.

Hardik Rises To Fifth In ICC T20I All-Rounder Rankings



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India's flamboyant all-rounder Hardik Pandya has jumped eight places to a best-ever fifth position on the latest ICC T20I all-rounder rankings after his excellent outing against Pakistan in the Asia Cup here.

Hardik claimed 3/25 and made 33 not out from just 17 balls, showing how vital his impact will be in India's T20 World Cup campaign later in the year in Australia.

Elsewhere, Afghanistan's blistering start to the Asia Cup tournament has not gone unnoticed, with a number of players rewarded in the updated rankings.

An ICC release said Rashid Khan's push for the No.1 bowler position has been helped with a two-spot jump to third (708 points), over fellow leg-spinners Adil Rashid and Adam Zampa.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (716) is next in Rashid's sights, though Josh Hazlewood (792) boasts a strong margin at the top of the list.

There were no new entrants in the T20I batting top ten, though there was a push from Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan, moving up to second (796) to join Babar Azam (810) in the top two.

Afghanistan's Hazratullah Zazai's innings of 23 (26) and 37 (28) led to a three-spot rise to 14th (611). Teammate Rahmanullah Gurbaz meanwhile moved up five spots to 29th.

There were no moves of note in the top ten of the ODI rankings, though the first match between Australia and Zimbabwe saw shuffles lower down.

Ronaldo Will Not Leave United, Says Ten Hag



Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag reiterated Wednesday that Cristiano Ronaldo will not be leaving the team in the final days of the transfer window.

The uncertainty around Ronaldo's future at United only increased following the signing of another forward, Brazil international Antony, from Ajax on Tuesday.

When asked if Ronaldo remains part of his plans following the arrival of Antony, Ten Hag said: "(It is) clear, of course."

"We need quality players. You

need more to cover all the games to keep the consistency going. That is what we strive for."

Ronaldo has been pushing to leave United this summer to join a club playing in the Champions League.

The transfer window closes late Thursday.

With Newcastle goalkeeper Martin Dubravka also set to complete a move to United, Ten Hag said more signings are unlikely in what has been a busy window for the 20-time English champions.

Casemiro, Lisandro Martinez, Tyrell Malacia, Christian Eriksen have already joined United.

Wesley Fofana Joins Chelsea From Leicester For \$87M

Agencies

LONDON: Wesley Fofana became one of the most expensive defenders in soccer history after securing a move to Chelsea from Premier League rival Leicester for a reported fee of 75 million pounds (\$87 million) on Wednesday.

The signing of the 21-year-old French center back took Chelsea's spending in this transfer window to about \$270 million, with the vast majority of that on defenders. Left back Marc Cucurella (\$65 million) and centre back Kalidou Koulibaly (\$38 million) have already moved to Stamford Bridge.

England international Harry Maguire, who also left Leicester



to join Manchester United in 2019 for 80 million pounds, is the only defender to have cost more than Fofana. Virgil van Dijk completed a move to Liverpool in January 2018 for a similar fee as Fofana's.

A ball-playing centre back who is an excellent reader of the game, Fofana has signed a seven-year deal with Chelsea.

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01943595063
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First Floor, Parray Complex,
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