



Ministry of Ports,
Shipping & Waterways
Government of India



75
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MIGHT OF INDIA MADE IN INDIA

Commissioning of Indian Navy's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

02 September 2022 | 9.30 A.M. | Venue: Cochin Shipyard Limited

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Highlights of IAC Vikrant

- IAC Vikrant will be a force multiplier and strengthen the Indian Navy's offensive and defensive capabilities.
- Long distance tactical air power of IAC Vikrant enhances India's position as the preferred security partner and first responder in the Indian Ocean Region.
- IAC Vikrant propels India into a select league of nations with niche capability to design and build aircraft carriers.
- Ship's Aviation Complement: Mix of 30 Aircraft & Helicopters
- Maximum speed of 28 Knots (52 Km/Hour)
- Designed by Warship Design Bureau and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited under MoPSW
- 262 meter long carrier with a full displacement close to 43,000 tonnes
- Length of Electrical cables approximately 2500 kilometers.
- 76% indigenous content of IAC Vikrant involving 550 Indian companies including 100 MSMEs is a true reflection of Make In India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF

Shri Arif Mohammed Khan
Hon'ble Governor of Kerala

Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

Shri Rajnath Singh
Hon'ble Defence Minister

Shri Ajit Doval
Hon'ble National Security Advisor

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Minister of Ports,
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Admiral R. Hari Kumar
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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, KULGAM

(Committee Members Of Selection For The Posts Of Driver, Vacant In District Kulgam)

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

No. 73

Dated 31-08-2022

Subject:- Commencement of process of Selection for the post of Driver, (Non- Gazetted) vacant in Principal District & Sessions Court Kulgam in the pay scale of Level-2 (19900- 63200).

- a) Date of commencement for submission of offline applications: 05.09.2022
b) Last date for submission of offline applications: 20-09-2022
c) Last date for submission of fee: 20-09-2022

Total number of posts advertised = (01) in Open Merit.

Offline applications are invited from eligible candidates belonging to District Kulgam for participating in the selection process of Driver mentioned above through this notification who:

- i) are belonging to District Kulgam only, and
ii) are domiciles of UT of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of S.O 166 dated 18.05.2020 issued by GAD, Government of Jammu and Kashmir and those who are residents of District Kulgam for a period of not less than 15 years before the date of applying and are actually residing in the area.

iii) Are having age as on 01.01.2022.

(a) Not below 18 years, and

(b) Not above 40 in case of Open Merit,

(c) 43 years in case of SC/ST/RBA/ALC/OSC,

(d) 48 years in case of Ex. Servicemen.

(e) 40 years in case of candidates in Government Service/Contractual employees;

The application form must be accompanied by a Demand Draft of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only) from J&K Bank in the name of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kulgam.

iv) Applications alongwith the prescribed fee shall be received only through offline mode by this Office w.e.f 05.09.2022.

v) Before applying offline, candidates are advised to carefully go through the guidelines for offline submission of applications.

vi) Call letters shall not be issued individually however, wide publicity shall be given through print, electronic media and District Court official website <https://districts.ecourts.gov.in/kulgam> about the venue, dates of the written test/interview for the information of eligible candidates. No claim of being unaware of the dates/schedule for written test/interview shall be entertained.

vii) No TA/DA will be paid for participation in the written test/interview.

Note:

a) Submission of Application Form and fee payment shall not be accepted/entertained after the cut-off date fixed for receipt of the same.

b) Candidates shall submit the Application Form/fee payment receipt in the office of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kulgam w.e.f 05.09.2022.

c) Please note that the above procedure is the only valid procedure for applying. Incomplete applications forms shall be rejected.

d) The application form must be accompanied by, fee payment draft and required copies of documents.

e) The in-service candidates / contractual employees shall submit photocopy of the filled up offline application form through proper channel viz, the concerned Head of Department. In the event of failure of the candidate to route the application through proper channel, his /her eligibility shall be assessed as if he/she is not an in-service candidate. The Head of Department concerned shall forward the application form of the in-service candidates at the address of the Principal District & Sessions Court Kulgam within the above referred period.

i) The last date for the submission of offline application forms as prescribed above shall be the cut-off date for determining the eligibility to apply for the post. The age limit, however, is determinable with reference to the 1st of January, 2022. Any qualification/experience acquired after last date of receipt/submission of online application form i.e., 05-09-2022 shall not be taken into account for any purpose.

ii) The following criteria are laid down for conducting the test for Determining the knowledge and level of driving skill

a) The candidates must be a Matriculate from a recognized School Board and must possess a valid driving license with LMV/HMV endorsement;

b) The candidates shall have to undergo a written test to determine the general knowledge and the Traffic Rules. On the basis of merit obtained in the written test, the candidates shall be called for determining the driving skill in the ratio of 1:5.

c) Driving skill shall be conducted for which an expert from the Traffic Department shall be co-opted as a member of the Selection Committee.

d) Cumulative grade of the marks obtained in the written examination and the driving test shall form the final merit.

e) The persons who are already engaged on adhoc or daily wage basis in the Subordinate Courts shall be eligible to apply irrespective of the minimum and maximum standards of age, and they shall be given relaxation in the minimum and maximum standards of age.

DIPK-9062/22

(Tahir Khurshid Raina)
Principal District & Session Judge

No: PDSJ/Kgm/629-34 Dated 31-08-2022

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF DRIVER AT DISTRICT JUDICIARY KULGAM.

1. Name of the applicant _____
(In Block Letters)
2. Father's Name _____
3. Permanent Address:-
Village, _____ Mohalla _____
Tehsil, _____ District _____
4. Date of Birth as per matriculation Certificate ____ / ____ / ____
5. Gender _____
6. Nationality _____
7. Religion _____

Affix Self Attested
recent passport size
photograph (4cm x
5cm)

8. Educational Qualification (Please enclose documents in support)

| Examination Passed | Board / University | Year of Passing | Subjects | Total Marks | Marks Obtained | Percentage |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| 10 th / Matriculation | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

9. Details of Driving Licence held (Please enclose documents in support)

| Driving Licence No. | Issuing Authority | Date of Issue | Valid upto | Type (LML/HMV) | Remarks |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|---------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

10. Present Postal address for correspondence _____
District _____ Tehsil _____ Mohalla _____ Mobile _____
Number _____

11. List of documents attached stating the item for which the document attached.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

I, hereby declare that all the statements made in the application form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. In the event of any information being found to be false/incorrect or ineligible being detected before or after, my candidature for appointment will stand automatically cancelled without any notice.

Date: _____

Signature of the applicant.

Place: _____

Survey Finds Young People Follow News, But Without Much Joy

Associated Press

Young people are following the news, but aren't too happy with what they're seeing.

Broadly speaking, that's the conclusion of a study released Wednesday showing 79% of young Americans say they get news daily. The survey of young people ages 16 to 40 the older of which are known as millennials and the younger Generation Z was conducted by Media Insight Project, a collaboration between The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the American Press Institute.

The report pokes holes in the idea that young people aren't interested in news, a perception largely driven by statistics showing older audiences for television news and newspapers.

They are more engaged in more ways than people give them credit for, said Michael Bolden, CEO and executive director of the American Press Institute.

An estimated 71% of this age group gets news daily from social media. The social media diet is becoming more varied; Facebook doesn't dominate the way it used to.

About a third or more get news each day from YouTube and Instagram, and about a quarter or more from TikTok, Snapchat and Twitter. Now, 40% say they get news from Facebook daily, compared with 57% of millennials who said that in a 2015 Media Insight Project survey.

Yet 45% also said they get news each day from traditional sources, like television or radio stations, newspapers and news websites. The poll found that about a quarter of young people say they regularly pay for at least one news product, like print or digital magazines or newspapers, and a similar percentage have donated to at least one nonprofit news organization.

Only 32% say they enjoy following the news. That's a marked decrease from seven years ago, when 53% of millennials said that. Few-

er young people now say they enjoy talking with family and friends about the news.

Other findings, such as people who say they feel worse the longer they spend online or who set time limits on their consumption, point to a weariness with the news, said Tom Rosenstiel, a University of Maryland journalism professor.

I wasn't surprised by that, Bolden said. It has been a challenging news cycle, especially the last three years.

About 9 in 10 young people say misinformation about issues and events is a problem, including about 6 in 10 who say it's a major problem. Most say they've been exposed to misinformation themselves.

Asked who they consider most responsible for its spread, young people pointed to social media companies and users, politicians and the media in equal measure.

That may surprise people in the media who believe they are fighting misinformation, and are not part of the problem, Bolden said.

A significant number of people disagree.

Whether that's accurate or not, the people in this business have to deal with that perception, he said.

He suggested that it's important for news organizations to better explain what it is that they do and how coverage decisions are made, along with taking a step back to make clear how government functions, as well as holding leaders to account.

The percentage of people who say news stories that seem to mostly create conflict rather than help address it and media outlets that pass on conspiracy theories and unsubstantiated rumors are a major problem exceeded the number of people concerned about journalists putting too much opinion in their stories, the survey found.

That would seem to point a finger at cable news outlets that fill air time with debates on particular issues, often pitting people with extreme points of view. New CNN chief executive Chris Licht has recently called on his network to cool the overheated segments.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing Consumer Id No: 0203010002912 from Razia W/o Muzaffar Ahmad R/o Hilalabad Qamarwari to Mohammad Aslam Shah S/o Mohammad Abdullah Shah R/o Dabtal Zainakote . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned office of the within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Aslam Shah
S/o Mohammad Abdullah Shah

ishw



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www.irel.co.in/tender-information

Any corrigendum/extension to the above tenders shall be hosted in the above websites only.

Date: **02.09.2022** GM & Head, RED
CBC 48129/12/0032/2223

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my character certificate of class 12th bearing Roll No:38206248. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Govt boys Higher Secondary School Dargah Hazratbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zahir Abbass Teli
Father: Ashiq Hussain Teli

inf

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars

Zayiga Mustafa
D/o Gulam Mustafa Sheikh
R/o Lalpora Kunzer
Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 2410430 Session /Year . 2020



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

bmj

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Mohd Altaf Teli
S/o Gh Mohd Teli
R/o Lalpora Kunzer
Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 12431219 Session /Year . 2020



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

bmj

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday 02 September 2022 | 05 Safar | 1444 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 205 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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Govt Switches To Online Mode To Make Passport Verification Simple

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: In a move that will bring relief to thousands of people applying for travel documents, the government is connecting the Regional Passport Office (RPO), Srinagar with all the police stations across Kashmir Valley through an on-line system to expedite the verification process.

RPO Kashmir and Ladakh Division, Nishith Kumar Shil told Kashmir Observer on Thursday that the current manual model is being replaced with an on-line model, wherein process of

the security clearance will be sought electronically.

"Earlier, we would send a request for security clearance to the district Superintendent of police (SP). Then, the cops from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) would call the applicant and seek the details manually," Shil said.

He said this process was time consuming and would normally take at least 21 days.

"But now, we have an end to

THE RUSH IS WITNESSED WHEN THE APPLICANTS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS visit the office early. And since international restrictions on travel after COVID-19 was revoked, there is a high demand for passports."

end process.

With the latest model, the passport office would directly seek the verification from the concerned police station or police post of the applicant through online mode,"

he said.

"It normally takes two months to issue a fresh passport. However, with the new model, the process will not take more than a month," he added.

According to Shil, the pilot project will be inaugurated from Ganderbal district and

later implemented in other districts, if it becomes successful.

"We will also request the police to have a dedicated official for this process so that the applicant gets a passport within a month," he added.

Pertinently, the RPO, Srinagar usually witnesses an unprecedented rush of applicants. On average, the office receives around eight thousand applications for passports every month.

While responding to this question, Shil said they issue a time slot to each applicant for the personal verification, many of them from other districts of

the Union Territory.

"The rush is witnessed when the applicants from other districts visit the office early. And since international restrictions on travel after COVID-19 was revoked, there is a high demand for passports," he said.

An official from CID told Kashmir Observer that the new model will surely unburden the extra work load and is a "welcome step".

"Normally, the verification procedure takes about 3 weeks from the receipt of the application, however with the new model it will take **More on P6**

24 Yr Old Kashmiri Dies In Saudi

Family Seeks Help From LG Admin To Bring Back Body

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 24-year-old youth from Devsar area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district died of a cardiac arrest in Saudi Arabia even as the family have appealed to the authorities to help them bring their son's body back home.

News agency KNO quoting an official reported that the man identified as Mohammad Usman Shah of Gundipora Devsar died of heart attack in Saudi Arabia on the intervening night of Tuesday- Wednesday.

They said that Shah, who was the brother of six sisters, was working as a waiter in a company in Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Ramzan Shah, deceased's uncle said that they came to know through his friend that Usmaan has died of cardiac arrest.

"He belongs to a very poor family and had gone to Saudi Arabia for earning but unfortunately he died of cardiac arrest and now he has left behind a mentally challenged brother, six sisters and parents," he said.

The family members appealed to the LG lead administration to help them in bringing back their son's body.

Meanwhile, deputy commissioner Kulgam in a tweet informed that they were in contact with Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the family in Kulgam for facilitating mortal remains back to Kulgam.

J&K Has Zero Tolerance For Drug Traffickers: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Terming drug menace as a formidable threat to the socio-economic structure, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that it has become essential for the entire society to come together to uproot this menace and work as a strong unit to make Jammu and Kashmir healthy and drug free.

"It is a collective responsibility of the society to join this fight against drug menace" Sinha said, while launching a campaign for Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir at an event organized at the convention centre here, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, asserted that the administration has adopted a zero tolerance policy against drug dealers and drug traffickers.

Launching a new campaign for 'drug-free city and drug-free village', the LG, as per the spokesperson called upon the representatives from PRIs &



Urban Local Bodies to work with the administration and ensure villages and wards are made drug-free with determined efforts and proactive approach.

"Drug menace has emerged as a formidable threat to our socio-economic structure, and it is essential that the entire society must come together to uproot this menace and work as a strong unit to make J&K healthy and drug free," Sinha said.

"Under the **More on P6**



Seated inside a boat, three youths try their luck in fishing in the middle of Khushal Sar wetland in Srinagar on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Crime Graph In J&K Sees Surge In 2021: NCRB Report

136 Murders Reported Including 16 Dowry Deaths, 10 Due To Love Affair; One Honour Killing

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The overall crime graph in Jammu and Kashmir increased by 24.6 per cent in 2021 as compared to the previous year, while the cases of violent crimes declined marginally, the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) said in its latest report.

As against 25,408 cognizable crimes comprising 22,404 Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes and 3,004 Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes in 2019, the total figure of criminal



cases jumped to 31,675 in 2021 which include 27,447 IPC crimes and 4,228 SLL crimes, the report said.

The year 2020, which saw the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, recorded a total of 28,911 cognizable crimes – 25,233 IPC crimes and 3,678 SLL crimes.

The report said the crime

rate registration per lakh population stands at 235.7 from 2019 to 2021, while the overall chargesheeting rate touched 81.4 per cent.

The registration of cases under the IPC was 22,404 in 2019, 25,233 in 2020, 27,447 in 2021 and that under the SLL was 3,004 in 2019, 3,678 in 2020 and 4,228 in 2021.

However, the report said the violent crime incidents recorded a marginal decline with 3,100 such incidents reported in 2019 against 3,072 in 2021. The year 2020 recorded a total of 2,821 such cases and the charge sheeting rate was 67.2 per cent during this period.

The report said there were 136 cases of murder in 2021 against 149 in the previous year. The Union Territory **More on P6**

Draft Policy For Rehab Of Street Children Unveiled

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Jammu & Kashmir government has prepared the draft policy for rehabilitation of children in street situations (CISS) and put it in public domain for feedback.

The J&K government has sought suggestions on the draft policy from interested individuals, organisations, statutory bodies and other stakeholders by or before September 06.

According to the draft policy, its main objective is to take steps for identification and suitable rehabilitation for children in street situations.

It also defines the roles and responsibilities of the nodal officer at both UT level and district level for rehabilitation of children in street situations.

The policy also recommends

measures for rehabilitation of children in street situations in accordance with the prevailing situations and provides a plan for their reporting and monitoring.

As per the policy, the district magistrate along with the key officers of the line departments and other stakeholders/public representatives shall be responsible for the identification, rescue and rehabilitation of CISS.

"The district magistrate shall hold a meeting with all stakeholders at least once in a month," the draft policy states.

The policy provides that the administrative secretary of the Social Welfare Department shall monitor the status of CISS on a quarterly basis.

As per the policy, a committee headed by chief secretary shall take a review of rehabilitation of CISS once in **More on P6**

Helpline For Counseling Of Victims Launched

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday launched a toll free helpline number to provide counseling to the victims of drug abuse. Titled 'Sakoon' the toll free helpline (number 18001807202), a mental health helpline to value life and for counseling victims was launched by **More on P6**

'J&K Has Become Top Priority Of Govt'

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that after August 2019, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, development of Jammu and Kashmir has become top priority of the government. Sinha made these **More on P6**

J&K HAS BEEN RANKED SECOND IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE in the anti-drug campaign and was honored by the Home Minister. The ranking and award is a tribute to each and every stakeholder who is dedicatedly working to make J&K drug-free."

S H O R T T A K E S

J&K Adds 147 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 147 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Thursday, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic to 477931.

According to officials, 121 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 26 from different parts of Jammu division. In the Valley, they said, Srinagar reported the highest 44 new cases of virus, Budgam 30, Baramulla 20, Kupwara 7, Ganderbal and Anantnag six each, Kulgam 3, Bandipora and Shopian 2 each and Pulwama 1. **More on P6**

Two Dead In Truck-Car Collision

Two people were killed and three others injured on Thursday after a car collided with a truck in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Mohammad Sidiq Khan and Mohammad Zaman Khan, both residents of Trikanjan, Uri were killed when a private car collided with a truck near Hotel Point in Pattan along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway on Thursday, reports said. Three persons injured in the accident were shifted to trauma hospital Pattan, reports said. Meanwhile, police have registered **More on P6**

Man Critically Injured In Bear Attack

A sexagenarian man was attacked and critically injured on Thursday by a black bear in Handwara area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. 60-year-old Mohammad Yousuf Mir was working in his orchard in Lachampora village of Handwara on Thursday afternoon when a bear appeared there and attacked him, reports said. The elderly man, reports said, was critically injured and removed by his family and neighbours to the district hospital for treatment. However, the doctors **More on P6**

Technical Assistant Falls In ACB Net

The Anti-corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested a Technical Assistant for accepting a bribe from a contractor to prepare bills for the work he had executed in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. "The ACB received a complaint against Ishfaq Razaq Sheikh, Technical Assistant in Langate block of Kupwara district for demanding bribe of Rs 50,000 for preparing bill of the work executed by the complainant," an ACB spokesperson said. After receiving the complaint, verification into the matter was conducted discreetly **More on P6**

Soldier Dies Mysteriously In Jammu

A soldier posted in the army cantonment area in Jammu outskirts died under mysterious circumstances, police said on Thursday. Police said that the jawan had suffered injuries a few days back while playing volleyball. "Army jawan, identified as Anil Kumar, a resident of village Budhpur, district Bhagpat, Uttar Pradesh, died under suspicious circumstances in Nagrota Military Cantonment," police said, adding that the cause of death is being ascertained. **More on P6**

MeT Predicts Dry Weather In J&K

Weather department here on Thursday predicted mainly dry weather with little chances of light rain at isolated rain and thunders over Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours. A meteorological department official here said that there was no large change expected in the weather till September 4 when there is possibility of scattered showers. Regarding minimum temperature, the official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 16.6°C against 16.6°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.1°C above normal for **More on P6**

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

K O V I E W

Has Taliban changed?

When Taliban took over Kabul after fighting the United States to a standstill following a war of attrition that stretched over two decades, there were in India, especially in Kashmir that this would lead to escalation of militancy in Kashmir. A year on, Taliban regime in Kabul has had no detrimental fallout on the region's security landscape, especially in Kashmir where it was most anticipated. The Taliban is now firmly in control of the country, having vanquished all opposition, including in Panjshir which was led by the former Afghan Vice President Amrullah Saleh and Ahmad Massoud.

As the Taliban forced the US into a chaotic, hasty withdrawal last year, India was alarmed. Top BJP leader Ram Madhav was the first to warn of "serious security challenges". But the fears have not come true as there has been no expected escalation in violence in the region or in Kashmir.

The militancy in the Valley, despite occasional killings, remains at its lowest ebb in years. So much so, that at times its end seems very much at hand. True, there has been some spillover of arms from Afghanistan, confirmed early this year by none other than the then Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane.

The videos showing militants carrying M249 automatic rifles, 509 tactical guns, M1911 pistols, and M4 carbine rifles have surfaced in recent past. Security forces have also recovered over a dozen Iridium satellite phones and Wifi-enabled thermal imagery devices that help militants to infiltrate and circumvent security cordons. These weapons were used by the US forces in Afghanistan. But these weapons have made no difference to the prevailing situation on the ground.

This is unlike the Taliban's previous stint in power, which led to a steep rise in violence in the Valley. A few scores of Afghan and Afghan-trained militants scaled up the violence in Kashmir. But that there has been no turn for the worse in the violence this time round testifies to the fact that the world has moved on. The Taliban itself has shown some indifference to any involvement in Kashmir. It craves global legitimacy, aid and recognition, it just doesn't want to get associated with other battles. And this is also apparent from the balanced noises its leaders have so far made on Kashmir.

Taliban has, more or less, lived up to these expectations. It has largely kept to itself, busy mopping up the fallout of four decades of war and conflict. The outfit faces an egregious and nearly impossible task of rebuilding the country, and it has no resources to do this. Also, the twenty years of war with the US appear to have sobered the Taliban, at least, as far as exporting militancy. New Delhi will hope there's no change in this situation.

OTHER OPINION

CEO's Work-life Imbalance

In one of the more popular fairy tale tropes, the bad witch offers the naive young heroine untold wealth and life in a castle with Prince Charming in return for something fantastically unreasonable, like giving up her first-born child or her tongue. Bombay Shaving Company's CEO Shantanu Deshpande didn't go quite so far. In a recent post on LinkedIn, Deshpande told young workers that they can build enough "flex" in the first five years of their career to carry them through the rest, if only they put in "18 hours a day" and exhorted them not to do "random rona-dhona" (whining) about things like work-life balance and spending time with family. Thousands of people online have correctly interpreted this CEO-speak as an unconscionable demand for blood, sweat and tears, and accused Deshpande of promoting a "toxic" work culture.

Among the problems highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic was that of excessively demanding workplaces and burnout. As the global economy picks itself up again, the urge to get back to "business as usual" is being met with subtle resistance — like the Great Resignation in which many voluntarily left their existing jobs to pursue something more fulfilling or the Quiet Quitting movement where workers do only as much as is expected of their jobs and nothing more.

At such a time, when more voices are speaking up for shortening work days — even proposing such shifts as a four- or three-day work week — battling for 18-hour work days seems ill-fitting and out of step. After generating massive outrage online, Deshpande clarified that he doesn't "literally" mean that young people should work 18 hours a day and that anyone is welcome to speak to his employees about the work culture in his company. Yet, in its tone-deafness, his original post shows that the battle for a workplace that doesn't eat into workers' personal lives and well-being is going to be a long one.

The Indian Express

Ground beneath Zelensky's feet is shifting

Reading and rereading the US President Joe Biden's statement last Monday on Ukraine Independence Day, one is reminded of English poet John Keats' immortal line, 'Heard melodies are sweet but those unheard are sweeter.' Three things are striking.

Biden repeatedly invoked the abiding nature of the US' relationship with the Ukrainian people. But in the entire statement, he never once mentioned the Ukrainian government or the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelensky. A careless omission?

Second, Biden underplayed to the point of ignoring the intense US-Ukraine partnership at state-to-state level. The regime in Kiev is unthinkable without robust US support. Third, most important, Biden was silent on the war as such, which is at a decisive stage at present.

As recently as on August 18, twenty prominent American national security professionals urged the Biden administration to "to produce a satisfactory strategic narrative which enables governments to maintain public support for the NATO engagement over the long term... (and) move more quickly and strategically, in meeting Ukrainian requests for weapons systems."

But Biden neatly sidestepped all that. Even when he spoke of the latest tranche of arms for Ukraine worth \$2.98 billion, Biden expressed the hope that the weapon systems may ensure that Ukraine "can continue to defend itself over the long term." (Emphasis added.)

American analysts estimate that the \$2.98 billion weapons package is radically different in its dispensation mechanism. Thus, while military aid hitherto was drawn from pre-existing stockpiles of US weaponry and equipment, this time around, the aid package will be purchased or ordered from defence contractors.

John Kirby, the spokesman for the National Security Council, admitted to reporters that some of the aid in the latest package could be dispensed more slowly than other parts of the package depending on defence contractors' current stocks. He vaguely said, "It's going to depend, quite frankly, on the item that we're talking about. Some stuff probably will still need some production time to develop."

In effect, the military-industrial complex may have more to celebrate in Biden's announcement than Zelensky. The Biden administration is moving away from depleting US current stockpiles, as European allies are also doing.

According to Mark Cancian, Senior Adviser, International Security Program at the CSIS, Biden's latest \$2.98 billion package "will sustain the Ukrainian military over the long term but take months or even years to implement fully... Thus, this (package) will sustain the Ukrainian military over the long term, likely postwar, rather than increase its capabilities in the near or medium term..."

"This means that the U.S. ability to provide equipment rapidly may be diminishing... The administration may need to ask Congress for more money soon. Although the bipartisan consensus for supporting Ukraine remains strong, there may be a fight with the progressive left and isolationist right about the wisdom of sending money abroad when there are pressing needs at home."

This is almost the same dilemma that the US' European allies are facing. The prestigious German think tank, Kiel Institute for the World Economy reported last week: "The flow of new inter-



Indeed, while on the one hand, the United States continues to exert military pressure on Russia, hoping to break the resistance of its long-term strategic adversary, on the other hand, over the past two months, Washington has repeatedly signalled that it is not seeking victory, but a final solution to the Ukraine problem through peaceful negotiations

national support for Ukraine has dried up in July. No large EU country like Germany, France, or Italy, has made significant new pledges."

It said the EU commission is pushing for larger and more regular aid packages to Ukraine, but the enthusiasm is lacking at the member country level — "Major EU countries such as France, Spain, or Italy have so far provided very little support or remain very opaque about their aid."

Waning domestic support is the main factor. Even in Poland, there is "refugee fatigue". The inflation is the all-consuming concern in the public opinion. The German magazine Spiegel has reported that Chancellor Olaf Scholz is facing dissent within his own party ranks from those who want Berlin to stop providing Kiev with weapons and instead want the chancellor to engage in dialogue with Russia.

On Thursday, Chancellor Scholz made a significant remark at a public event in Magdeburg that Berlin will not provide Kiev with arms that could be used to attack Russia. Scholz explained that Berlin's goal in sending weapons is to "support Ukraine" and "prevent an escalation of the war into some-

thing that would be very different." He said he was echoing Biden's thinking.

Indeed, while on the one hand, the United States continues to exert military pressure on Russia, hoping to break the resistance of its long-term strategic adversary, on the other hand, over the past two months, Washington has repeatedly signalled that it is not seeking victory, but a final solution to the Ukraine problem through peaceful negotiations.

As in Germany, there is a huge amount of anti-war pressure in the US too, especially among Democratic Party and the academic elite, as well as retired high-ranking officials and business executives, calling on the administration to stop heating up the situation around Ukraine. If the Democrats lose the midterm elections, or if the Republicans come to power in 2024, then the war could take a fundamentally different turn. Over time, similar changes are highly likely to occur in Europe too.

Already, the steady decline in the intensity of the impact of European and US sanctions against Russia speaks for itself. The Economist, which is a virulent critic of the Kremlin, admitted this week that the expected knockout blow from anti-Russia restrictions "has not materialised." The magazine wrote: "Energy sales will generate a current-account surplus of \$265 billion this year (for Russia), the world's second-largest after China. After a crunch, Russia's financial system has stabilised and the country is finding new suppliers for some imports, including China."

On a sombre note, the Economist wrote, "The unipolar moment of the 1990s, when America's supremacy was uncontested, is long gone, and the West's appetite to use military force has waned since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Again, internationally, the support for Ukraine outside of the western bloc has dropped dramatically in the recent months. Kiev's proposal on Wednesday to condemn Russia attracted the backing

of just 58 out of 193 UN member states, whereas, at the March 2 UN GA session, 141 member countries had voted for a non-binding resolution to condemn Moscow.

Equally, Zelensky's teflon coating is peeling off. His drug addiction is out in public view. The regime is shaky, as the wave of purges in the Ukrainian security establishment shows. According to Turkish President Recep Erdogan who met Zelensky in Lvov recently, the latter sounded insecure and unsure whether he is being fully kept informed of the ground situation.

Zelensky's erratic behaviour is not exactly endearing him, either. Pope Francis is the latest figure to be chastised by Kiev — because the Pontiff remarked that Darya Dugina was "innocent." The Vatican ambassador was summoned to the foreign ministry to receive Kiev's protest.

The German daily Handelsblatt wrote today that the "internal cohesion" of the Ukrainian government "is in danger. There are serious allegations against the president... At home, the Ukrainian president, who is celebrated abroad as a war hero, is under pressure... The comedian has become a warlord... The 44-year-old has so far been able to switch and act freely with his team, which is partly made up of colleagues from his television production company. But the grace period now seems to have expired." The daily forecast an approaching political upheaval by winter.

Biden carefully distanced himself from the Kiev regime and focused on the people-to-people relations. Even if the Americans know the Byzantine corridors of power in Kiev, they cannot afford to be explicit like the former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev who predicted last week that the Ukrainian military may stage a coup and enter into peace talks with Russia.

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 India Punchline



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Jobs shrinking for Civil and Mechanical Engineers

Thousands of recent graduates in civil and mechanical engineering are now furiously battling for a shrinking pool of jobs and facing an increasingly uncertain future due to attenuating economy. According to data, one out of every three graduates of civil and mechanical engineering in cities are

unemployed. With the economy expanding slowly, about 50,000 graduates in civil, mechanical engineering entering the market every year. Due to the slowing economy and the competition between experienced workers and newcomers with engineering degrees for entry-level positions, MSME and MNC businesses

are reluctant to hire. Such positions have vanished from the tech and other sectors, which typically hire new talent. Analysts blame a slowing economy crippled by Covid-19 lockdowns, as well as the large cohort entering the labour force during the graduating season, for the slim prospects facing Engineering youth. Long

lines of recent graduates in civil and mechanical engineering are standing in queue for jobs. However, headhunters are claiming that because there were so few open positions, they are selectively choosing Engineers from prestigious universities.

Vijaykumar H K

S.M.A.R.T

Goals for Better Mental Health

Waseem Kakroo

Goals make life purposeful. They are meant to push you on a regular basis to use your talent, skills, creativity, time, money, and opportunities to make a real difference in your life, your family, your job, and your immediate surroundings.

Despite the fact that making goals is frequently connected to the start of a new year, goal-setting can be helpful at any time of the year. Setting goals as a fundamental part of psychotherapy sessions can be a helpful tool for improving one's growth personally as well as therapeutically to enhance mental health. During therapeutic sessions, goals are set as they are meant to shape a healthy philosophy in client's mind.

The process of setting goals is entwined with the self-determination values that are crucial to mental health. Setting goals specifically enables the person to decide what tasks are important to them and make a strategy of their own free will to fulfill them. For the purpose of reducing problematic behaviors linked to various mental illnesses, opportunities for autonomous decision-making are also crucial.

What are SMART GOALS and how they can benefit mental health?

Goal setting is important for every individual however, for people who deal with various mental health issues, setting goals for themselves can be work as a savior. Individuals exercise their autonomy when setting and completing goals, which is a crucial aspect of mental health. A quality goal has a few characteristics that define it. The acronym SMART, which stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound, refers to these characteristics.

This goal-setting technique can help you brace yourself up for success in all facets of your life, including your mental health. Let's examine what each of these criteria signifies.

- SPECIFIC:** The first step is to clearly define your goals and write them down as instructions for yourself. Your goal statement needs to be very specific; nothing should be left ambiguous. After reading the whole statement, you should be able to respond to the who, what, when, where, and why questions.
- EXAMPLE:** They would say, for instance, "I want to read two novels every month," rather than just "I want to read more books." Who else has to be involved, whether any preparation is required, possibly

where, and why this aim is the goal are other details that could be included. Reading aloud to a friend could be beneficial in the case. To borrow books virtually, they might need to buy software or set up regular trips to the library. Making these choices should take into account the goal-setter's objective. For instance, their preparation for this aim would be significantly different if their goal were to practice and enhance their reading skills

rather than to reduce the amount of time they spend staring at screens on devices.

- MEASURABLE:** Throughout the process of achieving your goal, you should be able to measure your progress and determine how far you still have to go. It includes understanding what benchmarks will you use to gauge your development?
- EXAMPLE:** The standard is quite straightforward: each month, two novels

should be read. When creating a goal, it's critical to be clear about how progress will be measured as well as how data will be gathered as the goal is accomplished. How frequently will the person check in to see how things are going? What precisely will they be keeping an eye on?

- ACHIEVABLE:** While it's important to set challenging goals that will allow you to grow, you shouldn't set yourself up for failure in the

process. Make sure your goals are reasonable for the time you have allocated yourself when you are setting them.

EXAMPLE: The person may choose to begin by reading one book each month and depending on how they are doing, after a few months, move to 2 books per month.

- RELEVANT:** How does your goal fit into your long-term plan? What role does it have in the greater scheme of your life? When you succeed in your goal, you don't want to run into a brick wall.
- EXAMPLE:** If the person setting the goal is already reads two novels per month, this goal would not be applicable to them. If so, reading three books every month or possibly raising the reading levels of the novels would be excellent goals.
- TIME-BOUND:** Setting deadlines for your goals will motivate you along the way. They will assist you with organizing yourself, setting priorities for your work, and developing a sense of urgency so that you can complete your goals within set time.
- EXAMPLE:** The goal of reading two novels per month is a fantastic way to outline what will be achieved (hopefully), but there must be a clear end in sight. The individual might choose to read two novels each month for three months, then assess their performance and establish a new goal.

Setting SMART goals is a means to make personal improvements or accomplishments, and doing so is good for mental health. An act of self-determination involves making decisions on what to work on for oneself and carrying them out. Self-confidence and mental wellness are increased when one completes a meaningful task for themselves. Setting goals can happen on an individual basis, as part of a wider programme or treatment plan, or both, with the same positive outcome.

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No-Nonsense Guide to Measuring Productivity

W. Bruce Chew

A few years ago, a major manufacturing-based conglomerate asked a gifted mathematician to join its corporate staff. One of his first assignments was to design a system that senior managers could use to evaluate the operating efficiency of the company's various divisions. He devoted many months to the assignment and also tapped the knowledge of several academic experts. The result was a truly sophisticated model that combined historical performance data with economic forecasts to set target productivity levels for each business unit.

Much to management's dismay, however, when the results were in, the model suggested that not one unit was performing up to snuff. So headquarters asked the obvious question—Why? Why was an organization that was generating handsome profits and cash flows showing such disappointing productivity? The expert could not answer the question, nor was his model designed to do so. Not surprisingly, executives saw little value in the new system and scrapped it.

It's essential to measure productivity appropriately. Many companies that want to raise their competitiveness are investing a lot of money and faith in methods to track their plants' and offices' efficiency. Staff specialists or outside consultants—experts in cost accounting, statistics, and economics—usually play an important role in designing these systems. But specialists are often trained to focus on the technical elegance and statistical accuracy of productivity indexes. All too often, they introduce methods that are very precise but ignore the real challenges managers face.

While collecting information on productivity measurement systems and interviewing managers at plants across the United States during the last several years, I have seen many examples of effective productivity measurement—systems that have led to big strides in operating efficiency. But more frequently I have encountered frustration and confusion. A manager will look at a productivity index

developed by a specialist and say, "Whoever came up with this has no idea what my business is like."

Productivity measurement is simply too important to be delegated to productivity specialists. But managers don't have to become experts themselves to ensure that existing systems meet their needs—or that new systems are relevant. A set of practical guidelines can help them understand, evaluate, and apply productivity measurement techniques effectively.

LOOK BEYOND DIRECT LABOR

What is productivity? Remarkably, many people who make decisions every day about improving plant efficiency don't know how to answer this simple question. Let's begin with what productivity is not.

Productivity is not about wages. High wages can present a problem, not because workers are paid too much but because they produce too little. In deciding how best to measure productivity, managers should focus not on dollars per hour but on labor dollars per product. That is, on labor content, not labor cost. Workers who are very productive can be paid thousands of dollars more than employees elsewhere and the business can still prosper, as manufacturers like Lincoln Electric have demonstrated.

Productivity measurement should focus on overall capabilities, not on one set of costs. How good is your company at taking a pile of raw materials, a bunch of machines, stacks of paperwork, and groups of employees, and turning out useful goods or services? That's what a productivity index should address. It is, as much as possible, a relationship between physical inputs and outputs. The formula is disarmingly simple.

The company producing more with a given set of inputs (capital, labor, and materials) or using fewer inputs to produce the same output has an advantage over the company producing less. Lower input costs create an added advantage—but not the principal advantage that productivity measures must identify. The central mission of a productivity index is to illuminate how a business can get more units of

output per labor hour, per machine, or per pound of materials than its competitors.

Still, much of U.S. industry remains preoccupied with direct labor. At the national level, productivity figures do mean labor productivity. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, the primary source of productivity information, logically enough focuses on labor productivity. Cost accounting also reinforces this bias. The allocation of overhead, for example, is often based exclusively on labor hours. This approach may have been reasonable when labor hours represented a large percentage of total costs, but today, for many businesses, labor is a minor cost element. Or the bias may simply come from too many years when managing operations meant "kicking butts and taking names." If persuading people to work harder is all there is to efficiency, then stressing labor productivity makes sense.

But there is much more to productivity, and many companies miss opportunities to bolster efficiency in nonlabor areas. Consider one U.S. plant manager's experience at a company with extensive fabrication and assembly operations. For a long time, he was uncomfortable with the way his division was allocating its annual \$2 million productivity improvement budget. On being promoted to run all the division's plants, he at once reviewed spending on productivity programs. His intuition proved correct, as Exhibit I illustrates. Although direct labor accounted for only 10% of manufacturing costs, nearly 40% of the productivity budget was allocated to upgrading direct-labor efficiency. His subordinates are now looking for ways to reduce overhead and make better use of technology.

Exhibit I How One Company Didn't Match Productivity Improvement Spending to Production Costs

Single-minded attention to direct labor can produce unexpected consequences. Several years ago, a big New York bank concerned about labor costs in its back office implemented a department-by-department system to measure productivity, defined as transactions per employee. Senior management gave high visibility to

the new system and even used it to calculate a large portion of the bonuses it paid to line managers. So the line managers computerized everything in sight. The result was increased productivity in every department but one—data processing. While staff was shrinking in the rest of the bank, data processing came under incredible pressure. It boosted its staff as well as its spending on hardware and software.

If that expansion in overhead was best for the bank, executives could never say for sure; their measurement system focused only on the productivity of direct labor. It didn't analyze the trade-offs between the productivity of departments (shorter turnaround times on letters of credit vs. growth in the data processing head count) or between cuts in variable costs (labor) and higher capital spending (new computers).

TAKE A MULTIFACTOR PERSPECTIVE

The trouble with single-factor productivity measures (whether output per labor hour, output per machine, or output per ton of material) is that it is easy to increase the productivity of one factor by replacing it with another. Labor, capital, and materials are all potential substitutes for each other. Effective productivity measurement requires the development of an index that identifies the contribution of each factor of production and then tracks and combines them.

Take a hypothetical plant that machines purchased castings as one step in its production of motors. Now the company decides to purchase this component premachined. The premachined parts cost 20% more than standard castings, but buying them allows the company to lay off skilled workers and sell its machine tools. What happens to productivity? Output has remained constant, but the number of workers has fallen, so labor productivity is up. So too is capital productivity, by virtue of the lower asset base. But materials productivity has declined by 20% since output is unchanged, while the value of purchased materials has gone up.

In such a situation, a productivity index that focuses only on labor or capital would

create strong incentives to reduce the value added by operations, which may not at all be management's goal. In theory, a company's make vs. buy decision process should prevent such unintended results. But with top management pushing hard for identifiable productivity increases, there is a real risk that defining productivity too narrowly will lead to unsound decisions by subordinates.

A multifactor view of productivity is important, therefore, but it is difficult for one index to encompass all inputs. Using several different single-factor measures can also yield a multifactor perspective. Indeed, even if a plant uses one aggregate measure, it still makes sense to use single-factor measures because they help identify the sources of aggregate productivity trends. A big change in a multifactor productivity measurement raises obvious questions: Is the change due to simultaneous shifts in the productivity of labor, capital, and materials, or has only one dimension changed?

DON'T SACRIFICE FUNCTION FOR FORM

A multifactor index to track productivity gives managers a convenient scorecard to answer the question, "How are we doing?" But an index can play this role only if managers and workers understand it, which may require certain compromises in mathematical elegance and accuracy. Economists and productivity specialists like to use sophisticated functional forms when they combine labor, materials, and capital into one index. Rather than simply adding everything up or averaging inputs, they prefer logarithmic and multiplicative techniques. When the chief goal is to study productivity behavior, as in statistical research, these approaches have theoretical advantages. But when the primary goal is to influence behavior, the simpler the better must be the rule. If the people who use an index can't understand it at a gut level, it probably will not affect their decisions and priorities.

Within Northern Telecom, some divisions make sure managers and workers understand multifactor productivity by including them in the design of depart-

ment-specific indexes and by keeping the indexes simple. A department develops several performance ratios (no fewer than three, no more than seven) that it believes capture the essence of its mission. For example, one design engineering team proposes six ratios, among which are: reworked drawings as a percentage of total drawings, overdue drawings as a percentage of total drawings, and overtime hours as a percentage of total hours. Next the department identifies current performance, long-term goals, and interim goals for each ratio. Finally, managers assign weights to the ratios to reflect their relative importance, with the sum totaling 100. Thus the index produces a single productivity "score" (a weighted average of the ratios) that measures progress towards agreed-on goals in a way that everyone can understand.

This approach is not analytically perfect; there is no statistical reason to limit the number of ratios to seven, for example, and the weighting scheme is undeniably subjective. But Northern Telecom follows a basic principle that many other companies fail to appreciate: when deciding whether you need greater measurement precision, ask first whether greater precision will make a real difference in subsequent actions to improve productivity. Executives should seek the measure that promises the greatest impact, not the measure boasting the greatest accuracy or technical elegance.

The same principle applies to data collection. There are real costs associated with developing and implementing elaborate productivity systems. My research suggests that the point comes—sometimes very early on—where increased accuracy is not worth additional cost. For example, the mismatch between the information provided by some accounting systems and what is needed for productivity analysis often means that bypassing the accounting data and developing data specifically for the productivity index will raise accuracy. But it is seldom worth the cost.

Housing Satisfaction For CAPF Jawans To Go Up To 74 Pc By 2024: Amit Shah

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the housing satisfaction ratio for CAPF personnel will be enhanced to about 74 per cent by late 2024 as he launched a new online portal for them that aims to increase the chances of finding a government accommodation by widening the available pool of homes.

The minister launched the 'eAwas' portal saying the government has been able to enhance the housing satisfaction for the troops of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) by 13 per cent.

The home ministry had started working on this subject as soon as Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge in 2014 and he has repeatedly said that it is the responsibility of the elected government of the day to take care of the families of the jawans who guard the frontiers of the country and render other internal security duties round-the-clock, Shah said.

The new portal will allow CAPF personnel to find houses among themselves rather than just looking for a accommodation within the force. "I am told that in many places the houses are vacant, and with this new facility we will see the housing satisfaction ratio for the personnel going up by 13 per cent," he said.

BSF Director General (DG) Pankaj Kumar Singh, who spoke before the minister to give an overview of the new facility, said as per current data about 19 per cent houses are vacant in CAPFs and through this portal a jawan of one force can seek a house available with the other force.

The CAPFs comprise the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF and SSB, apart from the Assam Rifles.

These forces have a combined strength of over 10 lakh and they are deployed across the length and breadth of the country to render a variety of internal security tasks while being posted in very harsh climate regions and high-risk areas.

Shah said when the BJP government took charge in 2014, the housing satisfaction ratio for CAPFs was about 33-34 per cent. This figure is now 48 per cent, he said.

He cited official data to say that the home ministry has constructed about 31,000 houses over the last eight years, even as around 17,000 are under-construction while another 15,000 are proposed to be built.

"By November, 2024, we will increase the housing satisfaction ratio for CAPFs by up to 60 per cent and if we take into account those available in the common pool of the forces, we can add another 13 per cent and this ratio would then be about 73-74 per cent," Shah said.

Our target is to take this ratio up to 74 per cent by that time (2024), he said.

Shah said the Modi government has initiated a number of welfare measures for the CAPFs personnel who are very vital for the economic progress of India that is emerging as a manufacturing hub of the world.

"We have distributed about 35 lakh Aayushman health cards to the jawans and their families till now. I was told about some "teething problems" in this scheme but that has been resolved now," the home minister said.

SC Questions Delayed Listing Of Bail Plea Of Setalvad

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday wondered why the Gujarat High Court has listed the bail plea of activist Teesta Setalvad for hearing on September 19, six weeks after it sent a notice to the state government seeking a response to her application, and asked the state to inform it by 2 pm on Friday about whether such a precedent existed there.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia posted the plea of Setalvad for further hearing on Friday.

Setalvad was arrested for allegedly fabricating evidence to frame "innocent people" in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases.

We will hear this case tomorrow at 2 pm. Give us instances where a lady accused in such cases has got such dates from high court. Either this lady has been made an exception.... How can the court give this date? Is this standard practice in Gujarat? an apparently displeased CJ said.

The Gujarat High Court had on August 3 issued a notice to the state government on the bail plea of Setalvad and fixed the matter for hearing on September 19.

An Ahmedabad sessions court had on July 30 rejected the bail applications of Setalvad and former Director General of Police R



B Sreekumar in the case, saying that if they were released, it will send a message to wrongdoers that a person can level allegations with impunity and get away with it.

Setalvad and Sreekumar, both arrested in June, are accused of fabricating evidence to frame "innocent people" in the post-Godhra riots cases of 2002.

They are lodged in the Sabarmati central jail. Sreekumar has also moved the high court for bail.

Former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, the third accused in the case, has not applied for bail. Bhatt was already in jail for another criminal matter when he was arrested in this case.

They were arrested by the

Ahmedabad city crime branch in June after a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against them under Indian Penal Code sections 468 (forgery for cheating) and 194 (fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction for capital offences).

Mumbai-based Setalvad and Sreekumar were arrested within a couple of days after the Supreme Court on June 24 dismissed a petition filed by Zakia Jafri, whose husband and former Congress MP Ehsaan Jafri was killed during the riots in Ahmedabad, challenging the SIT's clean chit to 64 people in the riots, including the then chief minister Narendra Modi.

Knives Out Over Mamata's RSS 'Praise', Critics Say She Wooed Hindutva Group Earlier Too

Agenceis

Kolkata: A veritable political 'storm in a tea cup' has arisen over TMC Supremo Mamata Banerjee's assertions on Wednesday that all in the RSS were not bad and there are many who do not support BJP.

While the AIMIM, Congress and CPM on Thursday attacked her for what they saw as opportunism on Banerjee's part, the BJP said it did not need certificates from her.

The RSS, instead of commenting on her left-handed praise, pointed to Bengal's record of political violence and asked for corrective measures.

The sharpest attack came from the Hyderabad-based All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, who on Thursday said that in 2003 too, she had called RSS patriots', (and) in turn Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh had called her Durga.

Owaisi, whose party failed to win a single seat including Muslim majority constituencies in Bengal in the last assembly elections where it positioned itself as opposed to both TMC and BJP, said sarcastically hope TMC's Muslim faces' praise her for her honesty and consistency.

The TMC, however, tried to make light of Owaisi's remark and said the party doesn't need to prove its secular credentials to him.

"We don't need to prove anything to Owaisi. Mamata Banerjee has tried to say that every organisation has good and bad people. We don't need to prove our secular

credentials to anyone after we defeated the BJP-RSS juggernaut in the last assembly polls," TMC MP Sougata Roy said.

However, besides AIMIM, a host of bigger parties joined the fray in taking on Mamata's 'praise' for the RSS.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Thursday told PTI "This is not for the first time that she (Mamata Banerjee) has praised the RSS. Banerjee had allied herself with the BJP-led NDA during late Atal Behari Vajpayee's term as Prime Minister, before distancing herself from the NDA but had a tempestuous relationship with the alliance, often attacking it over disinvestment and other issues.

He repeated Owaisi's instance from 2003, when she had participated in a book release programme of the RSS. She had sought their support to topple the Left Front government (then).

Chowdhury claimed Banerjee had even before that expressed her gratitude to the Nagpur-based RSS, which is considered the ideological parent of the BJP.

Sometimes she cajoles Hindu fundamentalists and sometimes the Muslims to get electoral dividends. Mamata Banerjee has been exposed again," the Congress leader told PTI.

The West Bengal chief minister had in a passing remark at state secretariat function on Wednesday said, "RSS was not that bad. There are still people in the RSS who do not support the politics BJP does".

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Switches To

less than two weeks now," he said. He further said that the applicant would get a passport after the two-layer police verifications — from the local police station and the CID.

He said those applicants who have "clean record" in their concerned police stations and CID, are given a go-ahead signal for the passport while the applications of those with "bad police character" are being withheld.

Since Manoj Sinha assumed the charge of Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory, the administration has taken several steps to encourage online services for prompt service delivery for its citizens with an effective feedback mechanism system.

On 30 August, the Government said it has made more than 200 services online for prompt service delivery for its citizens.

The LG's administration has also made it tough for the "anti-national elements" to get the passports.

However the common people are finding it very convenient to get the passover after the LG administration shifted from offline mode to online.

Maliq Kounser, an applicant from North Kashmir's Bandipora district told Kashmir Observer that the online mode of getting the passport was easier for them and the officials at the RPO were very co-operative.

"My other relatives who had applied for the passport some years ago had to wait for five months to get the passport. The process was very hectic then. However, in my case it was very smooth and took less time," Kounser said.

J&K Has Zero

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the mass movement against drug addiction has been intensified. J&K Government along with the police, army and other security agencies is working with resolute determination to thwart the neighboring country's malafide intentions," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson noted that public participation is significant to make J&K fear-free, corruption-free, drug-free and job-oriented, and said that there is need to involve community leaders, doctors, media persons, representatives of voluntary organizations and Panchayati Raj Institutions in the campaign against drug abuse, using popular mass media tools for awareness and evaluating the impact of the campaign to accelerate efforts against drug menace.

"Successful models must be replicated for self-motivated campaigns by the community. I urge the Sarpanch of each village and the ward members of ULBs to run a campaign to make their village, their locality drug-free," the LG said.

The spokesperson said that the LG directed the Social Welfare Department to make drug de-addiction centres for girls and juvenile centres functional at the earliest.

Sinha, he said, also passed a direction to set up more Integrated Rehabilitation Centers and ensure their effectiveness.

He further said that the LG recounted the administrative reforms introduced by the UT Government and efforts made in the last two years, to bring the youth of J&K out of the darkness of drug addiction.

"J&K has been ranked second in the country for the outstanding performance in the anti-drug campaign and was honored by the Home Minister. The ranking and award is a tribute to each and every stakeholder who is dedicatedly working to make J&K drug-free," Sinha said.

"In the last two years, we have been running a Jan Andolan to make the drug free campaign successful in 10 majorly affected districts of Jammu and Kashmir, and I believe, our ranking is also the result of this spirit of public participation. However, much more is required to be done in this direction to eradicate the drug menace from society," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG said that the Police and Anti-Narcotics Task Force have been campaigning against drug trafficking by adopting a zero tolerance policy and we have to strengthen our resolve to destroy the entire network of drug dealers and drug traffickers.

"The seizures of large quantity of drugs in the last few months indicate that our strategy is proving effective," Sinha said, adding "PRIs and ULBs members together with the parents must ensure that no youth in their village and locality fall prey to drug menace, besides bringing back the misguided youth to the mainstream by ensuring that the drug addicts get immediate administrative and medical help for recovery."

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that he was sure that the campaign of drug-free village, drug-free city and drug-free town will prove to be helpful in making Jammu and Kashmir free from drugs.

"With the support of voluntary organization 'Mashwara', a dedicated focus is being given in treatment and rehabilitation of the victims of drug abuse in Jammu Division," the LG said.

The spokesperson said that the LG asked all the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that sports camps are also organized to channelize the young energies through sports activities.

On the occasion, he said, the LG flagged off a Swasth Rath and a Police bike rally for spreading awareness among people against the harmful and fatal effects of the menace of drug abuse.

A pledge against Drug Abuse was also administered, besides a short Skit on Drug Abuse by the students of GGM Science College was also presented.

Helpline For

the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, during a day-long awareness programme against

drug addiction here on Thursday, an official spokesperson said. The programme was held at Tagore Hall by Shahr e Khas Literary and Cultural Welfare Society in collaboration with divisional administration, Kashmir, J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, and J&K Excise Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Pole, as per the spokesperson said that India has the 2nd largest population in the world with the majority of population consisting of youth.

The Div Com, he said, underlined the requirements of reaping the dividends of the young population and called for saving and protecting youth from falling into drug abuse.

"He said many anti-social and anti-national elements are ruining the lives of youth by pushing them in the menace and vowed that strict action shall be taken against drug peddlers, dealers and exhorted on breaking their nexus," he added.

Pole, as per the spokesperson emphasised that the end user of drugs is a victim, not criminal and the society needs to be empathetic towards him.

While sensitizing the media, he said, the Div Com asked for using the word 'victim' for those who consume drugs.

He also called on the Media to address those innocent who need sympathy, counseling instead of hate to ensure they get back to normal life.

Speaking on the occasion, the spokesperson said that MD, NHM highlighted the symptoms and consequences of drug abuse and warned that a pandemic of liver failure will be seen in coming years due to consumption of drugs.

"He said one of the main reasons for sudden heart attacks among youth is drug use," he added.

Earlier, President Tariq Ahmad Shera of Shahr e Khas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society, while welcoming the chief guest and other officers, detailed the awareness campaigns and programmes organised by them regarding the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

'J&K Has Become

remarks after inaugurating the commencement of balance Work of Tawi Barrage, an official spokesperson said.

Noting that the legacy of project delays in J&K has hampered the economy of the region and kept people away from the basic facilities, the LG, he said, asserted that Project delays which were earlier considered a norm is now a thing of the past.

"The UT has achieved new strides in project implementation, while only 9229 projects were completed in 2018-19, more than 50000 projects have been completed in 2021-22, registering a substantial five-fold increase," the LG said.

"After August 2019, under the guidance of the Prime Minister, development of Jammu and Kashmir has

become top priority of the government. Our major concern at the same time has also been to ensure that the aesthetic and cultural heritage of the UT is preserved and protected," he added.

The LG, according to the spokesperson said that commencement of Tawi Barrage is a significant occasion for Jammu City.

"The ambitious project, which was hanging fire more than a decade, will enhance scenic beauty, increase tourism potential of the city of temples and it will also ensure creation of recreational spots for people," he said.

"Today's initiative is a part of the government's endeavour to develop urban centers as engines of economic growth and make the cities ecologically and economically sustainable. The new and robust infrastructure will cater to tourists as well the local population, making the citizens partners in the conservation and development of water bodies," he added.

The LG, as per the spokesperson further said that the project, envisioned as a small tribute to our age-old traditions of maintaining rivers and water bodies will also provide solution to water supply problems by enhancing the water table of the city.

The LG, he said, also lauded the efforts of public representatives, civil society groups, district administration and various stakeholders for their efforts in rejuvenating the water sources and ponds in the UT.

"Mission Amrit Sarovar is witnessing participation from all sections of society. It is our collective responsibility to preserve and protect our water sources", Sinha said.

The spokesperson said that the LG also called on the stakeholders to tap the potential of water sports in the Tawi which will generate opportunities for commercial activities and create employment avenues for the local population.

"Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, we are making constant improvements in the basic facilities to meet the modern needs and aspirations of the people of UT. I can confidently say that in the coming few years, the city of Jammu will emerge as a new model of sustainable development," Sinha said.

The LG, as per the spokesperson also expressed his satisfaction about the 3506 number of development projects completed in Jammu district in the last financial year, which were highest across all the districts.

"In this financial year, the capex budget for the development of Jammu district is about Rs 1443 crore and we have set a target to complete 4115 development projects," he added.

Crime Graph

recorded 119 murder cases in 2019. Of the 136 people murdered in Jammu and Kashmir in 2021, 30 lost their lives due to extremism or insurgency, two to political reasons, one to honour killing, 10 to love affair and

three to illicit relationship.

The report said 79.9 per cent of the murder culprits were chargesheeted.

It said four incidents of infanticide, three of foeticide and 16 dowry deaths were also reported from J&K in 2021.

As many as 1,346 people died due to negligence, mostly in road accidents, last year, the report stated.

The 3,072 violent crimes comprised 315 cases of rape, 1,041 cases related to abduction, 751 cases of rioting and 131 cases of arson.

The report noted that the abduction cases crossed the three digit mark in 2021 as the previous two years reported 961 such cases in 2019 and 868 in 2020. The chargesheeting rate remained at a low of 33.6 per cent.

Majority of the abducted persons are women, many of whom were kidnapped to force them into marriage.

The report said the number of uncovered abducted persons till the end of 2021 was 1,882 who included 957 women who were abducted during the year and 811 other women who were kidnapped before 2021 but could not be traced during the year.

However, 1,051 abducted persons were recovered during the year 2021. 20 of them were found dead after abduction, while the rest of the victims including 811 women were found alive.

The report said the crimes committed by juveniles also marked an increase in 2021. While 299 such cases were registered in 2019, the number jumped to 323 in 2021 with 2020 recording only 171 cases.

According to the report, Jammu and Kashmir registered 289 cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, two under the Official Secrets Act and 300 under offences against state-related acts last year.

As many as 247 cases were registered under arms and explosives related acts and 29 under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 35 Finance and Economic Act and 718 under the Excise Act.

Jammu And Kashmir also registered 1,681 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Draft Policy

six months.

The policy states that the Social Welfare department may empower district magistrates to provide an immediate relief of Rs 2000 to the identified children in street situations at the time of the rescue from the Juvenile Justice Fund Created under the Juvenile Justice Act-2015—(KNO)

J&K Adds 147

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 21 new cases of infection, Poonch and Rajouri two each and Kathua one. No new cases were reported from Udhampur, Doda, Samba, Kishtwar, Ramban and Reasi.

There was no death due to the virus during the time. So far 4782

people have succumbed to the virus and among them include 2350 from Jammu division and 2432 from the Valley.

Besides, they said, 187 Covid-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours—15 from Jammu division and 193 from Kashmir Valley. There are now 1051 active cases—249 in Jammu and 802 in Kashmir.

Two Dead In

a case and started further investigations in this regard.

Man Critically

there referred him to Srinagar for advanced treatment.

The condition of the victim, as per hospital sources, continues to remain critical.

Technical Assistant

and on the basis of findings and recommendations of the enquiry officer, offences under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, was made out against the accused, the official said.

"The team caught the accused official red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 30,000 from the complainant. He was arrested after completing all legal formalities," the spokesperson said.

Searches were also conducted at the residence of the accused, the official said.

Soldier Dies

"The Army officials had informed us that the soldier was playing volleyball and during this he got hurt. He was taken to the military hospital but his health deteriorated after which he was admitted to the Military Hospital in Nagrota," said the police, adding that he was later referred to the Command Hospital in Udhampur for special treatment. He died during treatment late at night on Wednesday, police said.

A case has been registered and investigation started, police added—(KNO)

MeT Predicts Dry

the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 14.6°C against 14.4°C on the previous night. However, the temperature was 0.9°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 11.7°C against 10.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 14.2°C against 14.0°C the previous night and it was 0.1°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 9.0°C against 9.5°C on the previous night. It was 1.7°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 14.6°C against 16.0°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 0.1°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said. (GNS)

ABPMJAY – SEHAT Scheme

Shopian, Kulgam, Ganderbal Districts Achieve 100% Saturation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Shopian, Kulgam and Ganderbal districts have achieved 100 percent saturation under the AB PM-JAY SEHAT scheme.

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government and provides a cover of Rs five lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization, they said.

These districts achieved the milestone due to continuous efforts by District Administration and special registration drives organized by the State Health Agency (SHA) aimed to cover all families under ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme in the district.

Chief Executive Officer SHA Ayushi Sudan complimented the districts and SHA officials for the achievement.

"This will inspire other districts also to join the league of 100% saturation districts. It is good to see our different strategies for cent percent Golden Card registrations are working," she said. "At Least one member of every family in these districts have received Golden Card"

Notably, State Health Agency recently launched a citizen friendly facility for citizens to avail Golden cards in their comfort of their homes

The citizens visit the address Setu.pmjay.gov.in and register themselves and their families with details of ration card issued by the Food and Supply Department, J&K, and download their Golden cards.

The initiative has been taken to ensure all the citizens get golden cards which provides 5

Lakh health insurance cover.

Earlier also State Health Agency (SHA) recently rolled out ambitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT Scheme has crossed a major milestone of providing 5 lakh free treatments to the citizens of J&K UT recently.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT Scheme has become a ray of hope for poor families who couldn't afford health treatment at prestigious and well known medical institutes of the country.

Recently a special initiative was launched for women and their families associated with JKRLM to provide them free treatment.

To provide much needed relief to the people of J&K, the SEHAT Scheme was launched in convergence with AB-PMJAY by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days of post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

Under the initiative of 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman, State Health Agency (SHA) has also started 'to reach out to even last mile villages which remain cut off from the rest of the world due to adverse weather conditions so as to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to every beneficiary.

DC Bandipora Chairs Preparatory Meeting For Gurez Festival



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the preparations of Gurez festival to be held on 3rd of this month.

The meeting discussed threadbare various issues regarding the preparations of Gurez festival including accommodation, Home stays, events to be undertaken and various other activities to be held during Gurez Festival. The DC directed the concerned officers to take up all necessary logistics in advance to avoid any inconvenience during the festival.

He stressed that the event should showcase the true essence of Gurez, its tradition and culture; besides, there should be proper promotion of the festival to achieve the ultimate objective of making Gurez a year-round tourist destination.

Dr. Owais directed all the concerned to work in close coordination and ensure fool-proof arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the Gurez festival.

The meeting was attended by DPO ICDS Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, ADC, Waseem Raja, ASP, Ashiq Hussain Tak, Joint Director planning Imtiyaz Ahmad, SDM Gurez Dr. Mudasir Wani, Dy CEO and other concerned officers

Taking Digital Measures For Establishing Transparent, Accountable, System Across J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, is taking comprehensive digital measures for establishing transparent, accountable and responsive governance system to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

In a short span of three years, J&K Government has introduced reforms in every sector, thereby giving a significant push to the growth and development trajectory here. The results are visible on ground as J&K is now moving ahead to be one of the leading regions in sectors like IT, Industries, Tourism, Revenue, Women Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment.

The nightmare of seven decades is over and a corruption free Jammu and Kashmir is emerging.

A multitude of good governance reforms have been initiated in J&K by the Modi Government like Prevention of Corruption Act, Abolition of Interviews for Group C and D posts besides more than 800 Central Laws have been made applicable to J&K after it got the status of Union Territory. The

long-pending cadre review, the establishment of CAT benches, Extension of RTI Act, CPGRAMS, and conduct of common eligibility test through the National Recruitment Agency at every district headquarter in the UT besides other similar pro-people measures.

J&K has launched many e-governance initiatives to promote transparency, accountability and responsive working culture in departments. In this regard, the Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal of J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau has been launched by Lieutenant Governor which is combating corruption to a great extent.

The 'Satark Nagrik' application has been developed with the purpose to facilitate the seamless flow of information about corruption and enable citizens to submit their grievances with ease and mobility. Any citizen having an android based device can download the application from the play store. A unique ID number will be allotted at the time of registration of grievance which later can be used to track the status of the grievance.

J&K Cong Discusses 'Pro-People' Agenda Ahead Of Azad's Meet

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Amid a flurry of resignations by Congress leaders and workers in support of Ghulam Nabi Azad, the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit on Thursday said its core philosophy and "pro-people agenda" cannot be weakened by "benefit seekers and promoters of cult politics".

Referring to Azad's exit from the Congress, they said the grand old party has always emerged stronger after the exit of modern-day "Jaichands and Mir Jaffars".

Azad, 73, a former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, ended his five-decade association with the Congress on August 26, terming the party "comprehensively destroyed" and lashing out at party leader Rahul Gandhi for "demolishing" its entire consultative mechanism.

Thursday's meeting, chaired by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee chief Vikar Rasool Wani, comes ahead of Azad's scheduled public address in the city on September 4.

"The meeting took stock of the party affairs and deliberated upon the measures to be



taken to strengthen it at the grassroots," a senior party leader said.

He said all those who participated in the meeting, including former unit president G A Mir, working president Raman Bhal-la and Congress working committee member Tariq Hameed Karra, held a unanimous view that the Congress' core philosophy and "pro-people agenda" cannot be weakened by "benefit seekers and promoters of cult politics".

Since Azad's resignation, over two dozen prominent leaders a former deputy chief minister, eight former ministers, a former MP, nine legislators and a large

number of Panchayati Raj Institution members, municipal corporators and grassroots workers from across the Union territory have defected to his camp.

The Congress, however, has maintained that it has always emerged stronger after the exit of modern-day "Jaichands and Mir Jaffars".

While Rajput ruler Jaichand is alleged to have betrayed his son-in-law Prithvi Raj Chauhan in the second battle of Tarain against the invading Afghan forces, Mir Jafar, who was the army commander under Siraj ud-Daulah, is believed to have betrayed the Nawab of Bengal during the Battle of Plassey.

Told Azad To Avoid Saying Things That Create Bitterness Among Partymen: Hooda

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Haryana chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda on Thursday said he and his colleagues in the Congress have suggested to former party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to avoid saying things that create bitterness among the partymen.

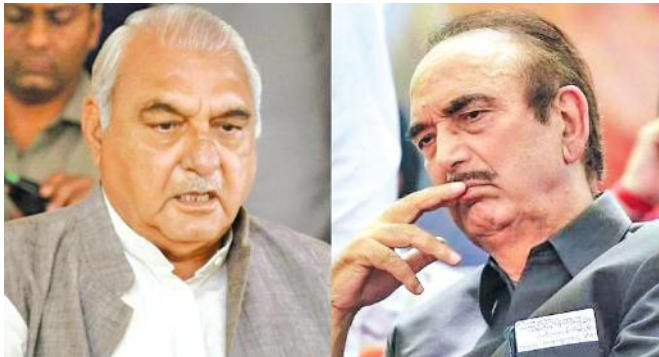
Talking to reporters here, Hooda said the "Group of 23" (G-23) members met Azad at his residence and asked him about his resignation from the party, which he had never discussed with them.

He said the G-23 had raised a demand for holding the organisational polls. Party chief Sonia Gandhi has agreed to it and the polls are now being held, he added.

Hooda also asserted that he is an old-time Congressman who had stood with the Gandhi family even when P V Narasimha Rao was the prime minister and will continue to do so.

"We told Azad that since he has decided to quit the party now after being in it for such a long time, he should not say things that create bitterness among the partymen," the senior Congress leader told PTI.

"We had raised a demand for holding the organisational polls, which are now being



held. The Congress president has agreed to our demand. Despite that Azad sahib decided to quit the party, but he had never discussed his resignation with us. We only asked him as to what happened that he had to take such a decision even after the demands were accepted," Hooda told reporters.

The former chief minister said during their meeting with Azad, they told the latter that they have remained in the party for such a long time and there was no any animosity or ill-will between them.

"He never discussed it with us and we raised the matter with him," he said, adding that sometimes things are said by leaders out of frustration and sometimes to serve their interests.

"When Narasimha Rao was the prime minister, no one stood with the Gandhi family, but I was with them at the time. I was with them then and I am still standing with the family," Hooda said.

He also said the Congress rally on September 4 will be historic. "You will see that on September 4, there will be a big rally and people will come in huge numbers," he said.

Hooda, along with other G-23 leaders Anand Sharma and Prithviraj Chavan, met Azad at the latter's residence here on Monday, after the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister resigned from the Congress, blaming the party leadership, especially Rahul Gandhi, in a five-page letter on August 26.

Fast Track Court Acquits Cop Accused Of Rape By First Wife

"There Can Be No Presumption That Healthy Person Is Always Potent"

Agencies

JAMMU: A fast track court in Jammu has acquitted a police official on charges of rape, observing that the prosecution evidence cannot be said to "definite, positive, consistent and coherent" so far as the case against the accused was concerned.

"A clear room for doubt is left out in the prosecution evidence," Fast Track Court, Jammu, Khalil Choudhary, while acquitting accused, Ajay Kumar Sharma alias Sonu son of Thoru Ram of Kotli Morh, Bari Brahmana Samba.

Sharma was accused of rape by his first wife with whom he had solemnized marriage in 2006 and out of their wedlock one child has been also born.

"Prosecution has also failed to prove the potency of the accused, which is fatal for the prosecution case," the court said as per judgment, adding, "The law requires proving the potency of accused in sexual assault case. It is in this background that accused is medically examined in all such cases to prove the capability of the accused to commit the intercourse. There can be no presumption that healthy person is always potent."

According to prosecution, Sharma married another woman who happens to be within their own social community kept it as a secret from the prosecutrix.

On coming to know about the second marriage of the accused, conflicts developed between the prosecutrix and him.

On this, the prosecutrix lodged complaint before Women Cell Jammu under Section 494 RPC against the accused Ajay Kumar and after completion of the investigation; a challan was presented before the competent Court against the accused and is under adjudication.

Thereafter due to the differences and clashes, ill-will has continued between both of them, the prosecution said. "During that period of differences, the accused entered into the rented

accommodation of the prosecutrix on the pretext of meeting with the child. When he saw the prosecutrix all alone, he committed rape forcefully with her on 03-02-2018." (GNS)

World PCOS Day Observed In Baramulla



Women Must Come Forward To Fight The Syndrome: Dr Sehrish

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Every year the month of September is observed as Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) Awareness Month to raise awareness about the hormonal condition that usually affects women of reproductive age and in this connection an awareness programme about PCOS was organized by the health department today in Govt Degree College Baramulla.

On the occasion Chairperson District Development Council Safina Beigh was the chief guest while as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar was the guest of honour.

President Municipal Council Baramulla, Touseef Raina also participated as special guest in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairperson talked about the significance of observing the day

and said that women with PCOS should not hesitate to report the symptoms. She further added that women constitute half of the world population and quality life of the women is highly important for progression of the human race.

Dr Sehrish said that the aim of the programme is to raise awareness and help improve the lives of those affected by PCOS through overcoming symptoms and changing the lifestyle that leads to PCOS. Dr Sehrish asserted that the women must come forward to fight the syndrome.

Experts from the health department also deliberated upon the issue and it was revealed that PCOS is a health condition which presents itself through a combination of various symptoms which include an irregular menstruation cycle, weight gain and unwanted hair growth on the body parts.

It was also reported that one of the biggest contributing factors to PCOS is obesity and the lifestyle that is prevalent in the modern world. Consumption of junk food, minimal exercise and high levels of stress are the other causes.

Cooperative Deptt Issues NoC To UMMCL For Operations In J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Cooperative Department of Jammu and Kashmir has issued NoC to Unati Multipurpose Multistate Cooperative Society Limited (UMMCL) for operations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The NoC was issued to UMMCL by Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal after more than three months of discussions and deliberations, in presence Regional Director, NCDC, Col Ashish Mohan and Registrar Cooperatives J&K, Shafqat Iqbal.

On behalf of UMMCL, the NoC was received by its promoters Jyoti Saroop and Vikrant Dogra.

Speaking on the occasion, Ya-

sha Mudgal said that UMMCL is proposed multistate cooperative working in places like JKUT, Ladakh UT, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan. She highlighted that the core objective of this cooperative society is to build self sustainable agri supply chains with its model of FARM-FACTORY-FORK. She also remarked that UNATI which is one of the celebrated co-operatives in India will help newly formed FPOs and cooperatives in JK-UT in terms of market linkages, processing technical know-how and much needed handholding.

She further said that this tie-up will boost the morale of 100s of newly formed FPOs and Co-operatives in JK-UT.

POWERGRID Organizes Vendor Development Programme, Buyer-Seller Meet For MSEs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Power Grid Corporation Of India Limited (POWERGRID), Northern Region-II, conducted Vendor Development Program/ Buyer-Seller Meet for Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs) (especially for SC/ST and Women Enterprises) at Baddi-Barotiwal, Nalagarh Industries Association Hall, Baddi, Solan, Himachal Pradesh to promote participation of MSEs in POWERGRID procurements.

The event was organised in association with The National Small Industries Corporation, Chandigarh, National SC/ST Hub, Ludhiana, MSME-Development & Facilitation Center, Solan. Senior Executives from POWERGRID including S. J. Sharma, Sr. GM(C&M), Amit Patel, DGM(C&M), Parveen Saluja, CM(C&M) alongwith NSIC Officials Pradeep Kumar, CM, GopalShaika, BM, Krishan Kumar, DM,MSME, DI official Shailesh Singh, AD, Solan participated in the program .The program had active participation of Piyush Awasthi, Gurnail Singh and Gurmail Singh.



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on **Percentage (%age) basis** from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works

| S.No | Name of Work | Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) | Cost of T/ Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.) | Earnest Money in Rs. | Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender. | Date & Time of Opening of Bid | Class of Contractor |
|------|--|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Construction of Tube Wells in the ground A for Water Supply at the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports at Main Campus University of Kashmir. | 2.86 | 200/- | 5,720/- | 30-08-2022 to 13-09-2022 (6.00 PM) | 14-09-2022 (11.30 AM) | "DEE" |
| 2. | Connection of Drainage System of Physical Education and Sports Building with LAWDA Sewerage Line (Drainage System, University of Kashmir. | 2.15 | 200/- | 4,300/- | 30-08-2022 to 13-09-2022 (6.00 PM) | 14-09-2022 (11.30 AM) | "DEE" |
| 3. | Face-lifting of Humanities Block Auditorium by way of Painting at Main Campus, University of Kashmir. | 2.09 | 200/- | 4,180/- | 30-08-2022 to 13-09-2022 (6.00 PM) | 14-09-2022 (11.30 AM) | "DEE" |
| 4. | Providing and Fixing of Aluminum Partition Mirrors and other minor Civil works in Gymnasium of Directorate of Physical Education and Sports at Main Campus, University of Kashmir. | 1.78 | 200/- | 3,560/- | 30-08-2022 to 13-09-2022 (6.00 PM) | 14-09-2022 (11.30 AM) | "DEE" |

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.iktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/26/22

DATED: 30/08/22.

Executive Engineer
DIPK-NB-3574-22

LG's Rolling Trophy Trials Witness Massive Participation



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: LG's Rolling Trophy is witnessing massive participation with close to 40,000 participants registering for selection trials. The sports event aims to engage both students and non students in sports activities.

Organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports in collaboration with Mission Youth J&K, the mega sports carnival will be held in all the twenty districts of the Jammu & Kashmir. The first of its kind sports tournament in cricket is being played by youth between 19-35 year age groups. The participants at large scale while showing interest in LGs Rolling Trophy have got themselves registered for the sports extravaganza.

At District Level cash awards for first three positions have been fixed at Rs 50000, Rs 25000, Rs 10000 respectively while as man of the series and man of the match shall win the cash prizes of 10000 and 1000 respectively at this level. At In-

ter District UT level cash awards for the first three positions have been fixed as Rs 1 lac, Rs 75000, Rs 50000 respectively. Man of the series and man of the match winners shall get a chance to win cash prizes of Rs 50000 and 25000 respectively.

A huge number of registered applicants have gone through the process of selection trials across all the 186 sports zones of J&K and the process is still on. A competent team of selectors with a decent playing background and expertise in Cricket have been assigned the task of selecting the respective zonal teams.

The District Level competitions of the tourney will be held between the Zonal Level selected teams. Under the third and last leg of the trophy, the competitions will be held between the teams of all the 20 districts of J&K.

Leading in the process of selection and registration tally, district Kupwara is moving ahead with a total number 3026 participants till date.

Secretary JKSC Opens 4-Day Ice-Stock Event



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A mega Ice-Stock event was thrown open on Thursday by Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council (JKSC) at Gindun Sports Complex Rajbagh, here.

More than 200 athletes from 12 districts of J&K are participating in the event and the players are competing in the categories of team game, target game, distance and individual target categories. The event shall run for four days at the Gindun Sports Complex.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gul apprised the participants and the spectators about the role sports have played towards the formation of progressive and pragmatic society and eventually nation building.

She also emphasized on the

role of J&K's first Sports Policy and how it has given a flip to the sports not only in terms of putting in place modern sports infrastructure and facilities for players but also how it has made sports a career oriented profession.

The Secretary Sports Council was flanked by Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir, Nuzhat Farooq, Hilal Ahmad Bhat Deputy Manager Gindun Sports Complex, Mohammad Iqbal, Incharge Pologround Sports Multiplex, other officials from J&K Sports Council and senior members of J&K Ice Stock Association.

The event is part of JKSC's massive sports outreach programme, My Youth My Pride. The JKSC have collaborated with J&K Ice Stock Association for the successful and smooth conduct of the event.

DC Srinagar Inaugurates District Level Football Tournament



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With an aim to channelise the talent of youth positively, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Thursday inaugurated Inter-Zone District Level Football Tournament for 'Drug Free Srinagar' under "Mission Waapsi campaign" at Polo Ground, here.

The tournament has been organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S), Srinagar and is being held from September 01 to September 06, 2022 in which 32 teams in Under-19 Boys category from different schools of the district are participating.

After formally inaugurating the tournament, the DC witnessed the inaugural match which was played between teams of S P Higher Secondary School and Minto Circle School. He also interacted with the players of the participating teams and extended his best wishes.

On the occasion, the DC administered the oath to the participating students that they will not indulge in any kind of drugs and

pledged to eradicate drug menace from the society to make Drugs Free Srinagar.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Balbir Singh, TT Incharge, Mir Nazir Ahmad and other officers/officials of YSS were also present on the occasion.

The first match, played between S P Higher Secondary School and Minto Circle School at Polo Ground, was won by S P Higher Secondary School. The second match was played between Higher Secondary School Khonmoh and SMI, Parraypora which was won by HSS Khonmoh. The third match was played between Burn Hall School and BHSS Khimbar which was won by Burn Hall School.

Similarly, three matches under the initiative were also held in the playground of M.P. Higher Secondary School in Sher-e-Khaas of the District. In the first match S.P. Blue defeated BHSS, Batmaloo, in second match Iqbal Memorial School defeated Doon International School. In the third match Kashmir Harvard defeated Green Valley Educational Institute.

Pakistan Take On Hong Kong Today



Agencies

SHARJAH: It will be a do-or-die match up between Pakistan and Hong Kong on Friday, as the two teams battle it out to book a place in Super 4 of Asia Cup 2022.

The match is scheduled to take place at Sharjah Cricket Stadium with the winner advancing in the tournament and the losers bowing out. Both teams tasted defeat at the hands

of India in their opening Group A matches, however, the men in green will be vary of the gritty Hong Kong side as they gave India a run for their money.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam might be forced to make some changes as both Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf have been speculated to be rested for the match. Hasan Ali and Mohammad Hasnain are in line to replace the injured duo.

Nizakat Khan-led Hong Kong

would look to upset Pakistan and progress into the Super 4s of Asia Cup 2022. However, both teams are bound to give their best, and while Pakistan might be the favourites to win the game, the underdogs are never too far away from victory in a game of cricket.

If Pakistan defeat Hong Kong, they will face India in their first Super 4 match on Sunday, September 4.

The match begins at 7:30 PM (IST).

3 Kashmiri Footballers In Under-17 India Squad

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three Kashmiri footballers, Faizan Wahid, Tajamul Islam and Huzafah Ahmamed, have been selected to represent India at the upcoming SAFF Under-17 Championship set to be held at Colombo, Sri Lanka from September 5, 2022.

Faizan and Tajamul are trainees of Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council's Football Academy, while Huzafah plies his trade with the J&K Bank Academy.

Faizan and Huzafah play as midfielders while Tajamul is a goalkeeper. The three teenagers have received massive praise from all sections including LG's office and from JKSC for their selection in the 23-member Indian squad.

"Congratulations and best wishes to our U17 talents- Faizan, Tajamul and Huzafah for their selection in @IndianFootball Team 23-member squad for the SAFF U-17 Championship starting in Colombo from September 5. You have made us all very proud," the LG's office tweeted on Thursday.

Team India play their first match against Bhutan on September 5.

Sachin, Sehwag To Be Back In Action Soon



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Batting great Sachin Tendulkar will lead defending champions India Legends in the second edition of the Road Safety World Series (RSWS), the organisers announced on Thursday.

The 22-day tournament starting on September 10 will be played across various venues.

The tournament opener will be held in Kanpur while Raipur will host the two semifinals and the final, which will be held on October 1. Other venues include Indore and Dehradun, according to a media release.

New Zealand Legends are the new entrants this edition and they will join the legends of India, Australia, Sri Lanka, West Indies, South Africa, Bangladesh and England during the event played primarily to create awareness towards road safety in the country and around the globe.

The RSWS is supported by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry of Information and Technology and Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said, "I am sure the Road Safety World Series will drive social change and work as an ideal platform to influence people's mind-set towards their behaviour on the road and road safety."

The aim of the RSWS is to drive social change in the country and change people's outlook towards road safety.

Iran Displays FIFA World Cup Trophy For 1st Time



Agencies

Iran's national football team.

TEHRAN: Iran on Thursday put the FIFA World Cup trophy on display for the first time, part of the trophy's global tour ahead of the tournament that kicks off in neighboring Qatar in November.

The trophy display ceremony was held in Tehran's Milad Tower hall in the capital, with hundreds of spectators looking on. They included city and football officials, veteran football players, and Dragan Skokic, the head coach of

Ahmad Reza Abedzadeh, who captained Iran's team in the 1998 World Cup in France, unveiled the trophy.

The trophy tour includes every nation that has qualified for the tournament.

Iran, the earliest qualifier, will start the World Cup as an underdog with both England and the USA ranked higher by FIFA. It will be the sixth time that Iran is present in the World Cup in the nation's history.

Man United Spend \$240M As Antony Completes Move

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United took the cost of its recent rebuild to nearly \$240 million by completing the signing of Brazil winger Antony from Ajax on Thursday, the final day of the transfer window.

The 22-year-old Antony became United's second most expensive signing — after Paul Pogba in 2016 — at \$95 million and is the latest player to arrive at Old Trafford from the Dutch league.

Erik ten Hag, who left Ajax to take over as United manager during the offseason, has brought Lisandro Martinez — an Argentina center back costing nearly \$58 million — and now Antony with him from the Amsterdam club.

Tyrell Malacia was signed from Feyenoord and Christian Eriksen, a former Ajax player, has joined on a free transfer.

United also signed Brazil midfielder Casemiro from Real Madrid last week, for about \$70 million.

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