



Beyond NEET, Why Kashmiri Students Need Scientific Career Counseling

Farzana Bashir

Days after the announcement of the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) results, many Kashmiri students who failed to qualify the popular exam are literally finding themselves at the crossroads. While many of them are appearing next year with a fresh resolve, others are finding it hard to pick and choose new careers/streams. Behind their indecisiveness, experts say, is a "tunnel vision" with which they're being groomed in Kashmir till Class 12th.

Sheikh Inayat Ullah, who runs a Srinagar-based



career-counseling school called Move Beyond, believes that Kashmiri students have plenty

of options available to them. "But all they need is timely guidance," Inayat says. "Career

CAREER COUNSELING IS IMPORTANT FOR one's career and will determine whether one becomes a professor at Kashmir University or at Harvard."

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professor at Kashmir University or at Harvard."

Inayat, who in collaboration with NIT Srinagar is reaching out to the student community for career guidance, says that Kashmiri students need to go beyond the twin streams. "There's an obsession for Science and Engineering in Kashmir, but we need to fulfill the needs of the times," he says. "It's all about staying relevant."

In a chat with Kashmir Observer, the career counselor talks about the new trends and Dos and Don'ts for Kashmiri students.

Is it true that parents mostly dictate career choices in

Kashmir?

Yes, it's true—a South Asian delusion, in fact. Parents do that because they mostly think about themselves and end up pressurizing children to take a particular subject or career.

So, does this "delusion" shadow the student dream in the valley?

Well, after failing to qualify their parent-dictated exams like NEET, students become some burden for betraying their trust. It happens in the majority of cases. It's not that **More on P10**

First Electric Train Between Baramulla-Banihal On Oct 2

Agencies

Srinagar: Electric train for 137-kilometer long Baramulla-Banihal railway corridor is all set to be inaugurated on October 2 with the work going on at full swing.

According to reports, the Jammu and Kashmir government, Indian Railways and Indian Railway Construction Company Limited are working together on this project since August 2019.

"The PCEE inspection of the project will be conducted on 26 September, 2022 and on October 2, the project will be inaugurated," Additional General Manager, Indian Railway Construction Company Limited Abid Amin Shah said.

He said the total project cost is 324 crore and the Budgam-Baramulla section is already complete while the inspection of Budgam-Banihal section will be conducted on September 26 and it will be inaugurated on October 2.

"Railways Department has already conducted three to four trials from Budgam-Baramulla while trails of Budgam-Banihal will be conducted from 20th of this ongoing month," Shah added.

According to him, the total route length for electrification is 137.73 kilometers with three main sub-stations of Qazigund, Budgam, and Baramulla from where power will be supplied to the overhead equipment of the rail line.

"The project is all set to reduce the pollution and also saves 60 percent compared to the use of fuel," he said.

Along with this, work is going on to link Banihal with Katra. When the Katra-Banihal link is completed, Kashmir will be better linked with the rest of the country. **More on P10**

Rs 20-30L Paid For SI Examination Paper: CBI

Searches Carried Out At 36 Spots, Including Premises Of Ex JKSSB Chairman

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at 36 locations in connection with alleged irregularities in Jammu and Kashmir sub-inspector posts' recruitment test in which some aspirants had allegedly coughed up Rs 20-30 lakh for accessing the question paper before the examination, officials said.

The searches were spread across Jammu, Srinagar, Karnal, Mahendergarh, Rewari, Gandhidham, Delhi, Ghaziabad and Bengaluru, they said.

During the operations, searches took place at the premises of former chairman of JKSSB Khalid Jahangir and the then controller of examination of JKSSB Ashok Kumar among others, they said.

The CBI teams also raided alleged gang members based in Haryana, teachers, retired officials of Jammu and Kashmir and CRPF during which the agency recovered "incriminating documents" and digital evidence,



agency spokesperson said.

"Investigation has revealed the alleged payment of Rs 20 to 30 lakh (approx) by willing candidates and their families to the accused for accessing the question paper before commencement of the examination.

"In this regard, involvement of a gang domiciled in Haryana, certain teachers of Jammu and Kashmir, some serving/retired personnel of CRPF, J and K Police and JKSSB has allegedly come to light," CBI spokesperson said.

CBI officials also searched the residence **More on P10**



A girl holds her brother atop their mud house in the picturesque Tosa Maidan meadow in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Panel Warns Private Schools Against Violating Fee Structure

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Fee Fixation and Regulation Committee (FFRC) has directed private schools in the Union Territory not to charge excess of the panel-sanctioned amount even if they have obtained a stay from the high court.

FFRC Chairman Justice (retired) Muzaffar Hussain Attar said a few school managements had got stay orders from the high court against the implementation of the committee-approved fee structure for their institutions and were now charging fees as per their wish.

"The question of public and legal importance arises when the hon'ble (high) court stays the



fee regulation order of FFRC, can a school be permitted to charge and collect the fee which it has fixed itself and which in view of the mandate of the judgements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and high court and statute, is impermissible? Can such schools

charge and collect such fee from the students?" Justice Attar said in an eight-page order clarifying the FFRC's stand on 'Legal position in respect of charging of fee by private schools'.

"The answer in law is that such types of schools have no authority in law to charge and collect fees fixed by themselves," he said.

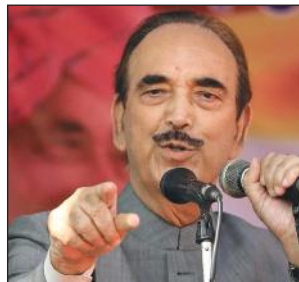
Justice Attar said the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, in its judgement on June 1, 2015, gave the liberty to managements of unaided private schools to approach the committee to fix the fee structure for each standard. It also provided that till the committee fixes a new fee structure, the managements shall collect **More on P10**

Don't Have Aladdin's Magic Lamp To Bring Back Article 370: Azad

Says Won't Tell People That He Will Restore It Through SC; Advises Political Parties Against Raking Up Article 370 Issue

Srinagar: Stating that he doesn't have "Aladdin's magical lamp" to get back the Article 370, former chief minister and senior political leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday said that he won't tell the public that he will get it (Article 370) restored through the Supreme Court.

Talking to media persons after meeting several delegations here in Srinagar, Azad said he doesn't have "Aladdin's magical lamp" to restore the Article 370



nor he will tell the public that he will get it restored through the Supreme Court.

He also advised mainstream parties against raking up the Article 370 issue. "I want to tell the political parties to rake up the issue of development and keep it (Article 370) **More on P10**

Four Held With Rs 9.60L Cash In Ramban

Four people from Rajasthan were arrested on Tuesday and Rs 9.60 lakh cash was recovered from their possession in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said.

A police party intercepted a Srinagar-bound vehicle on Jammu-Srinagar national highway during checking around 5 pm, they said. Upon inspecting the vehicle, Rs 9.60 cash was recovered from a bag that belonged to Radhe Syam who hailed from Rajasthan's **More on P10**

3 Children Injured After Shell Explodes

Three children were injured in an explosion near an encounter site in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said here.

A leftover shell exploded at an encounter site at Heff Shirmal in Shopian, injuring three children who were playing nearby, the officials said. The children have been rushed to a hospital. An encounter took place at Heff Shirmal on Monday in which one local militant was killed and a soldier was injured. (PTI)

1 More Dies After Falling From Walnut Tree

A man died on Tuesday after falling off a walnut tree in the Kralgund area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

35-year-old Bilal Ahmed Khan, a resident of Hajin Kralgund had climbed on top of the tree, and was busy thrashing the walnuts barefoot when he slipped and fell down and sustained critical injuries, reports said. The injured man was removed to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead. Meanwhile, Police **More on P10**

J&K Logs 47 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported 47 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus on Tuesday, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 478806.

In the Valley, officials said, 34 new cases of Covid-19 were detected while 13 others were registered in Jammu division. In the Valley, they said, Srinagar detected the highest 22 new cases of virus, Budgam 6, Baramulla 5, and Anantnag 1. No new cases were reported from **More on P10**

Carpenter Falls To Death

A carpenter died after falling down from the rooftop of a 'Jamia Masjid' in Watarhal village of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday. Hafizullah Khan, a resident of Zagoo Khan Mohalla was busy in his work on the rooftop of the Jamia Masjid when he slipped and sustained grievous injuries. The victim was shifted to Primary Health Centre Watarhal where doctors referred him to SMHS Hospital Srinagar. **More on P10**

Youth Found Dead In Kupwara

A youth was found dead on Tuesday at his home in Gutlipora village of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, sources said. 25-year-old Jaffar Ahmad Najar was found hanging by a rope at his home in Gutlipora village on Tuesday morning, reports said. The family members with the help of other villagers took Najar to sub-district hospital (SDH), Kupwara. However, the doctors there declared him dead, reports said. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and **More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

Unknown Vehicle Crushes Man To Death

Agencies

Srinagar: A 36-year-old man died after being hit by an unknown speeding vehicle in Mandirbagh area of Srinagar city falling under the jurisdiction of police station Kralkhud.

Reports said that the man identified as Hashim Ahmed Najar son of Muzaffar Ahmed, a resident of Mandir Bagh was hit by a speeding vehicle. Locals shifted the victim to SMHS Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and registered case under relevant sections of law. (KNT)

Week-Long Art Exhibition On Arbaeen To Be Held

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To commemorate Arbaeen, an art and calligraphy exhibition is being held at Mahattas. The event will be held from 14th to 21st september, the organisers of the event said.

The artists will be given a chance to showcase their talent and they will pay tributes to Imam Hussain(a.s). The timings of the exhibition will be from 11 a.m to 06p.m

Pertinently, Arbaeen is a global event marked after Ashura which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussain(a.s) by Yazid in the plains of Karbala.



The Dilapidated road from Lasjan to Shalina in the city outskirts takes a heavy toll on commuters. KO Photo

KU's Pharmacy Department Organizes Guest Lecture On 'Pharmacovigilance'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Kashmir on Tuesday organized a guest lecture on Pharmacovigilance and its importance.

The lecture, delivered by Prof Bikash Medhi of the Department of Pharmacology, PGIMER, Chandigarh, was held as part of the celebration of 'National Pharmacovigilance Awareness Week' being celebrated throughout the country this month.

In his lecture, Prof Medhi threw light on various facets of pharmacovigilance, adverse drug reaction monitoring and issues related to patient safety.

He elaborated upon the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India and the role of doctors, patients, pharmacists, nurses and other healthcare professionals in recording, reporting and documenting adverse drug reactions.

Prof Mubashir Hussain Masoodi, Head of the Department, thanked the guest

speaker for interacting with the students on an important topic and vowed to conduct more such programmes in future.

Prof Masoodi also expressed his desire to host the annual conference of the Indian Pharmacological Society at the University of Kashmir in near future and sought the support of Prof Medhi in this regard.

Senior faculty member Prof Geer Mohammad Ishaq, while welcoming the guest speaker, called upon students of the department to

participate in essay-writing, poster and video contests being held throughout the country to observe this week and urged them to spread awareness about the drug and patient safety related issues. He also emphasized the need to establish a pharmacovigilance center in the department under the ambit of National Pharmacovigilance Programme of India.

Dr Shahid-ud-Din Wani, faculty at the department delivered a vote of thanks.

DC Receives Freedom Riders Bike Rally On The Banks Of Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Tuesday morning received the iconic Freedom Rider 2022 Bike Rally contingent and flagged off for onward journey to Kargil from the banks of historical Dal Lake.

The Bike Expedition is in commemoration of the theme of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav – celebrating 75 years of India's independence.

The Moto expedition will visit 75 iconic places across India in 75 days. It also aims to create awareness regarding physical and mental fitness among citizens under the Fit India campaign.

The Freedom Moto ride 2022 was flagged off by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah on 9th



September from Delhi which reached Kashmir valley yesterday and was warmly received by District Administration Srinagar at Marvel Point Pampore.

This historical Moto Expedition comprises 75 riders which includes 10 female riders who will cover a record distance of more than 18000 kms during the event. The Riders will witness 75 events and visit 148 places across India.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner

welcomed the riders of the iconic Freedom Moto Ride 2022 Bike Rally and extended his best wishes for their further journey towards Kargil, Ladakh. It also aims to create awareness regarding physical and mental fitness among citizens.

It is pertinent to mention that under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, the District Youth Services & Sports Office Srinagar had put in place all the necessary arrangements for the historical event.

DEO Urges PPs To Extend Cooperation In Updating Electoral Rolls

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar Tuesday convened a meeting with representatives of different Political Parties (PPs) here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to discuss various aspects regarding the conduct of Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2022.

Deputy District Election Officer (DDEO), All Electoral Returning Officers (EROs) and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

At the outset, the DC briefed the meeting about the schedule of the Summary Revision 2022 and urged the representatives of Political Parties to extend

their cooperation in updating and correcting the electoral rolls.

The Representatives of the political parties were also asked to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at all the polling stations to assist the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in the process of registration of new voters and purification of electoral roll.

The Participating representatives were informed that the Draft Publication of the Photo Electoral Rolls of all eight Assembly Constituencies of Srinagar shall be done on 15th of September 2022, while the qualifying date for inclusion of new voters is 1st of October and the claims and objections shall be received from 15th September to 25th October.

- 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

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



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :48
ZUHR	12:30
ASR	4:52
Magrib	6:46
ISHA	8: 09

This Day In History

- 1901 - Theodore Roosevelt is sworn in as the youngest man to serve as US President, after William McKinley finally dies after an anarchist shoots him in Buffalo
- 1914 - German troops withdraw from Aisne/invent trenches
- 1918 - WW I: Austria-Hungary sends a note to the Allies requesting peace discussions, but the Allies reject the offer
- 1938 - Graf Zeppelin II, world's largest airship, makes maiden flight
- 1939 - World's 1st practical helicopter, the VS-300 designed by Igor Sikorsky takes (tethered) flight in Stratford, Connecticut
- 1940 - German bomb hits shelter in Chelsea; hundreds die
- 1942 - Battle of Edson's Ridge (Japanese assault) at Guadalcanal
- 1949 - India's Constituent Assembly adopts Hindi as an official language. Celebrated today as Hindi Day.
- 1950 - Western allies rearm West Germany
- 1953 - Nikita Khrushchev appointed First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, succeeding Malenkov
- 1957 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Maralinga, Australia
- 1957 - UN resolution deplores & condemns USSR invasion of Hungary
- 1958 - Two rockets designed by the German engineer Ernst Mohr, the first German post-war rockets, reach the upper atmosphere.
- 1959 - Soviet Union's Luna-2 is 1st spacecraft to land on the Moon

From KO Archives

It Takes Years To Fill Up Posts

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Believe it or not. It takes years for the State Government to fill up vacant posts after advertising them.

The J&K Government had advertised the posts of Range Officers in 1965 and all the formalities were completed during these three years. However, the selection is yet to be done.

Over 17 candidates who have done two years State Forest Service Post Graduation Diploma in Forestry and allied subjects have not been absorbed in the forest department as Assistant Conservator Forests despite most of them about to cross the upper age limit. Some of these candidates have completed their courses way back in 1991. Despite clear vacancies in the department the Government has not referred the posts to the Public Service Commission. Most of these candidates may not be able to apply for such posts in future as they are about to cross the upper age limit. One of the candidates, Imtiyaz Ahmad Zargar, 33, said that they should be appointed by the Government on adhoc basis so that they may not lose the chances of the Government job. After the appointments the posts should be referred to the Public Service Commission, he added.

These candidates are trained for the job as they have done State Forest Service courses at SFS college Dehradun and Coimbatore under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. As per the Schedule-II of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Service (Gazetted) Recruitment rules, 1970, 50 per cent quota has been kept for direct recruitment of the forest officers and rest for the in-service candidates. The in-service candidates had prayed for the stay of the recruitment to the posts of Assistant Conservator of Forests last year. The High Court (Single Bench) vacated the interim order of the stay on 11-03-1998 and gave liberty to the state to go ahead with the appointments as per the recruitment norms. The in-service forest officers who were not satisfied with the decision of the single bench took the matter to the double bench. The double bench not only held that the 50:50 share of the recruitment as reasonable but also justified their appointment by saying that they are the young blood with better qualification and deserve to be put into the service for better and quicker understanding of the complex scientific problems necessary for the development of Forestry in the State.

(Kashmir Observer, September 14, 1998)

Central Ground Water Authority Ministry of Jal Shakti Government of India

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Kind attention is drawn to the Public Notice No. 3/2022 dated 14.06.2022, 5/2022 dated 29.07.2022 and 6/2022 dated 19.08.2022 issued by CGWA regarding taking permission for ground withdrawal by all existing users. In this regard following is clarified:

1. "All Ground Water Users including" may be read as "Ground Water Users from these categories."
2. Ladakh stands omitted from the list of States/UTs provided.

Rest of the contents of the said Public Notices will remain unchanged. Please log on to <https://cgwa-noc.gov.in> for further details.

Chairman
August 2022

cbc 45103/12/0012/2223



Read. No. A-2586

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Mossad Chief: 'Israel' To Attack Iran Regardless Of Nuclear Agreement

Agenceis

In his first public speech since assuming his position as chief of Israeli Mossad in June 2021, Director David Barnea said "Israel" will not comply with any nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, stating that even if the deal is signed, Mossad will continue to carry out operations inside Iran.

"The nuclear talks are not a restraining factor in any way," Barnea said.

Barnea renewed Israeli allegations that Iran aims to build a nuclear weapon, a claim that Iran has repeatedly denied in the past while the IAEA and other organizations found no evidence of following onsite inspections.

Pursuing the Israeli frenzy over Iran's nuclear deal, Barnea on Monday said "Israel" would not participate in what he dubbed the "charade" of a renewed nuclear deal between world powers and Iran, warning that the emerging agreement would "not provide immunity" for Tehran from the spy agency's operations, completely slamming international efforts in the course of a lasting nuclear deal.

Barnea claimed that Mossad thwarted attacks against Israelis in several countries, most recently in Turkey, an accusation that Iran labeled as fabrications and lies that lack any profound evidence.



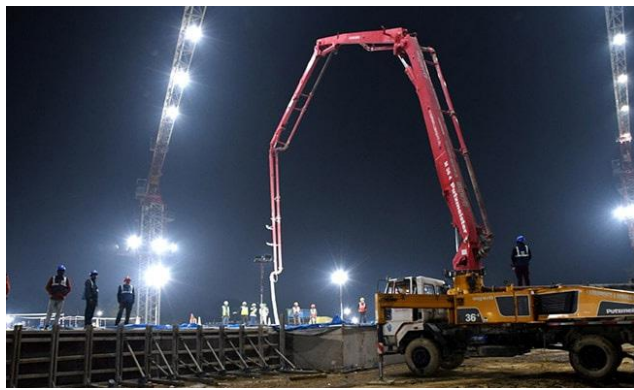
Iran objected to those allegations, stating that "Israel" is attempting to sabotage Tehran-Ankara relations and divert regional attention from Palestine.

On a visit to Washington days ago, as part of Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid's pressure campaign to deter the US from signing a nuclear deal with Iran, chief of Mossad David Barnea warned his US counterparts against signing the deal.

This is not the first time that an Israeli top official openly attacked the nuclear deal with Iran and declared that "Israel" is not obliged by the UN-sponsored agreement and will carry out operations against Iran regardless of the deal.

During an official visit to France last August, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid told French President Emmanuel Macron that "Israel" won't be bound by nuclear deal if one is reached.

Construction Of Ram Temple In Ayodhya Begins After Plinth Completion



Agenceis

Ayodhya: The construction work on the superstructure of the grand Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya including the Garbh Griha and five Mandaps started full swing after the plinth construction work was completed. According to a statement by the Shri Ram Temple trust, the superstructure is being constructed on the 6.5m (21 ft) high plinth.

The consortium of engineers for Shri Ram temple had selected granite stone for the plinth work as most of the ancient temples were constructed on natural rocky strata.

"Approximately 17,000 granite stone blocks of size 5ft x 2.5ft x 3ft were used in the construction of the plinth by interlocking arrangement between the stones. The weight of each Granite stone block is approx. 3 tons. Four tow-

er cranes, several mobile cranes and other equipments were deployed for the erection and laying of the Granite Stones Blocks in the Plinth. The Plinth area is approx. 3500 sqmt which will act like a solid rock. Proven and tested quality of Granite Stone was procured from mines of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh," said the statement.

"National Institute of Rock Mechanics (Organization under the Ministry of Mining), Bangalore was engaged as an expert for monitoring the quality of the Granite Stones at mining place as well as at Shri Ram Temple workplace," it added.

The superstructure of the Temple is being constructed using carved Rajasthan Sandstone from Bansli Paharpur in District Bharatpur.

PM Modi Likely To Meet Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif During SCO Summit

Agenceis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif are likely to have a meeting during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which is scheduled to be held on September 15-16 at Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

If it materialises, then this would be the first meeting between the two leaders.

Modi had met then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on December 25, 2015, when he had landed in Lahore in a surprise stop-over to the country while on his way back to Delhi after completing a day-long visit to Afghanistan. It was the first visit to Pakistan by an Indian Prime Minister in more than 10 years.

Meanwhile, Modi will be visiting Samarkand to attend the 22nd meeting of the SCO council of heads of state, official sources said.

The SCO is the largest regional bloc in the world comprising eight full members—India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajiki-

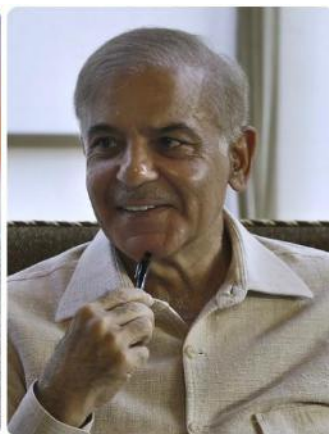


stan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The Prime Minister is also expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin during the SCO summit.

Modi is visiting Uzbekistan on the invitation of the country's President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The SCO summit will be attended by leaders of SCO member states, observer states, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Di-



rector of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), President of Turkmenistan and other invited guests, a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

At the summit, the leaders would be reviewing SCO's activities of the past 20 years and discuss various aspects related to multilateral cooperation as well as issues of regional and global importance, official sources said.

Gujarat Cadre IPS Officer Who Probed Ishrat Jahan Encounter Dismissed; HC Stays Order Till September 19

Agenceis

New Delhi: Satish Chandra Verma, a senior IPS officer who had assisted the CBI in its investigation into the alleged fake encounter case of Ishrat Jahan in Gujarat, was dismissed from the service on August 30, a month before his scheduled retirement on September 30, officials said on Tuesday.

However, the Delhi High Court while hearing a plea by Verma directed the Union Home Ministry not to implement the dismissal order till September 19 so that the 1986-batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer could approach a higher court to get relief, they said.

If the dismissal of Verma comes into effect, he will not be entitled to pension and other benefits.

The senior police officer was last posted as inspector general with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Tamil Nadu, the officials said.

Verma has moved the Supreme Court after the Delhi High Court allowed the home ministry to take action against him in the wake of a departmental inquiry that proved the charges against him, including interacting "with public media" when he was chief vigilance officer of the North Eastern Electric Power



Corporation, Shillong.

While passing its final order, the high court had on August 30 said the disciplinary proceedings against Verma shall not be implemented without the court's permission if it is prejudicial to him.

Following this order, the central government again moved the high court seeking its permission to impose the disciplinary action to dismiss Verma from service. Permitting the Centre to implement the order, a division bench of the high court said, "It is directed that the order shall not be implemented till Septem-

ber 19, 2022, to enable the petitioner to avail of his remedies in accordance with law against the order of dismissal."

Subsequently, Verma has approached the Supreme Court that is yet to hear the case.

Verma had probed the Ishrat Jahan case between April 2010 and October 2011 and on the basis of his investigation report that a Special Investigation Team had held that the encounter was "fake".

The Gujarat High Court later directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the case and avail Verma's services.

IT IS DIRECTED THAT THE ORDER shall not be implemented till September 19, 2022, to enable the petitioner to avail of his remedies in accordance with law against the order of dismissal."

PM Modi Renews Invitation To Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed To Visit India

At the head of the National Day of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conveyed his greetings to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and renewed the invitation to him to visit India at an early date.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar who just concluded his first official visit to Saudi Arabia and held talks with the top leadership here discussed measures for enhancing bilateral relations across all domains, including political, trade, energy, defence and security, the Indian embassy here said in a press release.

He met the Saudi Crown Prince in Jeddah on Sunday and handed over a written message from Prime Minister Modi, conveying greetings on the upcoming National Day of Saudi Arabia on September 23 and reiterating invitation to the Crown Prince to visit India at an early date, the press release said.

Crown Prince Mohammed paid his first State visit to India in February 2019. During the meeting, bilateral relations between the two countries and opportunities for enhancing them were reviewed and the latest regional and international developments, as well as the efforts being exerted towards them, were discussed, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Earlier on Sunday in Riyadh, Jaishankar held talks with his



Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan and discussed current global political as well as economic issues and agreed to work closely together in G-20 and multilateral organisations.

The two ministers co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC), under the framework of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

Both ministers assessed the progress in bilateral relations positively across all domains including political, trade, energy, investments, defence, security and culture. Several areas were identified for further enhancing bilateral cooperation such as food security, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, defence industry and entertainment, the Indian embassy press release said.

Right To Contest Election Neither Fundamental Nor Common Law Right: SC

Agenceis

The right to contest an election is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right, the Supreme Court has said while dismissing with a cost of Rs one lakh a petition which raised the issue regarding the filing of nomination for Rajya Sabha elections.

Observing that an individual cannot claim that he has a right to contest an election, the apex court noted that the Representation of People Act, 1950, read with the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, has contemplated the name of a candidate has to be proposed while filling the nomination form.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia passed the order while hearing a plea challenging the June 10 order of the Delhi High Court which had dismissed a petition about deciding the candidature of the petitioner to file his nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections, 2022.

The petitioner had said that a notification for election to Rajya Sabha was issued on May 12, 2022, to fill up the seats of members retiring from June 21, 2022, to August 1, 2022, and the last date for submission of the nomination was May 31.

He said he had collected the nomination form but was not allowed to file his nomination without a proper proposer proposing his name.

The petitioner claimed that since his candidature without the proposer was not accepted, his fundamental right to free speech and expression and his right to personal liberty was infringed.

"We find that the writ petition before the high court was entirely misconceived and so is the present special leave petition. The right to contest an election is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right. It is a right conferred by a statute," the apex court said in its order passed last week.

The bench, which referred to a previous judgement delivered by the top court, noted that the petitioner did not have any right to contest election to the Rajya Sabha in terms of the law made by Parliament.

"The Representation of People Act, 1950 read with the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 has contemplated the name of a candidate to be proposed while filling the nomination form," it said.

"Therefore, an individual cannot claim that he has a right to contest an election and the said stipulation violates his fundamental right, so as to file his nomination without any proposer as is required under the Act," the bench observed.

The apex court dismissed the petition with a cost of Rs one lakh and said the cost be paid to the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee within four weeks.

NEWS MAKERS

India Furious After Fox News Anchor Says Brits Civilised India

Agenceis

Soon after British Monarch, Queen Elizabeth passed away earlier last week, tributes started to pour in with respect to the queen. During one such tribute, Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson in his program said even after 75 years of Independence, India has not produced a single building as beautiful as the Bombay train station (CST), he further added saying the English did not commit genocide against India.

A one and a half minute clip from Tucker Carlson's show is making rounds on the internet and has stirred controversy.

"The English, took their colonial responsibilities seriously, they did not just take things they added," he said.

The fox news anchor further said, "When US withdrew troops from Afghanistan after 20 years, we left behind airstrips, shipping containers and guns. When the British pulled out of India they left behind an entire civilization, a language, a legal system, schools, churches and public buildings all of which is still in use," he said.



Showing the visual of the CST station the anchor said, "Here is the train station the English build in Bombay, there is nothing like that in Washington DC, Kabul or Baghdad." "Today India is far more powerful than the UK, the nation that once ruled it and yet after 75 years of Independence, has that country produced a single building as beautiful as the Bombay train station, no sadly it has not, not once," he said.

He further said "The British empire was more than just geocide, infact, the British did not commit geocide, except arguably

against the Dutch," he said.

"The British empire spread Protestant Christianity to the entire world, they published some of the greatest literature ever written and produced the finest manufactured goods ever made anywhere at any time including now," he said.

The video concludes with the fox news anchor saying "It was an impressive place run by impressive people. We will never see again an empire so benign."

Soon after the video went viral, netizens have slammed Tucker Carlson for his remarks.

"Funny, when I travelled all over India, the most stunning buildings I saw weren't built by the British but by Indians themselves! That was before colonialism, when they could still afford to... Colonialism wrecked India, it didn't build it. They're only just starting to recover," said one of the user.

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor took on twitter to slam the US based journalist, "I think @twitter ought to have an option for something to press when you can't respond without losing your cool. For now I will content myself with "

Journalist Siddique Kappan Will Remain In Jail, Officer Cites Another Case

Agenceis

Lucknow: Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan, who was recently granted bail by the Supreme Court, will remain in a jail here as a case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate against him is still pending, officials of the prison department said.

A court here on Monday issued the release order of Mr Kappan, who was lodged in jail after his arrest in October 2020 while he was on his way to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being raped.

"Kappan will continue to remain in jail as a case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate is still pending," DG Jail PRO Santosh Verma told PTL.

While ordering his release, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Anurodh Mishra had directed Kappan to furnish two sureties of 1 lakh each and a personal bond of the same amount.

The judge also sought an undertaking from the journal-



ist that he would not breach the conditions imposed on him by the top court.

Mr Kappan along with three others -- Athikur Rehman, Alam and Masood -- was arrested by the police in Mathura for allegedly having links with the Popular Front of India and being a part of conspiracy to instigate violence.

He was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Information Technology (IT) Act. The Supreme Court on Fri-

day had granted bail to Mr Kappan.

The court had also taken note of the submissions of the Uttar Pradesh government and laid down several conditions for bail, including that he will have to remain in Delhi for the next six weeks after release from the prison and report to Nizamuddin police station in the national capital on Monday every week.

Opposition parties and journalist bodies had welcomed the Supreme Court order granting bail to Mr Kappan.

They claimed Mr Kappan was made a "soft target" by the Uttar Pradesh government and hoped he will also be granted bail in another case filed against him under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The Dalit woman had died at a Delhi hospital a fortnight after she was allegedly gang-raped on September 14, 2020. She was cremated in the middle of the night in her village.

Earrings Of BJP MLA's Mother, 80, Snatched At Gunpoint Near Delhi

Agenceis

Chaziabad: An FIR has been registered in the incident of snatching of a pair of earrings of the mother of a BJP MLA, police said on Tuesday.

The incident had taken place on September 9, when two persons riding a bike waved a gun at Santosh Devi, 80, the mother of Bulandshahr BJP MLA Pradeep Chowdhary, and threatened her to part with her earrings while she was walking on a roadside in Pratap Vihar area.

When Santosh Devi refused to do their bidding, the two slashed her ear lobes with a cutter and fled with the earrings.

The MLA's mother lives here in Pratap Vihar with her younger son Jeetpal, police said. When the MLA came to know about the incident, he called SSP Muniraj G and got an FIR was registered on Monday.

Five teams of police have been constituted to work out the case, Additional Superintendent of Police (First) Nipun Agarwal said. Action would be initiated against the errant cops for delay in filing an FIR, he said.

Police are scouring the CCTV footage and also leveraging manual intelligence to nab the robbers at the earliest, the SP city said.

Men Posing As Faith Healers Loot Woman In Tral

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Three fraudsters masquerading as 'faith-healers' deceived a naïve woman and looted cash and gold from her house in Tral town of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The incident occurred at Bucho village while the family lodged a report at the police station.

Family sources told a local news agency KNT that three con men entered into the house of one Firoz Ahmed, masquerading as 'faith-healers'. At the time only the ailing Ahmed and his wife were present in the house.

The trio assured the woman that they will heal her ailing husband. On the instructions of the fraudsters, the woman brought the Holy Quran, gold and Rs 5,000.

The fraudsters after read-

ing out some prayers asked the woman to shut her eyes and later on asked her to keep the Holy Quran at a safe place and open it after a few hours. They informed the woman that the gold and cash are in the Holy Quran and when she will open it, her husband will be free from all ailments.

All the fake faith healers left the house while the woman was shocked after finding nothing in the Holy Quran.

"They (fake-faith-healers) de-camped with 2 rings and two earrings of gold and cash worth Rs 5,000. We informed the police about the incident," one of the family members said.

Such incidents in the peripheries of Tral town are not uncommon. Fake-faith healers deceive naïve people and mint money at will. (KNT)

Govt Higher Secondary Baramulla Shines In NEET

Five Students Crack The Prestigious Exams

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Five students from Baramulla Higher Secondary School cracked prestigious NEET exams, making the institution proud.

According to, at least five students from male students shined in the recently declared National Entrance Examination Test (NEET) results too without taking any private coaching.

Principal Boys Higher School, Javeed Ahmed, while congratulating the students said that it is a very proud moment for the entire district.

"People should realise that the government run institutions are equal and can compete with

private schools. Our teachers are always giving their best for the future of students."

Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh of Peernia Boniyar, one of the qualified students who secured 610 points, gave credit to teachers for his success.

He said teachers always play an important role in shaping the career of the students. "I thank all my teachers who believe in me and guided me properly and supported me and made me able to achieve the milestone," he said with a message for students who did not crack the exams this time saying, "Don't get disheartened, believe in yourself as there is always a next time. But stay focussed." — (KNO)

Green Valley Felicitates Student Who Cracked IIT

Self Control, Discipline Key To A Successful Life: CEO Wani

Farooq Shah

SRINAGAR: The CEO of Green Valley Educational Institute (GVEI), Mohammad Yousuf Wani, while congratulating Mehran Farooq Shah, a former student of his school who cracked the JEE Advanced test recently, said that greatness of character is something that can be developed through constant self-discipline and self-control in order to reach great heights in life.

Mehran, who scored an all India rank of 5891 in the recently declared JEE Advanced Test, attended GVEI up to the 10th where after he studied at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Jawahar Nagar.

Speaking during the event, Wani stressed the need of maintaining total focus on one's goal and investing all of one's energy in accomplishing it.

"Achieving anything in life is not a difficult undertaking, but it does need patience, persistence, and discipline," he remarked. "Mehran, who has a humble upbringing, taught us the way forward on how one might use these qualities to attain his desired objective."

While recalling Mehran as a former pupil of the school, vice

principal Riyaz Ahmad Kathjoo, said success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced every day.

"In today's cutthroat competition, it is easy to lose concentration amid all the distractions accessible to a child, which is dangerous," Kathjoo said. "Nothing is impossible if one keeps moving steadily toward their goal, as Mehran has demonstrated."

Mehran, while speaking before the audience, said that anyone can crack the toughest examinations with a few tips up his sleeve.

"One need not work hard to accomplish what is possible," he said. "Almost any exam can be cracked with a little push and regular practice."

According to Mehran, self-study is necessary at the professional level because it saves you from a significant time loss.

He thanked his teachers, mentors and parents for supporting him all through this journey, especially the RISE coaching centre that, he said, opened his vision to the outside world.

"At first, I knew nothing about IITs, but the tutors at the RISE coaching centre gave me a platform from which I could easily launch myself," Mehran remarked. "I received a lot of emotional support from my parents, especially my father, who also served as my mentor."

Choudhary Takes Over As MD KPDCL

SRINAGAR: Yasin M Choudhary (IAS) on Tuesday took over as Managing Director (MD), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), days after his transfer by the General Administration department.

After assumption of charge, the MD took the introductory review meeting with all Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Divisional heads of KPDCL, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

The MD, he said, was briefed regarding the Assets and Operational working of KPDCL. The progress regarding installation of Smart Meters was also reviewed.

He said that the MD directed all the Divisional Heads to gear up for winter preparedness and complete all the activities before onset of winter.

"Further, all the Divisional Heads were directed to complete all the CAPEX works as per schedule and increase the revenue realization to meet up the AT&C loss targets committed under RDSS," the spokesperson said.

Further, he said, the MD directed the Divisional Heads to conduct awareness camps in co-ordination with District Administration regarding the Amnesty Scheme launched by Govt. of J&K.

LG Reviews Development Scenario In Poonch



Observer News Service

POONCH: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting here to review the development projects in the district and the overall functioning of the District Administration.

Taking stock of the implementation and progress of the development works and the saturation of welfare schemes in the District, the LG directed the officials for speedy implementation of the schemes and execution of the projects, an official spokesperson said.

"Work in a cohesive manner for ensuring the prompt delivery of public services, especially to the underprivileged, tribals, and those living in villages and border areas. People's grievance should be addressed promptly by all the departments," the LG directed the officials.

The LG, according to the spokesperson, reviewed the status of digitization of land records, Amrit Sarovar, Jal Jeevan Mission, e-services, One District One Product, PM Kisan, Power

scenario, Mission Youth, entrepreneurship and employment generation programmes, Block & Thana Diwas. The Lt Governor also stressed the progress made on strengthening the connectivity of border villages.

The LG, he said, directed the officials for special emphasis on the education sector and dedicated efforts for increasing the enrolment in schools. He further stressed on ensuring effective implementation of Youth-oriented schemes and programmes and directed for doubling the efforts for engaging youth in sports-related activities.

The spokesperson further said that Sinha also passed directions to organize Debates, Essay Writing & Painting Competitions on the theme of "Truth and Non-Violence" in educational institutions across the district in commemoration of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Stressing on developing agriculture and allied sectors, the LG, he said, called for giving special focus on improving

farmers' income and strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations in the district.

While enquiring about the impact of lumpy skin disease in the district, the LG directed for conducting extensive vaccination campaign.

The spokesperson said that Inder Jeet, Deputy Commissioner Poonch gave a detailed power point presentation on the overall developmental scenario in the district.

The district has taken up 1412 works under district capex and 80% projects are expected to be completed by 31st October, it was informed.

Tazeem Akther, DDC Chairperson Poonch; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary to Government, Tribal Affairs Department and senior officials of District Administration and concerned departments attended the meeting at Dak Bungalow Poonch.

Security Situation Reviewed In Doda Ahead Of LG's Visit

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A senior police officer on Tuesday held a security review meeting at police control room (PCR) Doda ahead of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha's visit.

Dr. Sunil Gupta, Deputy Inspector General Police, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban Range (DKR), during his 3 day tour to Doda and Kishtwar in connection with the visit of Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Manoj Sinha, today took a security review meeting with the Senior police, Army and CAPF officers at PCR Doda, a police spokesperson said.

Later, he said, the DIG also visited Women Police Station Doda and inspected the complex and interacted with the staff.

"The DIG also inspected the Police Public School Doda and handed over keys of two Buses to the management of the Edu-



cational Institution, besides inaugurating a Computer Lab in the School building for which computers were provided by the Range Hqrs," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the DIG also interacted with the students and assured the staff and students of every possible help for improving the quality of education to achieve better academic results.

On this occasion, he said,

some musical instruments were also presented to the School authorities to enable the students to learn the music and participate in fine arts activities.

Among others present on the occasion included, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, DC Doda; Abdul Qayoom SSP Doda; Raj Kumar ASP (Ops) Doda; Jaswant Singh Dy.SP Hqrs. Doda; Shoket Ali, DAR Doda and Pritam Singh, Principal PPS Doda.

Dr Farooq Chairs DISHA Meeting At Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Member Parliament (MP) Srinagar- Budgam Lok Sabha constituency, Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA), meeting at Conference Hall Budgam.

At the outset, District Development Commissioner, Budgam, S F Hamid presented the overall status of the sector - wise developmental achievements and implementation of centrally and UT sponsored schemes in the district through a powerpoint presentation.

Taking review, the MP also listened to the demands of DDC Chairman, Nazir Ahmad Khan, DDC Members, BDCs, President of Municipal Councils and various Sarpanches and other PRI

members during the review meeting.

Stressing on speedy completion of all ongoing works and projects, the MP reviewed implementation and progress recorded under Ayushman Bharat/JKK Sehat Scheme, JSY, PMGSY, SBM, JJM, RDSS, PMKSY, ICDS MGNREGA, PMAY, NRLM, NHM and other schemes.

Detailed review of departments including R&B, PMGSY, PHE, Horticulture, Agriculture, Education, Social Welfare, Animal and Sheep Husbandry departments was also taken by the chair.

While lauding the District Administration Budgam for timely execution and completion of works and successful implementation of schemes, MP called for more synergy and coordination between the departments and public repre-

sentatives for effective implementation of public welfare schemes.

He also stressed on launching a massive awareness campaign against the drugs to uproot this evil from the society to save the youth from falling prey to peddlers.

MP emphasized on sustenance of developmental activities and improvement in all education, health and PHE sectors besides road connectivity to ensure better facilities to the people of Budgam.

He called for proper rationalization of teachers in school and speedy execution of pending infrastructure developmental works in the education sector.

SSP Budgam, Tahir Salim; ADDC, Dr Akramullah Tak; ADC Dr Nasir Ahmad and all other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

BJP Deliberately Delaying Polls In J&K: Cong

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani on Tuesday hit out at the BJP for allegedly destroying the identity, status and rights of the people and said the Centre is deliberately delaying the holding of early assembly elections in the union territory.

He said that instead of addressing grievances of the people, the government brazenly participated in photo sessions to get cheap publicity and just to befool the people, making false promises.

"BJP government is deliberately delaying the holding of early

assembly elections and restoration of full statehood to J&K. The people should gear up for decisive fight", Wani said while addressing a function in Ramban.

He alleged the incumbent regime has totally neglected the hilly and remote areas.

"BJP has destroyed the identity, status and rights of the people", he added.

He said that the politics of the hatred is a dangerous for the country and urged the people to reject the communal and divisive forces and strengthen the secular and progressive forces in order to strengthen the unity and integrity of the nation and the state.

MeT Forecasts Mainly Dry Weather In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weather department here on Tuesday forecast "mainly dry weather" with possibility of very light rain at one or two places on higher reaches in Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official here said that no 'significant weather' was expected for subsequent two days either and weather was likely to remain mainly dry.

Regarding the minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 14.0°C against 14.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.9°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 12.4°C against 11.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 1.0°C above normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, he said, the mercury settled at 7.4°C against 9.1°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 12.1°C against 10.3°C the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 8.1°C against 6.6°C on the previous night. It was 0.9°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 12.0°C against 14.4°C the previous night, the official said. It was 0.8°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 23.1°C against 20.8°C on the previous night. It was 0.2°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 11.8°C, Batote 15.3°C, Katra 21.2°C and Bhadarwah 14.6°C. (GNS)

DDC Kupwara Reviews Power Sector Ahead Of Winter Season

Fixes Timeline For Completion Of Different Works To Augment Power Scenario



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The District Development Commission (DDC) Kupwara, Doifode Sagar Datatray on Tuesday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of the power sector in Kupwara district, ahead of winter season.

The DDC took a detailed scheme wise and work wise review and received feedback from the officers. He said the objective of the meeting is to review the power scenario of the district ahead of winter season and directed the officers to work on mission mode to complete all ongoing works. He fixed the timeline of October 15 and ending November for different works and asked them to be committed to the timeline.

The DDC asked both the Superintendent Engineers present in the meeting to work in tandem and added dedication to enable that during the ensuing winter power supply would be better than previous year. To achieve this target, the DDC directed the concerned engineers to work on mission mode for capacity addition of Grid Station Arampora and Vilgam.

The meeting was informed that about 80 MVA Grid Capacity is being developed to already available 140 MVA capacities which will augment the power

supply scenario in the district. The DDC asked the engineers to keep him informed about the progress on a weekly basis.

He also asked the engineers to give weekly feedback to him about the two sub stations coming up in far flung areas of Machil and Keran at a cost of Rs.75 lakh and Rs.35 lakh respectively, where under new habitations of Katwara, Misri Behak in Machil and Naga Khaitan, Tirngdiyan, Gogeldori, Brandajhi in Keran are being electrified.

The DDC also directed them to gear up for augmentation of buffer stock of transformers to meet the requirements during the winter season so that people do not face any inconvenience. He also asked them to develop a mechanism for containing power theft and other illegal practices with which transformers get damaged.

Reviewing the District CAPEX Budget under Power Sector, the DDC was informed that as many as 476 works have been approved at a cost of Rs.2279 lakh; against which 339 works have been accorded Administrative Approval and were allotted. The DDC was informed that work is apace on all the 213 works at different areas of the district. The DDC gave a deadline of October 15 for completion of 180 works and ending November for completion of the rest of the works.

Elderly Man Dies in Kupwara Accident

Agencies

KUPWARA: An elderly man died on Tuesday in a road mishap at Bramri along Kupwara-Srinagar highway here.

Reports said that a person was hit by a speeding Santro car bearing registration number JK01B 7043. The individual, as per reports, was returning after

his appointment with a doctor at 'Quality Health Care' hospital.

Confirming it, a police official told a local news agency GNS that the car driver involved in the mishap has been arrested and a case registered for investigations.

The official in the meantime identified the deceased as Ghulam Mohammad Gojar, son of Saif-ud-Din Gojar of Jugtiyal Haihama.

KASHMIR
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K O V I E W

Political Churning
In India

AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal is in Gujarat to campaign for the Assembly polls early next year. Kejriwal is trying to fill in the vacuum created by the depletion of the Congress party as a viable opposition. Will AAP be able to position itself as an alternative in what is an all-important state for the BJP? Only time will tell. Congress is also in the process of rejuvenating itself by hitting the road. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is currently undertaking a padyatra to reconnect Congress with the people. The public response has so far been good. It remains to be seen whether this public outreach could translate into any electoral gains for the party in the upcoming Assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. And whether Congress could emerge as a viable alternative to the BJP in 2024, the chances of which at this time look very remote. Though only a small number of people will be formally a 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.

However, with its recent landslide victory in Punjab, the AAP is on a roll. It hopes to replicate the performance in Gujarat. Kejriwal has shown political skills to get his party up and running out of nowhere. He could very well do so in Gujarat. But it is also true that prime minister Narendra Modi's charisma is still fresh and abiding and that too in his home state where his remarkable journey began. So, it would be next to impossible to dislodge him in Gujarat. Ditto in Himachal. With every passing year, his political appeal and constituency have grown stronger and wider while that of Congress has correspondingly shrunk.

But there are still two years to go before the general elections are held, and much can change during this time. Two years is a long time in politics. Kejriwal could very well emerge as a dark horse in Gujarat. But at the national level, only a combined opposition could be expected to take on the BJP. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who recently quit the alliance with the BJP, is trying to forge an opposition unity and there are indications that he has had some success in the endeavour. But it won't be easy to bring all the opposition parties together on one platform, more so, with several regional leaders nursing their personal ambitions. Gujarat and Himachal election outcomes will certainly offer some hint as to what is in store in 2024.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Hide and seek

India has recently overtaken the United Kingdom to become the fifth largest economy of the world. This higher rank is considered by the Government of India as a grand success. The nation, however, ought to reflect on this achievement more closely. First of all, the size of the gross domestic product hides more than it reveals. The absolute size does not tell the nation what is available to each citizen, even on average. It does not say how the goods and services are distributed, and the levels of poverty and unemployment. Finally, it does not reveal anything about the degradation of the natural environment. In other words, the focus on GDP does not help unveil the true nature of the economic condition of citizens and the long-term availability of natural resources. India's recent attainments in other measures of economic performance leave much to be desired.

In terms of the latest data on per capita incomes, India is ranked 144 out of 194 countries and has a rank of 33 among Asian nations. The richest country in per capita terms has an income 60 times higher than that of India. In terms of economic inequality, the World Inequality Report 2022 and an Oxfam study reveal that the top 10 per cent of Indians earned 57 per cent of all income and owned 77 per cent of national wealth. The bottom 50 per cent earned only 13 per cent of income. According to the International Monetary Fund, India's per capita income at current prices stood at \$2,191 in 2021 and was expected to increase to \$2,358 in 2022. If the degree of inequality is taken into account and the incomes of the top 10 per cent excluded, then the per capita income would fall to a little less than half the total. It is estimated that if a minimum-wage earner were to aspire to earn the remuneration of a senior CEO in the garment industry, it would take the person 941 years to do so. There cannot be starker evidence of embedded inequality in the country.

Then, there is the enduring challenge of poverty. According to Oxfam, 63 million Indians are pushed back into poverty due to lack of access to health facilities alone. Poverty has actually increased during the pandemic with estimates showing that between 200 to 250 million people fell below the poverty line. Finally, in today's world, the environmental performance of a nation is of great significance. It is a pity that India is ranked on this index at the bottom out of 180 countries in 2022. Becoming the fourth or even the third largest economy may not change matters for the average Indian citizen, especially the poor

Telegraph India

Man Vs Wild

Have Wild Animals Made Srinagar and Its
Outskirts Their New Habitat ?



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

There is a substantial cover of vegetation and growth of forest around Shankaracharya hill and bears come down from the said hill to eat cherries in many personally owned lawns

The Presentation Convent School had to issue an order to close down the school on Monday, September 12th 2022 after a small video clip of a bear and her cub roaming in Jawahar Nagar, Raj Bagh locality went viral.

The Presentation Convent school management in its press statement had said:

"The school will remain closed tomorrow (12/9/2022) and the exam scheduled for tomorrow will be conducted the day after tomorrow (13/9/2022). Praying for the safety of everyone"

The video had created a lot of chaos and confusion among the Srinagar residents in general and people of Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar and adjoining localities in particular as it is for the first time in recent history that wild animals had been found roaming in this area.

As per media reports, a 40 year old man was injured in the bear attack around Lal Mandi area which is located in between Rajbagh and Jawahar Nagar. The official sources say Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Habba Kadal Srinagar who was working as a security guard in a private school had been attacked by the wild bear. It is presumed that same bear that had been roaming around the area for the last 2 days had attacked Fayaz. The said person was left severely injured as the wild animal attacked his face and upper limbs. He was shifted to SMHS hospital Srinagar where his condition is said to be stable now. The Srinagar Police in a tweet had asked people of Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar and Lal Mandi to stay indoors until the bear and her cub were caught. After the wild animal was trapped along with the cub, the wildlife officials sent them to Dachigam national park where they were set free deep inside the forest area.

After a long chase by Wildlife officials, Rajbagh police station cops assisted by CRP, the bear and her cub were rescued around 3 am on September 12th .

Srinagar and Budgam: New Habitats for Wild Animals

The Himalayan Leopards are known for their shy and secretive behaviour. They live a solitary life, are nocturnal and spend their nights hunting instead of sleeping. However, in the last several years, their behaviour has changed especially in Kashmir valley.

These wild animals, typically found only in the alpine mountains and forests of Kashmir, are now seen in villages outside the demarcated forests since a decade. Ironically, they have made the outskirts of Srinagar their new habitat especially around the Budgam districts surrounding Srinagar airport area.

More than a year back, a four-year-old girl, Adha Skakeel, was mauled by a leopard near Ompora housing colony in Budgam. She was playing in the lawns of her house on the evening of June 5th last year when a leopard jumped from the boundary wall and snatched her away. A massive search operation was launched by the wildlife and police. After more than an hour, some local residents found the girl's necklace and slippers in the nearby forest. The next day, her mutilated body was found in a nearby newly grown forest.

Last year too, a leopard had created panic in

Similarly, the afforestation that has taken place in Srinagar and its surrounding areas like Shankaracharya hill or Zabarwan hills plus growth of stone fruit trees around Zabarwan foothills has given rise to bear population as well

Baghi Mehtab area of Srinagar when it was seen jumping from one boundary wall to another around a housing colony. The said colony is located merely 6 kms from Srinagar city centre. It was presumed that the leopard had come down from the Humhama area near the airport as more than a dozen leopards are believed to have made their habitat around Karewa Damodar area which is an elevated plateau-like area locally called Wodder. The Wodder is approximately spread over a 25 square kilometre area. Srinagar international airport is situated nearby.

For the last 10 to 12 years, leopards were frequently seen around different locations of Karewa Damodar. Infact, the entire Karewa has been fenced by the Defence Estates Department and Airport Authority of India. However, there are many locations where we find thick forest-like patches. These are the areas that were developed by the Department of Social Forestry and J&K Forest Department in the last 30 to 35 years. These areas located around Humhama, Ompora, Kralpora, Wathoora and Rangreth areas are like thick jungles which have now become a habitat for several leopards.

Leopards can be seen roaming freely in villages located just outside Srinagar airport. Only two weeks back, a leopard with two cubs was seen in Banhar Wathoora village. The leopard had taken away some puppies from the village. For 3 days, the leopard would roam around the village and the video had gone viral on social media as well.

This author who lives around the same area had informed Regional Wildlife Warden Rashid Naqash who sent a team of officials. They installed a trap but the wild animal could not be trapped even as the cage was kept in the area for several days.

Leopards don't attack humans except for when they are hungry and even then, they only attack small children. However, when it comes to bears, they attack even adult men and women.

Such wild animals were typically adjusted to their habitats religiously. They feasted on the rich diversity that wildlife had to offer. How-

ever, over the years, with the meddling in their habitats, they have taken to developing new food habits. Wild animals such as bears have been found feasting near dumping sites and adapting to trash over berries. This loophole in our waste management techniques must be factored in while identifying the reasons behind the man vs. wild conflict.

Bear in Rajbagh

When we see old pictures of Shankaracharya hill (Suliman Taing) we don't see any vegetation around it. Even in the old Bollywood movies of the 1960s or 70s which have been shot around Dal Lake, we can see the Shankar Acharaya hill looking completely barren with no vegetation. From the late 1980s, the Urban Forestry Division started planting Kail trees around this hill and now we can see a thick jungle around this hill from at least three sides i.e North, South and East. There is a substantial cover of vegetation and growth of forest around Shankaracharya hill and bears come down from the said hill to eat cherries in many personally owned lawns.

It is a possibility that the bear and her cub that were seen in Rajbagh recently, might have come towards this locality from the Shankar Acharaya hill via Gupkar road and then entered the Rajbagh area through Abdullah bridge. There is no other area in Srinagar uptown from where this wild animal would have gone to Rajbagh.

In Karewa Damodar (Airport side), only leopards are found and there is no evidence that any bear has ever even been spotted. This makes it quite plausible that the said bear had entered Rajbagh from Shankar Acharaya mountain via Gupkar road.

Conclusion

The wildlife officials and local residents living near Srinagar airport area told me on several occasions that leopards who live in Karewa Damodar or other Karewas of Budgam kill and eat dogs. This is their main diet and every night they go out to kill dogs. As there is enough dog population in Kashmir which is infact increasing day by day on a very large scale, the leopards from alpine forests come down to villages and get settled around secluded areas or thick man-made forests around Karewas. Similarly, the afforestation that has taken place in Srinagar and its surrounding areas like Shankaracharya hill or Zabarwan hills plus growth of stone fruit trees around Zabarwan foothills has given rise to bear population as well. Some decades back the leopards would hardly eat the dogs as they would kill and prey only wild animals like deer, wild goats or sheep but now it seems their food habits have changed with the change in their habitat. This change has also been facilitated by trash dumped in various parts which has now become a part of the wild animals' eating habits.

This makes it clear that the attack from wild animals is hardly a case of animals-gone-rogue. This combat is man-made and must be mitigated accordingly.

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

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Respecting Women Online

COVID-19 has pushed people to the digital universe, now, more than ever. This, however, does not mean that this proliferation has been entirely positive. With more people on the internet, it has also become a vulnerable space. It is especially true for women. Women face a number of issues online. Stalking, trolling, harassment

and blackmailing — to name a few.

Trolling, out of all these, is often brushed under the carpet and is trivialised. This trivialisation of trolling helps no one and is absolutely unacceptable. In a country like India, there is every chance that digital abuse can translate into physical harm. Women are already in danger here and add to that the access that

internet gives to possible offenders.

Therefore, we must find ways to collaboratively call out abusive handles and ensure the safety of women on the internet. Additionally, vocal women need to be supported and protected because they're always at the receiving end of hate. Moreover, those who aren't aware of how to use internet safely, should also be edu-

cated.

Students should be taught provisions under law for digital offences from the school level itself. It is imperative to have an all-hands-on-deck approach to ensure that we give a safe internet to women.

Ameera Shah

Contemporary Life And The Possibility Of Moral Existence

Mohammad Saalim Farooq

ARISTOTLE had declared that the state existed for the moral perfection of human beings; implying that humans were morally imperfect creatures. Human existence embarks upon different “states of being”. A “state of being” entails two concepts: one is state of “being as” (something) and second is a state of “doing” or a state of activity. Morality pervades both these spheres; “being” as well as “doing”. This means morality is a constituent of character/personality –which realizes some form of presence (or present-ness), and also activity of negotiating with life; we can be morally good as well as do morally good.

An essential question with which humans have been constantly grappling concerns the nature of moral life. In other words, what does it mean to live a moral life? Different philosophies, religions, ideologies from times immemorial have dealt with this question and provided some generalized opinions, yet it remains unresolved and pertinent to the mystery of life. There is a tendency among people to be indolent and apathetic to such questions, still, we cannot escape them altogether. Our ignorance or indifference would not cease the existence of moral dilemmas, for example, which we all face at some point in our life. Thus in an attempt to live, it becomes a necessity to try and negotiate with morality, consciously or unconsciously, perhaps on an everyday basis.

As far as the reality of existence is concerned, it is an undisputed claim that human beings do not live in an empty space; rather we are grounded or embedded in a context governed by some social, moral, and political idea. Moral issues come forth in a contestation of individual moral beliefs with the already present ‘ethos’ of a society. Developing from Theodore Adorno, Judith Butler in her work Giving an Account of Oneself argues that the questions



about moral philosophy not only emerge in the context of social relations but also the form these questions take changes according to the context. What it means is that the occurrence of moral dilemmas, for example, is not only inevitable, it also keeps on upgrading itself. In other words, moral questions relevant to a certain context change their form only to be ever-present in a changed context. Imagine the question of abortion; it may be a moral catastrophe for some or freedom for others but the issue around its moral character still surfaces in public debates about abortion. Moral questions around abortion may have changed their form (as today we argue about the point at which life begins in such debates) but the importance and urgency of such questions don't fade away.

When it comes to our contemporary life, a pertinent question one needs to ask is: what is the status of our collective moral existence? Where does morality stand in our everyday life? If we suspend much clichéd Existential or Postmodern critique (which has its own complexities and counter critiques) for a while, we will

find that this question forms an immense relevance for a “fluidly modern” society like ours. It's important because our experience of the ‘modern’ somewhere develops a tension with the ‘traditional’ or, the authentic mode of life. This authentic has an inherent meaning and purpose, an authentic life in other words is a life with a purpose which supplies it with a meaning. It is a life where ideals still sustain and constantly try to inform how to deal with our moral dilemmas, while on the other hand the ‘modern’ is where these ideals have lost their credibility and are no longer sustained because of an increased tendency towards a market oriented life. For the sake of argument let's understand friendship. In its ideal understanding friendship is perhaps an association wherein two or more people are emotionally related to one another by sharing some commonality of, maybe, interests or vulnerabilities. It has its sanctity in the virtue of being exclusive, closed, and trustworthy. But how does the ‘modern’ experience corrode the ideals of friendship? A website namely

RentAFriend.com allows its users to rent a local friend if they find themselves lonely in some foreign place, in other words you can buy a friend for some bucks to do away with your loneliness. The question remains, if we buy a friend even if she is loyal will this association be called a friendship? The point is when we add money to rent a friend for some time it loses its meaning. Michel Sandel highlights many other such cases in his book What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets. It then means that modern market forces can intervene with the meaning of otherwise abstract and morally intelligible ideals. Slavoj Zizek, in one of his interviews, makes a similar comment about the nature of love. He argues that the act of ‘falling in love’ which otherwise involved bearing the risks and vulnerabilities of its spontaneity, has now disappeared. We tend to look for someone to love as an arrangement of preferences and choices that involves conscious decision-making and remaking of it. This proclivity towards having a mechanistic consciousness of the world and things within it

however abstract they are has a bearing on our moral existence. It makes cost-benefit analysis or sometimes even hedonistic calculus as the only metric of our ethics –a benchmark of making ethical judgements in the acts we do or the choices we make or even the ideals we hold.

This phenomenon is reductionist and minimalistic with respect to the complex human existence as it doesn't allow an inherently vibrant human nature to express itself. Some important aspects of being human like simplicity, subsistence, altruistic care... are lost in a mad race for frivolous pleasures. For instance, consider the case of Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai, which was recently thrown public for common people to visit. The hotel is jeweled with kingly luxury where even toilets are plated with 24 karat gold. There is no utility of such a luxury other than creating a fetish around commodities and standardizing the cost of living in such places. The benchmark it creates leaves a variety of other human tendencies unentertained. We find people desire to visit such places and witness the luxury because the benchmark somehow even sets the sense of aesthetics for us.

This is precisely where the tension between the ‘modern’ and the authentic becomes apparent, which creates crises in our moral existence and makes us oscillate between being sensitive to the gravity of the situation and being apathetic to it altogether. The problem is; however insensitive we remain, these questions would resurface to us. The need of the hour is to have a deeper engagement with the question of moral and philosophical importance, and not shy away from the complexity of their nature. This is where a case for doing philosophy becomes almost inevitable.

Author is a postgraduate in Political Science with primary interests in Philosophy and Ethics

Emerging Multipolar World Order

Ahmet Mehmet

Much of the discussion related to the emerging multipolar world order is concentrated on its general contours. It is important to look at some specific aspects of multipolarity which should be established for the new order to make itself relevant on the world stage and to deliver tangible results.

Let us first identify its opponents. They are not limited to NATO regimes only. While western powers will be the biggest losers of the creation of a multipolar world order—it means the loss of their hegemony—China and Russia are also not fully committed to a truly multipolar world order. This needs elaboration.

Speaking at the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow in 1998, then US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright made some positive remarks about multipolarity. At the same time, she asserted that the United States of America was an indispensable world power.

Careful reading and analysis of Chinese and Russian statements and policies reveals that they consider multipolarity simply as a means to enhance their influence in global affairs. They do not want to significantly reduce western hegemony if their interests can be accommodated within its parameters.

This was explained by one of the most astute Russia experts, Dmitri Trenin who articulated in the Washington Quarterly as early as 2009 the most accurate assessment of contemporary Russia-West relations. Trenin wrote: “Russia was not to be integrated into the core West but managed by it... Putin aimed at integration with it [West]. Unlike [Boris] Yeltsin, Putin put a price on his country's cooperation with the United States. Washington would have to recognize Moscow's primacy in the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States, the Central Asian Republics that were part of the Soviet Union before its breakup].”

If one pays close attention to the reasons advanced by Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, whether one agrees with them or not, it becomes clear that had the west not expanded its influence into what Russia considers its sphere of influence, Moscow's objec-



tions to western hegemony would not be significant.

Keeping this in mind, let us return to the central question of the specifics of a truly multipolar world order.

Such a world order will have to reflect strategic diversification in economic, political and military fields. Thus, there needs to be a group of states which would balance each other out in economic, political and military fields. In a truly multipolar set up, China and Japan would achieve similar levels of growth and be equally crucial for a functioning global economy. Europe would be able to enter political and economic alliances without needing a green light from Washington. The US will not be able to give unconditional support to apartheid Israel without significant economic and political costs. All these factors do not have to play out in the exact way described above, but the leveling of economic, political and military fields in a diversified and multilateral way is essential.

Let us conduct a brief overview of some specific economic features which would have to be firmly established for the world order to be functional and truly multipolar.

From an economic standpoint, the key shift must take place in the entire

so-called neo-liberal economic narrative. It does not mean that all features of free trade and capitalism will be eliminated, but many of the key economic dogmas of neo-liberalism projected as economic truths will have to be called out for what they are, dogmas. This is already taking place and not only due to the economic rise of China which dismisses key tenets of western capitalism. Even in the US some key dogmas of the so-called free-market economy are being significantly reconfigured.

Joe Biden's decree to institute “Buy American” provision for the federal government when purchasing goods and services may appear to be a sensible economic policy, it is also an admission that Washington's global economic narrative has failed. For decades, western educational institutions, think-tanks and media outlets preached the virtues of free trade as the primary engine for world peace and global economic prosperity. The US was the principal political and military champion of free trade economic narrative. Now it admits serious shortcomings of its classical ways.

Also, one should not dismiss the increasing appeal of the Scandinavian economic model. It has become a key example of how to do things better

in many educational institutions and media headlines shaping global attitudes. Twenty years ago, the narrative of how economic activity should be managed was symbolized by the US economy, which brought with it certain economic dogmas. Today this is no longer the case. Scandinavian countries which chose to follow a different economic path have become the symbol of correct economic thinking.

Islamic banking is also gaining ground and even non-Muslim policy centers are looking at it as a serious alternative.

Other key economic factors that would need to be set in place for the durability and authenticity of a multipolar world order would be a significant movement away from the US dollar as global trade currency and the establishment of Africa as a manufacturing hub to counter China's dominance.

Since there is intense discussion about the supremacy of the US dollar, more attention needs to be paid to the necessity of Africa being the new global economic miracle. The African continent is a treasure-trove of many vital minerals. Further, its climatic diversity makes the continent an ideal hub for diverse economic sectors.

With its economy still largely underdeveloped, the continent has immense space for many services and products that can be initiated for the local markets to absorb. With sincere and committed political leadership, there is no reason why Africa cannot become an economic success story. True, this will not happen overnight or even in the next few years, but it is a plausible scenario in which the developing world should take keen interest and lend active support.

Western hegemony should have taught developing countries one important lesson: not to place all their eggs in one basket. The basket owners have a tendency to weaponize their currency and adopt policies to accrue other economic advantages. By making sure that China does not hold all the economic cards, especially in manufacturing, the developing world, West Asia in particular, can avert a scenario where Beijing will utilize medium powers mainly as leverages against its bigger competitors. To avoid this scenario, Africa's economic advancement should be a key pillar of the strategy to balance out China's manufacturing monopoly.

At the political level, multipolarity must develop a robust and practical mechanism of collective global cooperation and decision-making. Absent this concrete alternative, the declining western hegemonic order will appear as the only real and working global political framework. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. If countries like Venezuela, Iran, Bolivia, Turkey, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brazil, Algeria, South Africa and Ghana come together for a coordinated political push to reform the current UN security council system and increase the role of the UN General Assembly, multipolarity can reflect a more realistic and relevant picture of the world.

If western powers refuse to play ball at the UN—and it is quite likely that is what will happen—there is no reason why a sizable bloc of countries cannot create an alternative political structure to replace the UN. Will power and political prudence can make this a reality.

Another key political development which must take place for multipolarity to firmly set in is the normalization of local conflict resolution. Conflicts

should be resolved without US, French, British, Norwegian, Russian or Chinese involvement. Local and regional problems should be resolved by actors directly affected by them. While this has already started to a certain degree, as recent developments in Chad, Venezuela-Columbia and Iran-Saudi negotiations show, this needs to become the norm in all parts of the world. This will take time to become fully functional but the fact that this is already taking place is a positive development.

In practical terms, this means the emergence of organizations like the African Union, BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and others. This is the only way to win global public opinion on a broad scale by showing that multipolarity is acted upon at a practical level and can deliver positive results.

Political institutionalization of multipolarity will naturally eliminate the need for non-regional military involvement. This means that the interference of non-regional militaries around the world needs to be eliminated or at the very least reduced to a minimum. For this to happen, a realistic approach needs to be taken. It should be kept in mind that war is the perpetual vice of humanity. Therefore, regional military cooperation systems, not alliances, need to be formed.

If this sounds idealistic or utopian, it should be remembered that at some point in history, the abolition of slavery, minimum wage, the UN or emergence of a European Union were also considered utopian. Today such developments and institutions are a reality because people chose to work towards establishing them.

The same should apply to the establishment of a functional multipolar world order which is in the process of being formed. While the road will be bumpy, it seems to be an unstoppable process. For it to become a fully functional reality, the process must deliver real positive results, sooner the better.

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

The article was originally published by Crescent International

Air Pollution May Trigger Lung Cancer In Non-Smokers: Scientists

Scientists have discovered a new mechanism through which very small pollutant particles in the air may trigger lung cancer in people who have never smoked. Particles linked to climate change also promote cancerous changes in airway cells, they found, paving the way to new approaches for lung cancer prevention and treatment.

Scientists of the Francis Crick Institute and University College London, funded by Cancer Research UK, presented the data at the 'ESMO Congress 2022'.

According to them, the particles which are typically found in vehicle exhaust and smoke from fossil fuels, are associated with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) risk, accounting for over 250,000 lung cancer deaths globally per year.

"The same particles in the air that derive from the combustion of fossil fuels, exacerbating climate change, are directly impacting human health via an important and previously overlooked cancer-causing mechanism in lung cells," they informed.

The risk of lung cancer from air pollution is lower than from smoking, "but we have no control over what we all breathe".

"Globally, more people are exposed to



tion is lower than from smoking, "but we have no control over what we all breathe".

"Globally, more people are exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution than to toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke, and these new data link the importance of address-

ing climate health to improving human health," said Charles Swanton from the Francis Crick Institute.

The new findings are based on human and laboratory research on mutations in a gene called EGFR which are seen in about half of people with lung cancer who have never smoked.

In a study of nearly half a million people living in England, South Korea and Taiwan, exposure to increasing concentrations of airborne particulate matter (PM) 2.5 micrometres (1m) in diameter was linked to increased risk of NSCLC with EGFR mutations.

In the laboratory studies, scientists showed that the same pollutant particles (PM2.5) promoted rapid changes in airway cells which had mutations in EGFR and in another gene linked to lung cancer called KRAS, driving them towards a cancer stem cell like state.

"We found that driver mutations in EGFR and KRAS genes, commonly found in lung cancers, are actually present in normal lung tissue and are a likely consequence of ageing," said Swanton.

However, when lung cells with these mutations were exposed to air pollutants, "we saw more cancers and these occurred more quickly than when lung cells with these mutations were not exposed to pollutants", suggesting that air pollution promotes the initiation of lung cancer in cells harbouring driver gene mutations.

"The next step is to discover why some lung cells with mutations become cancerous when exposed to pollutants while others don't," said Swanton.

Tony Mok from Chinese University of Hong Kong, who was not involved in the study, said that the research is intriguing and exciting.

"It means that we can ask whether, in the future, it will be possible to use lung scans to look for pre-cancerous lesions in the lungs and try to reverse them with medicines such as interleukin-11 inhibitors," said Mok.

"We don't yet know whether it will be possible to use highly sensitive EGFR profiling on blood or other samples to find non-smokers who are predisposed to lung cancer and may benefit from lung scanning, so discussions are still very speculative," he added.

Study Reveals Minimum Blood Sugar Levels To Avoid Diabetes-Related Problems?

Long-term blood sugar levels, known as HbA1c, can be used to accurately predict the risk of a person with type 1 diabetes having eye and kidney problems. According to research, this level should be lower than 53 mmol/mol (7%). The study tracked people for more than 30 years after they were diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. (Also read: World Diabetes Day: How diabetes can affect your mental health)

The results were published in Diabetes Care.

People with diabetes may experience damage to the small

blood vessels in various organs. The reasons for this are unclear, but it has been known since the 1990s that good control of blood sugar levels reduces the risk of complications. It has, however, not been clear what level of long-term sugar, HbA1c, people with type 1 diabetes should have in order to avoid serious damage to blood vessels in the eyes and kidneys.

"Our study determines accurately the levels of long-term sugar that can avoid complications. This knowledge can increase a person's motivation to keep their blood sugar level under control," says Hans Arnqvist, professor emeritus at Linköping University and leader

of the study.

Researchers in the current study, known as VISS (Vascular Diabetic Complications in Southeast Sweden), have followed all children and adults younger than 35 years who developed type 1 diabetes during the period 1983-1987, and who received care in the South-East Healthcare Region of Sweden. All 447 newly diagnosed persons in the region during this period were included in the study. The researchers followed the patients' HbA1c values, which reflect their average blood sugar levels during a longer period. They have also monitored the development

of eye- and kidney damage in these patients for a period of between 32 and 36 years after diagnosis.

The small blood vessels in the eye are particularly susceptible to damage in type 1 diabetes. Nearly all patients experience small haemorrhages in the eye that do not affect their vision. In some cases, new blood vessels develop in the retina. The latter is known as 'proliferative retinopathy' and can lead to blindness. Another effect of diabetes concerns the area known as the 'macula' of the retina, where high-focus vision is located. Damage here leads to blurred vision.

Differently Abled Women Are More Likely To Have Poor Diets: Research

A recent study by researchers at the NYU School of Global Public Health found that specially abled women are almost twice as likely to perceive their diet as poor and to experience food insecurity.

The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics published the findings. One in five American women between 18 and 44 reported having at least one impairment that affects their ability to hear, see, think clearly, move around independently, or take care of themselves. The diets of women with impairments have received less attention from researchers, though.

"A healthy diet is essential for avoiding many chronic diseases. A nutritious diet can also help pregnant and postpartum outcomes for women of reproductive age, according to study author and associate professor of public health nutrition at NYU School of Global Public Health Andrea Deierlein. Women with disabilities may encounter challenges because of their medical issues or physical limits if they don't have access to healthy foods or the means to prepare them.

The researchers examined information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys' 2013-2018 waves to gain a better understanding of the diets of women with impairments (CDC). 3,579 women between the ages of 18 and 44 were questioned about their daily dietary intake, which was used to determine their diet quality ratings, as well as other diet-related issues such as food security and involvement in food assistance programmes.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh E-NIT No: (115) of 2022-23 DATED:-10-09-2022.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis/percentage age basis from approved and eligible Civil registered with Union Territory J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works.

SNo	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (IN Rs.)	Earnest money (IN Rs.)	Time of completion	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Construction of Road from Hellipad to Check Mantrigam	18.19	800 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	36,380.00	25 Days	17-09-2022 at 4:30 PM	BEE/CEE	NABARD RIDF XXVII
2	Upgradation of Waterina and Lawaypora road by way of construction of R-wall and CC Drain	13.92	600 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	27,900.00	20 Days	17-09-2022 at 4:30 PM	BEE/CEE/ DEE	State Sector

Position of AAA= Accorded.

1.The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	10-09-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 10-09-2022. 6:00 PM
3.	Bid Submission Start date	10-09-2022 from 6:00
4.	Bid Submission End date	17-09-2022 upto 04.00 P.M.
5.	Last Date for receiving the hard copy (Original DD & EMD)	Hard copies shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as lowest bidder (L1) at the time opening of tenders. The cost of tender document will be collected through e- Challan/ Treasury 0059. However the successful bidders will submit the same after the opening of Bids online. Note:- All bidder must upload EMD in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora @ 2% of advertised Cost
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	17-09-2022 at 4:30 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora.

Note: The Bidder will mention the Contact No. and Bidder Name in the BoQ

2.Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender documents under MH-0059 in shape of Treasury Receipt favoring to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender inviting authority).Indicating S.No of Nit, Name of work and Earnest Money / Bid Security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B Division Bandipora (Tender receiving authority).

3.The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% Performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR Pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (Tender inviting authority) and the 2% EMD shall be Released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of 3% performance security.

4.The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora (tender receiving authority).

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

6. The earnest money shall be fortified, if :-

a. Any bidder/ tendered withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate" (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get Digital certificate from any approved vendor.

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

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in para -1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original/ photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post/ through courier before the date specified in para-1

f. The bidder who is declared as L1 shall deposit 3% performance security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora Tender issuing authority and the 2% EMD shall be released only after the receipt of the same.

DIPK-9849/22

No:-EE/R&B/Bandi/ Date:-10-09-2022

S/d Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Subject: Disposal of representation of Dr Taseen Gul regarding select list of Assistant Professor (Bio-Technology).

Notice Dated: 13 .09.2022

Whereas, on the requisition of Higher Education Department, 10 posts (OM-07; RBA-01; SC-01, ST-01) of Assistant Professor in the discipline of Bio-Technology were notified vide Notification No.10-PSC (DR-P) of 2017 dated 27.10.2017. In response, 333 application forms were received, and after scrutiny, 30 eligible candidates including Dr Taseen Gul were called for interview which was conducted w.e.f. 20.09.2021 to 21.09.2021, with the assistance of subject matter Experts from outside the State (now UT); and,

Whereas, the provisional select list was issued vide Notification No. 84-PSC (DR-S) of 2021 dated 03.11.2021, inviting objections, if any, from the candidates; and,

Whereas, after the notification of the select list, primarily it came to the notice of the Commission that three candidates including one provisionally selected candidate, namely, Mr. Asif Amin has inadvertently been awarded points for JRF at the time of shortlisting when they were not in possession of the CSIR-UGC JRF certificate; and,

Whereas, this inadvertent mistake meant change in the merit for three candidates two in OM category and 01 in SC category; and,

Whereas, the candidates in OM category, namely, Mr Pankaj Sharad (short listed for interview) and Mr Asif Amin (selected candidate) were deleted from the shortlisting as well as interview notice. However, the third candidate, namely, Ms Usha Kiran (selected under SC category), was still within the cut of merit even without JRF points; and,

Whereas, in consequence to above, a revised select list for OM category was issued vide Notification No. 84-PSC (DR-S) of 2021 dated 03.11.2021, wherein Mr Asif Amin was deleted and in his place, the candidate next in merit was selected; and,

Whereas, the applicant filed an OA No. 430/2022 before the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal Srinagar. The Hon'ble CAT while considering the matter vide its order dated 18.05.2022 directed as under:

"Meanwhile, the respondents are directed to dispose of the pending representation of the applicant".

Whereas, in her representation the applicant has alleged that some candidates have been given weightage for conferences and publications, when they do not have any such publications/conference attendance. However, the allegations have been made without any supportive evidence. The applicant has not even mentioned any specific name, as such, the allegations are vague and without proof; and,

Whereas, as regards, her allegation that her conference points and teaching experience have not been counted, it is stated that she had submitted 05 International conference papers at the time of interview, out of which 04 have been accepted. Besides, she had also submitted one National conference paper which has also been accepted, and for both the conferences she has been awarded 2.25 points. Assuming but not admitting that even her 5th international paper is also accepted she would be entitled to 0.5 additional points which could make her grade 61.95 i.e still less than the last selected candidate. As regards the counting of teaching experience is concerned, she had submitted 02 experience certificates related to the period 09.11.2016 to 31.03.2017 and 10.04.2017 to 31.12.2017. The total experience comes to 01 year, 01 month & 19 days, for which 01 point has been awarded to the applicant (petitioner). Thus, the allegations that conference & teaching experience have not been counted is also baseless; and,

Whereas, as regards the allegation that candidates who did not possess JRF have been given weightage, it is to state that due to an inadvertent error some candidates who did not possess the JRF were shortlisted. However, as soon as the mistake was noticed, the same was rectified and only such candidates who fulfilled the eligibility criteria were recommended for

Whereas, the candidate has also filed application seeking information under RTI Act 2005 which has been disposed off and the relevant information stands provided.

Now, therefore, in compliance to the orders of the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal dated 18.05.2022 passed in OA No. 430/2022 titled Dr Taseen Gul Vs UT of J&K, the case has been examined and found that the applicant has failed to make it to the select list as she has secured 61.45 marks, whereas, the last selected candidate, under OM category had secured 62.08 marks. Therefore, the applicant's prayer for re-conducting the interview by cancelling the select list cannot be accepted. Hence, the claim of the applicant being devoid of any merit is hereby rejected.

DIPK-9902/22

No: JKpsc-Leg/2/2022-05/214350

Sd Bashir Ahmad Dar (KAS) Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission

Dated:13-09-2022

Automobile Dealers Seek Protection From Loss Due To Sudden Exits Of Foreign Automakers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Automotive dealers on Tuesday sought protection from loss in case of sudden exits of foreign automakers from the country, besides seeking an equitable say in the running of business through the launch of a model dealer agreement.

The Federation of Automotive Dealers Associations (FADA) said many foreign automobile manufacturers have different contracts for dealerships in India, which are more stringent compared to what they have in their home countries.

"There have been dealer agreements between OEMs and the dealer and primarily, it is one sided agreement. It only expresses the point of view of the OEMs and dealers have always felt the need for a balanced model dealer agreement," FADA president Manish Raj Singhania told PTI here on sidelines of FADA auto retail conclave.

He said through the Model Dealer Agreement (MDA) launched on Tuesday, the dealership community has tried to create a level-playing field between the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) and auto dealerships.

"If there is any kind of issue in any auto industry or in the business, both should be able to get adequate compensation or adequate settlement, it should not be one sided," Singhania added.



One of the key issues that the MDA seeks to address is the fall-out of foreign auto manufacturers leaving India and the resultant sufferings of the dealers, he said.

"We have had few exits of OEMs, such as General Motors and Ford from India and dealers were in a position to lose a lot of money," Singhania said.

He lamented that the foreign OEMs do a lot of feasibility study even taking up to five years but while exiting it is always sudden.

"Dealers are stuck with vehicle stocks, spare parts stocks, we take term loans, we take funding from the bank, all that gets stuck up, it's a sudden exit," Singhania said.

They should have planned exit, so that dealers are also able to liquidate the resources and pay the bank loans, he asserted.

There has been a lack of transparency on the part of such OEMs, he said, adding dealers would read about a company lining up ten models for launch and "after three months, they (company) just announced the exit".

Mushroom Emerging As New Cash Crop Across J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mushroom production is at its all-time high across J&K due to Agriculture Department's efforts in bringing the best methods and providing technical know-how to new age agri-entrepreneurs.

Under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (National Agriculture Development Programme) mushroom cultivation is a focus area and Mushroom growers are equipped with quality seeds and trained in scientific cultivation techniques. The Valley boasts many success stories in the mushroom cultivation business and administration's 50 percent subsidy and technical knowledge is making the cultivation profitable for growers.

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like mushrooms are a source of livelihood for people living in the forest area. J&K has 20,230 sq kms covered in forests, which is about 20 per cent of its total geographical area.

In the Shivalik range of the Jammu region mushrooms (especially Guccchi) provide income security to peasants. Guccchi mushrooms fetch a great commercial value so it's often a competition for forest dwellers to find a bunch of them on regular basis.

With the recent government interventions, forest-dwellers in Jammu Shivaliks are being given formal training and instructions about mushroom collection and processing techniques, market knowl-



edge, and market access, so that their efforts pay them their rightly earned share.

Women-led Self-Help Groups are being encouraged under HAUSLA and TEJASWINI entrepreneurship schemes introduced by the Centre in J&K. Two young Kashmiri girls from Tral village of South Kashmir started a mushroom cultivation unit last year under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) scheme.

While discussing what to pursue after their higher education, they learned about the Department of Agriculture providing financial and technical assistance to those interested in mushroom farming. Raukaya Jan and Sobiya are running many successful mushroom cultivation units in less than a year.

Nilofar Jaan of Pulwama received training in mushroom cultivation from the Department of Agriculture, Kashmir, and claims to earn around Rs 90,000-1 lakh per year.

Women empowerment is at the forefront of all the economic development plans of

the J&K administration. Their role in the socio-economic upliftment of the UT is recognised and appreciated.

In the nearby Shopian, Jehangir Ahmed Malik and his friend Umar Yaseen of Nadiagam hamlet setup Mushroom Cultivation after getting training and subsidy from Agriculture department. The duo set up the unit with the help of the Department of Agriculture in a 20x18 room and have been cultivating the button mushrooms over the last six months. Malik believes that unemployed youth, particularly those living in the rural areas, could easily earn their livelihood by turning to progressive farming.

Similarly in Kupwara a youth who quit his job two years ago to become independent now owns Mushroom farm.

Nisar Ahmed Ganie of Bramari Kupwara quit his job after he was encouraged by the agricultural department to pursue Mushroom Cultivation. After his first successful crop, Nisar has setup five units of mushroom cultivation from which he is earning a good income.

Dulloo Reviews Progress On PMFME Scheme



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to take review the progress made in Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) schemes in Jammu & Kashmir.

The centrally sponsored PM FME scheme aims at providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.

During the meeting, a PowerPoint presentation was given in which the role of the scheme, respective capacity building measures, subsidies, use of common infrastructure and Common Incubation Centres etc were reviewed. ACS was presented action taken report and project implementation plan by senior officers at the meeting.

While chairing the meeting, ACS enquired district wise status of the beneficiaries and the reasons for the rejection of the loan

applications in some cases. He impressed upon the officers to take substantial steps in implementation of the scheme whose physical and financial progress would be assessed by him.

The ACS expressed displeasure upon unwanted delay and dereliction on approving loans of some applicants. The concerned officials were given strict instructions in this regard and were also asked to submit detailed summary of rejected and pending cases along with plausible reasons. Similarly, the District Nodal Officers were also asked to analyse the causes of rejection and small number of registrations.

Dulloo said that the number of registrations and sanctioning of cases under the scheme needs to be ramped up for its successful implementation.

During the meeting, an indicative list of promotional activities planned by the departments was also shared with the ACS. It was informed that District Resource Persons (DRPs) have been appointed and their online training has been com-

pleted. The ACS asked the officers to ensure timely completion and compliance of training programmes.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in Horticulture Department, Director Horticulture (P&M), J&K, Director Horticulture Kashmir/Jammu, Director Agriculture Jammu/Kashmir, Director Sericulture, J&K, Director Animal Husbandry, Jammu/Kashmir, Director Sheep Husbandry, Jammu/Kashmir, Director Fisheries, J&K, Managing Director, JKHPMC, J&K, Managing Director, Agro, J&K, FA/CAO Horticulture Department, Representative of SKUAST Jammu, Senior Representatives of different banks, Member of UTSLBC, All Chief Agriculture Officers/Chief, Horticulture Officers/CAHOS/DSHOS/AMOS & AD Fisheries, All District Nodal Officer for PM-FME, All District Resource persons.

Later, ACS Atal Dulloo also chaired a meeting to review the projects being taken up with support of APEDA and various project of National Horticulture Board pertaining to UT of J&K.

India Plans To Replace Toll Plazas With Auto Number Recognition System



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said that the government is conducting pilot projects to replace toll plazas with automatic number plate recognition system, which will enable deduction of fee from vehicle owners' bank accounts.

Speaking at the Mindmine Summit, the road transport and highways minister said after introduction of FASTags, toll income of state-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) increased by ₹15,000 crore per year.

"And now, we are going to launch automobile number plate technology (Automatic Number Plate Reader cameras) by which there will be no toll plazas," he said, without giving further details.

During 2018-19, the average waiting time for vehicles at toll plazas was 8 minutes.

With the introduction of FASTags during 2020-21 and 2021-22, the average waiting time for vehicles has now come down to 47 seconds.

Although that is a consider-

able improvement in the waiting time, at certain locations, especially near cities, and densely populated towns, there are still some delays at toll plazas during peak hours.

Last month, Gadkari said that the government is now looking at two options -- a satellite-based toll system where the GPS will be there in a car and the toll will be directly subtracted from the passenger's bank account and the other option is through number plates.

"We are in the process of introducing GPS instead of FASTag while using satellite and on the basis of which we want to take the toll. Technology is also available on number plate and there is good technology available in India," he said.

"We will select the technology. Though we have not taken an official decision, in my view on the number plate technology there will be no toll plaza and there will be a sophisticated computerised digital system by which we can give relief. There will be no queues and people will get great relief," the minister had said.

Amazon Moves High Court Over ₹1 Lakh Penalty In Pressure Cookers Case



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Amazon today approached the Delhi High Court challenging an order of the Central Consumer Protection Authority or CCPA imposing a penalty of ₹1 lakh for selling domestic pressure cookers that did not meet quality standards.

The plea came up before Justice Yashwant Varma who was told by CCPA counsel that he needs time to take instructions from the department on the matter. The high court listed the matter for further hearing on September 19 to enable the counsel to get instructions.

In August, CCPA imposed ₹one lakh penalty on Amazon for selling pressure cookers that did not meet quality standards and also directed the company to notify the consumers of all these 2,265 pressure cookers sold through its platform, recall the products, and reimburse the prices to buyers.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, in its statement, had said that the authority passed the order against Amazon for allowing the sale of domestic pressure cookers,

in violation of mandatory standards, on its platform.

During the hearing, Amazon's counsel submitted that as per the relevant provision under the Consumer Protection Act, the scheme is if there is a prima facie finding, the matter has to be referred for investigation, and based on the investigation, an order has to be passed.

"In this case, it has been completely given a go-by apart from the fact that there is a penalty which is imposed and which is not warranted by any provision of the Act," the counsel said.

Giving an example, the lawyer said, "Supposing there is a mall and somebody is selling spurious apples, are you going to haul up the landlord?" The CCPA had initiated suo-motu action against e-commerce platforms for the sale of domestic pressure cookers in violation of compulsory standards and it had issued notices to major e-commerce platforms, including Amazon, Flipkart, Paytm Mall, ShopClues, and Snapdeal as well as the sellers registered on these platforms, the statement had said.

SHORT TAKES

NABARD, NRLM Organize Sensitization Workshop For SHG Leaders

Observer News Service

KULGAM: NABARD in collaboration with NRLM unit Kulgam Tuesday organized a one-day sensitization workshop for women SHG leaders, here.

The workshop was attended by DDM NABARD Rouf Zargar, DPMs NRLM Shazia Farooq, DPM Mubasherah and DPM Rayees Ahmad besides Block programme managers from various blocks were also present.

Around 30 SHG leaders from Pahloo block involved in papier mache handicraft attended the workshop.

During the workshop, different topics like benefits of SHGs, effective SHG documentation and record keeping, inspiration for savings for SHGs, NABARD Panch Sutra (Regular SHG meeting, regular saving, regular inter-lending, regular repayment and regular SHG documentations), importance of individual saving account, process and methodologies of bank credit linkage, etc. were discussed.

Agri Dept Committed To Development Of Saffron Sector: Dir

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Tuesday visited saffron growing areas of Pampore and interacted with the saffron farmers of the area.

During the visit, the Director took stock of various steps taken during the recently held saffron field day.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that the Department is committed to the development of the saffron sector. A number of initiatives have already been taken by the Department and a number of other steps are in progress, he further said.

Iqbal said that for the economic development of saffron farmers, the department has endeavoured to ensure that our GI Tagged saffron reaches national and international markets. He assured the farmers of every possible support from the department for making saffron crop cultivation a successful venture.

Stocks Surge For Fourth Straight Session; Nifty Crosses 18,000-Level

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equities rallied for the fourth straight session on Tuesday with Sensex jumping 455 points and Nifty closing above the key 18,000-mark for the first time since April as foreign institutional investors remained bullish on the domestic market. The Sensex surged 455.95 points or 0.76 per cent to close at a five-month high 60,571.08 points and 24 constituents of the 30-share index ended in the green.

In a reflection of strong investor sentiments, the broader Nifty climbed 133.70 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 18,070.05 points. Previously, the Nifty had closed above the 18,000-mark on April 4 this year.

In four consecutive sessions, Sensex has gained over 1,540 points or 2.59 per cent while Nifty has risen by 445 points or 2.9 per cent. Analysts said the market rally was primarily driven by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) who have turned net buyers of domestic equities. Retail investor participation also added to the momentum.

Rupee Rallies 36 Paise To Over 1-Month High On Foreign Fund Inflows

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee appreciated by 36 paise to close at over one-month high of 79.17 against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking the dollar's decline versus its major peers and foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.30 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.03 and a low of 79.33 during the session. It finally ended at 79.17, the highest closing level since August 3. The rupee had closed at 79.53 on Monday. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.40 per cent to 107.89. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.96 per cent to USD 94.87 per barrel.

"The Indian rupee registered the biggest one-day gains after July 27, amid long unwinding in the dollar and risk-on sentiments. The dollar inflows from foreign institutions and corporates also supported the rupee," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Gold Falls Rs 314; Silver Jumps Rs 760

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold price in the national capital declined by Rs 314 to Rs 50,905 per 10 grams on Tuesday amid rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The price of the yellow metal touched Rs 51,219 per 10 grams on Monday. However, the COMEX spot price of gold was marginally lower at USD 1,723.60 per ounce compared to USD 1,723.70 per ounce on Monday.

Unlike gold, silver price in the national capital jumped Rs 760 to Rs 57,974 per kg. On Monday, the level was Rs 57,214 per kg. On Tuesday, the Comex spot price of silver was USD 19.80 per ounce compared to USD 19.77 per ounce on Monday.

"Spot gold prices for 24-carat gold at Delhi fell Rs 314 per 10 grams, pressured by stronger rupee despite firm COMEX gold prices," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities, said.

2020 RIOTS

Court Allows Production Of Accused Who Pointed Gun At Cop Through Video Conferencing

Agenceis

New Delhi: A court here has allowed the application of Delhi Police to produce accused Shahrukh Pathan, who allegedly pointed a pistol at a police head constable during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, through video conferencing.

The court heard the application while examining prosecution evidence in a case related to the riots against the Pathan.

On the ground stated, the application is allowed. Accordingly, accused Shahrukh Pathan is directed to be produced through video conferencing/ Webex on the next date of hearing, Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said in a recent order.

The court also said that a copy of the order be sent to the jail superintendent concerned for information and compliance.

A sub-inspector of Delhi Armed Police (DAP) had earlier submitted an application stating there is a strong apprehension that the Under Trial Prisoner (UTP) Shahrukh Pathan may execute a plan again to escape from police custody while out of jail for production in courts and may be attacked by some unknown anti groups.

According to the application, Pathan was a desperate

and active hard core criminal, involved in two cases of attempt to murder, riots, other body and property offences, and Arms Act.

The application further said that despite the UTP being categorised as high-risk and the deployment of a large number of police personnel, there was a threat to his security.

In view of the safety and security of other UTPs, as well as police staff, it is humbly prayed that the above-mentioned UTP may be ordered to be produced only through video conferencing, the application said.

Jafarabad police station had registered two First Information Reports (FIRs) against Shahrukh

Pathan, under various sections of the IPC, including rioting, armed with a deadly weapon, unlawful assembly, obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, assault, or criminal force to deter public servant from his duty, voluntarily causing hurt, attempt to murder, statements conducing to public mischief and criminal conspiracy and under the provisions of the Arms Act.



EC Delists 86 More Non-Existent Political Parties; Total Tally Stands At 537

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Tuesday ordered delisting of another 86 'non-existent' registered unrecognised political parties, raising the number of such organisations red flagged by the poll panel for failing to comply with electoral rules to 537.

In a statement, the EC said "immediate corrective measures" were required to be taken in larger public interest as well as for the "purity" of electoral democracy and hence it has also declared an additional 253 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) as "inactive".

The decision was taken by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, it said.

"The EC today further delisted 86 non-existent RUPPs and declared additional 253 as 'Inactive RUPPs'. This action against 339 non-compliant RUPPs takes the tally to 537 defaulting RUPPs since May 25, 2022."

The Commission said the 86 RUPPs that have been delisted were found to be "non-existent either after a physical verification carried out by the respective Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of concerned states/UTs or based on report of undelivered letters/notices from postal authority sent to the registered address of concerned RUPP".

It had similarly delisted 87 and 111 RUPPs on May 25 and June 20 respectively.

The decision against 253 non-compliant RUPPs was taken based on reports received from CEOs of Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka,

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. They were categorised as inactive, as they have "not responded to the letter/notice delivered to them and have not contested a single election either to the general assembly of a state or the Parliament election 2014 and 2019," the EC said.

These RUPPs have failed to comply with statutory requirements for more than 16 compliance steps since 2015 and are continuing to default, it said. The Income-tax department had last week conducted raids against certain RUPPs in some states as part of a tax evasion probe against them. The department is understood to have taken a decision on the basis of the EC action undertaken against the RUPPs in May-June following which it wrote to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to take "requisite action under extant legal framework."

The CBDT is the administrative authority for the tax department. After the latest EC action, the 86 non-existent RUPPs, it said, shall be "deleted from the list of register of RUPPs and render themselves liable to be not entitled to have benefits under the Symbols Order, 1968."

The 253 RUPPs marked as inactive "shall not be eligible to avail any benefit of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968."

The Commission said it is pertinent that "privilege of a common symbol is given to RUPP based upon an undertaking for putting up at least 5 percent of total candidates with regard to said legislative assembly election of a state."

"Possibility of such parties occupying the available pre-election political space by taking benefits of admissible entitlements without contesting elections cannot be ruled out. This also tends to crowd out the political parties actually contesting elections and also creating confusing situations for the voters," it said.

The Commission explained the rationale behind taking the decision saying "it is cognizant that compliances of the birth conditions, which are a combination of mandated and self-acquired provisions, are sine qua non for maintaining financial discipline, propriety, public accountability, transparency."

"The compliances work as the building blocks of a transparency mechanism for informing the voters of the affairs of the political parties necessary for making informed choices," it said.

In the absence of required compliances, the statement said, the electorate and the Election Commission get blindsided and further, all these stated regulatory requirements have direct bearing on the Commission's constitutional mandate of conducting free, fair and transparent elections.

The EC said parties aggrieved from the latest order may approach the concerned CEO/ Election Commission within 30 days of the issue of this direction along with all evidences of existence, other legal and regulatory compliances including year-wise (for all years under default) annual audited accounts, contribution report, expenditure report, updating of office bearers including authorized signatories for financial transactions (including bank account).

Delhi Court Reserves Order On Plea By 'Heir' Of Former Ruler Of 'United Agra Province' On Qutub Row

Agenceis

New Delhi: A court here on Tuesday reserved its order on an intervention application claiming the intervenor was a "necessary party" to an appeal seeking restoration of Hindu and Jain deities in an alleged temple complex inside Qutub Minar.

The court was hearing arguments of applicant Kunwar Mahender Dhawaj Pratap Singh, who has claimed he was an heir of the erstwhile ruler of the 'United Province of Agra' and the owner of land parcels in several cities in and around Delhi, including the property of Qutub Minar.

Heard arguments. To be listed for order on September 17, 2022, at 4 pm, Additional District Judge Dinesh Kumar said.

M L Sharma, the counsel for Singh, claimed the applicant was the heir of the erstwhile ruler of the United Province of Agra who ruled the region since the 16th century. The ruling family owned the territory between the rivers Ganga and Yamuna, he said.

Sharma alleged the government had encroached upon the entire area and three petitions regarding the matter were pending in the High Court of Allahabad. Singh also made representations to the Prime Minister, the President and the authorities concerned to settle the constitutional dispute", the counsel claimed.

Without any merger, treaty or instrument of accession, or paying compensation, the government took over the intervenor's land which has been encroached upon by crores of people on behalf of the government, the

counsel claimed. Meanwhile, the counsel for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) said Singh had no locus standi in the case and the claim of ownership had lapsed by the principle of delay and laches. The doctrine says courts will not help people who sleep over their rights.

Noting that at the present stage of the trial the court cannot decide on the veracity of the claims made in the petition, the judge asked even if they were held to be true, how was Singh a necessary party in the case?

The law is settled (on this aspect). You have to show yourself as a lawful or necessary party, the judge said.

The government might be the encroacher, but you have to get your right settled through (a separate) court, the judge said, adding, This court cannot decide the question of ownership of land.

At the last hearing on August 24, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had opposed the plea, saying the intervention petition was baseless and devoid of any logical or legal reasoning".

Before the petition was filed, the court had reserved the order on the appeal against a trial court order, dismissing the suit filed by advocate Hari Shankar Jain on behalf of Jain deity Tirthankar Lord Rishabh Dev, claiming that 27 temples were partly demolished by Qutubuddin Aibak, a general in the army of Mohammad Gauri, and Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque was raised inside the complex by reusing the material.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Beyond NEET,

these students don't toil to cement their places in these exams, but while doing that—of course to please their parents—many of them end up giving up on their dreams.

Therefore, they struggle with their careers after Class 12th. One can't blame them as we hardly prepare them to handle a life without NEET or IIT.

Does that mean that either Kashmiri students have no say or end up choosing a wrong subject after Class 12th?

Sadly, that's how it is in Kashmir. After Class 12th, students easily get swayed by their friend's subject preferences. They also keep their family interest in mind. But a career option is a scientific process based on one's interest, caliber, creativity and determination. It's a totally influenced and unscientific choice in Kashmir.

How should one break this jinx?

See, students in Kashmir have different priorities in the order of Science, Engineering and Humanities. Although it's changing slightly, most of them still don't follow a scientific method. They need to rise above the random-picking.

That means they need to seek expert guidance for some clarity?

Yes, but Kashmiri students hardly go for counseling. They only seek it when they don't get any seat in Government colleges or want to study outside the state or the country. It's just that they've something in their minds and they go for that. None of them follow the scientific method. That's why Kashmir has an employment issue.

Most of these students end up as employees rather than employers. They religiously follow JEE AND NEET exams based on their high percentages in their budding years. While low-rank holders go for Commerce or Humanities.

But then the same subject-line develops tunnel vision in Kashmiri students?

They do, but we need to understand that students are always stressed to perform or perish in Kashmir. The whole learning system is somewhat brutal. Children are often left at the mercy of the system.

And what're the academic opportunities for students at the end?

Academic opportunities are very limited in Kashmir.

There aren't many central institutions here. IIT isn't complete, while IIM is in process. We've NIFT though, but

it's not for everyone.

The only way to simplify this career complexity is to catch them young. We need to prepare students beyond Medical and Non-Medical till Class 12th and beyond. We need to expose them to newer careers.

But how many students excel in their choicest careers in Kashmir anyway?

Not many. And one should blame the existing educational infrastructure in Kashmir for that. There aren't any drama schools here, neither many choices for engineering. Plus, there's a lack of research in Kashmir.

If someone, for instance, is doing B.Sc, does he even know his field opportunities? Did he see any jobs where only a B.Sc graduate is needed? There is nothing like that. Students only want to follow the fields full of opportunities. Most of them queue up for banker jobs or Class-IV jobs at the end. This is sad, because it defeats the whole purpose of their careers and courses. Why occupy, let's say, a Media Masters Program at Kashmir University, if you only want to become a probationer officer in a bank tomorrow.

So, that means a career counselor becomes a go-to person here?

Of course, students need to figure out what's best for them and only a counselor can help them out. Taking a career is a huge decision. Any mistake can ruin it. For example, if you're a professor at Kashmir University, with a caliber of Harvard, then a timely career guidance can do wonders for your career.

Today, an army of our PHD scholars are sitting home when the Class 10th or 12th certificate-holders would previously get government jobs due to political favours. Time has changed and favours have faltered, but lack of career planning is still dooming us.

First Electric

It may be recalled that in 2013, Kashmir got its first train service when it was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh—(KNO)

Rs 20-30L Paid

of a chartered accountant Ajay Kumar Aron in Rewari.

This is second round of searches conducted by the CBI in connection with its probe into alleged irregularities after registration of FIR on August 3, the officials said.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case on the request of J&K Government against 33 accused... on the allegations of irregularities in written examination for the posts of Sub-Inspectors in the J&K Police on 27.03.2022, conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB)," the CBI had said after the registration of the FIR.

The examination results were declared on June 4 this year after which allegations of malpractices in the examination surfaced.

The Union territory government had constituted an inquiry committee to look into the same.

"It was alleged that the accused entered into conspiracy amongst officials of JKSSB, Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of Sub-Inspectors. It was further alleged that there was abnormally high percentage of selected candidates from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts," the CBI has said.

JKSSB had allegedly violated rules in outsourcing the setting of question paper to a Bengaluru-based private company, the agency had said.

Culprits Will Be

involved in the wrongdoings won't be spared.

"No more sale of jobs will be allowed in J&K. All the culprits in the alleged irregularities in recruitment examination of Sub-Inspector, Financial Account Assistant and Junior Engineer will be punished severely," Sinha said.

"Even if the accused will be hiding in a fortress, we will bring them to justice," he said, adding that his government has handed over the case to CBI for a thorough probe

The LG made these remarks during his visit to Poonch during which he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several projects worth Rs.195 cores to accelerate the development of 229 Panchayats of the district, an official spokesperson said.

"It is our firm resolve to strengthen the connectivity in border villages. 14 road projects worth Rs. 50 crore launched today will bring prosperity and help in overall development of the area," the LG said, while addressing a mammoth gathering at the Sports Stadium here.

According to the spokesperson, the LG paid homage to Padma Shri Mali, a female member of Gujjar Community who saved Poonch in 1971 war on the occasion.

"As a tribute to Smt. Mali's invaluable contribution to the country, Govt Degree College, Mandi will be named after her," Sinha said, adding "Effective steps shall be taken by the district administration to make young generations aware of her inspiring saga."

The LG, as per the spokesperson said that Poonch is our pride and several steps are being taken to transform its ecological richness and evolve innovative and ecologically sustainable ways of promoting tourism that will provide greater thrust to other economic activities.

Sinha said that as a significant step towards tapping the immense tourism potential of the district, the project of tourist infrastructure development of Noori Chhamb under PMDP was also

inaugurated today.

The spokesperson said that the LG observed that Tribal community awaited social justice for years, and said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, various schemes have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and today every tribal family has been granted their long due constitutional rights.

He further said that under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program, (PMEGP), skill development for tribal youth has been started in Poonch and two batches of training have been completed.

"The Government is bearing the expenses of the Coaching for young boys and girls of the tribal community for the Civil Services, J&K Administrative Service examination, NEET, JEE examination," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also announced that there will be no shortage of funds for those youths who aspire to become entrepreneurs.

"In Poonch last year, as many as 1479 young boys & girls have been made entrepreneurs and they have also provided employment to more than 3500 people. This year also, we have set a target to make 1062 youth entrepreneurs. Under the Mumkin program of Mission Youth, 97 vehicles have been distributed among the youth and under Tejaswini Yojana, we are moving towards fulfilling the dream of 300 girls to become entrepreneurs," the LG said.

The LG, according to the spokesperson said the special focus of administration is on development of border villages by ensuring effective implementation of projects under BADP, Samridh Seema Yojana and Aspirational Block.

He said that 55 projects of Samridh Seema Yojna and 11 projects of Aspirational Block have been approved and their tendering process is going on.

The spokesperson said that the LG highlighted that in the last two years, the administration has tried diligently to ensure that the benefits of infrastructure and social welfare reach even the remotest villages of this border district.

"Last year, a total of 1734 projects were completed in Poonch which exceeded the target set in the district capex. This year, under the district capex budget, Rs 924 crore was allocated to the district for development works and out of 1412 projects taken up this year, 80% work will be completed by 31 October," he added.

Addressing the demands of the public representatives and people of Poonch, the spokesperson said that the LG assured that Mendhar, Poonch Mini Secretariat will be completed soon.

"Power capacity of various areas of Poonch including Chandak, Mendhar, Loran will also be augmented to cater to the needs of the people," Sinha said.

"We are working on the principle of "Governance for all" and not for a select few. Dedicated efforts are being made to establish Corruption free, Drug Free & Job-oriented society," he added.

The LG also announced that 20 mobile towers and a Trauma Centre will come up soon in Poonch.

Panel Warns Private

all types of fees as on August 2014. "The hon'ble Supreme Court has mandated that each educational institute must place before the committee, well in advance of the academic year, its proposed fee structure. It is also mandated that the committee will be at liberty to approve the fee structure or propose some other fee which can be charged by the institute. "The latest judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also ruled that the government can provide for an external regulatory mechanism for determination of school fee or for fixation of just and permissible school fee at the initial stage itself," he added.

In most cases, in which the high court has stayed the FFRC's fee-regulation order, the schools had approached the committee for the first time.

"In these schools, in view of non-submission of proposed fee structure and record to FFRC previously, the fee was not determined and regulated by FFRC in respect of previous academic sessions. In violation of judgements of the Supreme Court and the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh, and mandate of the law, such schools have fixed the fee structure themselves," he observed.

"This act of such school managements is per se illegal and void ab initio, as fee structure has been fixed in breach of the mandate of the judgements of the Supreme Court and High Court and the statute occupying the field. Such fee structures cannot be recognised in law."

Justice Attar said such schools shall have to request the high court to decide their writ petitions or seek clarification about the fee, which in law they are entitled to charge and collect from students.

"Keeping in abeyance of fee regulation order of FFRC by the high court would not and shall not authorise school managements to fix fee structure at their sweet will and charge same from students, same being not permitted by the Supreme Court and the high court and the statutes occupying the field.

"No person can be permitted to abuse and misuse the process of Court to secure a legally impermissible benefit. Court orders protect legal rights and do not protect illegal acts," he added.

Don't Have

away," he said, adding that one lakh people have been killed in Kashmir

due to emotional slogans.

Azad said that he won't mislead people over the issue of Article 370. "There are two ways to restore the Article 370 i.e. Parliament and Supreme Court (SC). In Parliament, 377 MPs of eight parties voted in favour of Narendra Modi (for abrogation of Article 370) and nine smaller parties with 77 votes supported us (voted against abrogation of Article 370). It will take time for 77 members to become 377. I won't tell people to vote for me and I will restore Article 370," he said.

He said the Supreme Court can restore Article 370 but it has not yet heard the case.

"No party can claim that if it will come into power it will direct the SC to hear the case. Can anyone claim that he will get a favourable judgment from the Supreme Court within six months? Even the government can't do so as the Supreme Court is supreme," he said.

He said he was the lone MP who vociferously opposed abrogation of Article 370 in the Parliament.

He said his speech on Article 370 in the Parliament was watched by people in 200 countries.

Four Held With

Alwar, they said. On questioning, Syam failed to explain the source of the cash and it was seized on the spot, police said, adding that the recovered cash is suspected to be stolen.

A complaint has been filed with the Income Tax department and they have been asked to ascertain the source of the cash and corresponding tax liability. (PTI)

1 More Dies

have taken cognizance of the incident and registered case under relevant sections of law. (KNT)

J&K Logs 47

the remaining six districts of the Valley, including Pulwama, Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Shopian.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4784, as no fresh fatality due to the infection was reported during the last 24 hours.

"Moreover, 73 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 20fromJammu division and 53 from Kashmir division," they added. (ONS)

Carpenter Falls

In Srinagar hospital, the carpenter succumbed to his injuries.

Police in this regard have registered a case under relevant sections of law. (KNT)

Youth Found

started further investigation in this regard. (ONS)



YOUNG BALLERS STRETCH it out at J&K Sports Council's Open Football School. The School is held every Wednesday and Saturday at Synthetic Turf, TRC.

1st Ganderbal Rowing Championship Ends



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: In a first, Indoor Rowing Championship was on Tuesday held in district Ganderbal at Indoor Stadium Sehpora which was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir.

The championship was organised by J&K Rowing & Sculling Association District Ganderbal in collaboration with District Administration Ganderbal. Around 200 boys and girls of all categories (Senior, Junior and Sub-junior) of the district participated in the championship.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the District Administration is committed to

nourish the talent of youth and in this regard all steps will be taken to upgrade sports infrastructure in the district so that better sports facilities are available for the sports loving youth of the district.

National medallist and National Coach in Water Sports, Bilquees Mir, informed that the championship is aimed to boost the water sports in the district besides the winners at district level would participate in the National Championship scheduled to be held in Chandigarh in the month of November 2022.

Later, a felicitation ceremony was also held during which prizes were distributed among winners in all categories.

YSS Anantnag's Trekking Camp Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag organised a District Level trekking camp for both boys and girls at famous tourist resort Pahalgam, which concluded on Tuesday.

The camp was earlier flagged off by District Development Commissioner Anantnag along with DYSS Officer Anantnag from Sports Stadium, Anantnag on September 5.

The first batch of trekkers of 65 girls were the participants along with departmental guide trekkers and female escort teachers. The girls batch trekked various routes including Biasaran, Betab Valley, golf road and during trek-

king route the girls showed a lot of interest in cleaning drive for keeping the environment free from waste products thrown away.

In the second batch 60 boys trekkers participated in the trekking camp. During this trekking camp the student trekkers trekked various routes including Betab Valley back side, old shikargah via golf course, Surmarg via top of golf course and other routes.

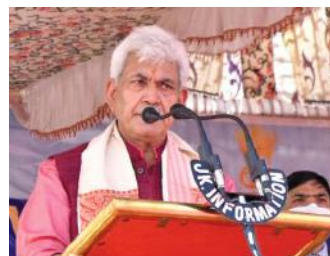
Among these routes Surmarg was one of the best routes. Both batches also participated in camp fires in which students show their extraordinary talent by taking part in various cultural activities. The trekking camp concluded on Tuesday.

LG Inaugurates Sports Projects In Poonch

Observer News Service

POONCH: J&K LG Manoj Sinha on Tuesday visited Poonch where he inaugurated and laid foundation stone of several sports projects.

On his arrival, the LG inaugurated Hockey Astro Turf at Government Higher Secondary School and a Boxing hall at the Sports Stadium and dedicated the facilities to the youth and sportspersons of the District. The Hockey Astro Turf at HSS



Poonch costed Rs 5 cr, while construction of Boxing Hall building at Sports Stadium Poonch was worth Rs 30 lakh.

Slow Batting During Middle Overs Is An Issue: BCCI Source



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's batting in the middle overs, between overs 7 to 15, is the main area of concern ahead of the all-important ICC T20 World Cup, the BCCI has concluded after reviewing the team's forgettable outing at the Asia Cup.

The showpiece will be held from October 16 to November 20 and India's first match is in Melbourne against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 23.

"Yes, the Asia Cup perfor-

mance was discussed. But obviously, more than problems, the focus is on solutions and what are the things that needs to be improved during the T20 World Cup," a senior BCCI official privy to developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"There is an obvious issue with batting during the middle overs, especially between 7th to 15th where we haven't done well in the Asia Cup. Obviously, the team's think-tank is aware and we have some world class players, who can obviously

change their game as per team's needs," the official said.

Against Pakistan in the opening game, 59 runs were scored in those nine overs losing three wickets. Against Hong Kong, it was 62 runs, while in the Super 4s against Pakistan, it was 62 for 1.

The best performance (barring Afghanistan game) was against Sri Lanka when 78 runs came off those nine overs.

The problem has been negotiating the slow bowlers, where some of the top order players haven't been up to the mark.

CA To Discuss Overturning David Warner's 'Lifetime Captaincy Ban'

Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: David Warner is set to have discussions with Cricket Australia to end his lifetime leadership ban in the coming weeks as the board looks for a replacement for former ODI skipper Aaron Finch.

Finch retired from ODI cricket on Sunday after a poor run of form with just over 12 months left for the 50-over World Cup in India next year.

While Test skipper Pat Cummins is favourite to take over the job if he can manage his workload, Warner may also be in the reckoning, especially as several former and current players have called for the southpaw's life ban to end.

"I have spoken to Nick Hockley, we're going to try and have a catch up," Warner was quoted as saying by foxsports.com.au.

"It's very difficult at the moment... but I'm sure in the next couple of weeks we might be able to. But there's no rush for



anything."

In the aftermath of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal in South Africa, former skipper Steve Smith was stripped of the captaincy and banned from leading Australia for two years, while Warner was handed a more severe punishment — a

lifelong leadership ban.

For Warner, it would be a privilege to be entrusted with a leadership role again.

"I haven't had any conversations at all. But look, I think at the end of the day, any opportunity to captain would be a privilege," Warner said.

Long Lines, Lack Of Water Mar Qatar World Cup Stadium Trial



Reuters

DOHA: "Stop! Can't you see the metro station is full? Stop!" a frazzled supervisor shouted as green-vested marshals linked arms to contain thousands of fans streaming from the stadium that will host soccer's World Cup final in Qatar.

It was after midnight on Friday and, for hours, nearly 78,000 people had been filing out of the stadium after a near-capacity match tested the small Gulf state's readiness for the tourna-

ment, which kicks off on Nov. 20. "Let us through! We have children," cried one man carrying a sweaty toddler. "We need water. Is there water?" a woman shouted from behind the line.

There was none. Stadium stands were out of water by halftime and there was none outside, where the late summer temperature was 34 Celsius (93 Fahrenheit) but felt far hotter because of the humidity. Friday's match, called the

Lusail Super Cup, was the first time the new Lusail stadium has hosted such a crowd. At 80,000 seats, it is the largest of Qatar's eight World Cup stadiums and a gold-clad showpiece designed to host the final match on Dec. 18.

Qatar is the first Middle Eastern country and smallest nation ever to host the World Cup. While it has spent billions of dollars on infrastructure, it has never organised an event on such a scale - which unusually for a World Cup will also be held in or around a single city.

Boucher To Quit As SA Head Coach After T20 WC



Press Trust of India

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa head coach Mark Boucher will quit from his role after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November, Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Monday.

Boucher has held the position since December 2019, and led the Proteas to 11 Test wins, including a memorable 2-1 series win against India at home in January.

"Mr Boucher has decided to resign in order to pursue other opportunities in line with his future career and personal objectives," CSA said in a statement.

"While Cricket SA greatly regrets that Mr Boucher is unable to see out the term of his contract, it respects his decision and

wishes him all the best in his future endeavours."

The Proteas are also currently number two on the ICC World Test Championship table. In the limited-overs arena, Boucher has helped South Africa claim 12 ODI wins, and 23 T20 International victories, the most recent being a historic 2-1 series triumph against England.

His last series at the helm will be a white-ball tour of India from September 28 to October 11 before heading to the T20 World Cup in Australia, where South Africa are grouped alongside Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

The T20 World Cup will run from October 16 to November 13.

CSA said it will in due course make an announcement regarding a successor to Boucher.

Real Madrid Closes Financial Year With €13 Million Profit



Agencies

MADRID: Real Madrid closed the 2021-22 financial year with a 13 million euros (\$13.19 million) profit, the Spanish club said, with the COVID-19 pandemic still having an impact on revenues.

The club had managed to remain in profit over the three financial years affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, it added.

In the 2021-22 season Real won a record-extending 14th European Cup when they beat Liverpool 1-0 in the Champions League final, while they also won the LaLiga crown and the Spanish Super Cup.

The club said the cash balance at June 30 2022, excluding the stadium redevelopment project, was 425 million euros, while the loss of income due to the

pandemic since March 2020 had touched 400 million euros.

"Operating income for the financial year 2021/22 has reached 722 million euros, an increase of 69 million euros (10%) year-on-year, as the economic effects of the pandemic are gradually subsiding," the club statement read.

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"Operating income for the financial year 2021/22 has reached 722 million euros, an increase of 69 million euros (10%) year-on-year, as the economic effects of the pandemic are gradually subsiding," the club statement read.

CL: Haaland's Reunion; Potter's 1st Game For Chelsea



Agencies

A look at what's happening in the Champions League on Wednesday:

GROUP A

Rangers will host Napoli in a game pushed back from Tuesday because of logistical issues arising from the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

GROUP E

Graham Potter takes charge of his first match as Chelsea manager when Salzburg visits Stamford Bridge. Salzburg started with a 1-1 home draw with AC Milan, which hosts Dinamo for their second game.

GROUP F

Defending champion Real Madrid will remain without the injured Karim Benzema when it hosts Leipzig. The striker is still

recovering from a tendon injury sustained in Madrid's 3-0 win at Celtic in the opener last week. In the other match, Shakhtar Donetsk plays its first "home" game in the group in Warsaw when Celtic visits the Polish city.

GROUP G

Erling Haaland is getting a quick reunion with Borussia Dortmund. In the other match FC Copenhagen and Sevilla look to rebound when they meet in Denmark.

GROUP H

Neymar and Kylian Mbappe look to continue their sparkling form as unbeaten Paris Saint-Germain travels to play Israeli club Maccabi Haifa. In other match, Benfica, which leads the group on goal difference, is off to a great start this season and will be going for its 12th straight victory overall when it travels to Juventus in the other game.

34 Drugs, Including Anti-Cancer Medication, Added To National Essential Medicines List

Agenceis

New Delhi: Thirty-four drugs, including some anti-infectives such as Ivermectin, Mupirocin and Nicotine Replacement Therapy, have been added to the National List of Essential Medicines taking the total drugs under it to 384.

Several antibiotics, vaccines and anti-cancer drugs will become more affordable by their addition to the list.

However, 26 drugs such as Ranitidine, Sucralfate, white petrolatum, Atenolol and Methyldopa have been deleted from the revised list.

The deletion has been done based on the parameters of cost effectiveness and availability of better drugs.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who released the list today, tweeted, "Released the National List of Essential Medicines 2022. It comprises 384 drugs across 27 categories. Several antibiotics, vaccines, anti-cancer drugs and many other important drugs will become more affordable & reduce patients' out-of-pocket expenditure."

Endocrine medicines and contraceptives Fludrocortisone, Ormeloxifene, Insulin Glargine and Teneli-



glitin have been added to the list.

Montelukast, which acts on the respiratory track, and ophthalmological drug Latanoprost figure in the list. Cardiovascular medicines Dabigatran and Tenecteplase also find place in the list besides medicines used in palliative care.

"Antinfectives such as Ivermectin, Meropenem, Cefuroxime, Amikacin, Bedaquiline, Delamanid, Itraconazole ABC Dolutegravir have been added to the NLEM," Dr YK Gupta, Vice

Chairman of the Standing National Committee on Medicines, said.

The drugs in NLEM are included in scheduled category and their price is regulated by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, Dr Gupta said.

A revised list of 399 formulations was submitted by an expert committee under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) last year. After detailed analysis of Indian requirements, major changes were sought by Mr Mandaviya.

Man Claims He Did Mecca Pilgrimage For Queen, Arrested In Saudi Arabia

Agenceis

Riyadh: Saudi authorities have arrested a man who claimed to have travelled to the Muslim holy city of Mecca to perform an umrah pilgrimage on behalf of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The man, a Yemeni national, on Monday published a video clip of himself on social media at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Islam's holiest site, where non-Muslims are forbidden.

In the clip, he held up a banner saying: "Umrah for the soul of Queen Elizabeth II, we ask God to accept her in heaven and among the righteous."

The footage was widely circulated on Saudi social media, with Twitter users calling for the man's arrest.

Saudi Arabia forbids pilgrims to Mecca from carrying banners or chanting slogans.

And while it is acceptable to perform umrah on behalf of dead Muslims, this does not apply to non-Muslims like the queen, who was supreme governor of the Church of England, the mother church of the worldwide Anglican communion.

Security forces at the Grand Mosque "arrested a resident of Yemeni nationality who ap-



peared in a video clip carrying a banner inside the Grand Mosque, violating the regulations and instructions for umrah," said a statement carried

by state media late Monday.

"He was arrested, legal measures were taken against him and he was referred to the public prosecution."

State television broadcast segments about the incident that included the controversial video clip, but with the banner blurred.

The umrah is a pilgrimage that can be undertaken at any time -- distinct from the hajj, which takes place once annually and usually draws millions from around the globe.

The queen died on Thursday and her funeral is planned for September 19.

Queen Elizabeth II's Funeral: Decades Of Meticulous Planning

Agenceis

London: The funeral service of Queen Elizabeth II at London's Westminster Abbey on September 19 will be the culmination of decades of meticulous planning.

Here's what we know about how the day will unfold.

Return to the abbey

The last time Westminster Abbey was used for a monarch's funeral was for George II in 1760.

Since then, the preferred church has been St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, but Elizabeth opted for a larger venue.

On the morning of the funeral, the lying in state -- begun at Westminster Hall in parliament on Wednesday -- will continue until 6:30 am (0530 GMT).

The funeral will be conducted by the Dean of Westminster, David Hoyle, with Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby giving the sermon.

Gun carriage

At around 10:30 am a bearer party will transfer the coffin from the catafalque, a raised platform in Westminster Hall, to a gun carriage which will be waiting outside the north door of Westminster Hall.

The gun carriage will be pulled not by horses but by junior enlisted sailors -- naval ratings -- using ropes.

Members of the royal family will walk behind the coffin to the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey where it will be carried up the west steps and through the nave to a platform in the choir.

Major security operation

Westminster Abbey can hold up to 2,200 people. Those present will include family members, Prime Minister Liz Truss, senior politi-



cians, former premiers, over 100 kings, queens and heads of state and other VIPs.

US President Joe Biden has confirmed he will attend, sparking a major security operation.

Biden will reportedly be allowed to travel to the funeral in his armoured presidential limousine, known as The Beast.

Other leaders, such as French President Emmanuel Macron and Israeli President Isaac Herzog are also expected to have their own transport.

Others, however will be transported to the abbey by shared bus.

Invitations are expected to be sent to representatives of all countries with which Britain has diplomatic relations, although it was unclear if that would include Russia due to the war in Ukraine.

North Korea is expected to be represented but Myanmar with which Britain does not have diplomatic relations will not.

Journey to Windsor

After the funeral, the coffin will be drawn on the gun carriage from the abbey to Wellington Arch at London's Hyde Park Corner from where it will

continue to Windsor by hearse.

On arrival in Windsor, the hearse will make its way to St George's Chapel via the Long Walk, a historic avenue, for a televised committal service.

The king and senior members of the royal family are expected to join the procession for the last stage of the journey from the Quadrangle in Windsor Castle.

St George's is where Prince Harry and his wife Meghan married in May 2018. The funeral of the queen's husband of 73 years, Prince Philip, was held there in April 2021.

It is also regularly chosen for royal christenings.

Final resting place
A private interment service held later will be attended by only close family members.

The queen's final resting place will be the King George VI memorial chapel which is an annex to the main chapel.

The queen's mother and father -- king George VI and queen Elizabeth the queen mother -- were buried there as well as the ashes of her younger sister princess Margaret.

The coffin of Prince Philip will be moved from the royal vault to the memorial chapel.

ADMISSION OPEN

Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Iran, Egypt, China, Uzbekistan

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