

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

25th year OF PUBLICATION

Wednesday 31 August 2022 | 03 Safar | 1444 Hijri | Srinagar | Vol: 25 | Issue: 203 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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As Truce Holds On, Wedding Bells Start Ringing In LoC Villages

112 Couples Tie Knots After Ceasefire Took Effect In Border Areas

Agencies

Baramulla: As the guns of India and Pakistan have fallen silent following a ceasefire agreement last year, at least 112 cross-LoC marriages have taken place bringing back the old memories and sorts of re-union among relations.

According to reports, at least 112 marriage ceremonies have taken place during the current year in Keran, Machil, Bangus, Tangdhar, Gurez, and Uri along the LoC in north Kashmir.

The residents said that after almost 30 years, the marriages are taking place in these areas in peace after years of mayhem due to cross-border shelling and firing.

Remembering loved ones who lost their lives due to cross border shelling, they said that their sorrow will remain forever. "Be it a wedding or any festival, their memory always haunts us," they said, adding that too much blood has been shed and now we don't have the courage to see it all anymore.



Describing the situation during the cross border shelling,

Irshad Ahmed, a resident of Uri town said that everyone used to

TWO WEEKS AGO MY SISTER GOT MARRIED AND GUESTS APPEARED to have forgotten that they were border residents in a fraught security environment. In the evening, the bride was sent away by a large crowd."

be in an atmosphere of fear during weddings as they were worried about getting killed if guns started roaring.

Zabeeda Akthar, a resident of Karnah said that among the

weddings that are taking place in her area, the guests are celebrating their joys loudly which was no less than a dream before.

"Two weeks ago my sister got married and guests **More on P6**

8 Killed As SUV Falls Into Gorge In Kishtwar

LG Expresses Grief Over Loss Of Lives

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Eight people, including a 16-year-old girl, were killed and three others sustained serious injuries when the car in which they were travelling skidded off the road and plunged into a 300-feet gorge in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

The vehicle was on its way from Chingam to Chatroo and the accident occurred around 3.15 pm near Bonda village. All the passengers who died belonged to Bonda village, officials said.

They said, rescue teams, comprising police, and Rashtriya Rifles personnel and local villagers, carried out the rescue operation.

Five people were found dead on the spot and three others succumbed to injuries while being taken to a hospital, officials said, adding three more injured were hospitalised in a critical condition.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Shafiqat Bhat reached the **More on P6**

Exodus Continues In J&K Congress

Former DyCM Among 64 Leaders Resign In Support Of Azad



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The spate of resignations in the Jammu and Kashmir Congress continued unabated with 64 more leaders including a former deputy chief minister tendering their resignation and joining the Ghulam Nabi Azad camp on Tuesday, leaving the unit of the national party in the Union Territory in tatters.

Led by former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, the leaders in their joint resignation letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi said "all of us had a very long association with the party spanning over decades...but unfortunately we found that the treatment meted out to us was humiliating."

Putting up a brave face, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh

Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool Wani, once a close ally of Azad, lashed out at the defectors and said only cowards run away during difficult times.

"Those who are loyal to Azad will leave the party but there are thousands who are loyal to congress and they will stay in the party. Leaving of some people will not matter much to the party and their departure will not be any major loss to the Congress," Wani said.

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

Since his resignation, **More on P6**

Azad's First Public Meeting In Jammu On Sep 4

Former Union Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who quit the Congress last week and has decided to float a political party, will hold a public meeting on September 4 at Sainik Colony in Jammu. This will be his first meeting since **More on P6**

'Selfish' Azad Doesn't Remember Favours: Cong

The Congress on Tuesday called Gulam Nabi Azad a "selfish person" and said he left the party when he was tasked to render his services in Jammu and Kashmir. It said Azad forgot the favours done to him by the party leadership by giving him important responsibilities in the past 50 years. "A sadhu made a cat, dog and finally a lion out of a mouse. But when the lion came to him to make sadhu a feast, he converted him back to **More on P6**



Girl students pass over a wooden bridge after returning from school in the interiors of Dal Lake in Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Occupancy Rate In J&K Jails 142 Percent

Prisoners Don't Cease To Be Human Beings, Entitled To All Fundamental Rights: Justice Magrey

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday acknowledged overcrowding in jails, as 5148 inmates are currently lodged in 14 jails spread across the Union Territory against the sanctioned capacity of 3629.

The details about overcrowding in jails were shared by the officials with Justice Magrey, Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority during a high-level meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Home, R. K. Goyal; DG Prisons, HK Lohia; Principal Secretary Estates Department, Alok Kumar; Secretary Law, Justice



& Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi and Member Secretary, J&K LSA, M. K. Sharma, an official spokesperson said.

Justice Magrey, he said, directed the officials that prisoners should be provided all basic facilities as they do not cease to be human beings and are entitled to all fundamental rights.

He further said that Justice Magrey also impressed upon the participating members to increase the frequency of counselling of the prisoners and ensure their proper rehabilitation after they are released from the prisons.

During the meeting, the spokesperson said, Goyal apprised Justice Magrey about the existing facilities available for the detainees in different prisons of J&K and the improvements made in the near past.

"It was informed that against the sanctioned capacity of 3629 in 14 jails of the UT of J&K there are as many as 5148 inmates. Therefore, the average occupancy rate of prisons in J&K is 142%," he said. **More on P6**

J&K Wants To 'Double' Contribution Of Agri-GDP In Next 5 Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With a goal to 'double' contribution of Agri-GDP in next 5 years, government on Tuesday constituted UT Level Apex Committee (UTLAC) for framing a "comprehensive Agriculture Policy" for holistic development of farm and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

Headed by Dr. Mangla Rai, Former D.G. ICAR, the government has spelt the "objective" of transforming subsistence agriculture to sustainable agri-economy for the panel whose members include Dr. Ashok

Dalwai, Chief Executive Officer National Rainfed Area Authority, GoI; Atal Dulloo (IAS), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Agriculture Production Department; Dr. P.K. Joshi, Secretary, National Academy of Agriculture Sciences, Pusa New Delhi; Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department; Dr. H.S. Gupta, Former Director IARI; Dr. J.P. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, and Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir (Member secretary).

The Committee has been **More on P6**

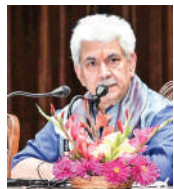


J&K Logs 131 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported 131 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Tuesday while no fresh fatality was reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Kashmir Valley reported 109 new cases of Covid-19 while 22 others were detected in Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 477644, officials said Tuesday. In the Valley, they said, Srinagar detected the highest 40 new cases of virus, Kupwara 18, Budgam 16, Baramulla 13, Anantnag 6, Ganderbal 5, Pulwama 4, Bandipora 3,

LG Greets People On Ganesh Chaturthi

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday extended his warm greetings to the people on the eve of the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. In his message, the Lt Governor said, "On the sacred occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, I convey my heartiest greetings to all. May Lord Ganesha, symbol of intellect, prosperity and good



Inter-Modal Station To Come Up In Katra

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tuesday was signed for developing Inter-Modal Station in Katra to improve the travelling experience of pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. The MoU was signed between NHLML (National Highways Logistics Management Limited) and Katra Development Authority in presence of Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of State Gen VK Singh, Lieutenant Governor Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha and officers from Centre and Union Territory

2 Poonch Residents Detained In Jaisalmer

Two men from Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir were detained by the personnel of Border Security Force (BSF) in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, reports said Tuesday. Mumtaz Ahmed and Mohammad Abbas, residents of Surankote in Poonch district were arrested by the border guards over their alleged suspicious movement in the border area of Sam in Jaisalmer district, reports said. The BSF, reports said, quizzed the duo before handing them over to the police. According to reports, the duo

Woman's Body Retrieved From Sindh Stream

Rescue workers on Tuesday retrieved the body of a woman, who drowned in gushing waters of Sindh nallah in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Monday. Body of 38-year-old Masrat Bano was recovered by a joint team of police, SDRF personnel and local volunteers from the Gagangear area of the district on Tuesday morning, reports said. A resident of Baniabagh Kangan, Masrat had drowned in Sindh stream on Monday evening. SHO police station

Electricity Shock Injures Youth

Ayouth was seriously injured on Tuesday after receiving an electric shock in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 22-year-old Danish Nisar was unloading a truck at Bamloora area of the district on Tuesday evening when he received an electric shock, reports said. A resident of Gangarhama, Nisar received serious injuries due to electrocution. He was removed to the district hospital Ganderbal for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SKIMS Soura here for specialised treatment, reports added.

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2

IISc's Virus Like Particle May Lead To New Covid-19 Vaccine

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore have developed and tested a novel SARS-CoV-2 virus-like particle that can potentially be developed into a COVID-19 vaccine candidate. To study the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the researchers need to isolate the virus from the samples, create multiple copies of it, and analyse its transmissibility and efficiency at entering living cells. However, working with such a highly infectious virus is dangerous and requires a Bio Safety Level-3 (BSL-3) lab, only a handful of which across the country are equipped to handle such viruses. To address this problem, the team developed and tested a novel virus-like particle (VLP) -- a non-infectious nanoscale molecule that resembles and behaves like the

SARS-CoV-2 virus but does not contain its native genetic material. Such VLPs can not only be used to safely study the effect of mutations that may arise in SARS-CoV-2, but can also potentially be developed into a vaccine candidate that can trigger an immune response in our bodies, the researchers said. These VLPs can also be used to cut down the time taken to screen drugs that can fight the virus, they said. Saumitra Das, Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology (MCB), IISc and his lab has previously shown that VLPs can be used as vaccine candidates to trigger an immune response. When the pandemic hit, Das and his team began working on a VLP for SARS-CoV-2. They first had to artificially synthesise a VLP with all the four structural proteins -- spike, envelope, membrane and nucleocap-

sid -- seen in the actual virus. "The main challenge was to express all four structural proteins together," said Harsha Raheja, PhD student at MCB and first author of the study published in the journal Microbiology Spectrum. SARS-CoV-2 replicates by producing each structural protein separately and then assembling them into a shell containing the genetic material inside to form an active virus particle. To recreate this, the team chose a baculovirus -- a virus that affects insects but not humans -- as the carrier to synthesise the VLPs, since it has the ability to produce and assemble all these proteins, and replicate quickly. The researchers then analysed the VLPs under a transmission electron microscope and found that they were just as stable as the native SARS-CoV-2.

At 4 degrees Celsius, the VLP could attach itself to the host cell surface and at 37 degrees Celsius (normal human body temperature), it was able to enter the cell. When the team injected a high dose of VLPs into mice in the lab, it did not affect the liver, lung, or kidney tissues, according to the researchers. To test its immune response, they gave one primary shot and two booster shots to mice models with a gap of 15 days, after which they found a large number of antibodies generated in the blood serum of the mice. These antibodies were also capable of neutralising the live virus, the team found. This means that they are protecting the animals, explained Raheja. The researchers have applied for a patent for their VLP and hope to develop it into a vaccine candidate.

انتقال پرمال

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ بشیر احمد شوری ولد مرحوم محمد



صدیق شوری ساکنہ ٹیلیفون لکھنؤ اکمل حال

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مورخہ 29 اگست 2022ء بروز سوموار

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کے 2.30 بجے انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواراں

مد شفیع وانی، فیاض احمد، محمد لطیف، جاوید احمد

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Google Wants You To Chat With Its AI Chatbot At Your Own Risk

IANs

Google has opened its experimental artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot for the public and you can now register to chat with the AI-driven bot trained on the company's controversial language model.

Google has already warned that early previews of its LaMDA (Language Model for Dialogue Applications) model "may display inaccurate or inappropriate content". 'AI Test Kitchen' by Google is an app where people can learn about, experience, and give feedback on Google's emerging AI technology.

"Our goal is to learn, improve and innovate responsibly on AI together. We'll be opening up to small groups of people gradually," said the company.

According to Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, 'AI Test Kitchen' is "meant to give you a sense of what it might be like to have LaMDA in your hands".

The ability of these language models to generate infinite possibilities shows potential, "but it also means they don't always get things quite right".

"And while we've made substantial improvements in safety and accuracy in the latest version of LaMDA, we're still at the beginning of a journey," said Google.

"We've added multiple layers of protection to the AI Test Kitchen. This work has minimised the risk,



BlenderBot can still make rude or offensive comments, which is why we are collecting feedback that will help make future chatbots better

but not eliminated it," it added.

Both Google and Meta (formerly Facebook) have unveiled their AI conversational chatbots, asking the public to give feedback. The initial reports are scary as the Meta chatbot named BlenderBot 3 thought Mark Zuckerberg is "creepy and manipulative" and Donald Trump will always be the US president. Meta said last week that all conversational AI chatbots are known to sometimes mimic and generate unsafe, biased or offensive remarks.

"BlenderBot can still make rude or offensive comments, which is why we are collecting feedback that will help make future chatbots better," the company mentioned in a blogpost. Last month, Google fired an engineer over breaching its confidentiality agreement after he made a claim that the tech giant's conversation AI is "sentient" because it has feelings, emotions and subjective experiences. Lemoine also interviewed LaMDA, which came with surprising and shocking answers.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag Telephone/ Fax 01932-222559 email id: xenmedang@gmail.com

TENDER DOCUMENT	
(Abstract)	
01 Contract	Repairs to various Departmental electrical equipments installed at Snow Control Room Kulgam of Mechanical Field Sub Division Kulgam.
02 Reference of NIT	MDA/TS/E-Tender/48 of 2022-23 dated: 27-08-2022.
03 Time of Completion of Contract	10 days
04 Position of funds	Available
05 Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	24500.00
06 Cost of tender documents	200.00 In shape of E- Challan/GR to be uploaded in the online bid
07 Bid Security.	2% of estimated cost in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag.
08 Online tender download/ start date	27-08-2022 (04:00 PM)
09 Online tender submission End Date	07-09-2022 (02:00 PM)
10 Date and time of opening of Technical Bid online (Cover 1 st)	08-09-2022 (02:00 PM) in Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, (MED), Anantnag.
11 Date and time of opening of Financial Bid online (Cover 2 nd)	After evaluation of cover 1 st in Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, (MED), Anantnag.

E-TENDER
No: MDA/TS/E-Tender/48 of 2022-23 Dated: 27-08-2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Anantnag, invites E- Tenders in two cover system on item wise basis from reputed and registered firms/Workshop holders or/ Mechanical contractors for the following work:

S.No	Name of work	Estt. cost (In Rs.)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Bid Security.	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
1	Repairs to various Departmental electrical equipments installed at Snow Control Room Kulgam of Mechanical Field Sub Division Kulgam.	24500.00	200.00	2% of the estimated cost in the shape of CDR/FDR.	10 days	Accorded	Yes

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (BOQ), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from Government website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the "Abstract" appended to this notice:

Instructions to Bidders:

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers; viz Techno- Commercial/ Financial cover
- Cover 1st shall contain:
 - 1.1.1 Bid security/Earnest money:- Equivalent to 2% of the estimated cost in the shape of CDR/FDR from any nationalized bank having a working branch in Anantnag. The CDR/FDR shall be pledged to the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag, without which tender cannot be entertained
 - 1.1.2 Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST No.
 - 1.1.3 Scanned copies of PAN Card/ GST Registration/ latest GST Clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
 - 1.1.4 Scanned copies of the Annexure "A", & "B" duly signed and accepted.
 - 1.1.5 Scanned copy of E- Challan/DD etc. for an amount of Rs.200/- duly signed with date.
 - 1.1.6 Cover 2nd shall contain:
 - 1.2.1 Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this Department/Division.
 - 1.2.2 The Department/ Division will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reason.
 - 1.2.3 The cost of tender documents is Non- Refundable and Non- Transferable.

DIPK-8916/22

No: MDA/TS-73/1331-34.

Dated: 27-08-2022.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Division Anantnag

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The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

Attention Please

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his qualification certificate/s issued, as per below mentioned details:-
Roll No: 348235
Class: 10th
Registration No: N12441020037
Name : Mohammad Yaseen Mir
Father's Name: Hafizullah Mir
Mother's Name : Muglee Begum
Date of Birth:- 30-10-1998
Residence:- Sangrama Sopore

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate/s" bearing No: 13ARKAM - 1012178 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/B/KD/22
Dated

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars
Mohammad Yaseen Mir
Father's Name: M Hafizullah Mir
Mother's Name: Muglee Begum
Roll No: 348235 Year 2013 Session Annual

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 Sopore



DC Inspects City's First Ever Day Care Centre For Senior Citizens

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday undertook a visit to the first ever Day Care cum Recreational Centre established for Senior Citizens at Syedpora in Eidgah.

During the visit, the DC took a round of various sections of the Centre including Resting rooms, Recreational cum Reading room, Medical First Aid Room, Pantry and took stock of the facilities put in place for the holistic recreation of senior citizens/elderly persons of the District.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that the Centre has been fully equipped with all facilities including Television, Chess, Books, internet, Newspapers, Magazines and other services for recreational purposes, besides other basic amenities.

DC, Aijaz Asad said that the Day Care cum Recreational Centre for Senior Citizens in Srinagar District is expected to provide a platform to the senior citizens and retired persons to spend time together and share views, life experiences, discuss various issues, read newspapers and enlighten society with their rich experiences.

Body Of Mehjoor Nagar Youth Recovered From Jhelum

Agencies

Srinagar: Body of 25-year-old youth was recovered from river Jhelum in Palpora area of Srinagar on Tuesday morning, reports said here.

Reports said that the body of Arif Maqsood (25) of Mehjoor Nagar was spotted by locals in river Jhelum at Palpora.

They said that after spotting the body the locals informed the police, who later along with the help of locals fished out the body.

Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident and have shifted the body to hospital for medico-legal formalities. (KNO)

Businessman Sentenced To 3 Months Imprisonment For Stopping Cheque Payments

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A local court has sentenced a businessman from Sopore town of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, to three months imprisonment for stopping payment of cheques after issuing the instrument for the purchase of goods.

Judicial Magistrate Tauseef Ahmad Magray, while disposing of an ap-

plication the other day, sentenced Farooq Ahmad Sofi, a businessman from Sopore town of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, to three months imprisonment.

Magray also imposed a fine of Rs 11 lakh on Sofi which would be paid as compensation to the complainant in the case.

According to the ap-

plication filed by one Dilip Kumar, a cloth merchant in Srinagar, Sofi had purchased goods worth Rs 5.60 lakh from him in 2013 and made payments through various cheques.

However, when Kumar presented the cheques for payment, he was told by the bank officials that Sofi had issued instructions to stop the payment.

The magistrate, while imposing the fine, said Sofi will have to undergo further imprisonment of one year in case he does not pay the fine amount within one month of availing of all legal remedies available to him.

The magistrate cancelled Sofi's bail and directed that he be immediately taken into custody.

Workshop On Innovations And Entrepreneurship Held At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofer Khan on Tuesday inaugurated a workshop on 'Fostering the Culture of Entrepreneurship and Innovations'.

The day-long workshop was organised by the Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance (DIQA) in collaboration with Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (CCMP), Bengaluru.

Addressing academics, officers and students on the occasion, Prof Nilofer underlined the importance of developing the culture of innovations in the University for its Better Rankings and greater visibility at the national and international levels.

"We have been doing well in areas of teaching and research as is visible from our NIRF ranking and



NAAC accreditation. However, we have to gear up in the area of innovations to better in future rankings and assessments," the Vice-Chancellor said, appreciating team DIQA for organising the workshop that aims to educate the student and faculty participants on varied aspects of innovations and entrepreneurship.

In his special remarks, Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, who was a guest of honour, said the University has been providing good funding under several projects for innovations which are presently underway. He said more funding could be sought from different agencies to further boost innovations and entrepre-

neurship.

Director DIQA Prof Manzoor A Shah delivered the welcome address and pointed out the linkage of innovations with the University's ranking and accreditation.

He said this workshop aims to give a serious direction to enable the University to make a good mark in innovations, and eventually, patenting.

Dr Jameel Khan, Manager, Innovations and Entrepreneurship, CCMP delivered the keynote address and also gave a detailed power-point presentation on entrepreneurship.

"It's important to see how we can translate the discoveries done through research into innovations to help the society at large. The current workshop is a modest beginning in this direction," he said.

PHE Workers Protest For Redressal Of Their Demands

Agencies

Srinagar: Hundreds of daily wagers of the Jal Shakti department on Tuesday staged a protest in Srinagar to press for their long-pending demands, including regularization.

The protesting daily wagers from different districts of Kashmir assembled at Press colony under the banner of 'PHE Employees United Front' demanding release of pending wages.

Over 60,000 daily wagers, casual laborers and other workers have been working in various departments over

the past two decades and are regularly holding protests in both Jammu and Srinagar for regularization of their jobs, minimum wages and release of pending wages.

PHEEUF chairman Sajjad Parray said that the protesting daily wagers which include PHE land owners and ITI workers said that other than wages their demands of formulating a proper regularization policy is also pending.

"Even the Minimum Wages Act in J&K UT was not implemented and pending wages of the workers were also not released," he said. (CNS)

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE CHADOORA

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

NOTICE

Name of Contractor/Agency:-NGO Yuganter.

Whereas, this office has allotted one CT/PT Titled "Construction of Community type Latrine under Swachh Bharat Mission at MC Chadoora" located at Sub District Hospital Chadoora vide allotment No. ULB/EEK 2016-17/2336-38 Dated: 02/08/2016 infavour of M/S YUGANTER (NGO),


Whereas, this office has already paid CC 1stpayment modefor construction of Community type Latrine under Swachh Bharat Mission at MC Chadoora" located at Sub District Hospital Chadoora at the tune of Rs. 3,34512 (Rupees three Lacs thirty four thousand five hundred & twelve only).

Whereas, you have failed to submit the final bill to this office till date of the said CT/PT for release of said outstanding payment.

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

Sd/-
No:-MC/CHD/2022/1366-69
Dated:-27/08/2022
DIPK-NB-3508/22
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Municipal Committee,
Chadoora.

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-Tender Notice					
Sr.DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 20.09.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in					
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Bid System	29.08.2022	06.09.2022	20.09.2022/15:00 Hrs.
S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	160-2022-23-PTK-DRM-FZR	Elimination of Manned L-Xing no. C-118, 124 & 125 by providing Limited Height Subways of internal size (5m x 5m) by pushing method on JUC-PTK section in the jurisdiction of ADEN-I/PTK.	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
			72795481.41/-	514000/-	60 Days
					Period of Completion
					10 Months
Similar Nature of Work:- "R.C.C Bridge/Limited height subway work".					
2	161-2022-23-JRC-DRM-FZR	Provision of limited height Subway of internal size 2x5M x5M by Pushing method in place of manned L-Xing No-C 141 at Km 106/6-7 on JUC-PTK section in the jurisdiction of ADEN-I/PTK.	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
			36760755.96/-	333800/-	60 Days
					Period of Completion
					08 Months
Similar Nature of Work:- "R.C.C Bridge/Limited height subway work".					
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.					
Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA/FZR/2022-23					
Date: 29.08.2022					
2223/2022					
Serving Customers With A Smile					



J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

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

POSSESSION NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. SHADAB MEHBOOB, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 11/10/2021 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely MR MUSHTAQ AHMAD DAR S/O AB GANI DAR R/O GONIPORA HANDWARA to repay an amount of **Rs.1871039.07 (Rupees Eighteen Lac Seventy One Thousand Thirty Nine and paise seven only)** being the balance outstanding as on 30/09/2021 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on the **26th day of August 2022.**

The said borrower, mortgagor and guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to **Rs.1977509.07 (Rupees Nineteen Lac Seventy Seven Thousand Five Hundred Nine and paise seven only)** together with future interest thereon from 01/08/2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's, mortgagor's and guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.


Description of the Immovable Property

(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

Mortgage of Land Measuring 3 Kanal (three) and 16 Marlas Under Khasra No 326 Khata No 336 Khewat no 39(2 Kanals and 08 Marlas),and Khasra no 368 Min khata no 336 Khewat no 39(1 kanals and 08 Marlas) situated at Mouza waripora Tehsil Handwara and Distt Kupwara standing in the name of Mrs.Sayeeda Begum D/o Ab Ahad Babloo(hereinafter called the Mortgager).

Dated: 26-08-2022
Place : Gonipora Handwara
DIPK-NB-3550/22


Mr. Shadab Mehboob
Authorized Officer
The J&K Bank Ltd



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


AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311




RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
03 Safar
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:36
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:10
Magrib	7:03
ISHA	8:27

This Day In History

- 1900 - British troops over run Johannesburg
- 1907 - Britain & Russia sign treaty with Afghanistan, Persia & Tibet
- 1907 - Britain, Russia & France form Triple Entente
- 1914 - German troops reconquer Soldau/Neidenburg East-Prussia
- 1915 - Brazil becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1917 - In China, Sun Yat-sen and his supporters' 'rump' parliament establishes a military government and elects Sun Yat-sen as commander-in-Chief
- 1923 - Mussolini orders the Greek Government to apologize for the deaths of an Italian general and his staff on the Greco-Albanian border
- 1929 - Committee chaired by Owen D. Young finalizes the "Young Plan" to reduce German reparations from World War I to 112 billion Gold Marks (\$US8 billion) paid over 59 years
- 1942 - Battle at Alam Halfa: German & Italians assault
- 1943 - Japanese occupiers intern Jewish Congregation of Sorabaja
- 1944 - Allied offensive at "Gothen-line" Italy
- 1944 - French provisional government moves from Algiers to Paris
- 1944 - French troops liberate Bordeaux
- 1944 - Soviet & Romanian troops march into Bucharest
- 1957 - Federation of Malaya gains independence from Great Britain
- 1962 - Trinidad & Tobago gain independence from Britain (National Day)

From KO Archives

India Launching Global Media Blitz On Kashmir

WASHINGTON: India is launching what has been described as "a global-scale media blitz" against Pakistan projecting the Indian interpretation of the 'reality' in Kashmir.

The multi-pronged campaign launched through print, electronic and cyberspace media in some 20 languages will coincide with the UN's millennium session. The idea is to embarrass Pakistan during General Musharraf's visit to New York and to help Indian PM Vajpayee plead India's case.

Full-page colour advertisements are being sought to be published in leading publications like The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Chicago Tribune, The Times (London), The Straits Times (Singapore), The Bangkok Post, The Jerusalem Post, The Japan Times, The Sunday Times (London), The International Herald Tribune, the Economist, Time, Newsweek, The Financial Times and BusinessWeek, says a report in rediff, an online newspaper. It claims that funds for the campaign are being raised from Indians the world over through contributions.

However, a multi-million dollar campaign at this level cannot be launched without the support of the India government, say observers.

The campaign is likely to accelerate the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict to feverish heights, extending it to cyber warfare. The advertisements will project the theme 'Jehad' for Pakistan, agony for India' and portray 'peace-loving' India's patience even in the face increasing casualties on its side in J&K, says report.

Also in the pipeline are advertisements in French, German, Swedish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish) Finnish/Turkish, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Bengali, Korean, Norwegian/Thai, Sinhalese and Arabic. The report says this will be complemented with campaigns in cyberspace via an exclusive Web site, agonyofindia.com & e-mails.

The full-page advertisements quote the utterances of Pakistan's Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf to prove Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir militancy.

Reportedly, The financial Times has expressed reservations about publishing the advertisement. It is claimed that leading ad agencies have been hired in New York and other major cities of the world to handle the latest campaign in multiple languages.

(Kashmir Observer, August 31, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the
Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Budgam.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
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K O V I E W

Hope Amid Deluge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday extended his “heartfelt condolences” to the families of the victims of the devastating flood in Pakistan. The PM tweeted that he was saddened to see the devastation wrought by the floods in Pakistan and hoped for an early restoration of normalcy. The PM’s tweet came soon after the Pakistani Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said Islamabad could consider importing Indian vegetables and essentials from India, taking everyone by surprise, especially in Kashmir. Pakistan had stopped trade with India following New Delhi’s withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019. Ismail’s rationale for trade with India springs from the widespread destruction caused by the deluge in his country. One-third of Pakistan is currently under water, with tens of millions affected by the relentless monsoon rains and more than 1100 people killed. The flood has washed away swathes of vital crops and damaged more than a million homes. The government and the charities are struggling to bring relief to the people. Several countries are sending aid. But with 33 million people affected by the flood, the country is finding it challenging to muster sufficient resources to respond to a calamity of egregious proportions. What is more, the flood has also destroyed the infrastructure, washing away roads and bridges.

Pakistan has, as a result, felt the need to open trade with India, a move if it goes ahead, will be welcomed in New Delhi. Last year, Prime Minister Imran Khan rejected reopening trade with India after his ministers had okayed it. Khan didn’t want to send out a signal that Pakistan was normalizing relations with New Delhi after the latter had withdrawn Kashmir’s semi-autonomy. But now, with the new government in power in Islamabad and the country finding itself in an economic mess which has now been aggravated by the ongoing flood, the PML(N)-PPP government is showing its willingness to resume trade with New Delhi.

However, there is still some doubt if the trade will actually happen. And if it does, it could be an important step towards improvement in relations between the two estranged countries. As things stand, it is difficult to be optimistic in so far as the relations between India and Pakistan are concerned. Over the decades, various promising bilateral dialogue processes have failed to deliver and several initiatives at resuming engagement have turned out to be stillborn. So, it would be great if trade resumes between the two neighbours and it is followed by a sustainable dialogue between them. Here’s hoping against hope.

OTHER OPINION

Seeing the Hamartia

Congress diminishment can also be blamed, for example, on its inability to connect with the changing aspirations of the electorate, its refusal to learn any lessons in the face of the rising BJP behemoth. And yet, in this moment, none of those counter-arguments sounds credible, for two reasons. One, because the Congress has notched up such a long and formidable record of evading and obfuscating its own predicament. And two, because what Azad has pointed to is an inalienable part of the Congress shrinking.

Azad’s letter is undeniably a significant moment not just in his own career, but also in that of the Congress. Not since Sharad Pawar walked out on the “foreign origin” issue, has a senior leader of similar prominence or stature articulated such a powerful critique of the party at the very top. In fact, Azad’s critique is far more political than Pawar’s — it is about the inner life of an institution, not identity. Azad’s recurring use of the term “coterie”, and his anger at the breakdown of consultative mechanisms within, is resonant. His flagging of the conduct of a leader who makes a public show of tearing into his own government’s ordinance, relies on “inexperienced sycophants”, steps down from party presidentship in a “huff”, and controls the party through “remote control” and “proxies” is important not because all this is being said for the first time — it isn’t — but because he is saying it. The fact is that the Congress’s serial electoral losses, its inexorable ceding of space to the BJP and to the regional party, its incoherence on major issues and its inability to hold on to several of its young and ambitious leaders, all have something to do with the erraticness, lack of ideas or any real empathy or connect at its very top.

It has become increasingly clear that for there to be any Congress revival, its top leadership cannot be quarantined from the change. And that is why the Congress would be doing itself a grave disservice if it doesn’t read and re-read Azad’s letter. The party needs to acknowledge the truth of what he has said, and act on it, if it wants to rescue itself — before it’s too late.

The Indian Express

Azad In Naya Kashmir



Riyaz Wani

As of now, there are no straws in the wind that could point to his likely course of action. But one thing is sure: should Azad decide to go it alone, he could well end up doing what Assadudin Owaisi did in the UP: split Muslim votes to give the BJP a clean sweep in Jammu and potentially at a few seats in the Kashmir Valley too

G HULAM Nabi Azad, a veteran Congress leader, resigned at a time when the party is preparing to launch the 3500-kilometer Bharat Jodo Yatra, a 125-day mass outreach campaign from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. The march will be flagged off from the Gandhi Mandapam in Kanyakumari by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on September 7. The party has already unveiled the logo, slogan and website for the yatra. The slogan is ‘Mile Kadam-Jude Vatan,’ which is an attempt to convey a message that runs counter to the Hindutva narrative. It is not clear yet what will be the extent of Gandhi’s participation in the yatra. Some reports, however, have said Gandhi will be part of the foot march and that he will hold public interactions and meetings with locals. He is also not going to stay at hotels but at local accommodations.

On August 22, Gandhi met a group of civil society representatives and told them that the yatra will be like a “tapasya (penance)” for him. Gandhi said he is ready for a long battle to unite the country. The march is expected to cover approximately 25 kilometers every day by foot, and only a core group of 100 to 150 people would actually go the whole distance.

As is apparent, the yatra is part of the party’s preparation for 2024, although the party is projecting it as an apolitical exercise. But the moot point is whether the march will connect with the people. Though only a small number of people will be part of the yatra, its success will be determined by how many more people will join it across the twelve states through which it is due to travel. And also how many people will attend Gandhi’s public interactions. So, in a sense, the yatra will be a political bellwether: it will make it clear whether the Congress and with it the wider opposition, stands a chance in 2024 against the BJP juggernaut.

Many political observers, however, remain skeptical about Gandhi’s ability to generate a public groundswell in favour of the Congress. Some are calling it the umpteenth “relaunch” of Gandhi who has so far singularly failed to match up to the overarching political persona of prime minister

Narendra Modi. Will he pull it off this time around? Odds are heavily against it. Ever since he took over the leadership of the Congress, both in his formal and de facto roles, Gandhi has proved incapable of rallying people behind the party. True, PM Modi’s charisma, oratory skills and media support have made Hindutva a reigning ideology of the country. But the lack of an alternative ideological narrative has made the BJP’s job even easier.

The lack of a narrative, however, is not the only undoing of the Congress. The organization is itself falling apart. While Gandhis have

mours of joining the saffron party by deciding to float a new party. His would be the second party to have come up in J&K following the revocation of Article 370. The first one is the Apni Party led by the businessman turned politician Altaf Bukhari which is deemed close to the BJP and sees the withdrawal of Article 370 as a fait accompli. But Azad, if the media reports are correct wants reversal of the move.

The advent of Azad’s yet to be announced party further complicates the political scene in the Valley. What Azad is up to remains, thus, a mystery. There is, as yet, no

The advent of Azad’s yet to be announced party further complicates the political scene in the Valley. What Azad is up to remains, thus, a myster

become a political liability, the party is unlikely to rally around a leader other than the one from the family. Azad’s exit came around the time when the interim Congress president Sonia Gandhi who is abroad for a medical check-up has reportedly requested Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to take over.

Azad is the latest among several top Congress leaders who have quit the party in the recent past. Some of them are Kapil Sibal, RPN Singh, Sunil Jakhar, Ashwani Kumar and others. But Azad’s resignation seems to have reverberated across the country’s political landscape. More so, because his exit isn’t entirely traced to the beleaguered state of Congress or a fight over principles. Ever since PM Modi gave Azad a tearful adieu from the Rajya Sabha last year, he has found it hard to shrug off a public perception, shared by some members of the Congress party as well, that his political moves are somehow dictated by the BJP. “GNA’s DNA has been modified,” wrote senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh soon after Azad’s resignation.

However, Azad and his associates have tried to dispel such an impression by reiterating their commitment to secular ideals. He has also nullified the earlier ru-

telling if he has any understanding with the BJP beyond his perceived good rapport with PM Modi. Or whether he plans to go solo in J&K elections or form an alliance with the other parties, more importantly with the PAGD. As of now, there are no straws in the wind that could point to his likely course of action. But one thing is sure: should Azad decide to go it alone, he could well end up doing what Assadudin Owaisi did in the UP: split Muslim votes to give the BJP a clean sweep in Jammu and potentially at a few seats in the Kashmir Valley too. Or he could even turn out to be another Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who will emerge as yet another political force in J&K, this time potentially from Jammu division.

As for the fallout of Azad’s exit on the fortunes of the Congress party, it only further reinforces its image of a sinking ship. And in J&K, the party has ceased to be a viable political force with hardly any vote-gathering leader left in its ranks.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer’s name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Capacity Building And Training For Women’s Safety

THE advancement of women and the achievement of equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and should not be viewed in isolation as a women’s issue for social justice. They are the only way to create a sustainable, just, and developed society. However, persistent patriarchal mentality and prejudice against gender equality will lead to poor recognition of women’s rights; As it has been behind.

Regarding the deep-seated bias and poor recognition of women’s rights in India, the Economic Survey 2018 noted that the desire for a male child has given birth to 21 million “unwanted” girls between 0 and 25 years old in India. According to the latest health index released by

the NITI Aayog, India’s sex ratio at birth has declined in 17 of the 21 large states. This indicates a failure in the country’s ability to curb female selective abortions after illegal sex disclosure.

As recently as March 2020, there were cases of infanticide in Usilampatti, Tamil Nadu. The deeply ingrained bias ironically suggests that it exists against genuine equality between both men and women. According to PISA test data, the notion that “boys are better at math” is unfounded. Yet this belief still exists. Crimes against women increased from 3,793 per million in 2016 to 3,886 per million in 2017, according to the NCRB report. Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases followed by Maharashtra.

In the corporate world, women still earn an average of 79 percent of men, who hold only 5 percent of the Fortune 500 CEO positions and represent an average of 17 percent of global board positions. Women lack access to informal networks that provide opportunities to work in high-profile projects, including attending conferences abroad or job opportunities. Early marriage, with or without the consent of the girl, is a form of violence, as it impairs the health and autonomy of millions of girls.

It is important to develop and implement policies that promote gender equality by creating and enforcing laws to protect women, as well as marriage, divorce and custody laws, inheritance laws, and the elimination of discrimination against women

in property ownership. For financial freedom, improving access to paid employment to women and ensuring equal pay for equal work is extremely important.

However, women-centric development plans have been made due to gender-based budgets. The plan for safe cities to improve crime monitoring data collection system on violence against women and use of Nirbhaya Fund for better protection of women. Capacity building and training of service providers and law enforcement officers to handle cases of violence against women is of utmost importance at the nationwide level for women’s safety.

Priyanka Saurabh
kavitaniketan333@gmail.com

A New Beginning for Turkiye-Israel Relations

Asad Mirza

The reset of diplomatic ties between Turkiye and Israel may result in some new paradigm shifts at the regional level besides helping both to focus more on bilateral economic gains

Recently, there have been indications both from Israel and Turkiye that the leadership in those countries was mulling a reset in their bilateral ties. In Israel's case it was one more step in the direction of regional rapprochement, while for Turkiye it is basically aimed at tackling and furthering its economic woes and regional interests.

The announcement by the two countries on 17 August that they'll exchange ambassadors and normalise bilateral diplomatic relations, follows re-tuning of Turkish diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

It seems as if the Turkish leadership has realised that its priority should be to focus more on the internal and nearer home issues such as the country's economic woes, Kurdish problem and its relations with Cyprus and Greece. Better regional ties will give it more time and energy to focus on tackling the country's economic woes and expectations of the electorate.

The relations between the two countries soured in 2018 when Turkiye expelled the Israeli ambassador from Ankara, after the killing of 60 Palestinians in Gaza during protests against the Trump administration's decision to relocate the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In fact, the Turkish support to the Palestinian groups, particularly the Hamas and its objection to the Israeli annexation of territories in and around the Gaza Strip has been the bone of contention between the two.

The thaw in ties comes after more than 10 years of tensions. A visit to Turkey by Israeli President Isaac Herzog in March, followed by visits of two countries' foreign ministers, helped warm relations.

TURKIYE'S COMPULSIONS

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan seems to have realised the futility of Turkiye's hostile policies and stand against Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This stance has made Turkiye isolated in the region besides being economically unviable for it.

One of the basic reasons for Turkiye's animosity against other so-called Islamic countries is the contest for claiming the title of the Leader of the Islamic World. This has resulted in Turkiye blaming the successive Egyptian, Saudi Arabian and UAE governments as the main source of adopting postures against its claim to the Islamic world's leadership and making it a pariah state in the region.

Historically it was Turkiye, which maintained the Two Holiest Shrines of the Mus-



lim world in Saudi Arabia, before oil was discovered in the Kingdom, which changed its fortunes forever. This newfound wealth led Saudi monarchs to lay claim to being the leader of the Islamic world.

Obviously Turkiye tried to resist this change but the fall of the Ottoman empire led it to modify its stand on several issues related to the Muslim Ummah. In addition Turkiye blamed these governments and their policies as responsible for heightening the regional stability for their own selfish interests. In return these states blamed Turkiye for adopting such postures and policies, which led to friction in the region and amongst so called Islamic states.

As retaliation these countries have battered relations with both Cyprus and Greece – Turkey's arch foes in the Mediterranean. While at the same time Turkiye has improved ties with Qatar – a country which was made an outpost in the Gulf region in 2017 when UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Bahrain imposed an economic blockade against it.

In addition before facing the electorate next year, Erdogan has shaken hands with Israel in the hope that it may change Turkiye's economic condition with increased economic exchange with Israel, translating into improved economic climate for Turkish citizens.

ISRAEL'S GAME PLAN

Recently, Israel has sought to reset its ties with regional countries both Arab and non-Arab. It considers Turkiye to be an important factor both regionally and in Gaza also, as Hamas has opened up an office in Istanbul and for the last 10 years it has been operating from Turkiye, in addition Israeli authorities feel that closer ties with Turkiye will allow it to efficiently conduct intelligence monitoring of Iran.

In addition, Israel feels that if it wants to sell its natural gas to Europe, which was found near its coast in 2010, then the most economically viable route will be through Turkiye. It could be a win-win situation for both if they are able to thrash out any future plan for cutting off Russian gas supply to Europe, both diplomatically and financially in the long run.

During the hostile period with Turkiye, Israel had come closer to both, Cyprus and Greece. This resulted in increased economic, security and people to people contacts between them. Both countries enjoyed influx of Israeli tourists, who abandoned the Turkiye's coasts. Israel also initiated military cooperation with them and has also been training Greek and Cypriot military forces.

Now Israel will have to balance the geo-strategic and potential economic benefits of cooperation with Turkey with Jerusalem's well-developed ties with Athens and

Nicosia. Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who played a key role in the Israel-Turkey rapprochement, has given assurances to both Cyprus and Greece that Israel's new found friendship with Turkiye will have no bearing on its existing relationship with Cyprus and Greece.

All in all, one can presume that the present situation points to a scenario where diplomatic, political and security ties may remain cold, as the real target for both the countries is to give a boost to their economic ties. Israel is also aware that Turkiye may continue to play the Palestinian card to placate its internal audience.

Over all this odd marriage of convenience might be able to counter other regional alliances and axis's of power, and both would try to maximise their returns either independently or bilaterally, based on the given situation.

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

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

Ashu Tripathi

While humans evolved over a period of approximately 6 million years, breakthroughs in modern medicine as we know it today got going only in the 19th and 20th centuries. So how did humans successfully survive through millions of years of diseases and illnesses without modern drugs and treatments?

This was a question I came to wonder about when the COVID-19 pandemic reached my family in India in April 2020, when there was very limited access to vaccines and treatments. All of my years working as a biomedical scientist, requiring empirical evidence and formal safety testing before using a treatment, took a back seat as I scrambled for potential therapies from any sources I could find, be it scientific papers or folklore. I was ready to try any experimental or traditional medicine that might have a chance at helping my dad.

Luckily, my dad recovered. I can't say for sure if any of the traditional medicines we used actually helped him recover. But as someone whose entire scientific career has focused on discovering new drugs from chemical compounds found in nature, I wondered if there was a molecule in the traditional medicines we used that could be isolated and optimized to treat COVID-19.

Scientists like me have been looking for new drugs for various diseases by purifying existing compounds in nature instead of synthesizing completely new ones in the lab. From COVID-19 to antibiotic resistance, I believe that past successes and new technologies point to the tremendous potential of developing new drugs from natural products.

THE NATURAL PRODUCT ADVANTAGE

Humans have coevolved with the rest of nature over time, and obtaining medicine is perhaps one of the most important interactions people continue to have with the natural



world. DNA analyses have shown that early humans may have treated dental abscesses with poplar, containing the active ingredient of aspirin, and Penicillium mold, containing the antibiotic penicillin.

Researchers call the molecules like the ones that give poplar and Penicillium their biological effects natural products because they are produced by living organisms such as microbes, fungi, corals and plants. These natural products have evolved to be structurally "optimized" to serve particular biological functions, primarily to deter predators or gain a survival advantage in a particular environment and over other competitors.

Because natural products are already made to function in living creatures, this makes them especially attractive as a source for drug discovery. While proteins may look different in different organisms, many have similar structural features and

functions across species. This can help ease the search for related proteins that work in people.

NATURAL PRODUCT HALL OF FAME

Natural products derived from microbes and plants are the biggest resource for drug discovery for modern medicine. Case in point, the discovery of the antibiotic penicillin in 1940 from Penicillium mold allowed doctors to treat previously fatal infections and started the era of antibiotics.

As of September 2019, over 50% of currently available FDA-approved drugs are either directly or indirectly derived from natural products. One of the best-selling drugs of the past two decades, atorvastatin (Lipitor), an anti-cholesterol drug, is derived from a compound produced by the fungus Penicillium citrinum. From 1992 to 2017, atorvastatin sales in the U.S. totaled

US\$94.67 billion.

Other prominent examples of drugs derived from natural products currently used today include the anti-fungal amphotericin B, isolated from the soil bacteria Streptomyces nodosus, the chemotherapy taxol, isolated from the bark of the Pacific yew tree, and the immunosuppressant cyclosporin, isolated from the fungus Tolypocladium inflatum.

I believe that undiscovered treatments for a wide range of diseases are lying right under our noses in natural products. In January 2021, the FDA approved voclosporin (Lupkynis), isolated from the fungus Tolypocladium inflatum, to treat lupus. Recently, researchers have been looking into cannabidiol and other cannabinoid compounds as a potential way to prevent or treat COVID-19. The FDA has not authorized any drug containing CBD for COVID-19 yet.

CHALLENGES IN NATURAL PRODUCT DISCOVERY

Researchers are increasingly able to use new screening technologies and methods to isolate previously unidentified natural products. Screening for natural products typically involves looking through a large library of extracts from natural sources. The Natural Product Drug Discovery Core, which I co-founded with my colleague David Sherman at the University of Michigan, for example, searches for potential drug targets in a library containing around 50,000 natural product extracts that each contain 30 to 50 molecules to test.

However, discovering natural product-based drugs is not without challenges. Since the 1980s, natural products have fallen out of favor because of a number of challenges. These include difficulty accessing expensive screening methods, and limitations in technology that isn't able to fully ana-

lyze the complexity of natural products. There are also ecological and legal considerations, such as accessing samples sustainably and maintaining biodiversity. Pharmaceutical companies have reduced their natural product-based drug discovery programs, and federal funding is also in short supply due to limited profitability.

FINDING NEW DRUGS IN NATURE

New drugs are often necessary for unprecedented health emergencies like COVID-19. They are also needed for a health emergency that began long before the pandemic – antibiotic resistance.

A September 2017 report from the World Health Organization reaffirmed that antibiotic resistance is a global health emergency that will seriously jeopardize progress in modern medicine. If current antibiotics lose their effectiveness, common medical interventions such as cesarean sections and cancer treatments may become incredibly risky. Transplantation could become virtually impossible. Antibiotic-resistant microbes were the direct cause of roughly 1.27 million deaths in 2019. Treating just six of the 18 microbes that pose an antibiotic resistance threat is estimated to cost over \$4.6 billion annually in the U.S. alone. The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed prior progress addressing this issue, with a 15% increase in antimicrobial-resistant infections from 2019 to 2020. In contrast, antimicrobial-resistant infections had fallen by 27% from 2012 to 2017. Among the likely causes of this backslide were increases in antibiotic use, difficulty following infection control guidelines and longer hospital stays.

As of recent estimates, roughly 75% of approved antibiotics are derived from natural products. There are thousands of microorganisms in the ocean left to explore as potential sources of drug candidates, not to mention all the ones on land. In the search for new drugs to combat antibiotic resistance, natural products may still be the way to go.

By arrangements with The Conversation

SC Terms Infructuous, Closes 11 Pleas Related To Gujarat Riots

Agenceis

New Delhi: Terming as infructuous , the Supreme Court on Tuesday closed as many as 11 petitions, including the one filed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), almost 20 years ago seeking an independent probe into the 2002 Gujarat riots cases.

Besides NHRC, organisations like Citizens for Justice and Peace' (CJP) of activist Teesta Setalvad, had then moved the top court seeking various reliefs, including a court-monitored probe of the riots.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and J B Pardiwala considered the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, the counsel for the court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT), and the lawyers of various petitioners including Aparna Bhat, appearing for the CJP, and said there was nothing left to be decided in these pleas now.

Since all the matters have now become infructuous, this court is of the view that this court need not entertain these petitions any longer. The matters are therefore disposed of as having become infructuous, the bench ruled.

The bench took note of the submission of the SIT that the trial in 'Naroda gaon' riots case, one of the nine cases which were probed and prosecuted

by the SIT, was in the final stages in the trial court, while other matters have been decided by the lower courts and are pending in appellate stages either in the Gujarat High Court or in the apex court.

It is however directed that the trial with respect to Naroda gaon be taken to conclusion in accordance with law and to that extent, the SIT appointed by this court, is certainly entitled to take appropriate steps in accordance with law, it said.

Referring to the cases, it said an appeal was filed in the apex court in 2002 seeking a CBI probe into the riots.

Around the same time, the NHRC also preferred a plea before the top court, and under the directions of the bench, an SIT was constituted and asked to conduct and monitor the investigation in nine major riots cases.

The bench took note of an order of 2018 observing that the purpose of these pleas have been served and they can be disposed of. Ms Aparna Bhat, Ejaz Magbool and Amit Sharma, appearing for petitioners in connected matters, have also fairly assented that the matters have now become infructuous, it noted in the order.

The court took note of the submission that one remaining aspect was the prayer for restoration of protection for Teesta Setalvad, who is currently in jail.

Iraq Protesters Begin To Withdraw After Sadr Demands End To Deadly Clashes

Agenceis

Iraqi supporters of cleric Muqtada al Sadr have began withdrawing from Baghdad's Green Zone after he demanded fighting end between Shia forces and the army that left 23 dead and hundreds wounded.

On Tuesday, al Sadr gave his followers "60 minutes" to withdraw after which he would threaten to "disavow" those who remained.

Moments after al Sadr's speech was broadcast live on television, his supporters were seen beginning to leave the Green Zone, and minutes after that, the army lifted a nationwide curfew.

"I apologise to the Iraqi people, the only ones affected by the events," al Sadr said in a speech from his base in the central city of Najaf.

"Shame on this revolution... Regardless of who was the initiator, this revolution, as long as it is marred by violence, is not a revolution," he said.

The violence that erupted on Monday pitted al Sadr loyalists against Shia factions backed by neighbouring Iran, with the sides exchanging gunfire across barricades — violence the United Nations warned risked tipping the war-ravaged country deeper into chaos.

"I thank the security forces and members of Hashd al Shaabi," al Sadr added.

Dangerous escalation



Tensions have soared in Iraq amid a political crisis that has left the country without a new government, prime minister or president for months.

They escalated sharply after Sadr's supporters on Monday afternoon stormed the government palace inside the high-security Green Zone following their leader's announcement that he was quitting politics.

Overnight, shelling targeted the Green Zone that houses government buildings and diplomatic missions. Violence continued on Tuesday morning — with the rattle of automatic gunfire and heavier explosions of rocket-propelled grenades.

The UN mission in Iraq warned of "an extremely dangerous escalation" and called on all sides to "refrain from acts that could lead to an unstoppable chain of events".

"The very survival of the state is at stake," it warned.

On Tuesday morning, medics said 23 Sadr supporters had been killed and some 380 others wounded — some with bullet wounds and others suffering tear gas inhalation.

A mass funeral was held on Tuesday in the Shia holy city of Najaf for some of the protesters killed in Baghdad.

Witnesses said earlier that Sadr loyalists and supporters of a rival Shia bloc, the pro-Iran Coordination Framework, had exchanged fire. The Framework condemned an "attack on state institutions", urging the protesters to engage in dialogue.

Caretaker Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhimi said "security or military forces, or armed men" were prohibited from opening fire on protesters.

Identification Of Minorities: SC Grants Centre 6 Wks For Consultation With Stake Holders

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted six weeks to the Centre after it sought more time for wider consultation with stake holders on the issue of identification of minorities, including Hindus, at the state level.

The apex court perused the status report filed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs which said meetings were held with the states on the issue.

"It is stated in the status report that meetings with state governments have been held and some more time is required to have a wider consultation with all stake holders. Six weeks' time is sought for the said purpose," said a bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka.

The top court was hearing the pleas, including one filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, which sought directions for framing guidelines for identification of minorities at the state level, contending that Hindus are in minority in 10 states.

The bench, which posted the matter for resumed hearing on October 19, observed the government has said it is in consultation with the states concerned.

In the status report submitted to the court, the ministry said comments/views of the state governments including those of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and UT of Jammu & Kashmir have not been received as on date.



On May 10, the apex court had expressed displeasure over the Centre's shifting stand on the issue of identification of minorities, including Hindus, at the state level and directed it to hold consultations with the states within three months.

In supersession of its earlier stand, the Centre had told the apex court the power to notify minorities is vested with the Union government and any decision with regard to the issue will be taken after discussion with states and other stake holders.

The Centre had in March said it was for the states and Union Territories (UTs) to take a call on whether or not to grant minority status to Hindus and other communities where they are less in number.

Upadhyay has challenged the validity of section 2(f) of the National Commission for Minority Education Institution Act, 2004, alleging that it gives unbridled power to the Centre and termed it "manifestly arbitrary, irrational, and offending".

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

As Truce Holds

appeared to have forgotten that they were border residents in a fraught security environment. In the evening, the bride was sent away by a large crowd," she said, adding that at every wedding, a lost atmosphere of happiness with songs, dance and festivities has returned.

Similarly, in the Gurez border region, Ishfaq and Emad Lone are preparing for their sister's wedding which is taking place in the coming month.

"We will give our sister a good farewell while all the relatives will be invited, which we were not able to do in the past," Emad said, adding that the environment in the border areas has changed a lot since the ceasefire agreements were implemented.

Referring to a proverb, his brother Ishfaq said that the journey of suffering ends at last and we believe the same has happened to us.

Uri's Sajad Hussain said that marriages are taking place without any fear and threat. "It is our only hope and prayer that this cease-fire agreement lasts forever so that we can live a normal life," he said.

In February 2021, India and Pakistan had announced that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

8 Killed As

scene of the accident immediately after hearing the news and was seen supervising the rescue operation, officials said.

The deceased were identified as Bashir Ahmad (35), his brother Nazir Ahmad (25), Mohammad Akbar (28), his brother Fareed (25), Nusrat Banoo (16), Fareed Hussain (25), Shareef (25) and Noor Hussain (35).

The injured - Khatoon Begum (45), Akhter Hussain (30) and Manzoor Ahmad (25) are undergoing treatment at the government hospital, they said.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh termed the accident as unfortunate and said all possible help, as required, will be provided."

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives and directed the district administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured.

Extremely pained by the loss of lives due to a tragic road accident in Kishtwar. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured. Directed district administration to ensure best possible treatment to the injured, the Lt Governor tweeted.

Former minister G M Saroori also expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident and demanded immediate ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of each deceased.

Govt Formally

staff of the Toshkhana organization has been transferred to the Culture Department

"All the records and immovable/movable assets of the Toshkhana Organization at Jammu/Kashmir are also transferred to the Department of Culture," the order added.

The 'Toshkhana' houses the royal gifts and antique items of the erstwhile

Dogra Rulers of Jammu & Kashmir. In Jammu, the articles of the Toshkhana have been stored at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex, whereas, the articles in Srinagar have been kept in a locker at Saddar Treasury, Srinagar, according to the government.

The decision to transfer the administrative control of the Toshkhana to the Department of Culture was taken on August 13 by the Administrative Council headed by The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. According to the government, the decision will synchronize its functioning with the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums under the Department of Culture and citizens will be able to have better information about their heritage.

Exodus Continues

a number of prominent leaders have joined Azad, including a former member of parliament, a deputy chief minister, 15 former legislators including seven former ministers, besides a large number of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, municipal corporators and grass-root level workers from across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chand, along with others including former ministers Abdul Majid Wani, Manohar Lal Sharma, Gharu Ram and former MLA Balwan Singh, announced their resignations from the Congress at a press conference here on Tuesday.

"Owing to the circumstances and the leadership crisis in Congress party, where a coterie surrounding party high command is calling shots in the most irresponsible manner and ruining the party.

"All of us had a very long association with the party spanning over decades and devoted all our energy and resources towards expanding the party in Jammu and Kashmir but unfortunately we found that the treatment meted out to us was humiliating," Balwan Singh said, reading out from the joint resignation letter signed by 64 Congress men and senior functionaries from across the Jammu province.

The letter further said "with our leader and mentor Ghulam Nabi Azad having resigned from the party on the issue listed by him in a letter to you (Sonia Gandhi), we believe that we should also come out of Congress to make some worthwhile contribution in building a positive political society where people are heard and responded too."

Azad will soon launch a national-level party from Jammu and Kashmir.

Claiming that Jammu and Kashmir is facing an unprecedented crisis in the absence of an elected government, Balwan Singh said Azad's decision to launch a national-level party from here will inspire hope and new determination to set things right once and for all.

"We are confident that J-K will be able to get statehood back after a gap of three years under the leadership of Azad. He is the sole and most powerful voice for the statehood of J-K and early elections," he said.

Wani played down the chain of resignations in the party and said "cowards" run away during difficult times as the J-K Congress held a show of strength rally in the city.

He said the new leadership will strive hard to make the Congress "number one" party in the Union territory.

Wani, the newly appointed JKPC chief, arrived here, with party leaders and workers lining up on both sides of the road to welcome him. He was accompanied by AICC in-charge for J-K and MP Rajani Patil.

"We will fight the BJP as well as those selfish people who have left the party. We will make the party number one in Jammu and Kashmir," Wani told reporters.

Dubbing those who left the Congress as "loyalists of Azad", he said only cowards run away during difficult times.

Leaving of some people will not matter much to the party and their departure will not be any major loss to the Congress," Wani said.

The JKPC chief was received by working president Raman Bhalla and former minister Yogesh Sawhney amid pro-Congress and Pro-Rahul Gandhi slogans. The Congress cavalcade of vehicles and motorcycles then moved into the city.

Amid drum beating, Congress workers lined up on two sides of the road and showered flowers upon the newly announced leadership of the J-K Congress.

"Those interested to leave the party and want to go with Azad can leave. The party only wants loyalists who stand with the ideology of the party and its leadership," Bhalla said.

Pointing towards the huge number of Congress activists, he said, "This is the proof of loyalty. We don't want disloyal and selfish people who after enjoying power for years leave the party in its difficult times."

Azad's First Public

he snapped his nearly 50-year-long association with Congress. The public meeting is scheduled for 11 am.

Azad has said that he will launch a new party soon and the first unit will be formed in Jammu and Kashmir in view of impending assembly polls. Azad was Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir from 2005 to 2008.

With Azad signalling that he will float a new party, several leaders have resigned from the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Tara Chand is among 64 leaders who have resigned from the Congress.

In an indication of his political stock even as he has resigned from Congress, three party leaders who are members of Group of 23 met him at his residence in the national capital on Tuesday. Azad was also a member of G-23.

The leaders who met Azad were former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Hooda, former Maharashtra CM Prithviraj Chavan and former union minister Anand Sharma.

In his resignation letter to Sonia Gandhi, Azad had targeted party leadership, particularly Rahul Gandhi, over the way the party has been run in the past nearly nine years.

'Selfish' Azad

mouse. Like this, my Congress party made someone a lion out of a mouse. If Ioin has bad intentions on his part, it (party) has the power to make him a mouse again. This power is in every worker of the Congress party," AICC in-charge for J-K and MP Rajani Patil said while addressing a rally here. She did not name Azad in her 'sadhu and mouse' tale though.

Patil lashed out at Azad for being selfish in leaving the party at the time when the leadership tasked him to render his services in the Union territory.

"When time came for you (Azad) to render services for the Congress party (which is currently out of the power), you left the party. It is a selfish thing. It is not the right thing. You are shedding crocodile tears. You did not remember the favours of the party and its top leadership for you," she added.

Patil said Azad accused the top leadership of forcing him out of the Congress but does he remember that they were same "gharwalay" (family) when former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi took him to Maharashtra to get him elected from a safe seat when he got defeated in Jammu and Kashmir.

"You don't remember that (favour). For five terms, for a period of 30 years, you were given permanent Rajya Sabha seats by this family (garhwalas). You were made minister, cabinet minister, LoP and in-charge of various states and representatives of nation at international forums by this family (Gandhi family)," she said.

"You ruled the entire country as general secretary of the party. You don't remember that. You were made as chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir. You didn't remember any leader now," she added.

Patil said former prime minister Indira Gandhi chose "helpers" to contest elections on the party ticket and they won. It happened when no one was ready to contest elections on the party ticket during a tough time, she added. "That is the power of the party. Don't lose courage, we will win again," she told party workers.

Patil accused Azad of remaining silent on the Bilkis Bano rape case and the abrogation of Article 370.

Terming those leaders who left the party in Jammu and Kashmir as "disloyal", she said they thought that they will get benefits from going with Azad. "I tell them please go. It won't make any difference to the party."

Newly appointed J-K Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani, once an Azad loyalist, said a person who was brought up by the Congress for the past 45 years and given important posts is now speaking against party chief Sonia Gandhi.

He said it is sad when Azad goes to the media and alleges discrimination.

"People know how much discrimination and injustice has the Congress done with you (Azad). We all are with the Congress and its leadership in thick and thin," Wani said.

He said, "When Mufti Mohammad Sayeed left the Congress, the party was left with two MLAs in J-K. They were at that time also saying that the Congress is finished now. It is been broken. It won't figure anywhere. Then

you know, the Congress again came to power. We formed government here twice," he said.

"We are not afraid of this new formation. There were seven parties in Jammu and Kashmir and one more got added to it. This new party will also get destroyed in the next few months but the flag of Congress will continue to flag high," Wani said.

Occupancy Rate

However, the spokesperson added that the meeting was informed that the government is considering the raising of infrastructure to ensure decongestion in jails.

"Justice Magrey was further informed that in the year 2022, a total of 425 e-mulakats were held between the inmates and their relatives," he said.

"The agenda of the meeting was Access to Justice for persons in custody/detention, review of prison population and overcrowding thereof, Counselling & Rehabilitation of prisoners," he added.

According to the spokesperson, it was resolved that the Government shall make all the endeavors to provide quality food, proper medical care and appropriate space in the jails for legal aid clinics so that the detainees are not deprived of the legal assistance.

He further said that Justice Magrey was informed that 5 IGNOU study centres are functional in 5 jails while it was also resolved that IGNOU study centres shall be established in the remaining jails also.

Regarding the shifting of the office of J&K LSA to some appropriate place, the spokesperson said that it was resolved that as and when the office of the Transport Commissioner is vacated after shifting to the new building, the Estates Department shall initiate the process of allotment of the said office space for the office of J&K LSA.

J&K Wants

asked to direct and monitor the timely working of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and said that it would act as a strategic advisory committee at the apex level. "The Committee shall meet either physically or virtually for drawing the broader contours of strategic roadmap for the growth and development of agriculture in different activities on which the respective domain TWGs shall work upon." The Committee, it said, shall also hold meetings with the TWGs either in physical or virtual mode for discussing & finalizing the programs/schemes/activities in respective working group domains.

The Committee shall act as supreme authority for passing the final policy recommendations to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir after due consultations and discussions with the TWGs, the order, a copy of which lies with GNS reads. "The Committee shall also look the convergence of programs and schemes across various TWGs for overall effectiveness of the) policy recommendations."

The Committee, it said, shall submit the policy recommendation within a period of four months.

The government has mentioned "goals and targets for next 5 years"

and among others includes doubling contribution of Agri-GDP in next 5 years from \$4 billion to \$8 billion. Other goals include meeting 100% SRR with quality seeds, by building seed multiplication chains in PPP or through private entrepreneurship; double resource use efficiency from 30% to 60% in respect of nutrients and moisture by bringing in advanced technologies.

Also goals include reducing food waste to 1/3 (10%) through proper post-harvest management by building suitable infrastructure (CA stores, pack houses, refrigerated transport) and food processing; triple food processing from 5 to 15% by focus on secondary agriculture. Build capacity to meet the requirements of the quality planting material and establishing 300 functional and profitable FPOs in 20 districts of J&K. Besides, the goals include availing Agriculture Infrastructure Fund of 900 crore reserved by Gol for UT of J&K, vocational skill trainings in to 2000 youth annually for next 5 years and building state Data banks using artificial intelligence and ICT tools for Apple, dairy and small ruminants in next 5 years and reducing the use of agro-chemicals by 25% in next 5 years.

J&K Logs 131

Kulgam and Shopian two each.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 18 new cases of infection, Kishtwar 2 and one new case each in Samba and Ramban. No new cases were reported from the remaining districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Poonch and Reasi.

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

"Moreover, 260 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 50 from Jammu division and 210 from Kashmir division," they added.

LG Greet People

fortune, remove all obstacles from our lives and bless everyone with joy, prosperity and peace."

Inter-Modal Station

administration, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is developing Inter Modal Stations across the country for improving passenger infrastructure development across the Nation.

2 Poonch Residents

informed the security forces that they were collecting donations in the area.

Woman's Body

Sonamarg, Younis Bashir told a local news agency KDC that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation started in this regard.

He said after legal formalities, the body will be handed over to her kin for carrying out her last rites.

KU Issues Advance Date-Sheet For UG Students Under NEP-2020

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir on Tuesday issued the advance date-sheet under the National Education Policy-2020 for undergraduate students in its government affiliated colleges, thus becoming the first academic institution in the Jammu and Kashmir UT—and amongst first institutions in the country—to do so.

In line with the University's new policy of issuing advance date-sheets at the start of each academic semester, the NEP date-sheet notifying the commencement of Odd Semester End Term Examination for NEP students from December 15, 2022, has been issued in accordance with the proposed Uniform Academic Calendar for higher educational institutions of Jammu and Kashmir as notified by the Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilotfer Khan said it's a moment of pride to note that our University has been leading from the front to ensure smooth implementation of NEP-2020 in the varsity and its affiliated colleges.

"The issuance of advance date-sheets has been conceived to keep the examinees updated about their examination dates right at the start of their academic semester," she said.

Controller of Examinations Dr Majid Zaman said the University

is actively involved in smooth NEP implementation and the issuance of advance date-sheet, done in consultation with Director Colleges, J&K Higher Education Department, is one of the important steps in this direction.

"Our aim to ensure that students remain focused on their studies throughout the semesters and have knowledge of their examination dates much in advance. This will also help us to follow the academic calendar in letter and spirit and also award the degrees in time," Dr Majid said, adding that detailed date-sheet will be available on the University website.

He said that the Examination Wing will hold special awareness workshops for undergraduate students regarding the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) from mid-September to educate them about the same.

"We will issue the schedule for these district-level workshops very soon," Dr Majid said, adding that the paper-pattern for NEP and other examination-related modalities will be conveyed to students separately in due course of time.

It may be noted that Jammu and Kashmir has become the first place in the country to implement the National Education Policy-2020, with the University of Kashmir playing a major role in this regard in areas of curriculum development and examination processes.

Bhatnagar Seeks Action Plan For Pacing Up Industrial Infra



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Tuesday asked the management of Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO) and J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP) that a comprehensive action plan should be formulated for accelerated development of industrial infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Advisor passed on these directions while chairing a meeting to assess the performance of SIDCO and SICOP at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Commerce department, Vivek Bharadwaj; Secretary in Industries and Commerce department, Kusum Badyal; MD SIDCO/SICOP, Smita Sethi; senior officers of both corporations and other concerned officials both in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on operational and financial aspects of both these corporations so as to make them expeditiously create the ecosystem for accelerated development of the industrial sector. While reviewing the performance

of SIDCO, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the management of corporation to employ innovative and effective ways and means for financial viability of the Corporation as it has tremendous scope for generating employment avenues for budding entrepreneurs. He remarked that the corporation has been established with an aim to establish, promote and develop small, medium and large industries here and therefore it should be our endeavour to adhere to this objective of Corporation as it will significantly contribute to economy of J&K.

The Advisor further asked the management of corporation to maximize their efforts for reviving the non-functional Industrial Estates across J&K as it will generate employment opportunities for youth here.

While reviewing the progress on major projects executed by SIDCO like NIFT campus at Budgam, Upgradation of Industrial estate at I.G.C Lassipora (Phase-I) Pulwama, and Development of Industrial Infrastructure at Village Rakh Amb Tali, IGC Samba under Centrally sponsored schemes, among others, Advisor Bhatnagar impressed upon the officers to expedite the pace of work on these projects and complete them within the specific timelines.

Azad-Led Party Will Try To Bring Together Secular Parties: Tara Chand

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Ruling out alliance with the BJP in the run up to the next assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, former deputy chief minister Tara Chand on Tuesday said the Ghulam Nabi Azad-led party would try to bring secular parties on a single platform for restoration of the statehood and the rights under Article 370.

Chand, along with 64 prominent leaders including three former ministers and two legislators, resigned from the Congress in support of Azad, a former chief minister of J and K who is launching a national-level party from here soon. Azad, 73, former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, resigned from the Congress on Friday.

"The new party led by Azad will try to bring secular-minded regional parties, from both Jammu and Kashmir regions, under a single platform. We will try to work out a strong front to provide good governance to the people, work for the restoration of statehood and the rights which were guaranteed under Article 370, Chand, an Azad loyalist, told reporters here.

The Centre had on August 5, 2019 revoked the special status under Article 370 to J-K and bifurcated it into Union territories.

"The issue of Article 370 is before the Supreme Court which will decide about it. However, when our government is formed, we will fight for the restoration of all the rights guaranteed under the Constitution provision, Chand said, expressing confidence that the Azad-led party will also form the government at the Centre by having alliance



with regional parties in different states of the country.

Asked whether the party is also open to having an alliance with the BJP, he said, "There is no question of that. We were in a secular party (Congress) which we left. The party we are forming under the leadership of Azad will be secular one and we will have an alliance only with secular parties and not with BJP."

He dismissed the allegations that they are the A, B or C team of the BJP and said Azad is a secular leader and we had nothing to do with the BJP. Azad had himself clarified it several times".

Defending the decision to resign from the Congress, Chand said they were forced to take such a decision as the party ignored them over the past several years and did not pay any heed to their protests by way of boycotting the meetings.

"The Congress failed to play the role of the opposition even as the BJP-led government miserably failed to live up to its promises of providing two crore jobs annually, check price-hike and ensure development across the country, including J-K. They are talking about projects which were either started by NC-Congress or Congress-PDP govern-



ments. The development work has virtually come to a halt in J-K and the unemployment among the youth has broken all records, he said.

Chand said they requested Azad to come out of the Congress as his two-and-a-half-year rule from 2005 to 2008 was a "golden era", which people remember and miss immensely.

"People of J-K need the services of an experienced politician and a stalwart like him. He accepted our demand and resigned from the Congress after all our attempts to improve the health of the party failed, he said.

Expressing confidence that more senior leaders will strengthen the hands of Azad in the coming days, he said leaders from various parties are also in touch with them and you will see more and more joinings in the coming weeks".

"People are not happy with the present dispensation, especially after it downgraded the erstwhile state and revoked Article 370 which guaranteed various safeguards to the people. We require youth and experienced people to pull out J-K from the present crisis, to generate employment opportunities and resolve people's issues, Chand said.

3 Terrorists Killed In Shopian Encounter: Police

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday, police said.

The security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in Shopian's Nagbal following information about the presence

of terrorists there, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter, in which the three terrorists were gunned down.

They were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit LeT, a police spokesperson said, adding that the search operation was in progress.

"The 3 killed #terrorists

have been identified as local terrorists of LeT namely Danish Khursheed Bhat, Tanveer Wani and Towseef Bhat. They were involved in several #terror crime cases. Terrorist Danish was involved in #recruitment of youth into terror ranks in Shopian." Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir Vijay Kumar said in a tweet.

Bus Carrying Vaishno Devi Pilgrims Overtakes; 1 Killed, 16 Injured

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A five-year-old boy was killed and 16 persons injured on Tuesday when a bus carrying Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims overturned in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The bus was on its way to Delhi from Katra, the base camp

for the pilgrims visiting the famous shrine atop Trikuta hills, they said.

The officials said the driver of the bus lost control and hit a parked bus before his vehicle overturned at Kadmal, resulting in the death of Shubham Kumar, a resident of Uttar Pradesh.

Sixteen passengers, including four women and three children,

were injured and evacuated to a nearby hospital, they said, adding four of the injured were later referred to Government Medical College Hospital Jammu for specialised treatment.

The officials said seven of the injured are from Uttar Pradesh, four from Haryana, three from Jammu and Kashmir and two from Delhi.

9.8 Km Tunnel On Banihal-Katra Rail Link Completed



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The 9.8 km tunnel connecting two stations on the 111 km under-construction Banihal-Katra railway link in Jammu and Kashmir has been completed, officials said.

It is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) project. This is the third tunnel following the 12.6 km tunnel T-49B, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, which was completed in January this year.

On August 14, the world's highest rail bridge over the Chenab river in the Kouri area of Reasi district achieved a milestone when the overarch deck of the bridge was completed with a golden joint.

The breakthrough was executed by conducting a blast and with it, the work on the escape tunnel T-13 was started, said the officials engaged in the work.

"We have succeeded in completing the construction work on the tunnel between Dugga and Sawlakote stations in the Katra-Banihal section of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)," an official said on

Monday.

The officials said USBRL is a national project and Indian railways is committed to its time bound completion.

"We completed the 9.8-km-long tunnel today which connects two railway stations located on each side," the official said.

The Dugga railway station located on its Jammu end has been connected with Basindadar (Sawalkote) railway station towards Srinagar end by completion of this tunnel, the officials said.

"Two out of seven railway stations located in Katra-Banihal section of this railway project have been connected through this tunnel," they said, adding that the work on the tunnel was started in 2018.

Of the 272-km USBRL project, the work on 161 km was commissioned in phases. The first phase of 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section was commissioned in October 2009, followed by the 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013 and the 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014.

The under-construction 111-km Katra-Banihal section has a total of 37 bridges and 35 tunnels.

Govt Forms Panels To Take Measures For Safety Of Bridges

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government on Tuesday constituted Divisional and District Level Task Force(s) for taking urgent measures for safety of bridges and removal of accumulated materials due to heavy rains, on an urgent basis.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/ Jammu will head Divisional Level Task Force while members include Chief Engineer, PW (R&B) Kashmir / Jammu and Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir / Jammu respectively.

The District Level Task Force(s) comprises: Deputy Commis-

sioner Concerned (Chairman), Executive Engineer, PW (R&B), Concerned as Member Secretary, Assistant Commissioner Revenue /Sub-Divisional Magistrate , Executive Engineer, I&FC, District Mineral Officers and Project Directors of Concerned Executing Agencies.

According to an order, these Task Forces have been asked to examine threat to safety of bridges due to the flash-flood during rainy seasons on account of accumulation of huge loads of river borne material as well "ensure scientific removal" of such material in a time bound manner.

DEMISE

With profound and sorrow we inform the demise of Ghulam Qader Zarger S/o Late Mohammad Akbar Zarger R/o Jamiya Mahalla Pattan passed away on 30.8.2022 (Tuesday). May Allah rest his soul in Jannat-ul-Firdous (Aameen) There will be 2 SEPTEMBER (FRIDAY) will be at graveyard Pattan Rasm e-Chaharum. We request all the relatives kindly don't bring any kind of fruit juices etc.

BEREAVED (SONS)

Aftab AHMAD ZARGER
HALAL AHMAD ZARGER
GOHAR AHMAD ZARGER

SON IN LAW

TAJ MOHAMMAD MALIK, IRFAN AHMAD WANI
PEERZADA SYED MOHAMMAD TAHIR QADIRI
SHAFAT AHMAD WANI

AR INFO

PM KISAN Beneficiaries To Receive 12th Instalment Only In Aadhar-Seeded Accounts

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday chaired a meeting to take stock of progress under various welfare schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Commissioner/Secretary, Revenue Department, and Commissioner/Secretary, Social Welfare Department, along with Divisional Commissioner Jammu, and Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated in the meeting.

Under the PM Kisan Yojana, it was informed that all beneficiaries will be verified through Aadhar seeding and revenue record authentication before the release of the 12th installment of the financial relief.

The Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commission-

ers of all districts to ensure uploading of the relevant revenue record, completion of the e-KYC formalities, and Aadhar-seeding of all beneficiary accounts by 05.09.2022. They were asked to lay special focus on de-weeding of ineligible beneficiaries and recovery of false claims.

Further, the JK Bank was asked to raise public awareness among its users through text messages, especially with respect to the 12th installment of the PM KISAN Yojana, which will be credited directly into the Aadhar-seeded bank accounts of registered farmers through direct benefit transfer. Besides, Divisional Commissioners of both divisions were asked to rope in public representatives and concerned line departments in expediting the collection of requisite scheme-related data.

For raising awareness on the mandatory Aadhar-seeding and authentication of beneficiaries under vari-

ous government schemes, Dr. Mehta asked the Information Department to run dedicated advertisement campaigns in all vernacular newspapers.

It was informed that a month-long 'Nasha Mukta Abhiyan' will be organized across Jammu and Kashmir, commencing from 1st September, 2022. It is estimated that a total of 06 lakh victims are associated with activities related to drug and substance abuse in the Union territory.

Accordingly, the Social Welfare Department was asked to generate a database of all such victims through the Panchayati Raj Institutions in collaboration with the teams from Rural Development and Health & Medical Education departments along with district administrations, by 15.09.2022.

The Department was advised to extend medical care and rehabilitation to the identified victims while maintaining their anonymity and treat them as patients and not

criminals.

Further, to strengthen the infrastructural support to the campaign, all district administrations were directed to establish a drug de-addiction centre at respective district hospitals with adequate arrangements for professional manpower and medical supplies. The Home Department was also asked to organize monthly meetings of District Narco Task Forces to tighten the noose against the drug peddlers and dealers.

Furthermore, the concerned departments were asked to ensure completion of Amrit Sarovar and Swachh Gram Abhiyan within their stipulated timeframes. The district administrations were asked to submit the progress of developmental works to be completed during the current fiscal under the District CAPEX, besides giving a fillip to the self-employment schemes in their districts for greater employment generation.

J&K HANDICRAFTS (S&E) CORPORATION

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Jammu Office Phone No.0191-2477694 Fax-2475705.

No: JKHC/Mktg/2022-23/170

Dated: 29 /08/2022

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

In the interest of artisan/weaver community and development of handicrafts/handloom products of J&K, the J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation is in the continuous process of procurement of artifacts directly from the grass-root level artisans/weavers of J&K to eliminate middleman-ship and intends to procure genuine quality handicraft items of the crafts like Carpets, Wood-Carving, Shawls/Stoles, Pashmina, Kani shawls, Embroideries, Copperware, Chain-stitch, Crewel , Paper Mache, Leather, Namdha, Gabba, Willow wicker, pottery, Basohli Pashmina, Silk items, Sarees etc from the registered artisans/weavers/cluster/unit holders/Cooperative societies of Jammu and Kashmir for its sale at various showrooms located across the country.

The interested artisans/weavers/clusters/unit holders/ Cooperative societies of J&K registered with concerned Departments may enroll their names within 7 days from the date of publication of this EOI. The enrolled parties will be informed telephonically to present their products along with their offers before the procurement committee for selection/ negotiations on quoted rates as and when needed/ required.

The artisans/weavers/clusters/unit holders / Cooperative societies, who had enrolled themselves but couldn't be accommodated, too have to enroll a fresh. The GI products shall be given priority in the interest and development of rare, real and genuine J&K Handicrafts/Handloom. The parties shall have to present artifacts of J&K origin whenever called to present their products. The enrolment shall be valid for the financial year 2022-23.

The EOI is also available at www.jkhsec.com

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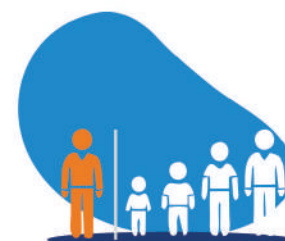
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