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Waqf Board Ends *Dastaar* Bandi Practice In J&K

‘Shrines, Khanqahs Can Only Be Used To Promote Religious Activities, Not Appease Influential People, Particularly Politicians’

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Putting an end to age-old practice prevalent in major shrines and mosques across Jammu and Kashmir, Waqf Board on Monday ordered complete ban on *Dastaar* Bandi (turban-tying) ceremonies of people, especially the political leaders at all the religious places managed by the board.

The whip was cracked by Waqf Chairperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi on the basis of complaints about unethical use of platform of Ziyarats to appease



influential people, particularly the political leaders through turban-tying (*Dastaar* Bandi) ceremony at ziyarats / khankahs

“The leaders continue to be invited to the shrines and their *Dastaar* Bandi is carried out on

THE LEADERS CONTINUE TO BE INVITED to the shrines and their *Dastaar* Bandi is carried out on the basis of party affiliations to promote political agenda at sacred religious places.”

the basis of party affiliations to promote political agenda at sacred religious places,” reads an

order issued here on Monday by Executive Magistrate, Ishiyay Mohiuddin (JKAS).

The Waqf Chief, the order says has taken a serious view of the matter, and the board is of the view that religious places like, Ziyarats, Khanqahs, Masjid and Darul Uloom, can only be used to promote religious activities, and *Dastaar* Bandi at such places can only be carried out to felicitate people for their achievements in the religious field.

“Now therefore, *Dastaar* Bandi of people at all religious places, governed by the

provisions of the Waqf Act, 1995, is hereby completely banned. However, *Dastaar* Bandi of people for religious achievements shall be allowed with prior permission of the Central Office Waqf Board,” the order reads.

The Executive Magistrate directs all the administrators and Executive Officers to ensure strict implementation of this order, and any violation shall immediately be brought to the notice of the Central Office for legal action in the matter.

Chairperson **More on P10**

SC Refuses Probe Into KP Man’s Murder In 1989

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it is not inclined to admit a petition seeking a probe into the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit in 1989, observing the petitioner can seek relief from the high court.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and CT Ravikumar noted it had recently refused to entertain a similar petition, and allowed the petitioner to withdraw the application.

“If you want to withdraw, you withdraw it,” the bench said, adding, “We have made it clear that we cannot discriminate between two petitions.” Senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, appearing for the petitioner, withdrew the plea with liberty to take appropriate remedy available in law.

During the arguments, Bhatia insisted **More on P10**

Hurriyat Finished, Terrorism On Crutches In J&K: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The separatist Hurriyat Conference is finished in Jammu and Kashmir but attempts are being made to keep it alive from Pakistan, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said on Monday, adding that the terrorism in the region which is on crutches.

He also said that most of the madrassas (Islamic seminaries) are doing a good job but a tight vigil is being maintained on such institutions whose students have become terrorists in the past.

Hurriyat (Conference) is finished in Jammu and Kashmir. To keep it alive, its chapter was opened in Pakistan and they are giving bandh calls from there, the police chief told reporters on the sidelines of a cricket tournament organised by police for local youths in Kishtwar district.

He said the people gave a tight slap on their face by rejecting their bandh calls, which was evident from the fact that there was no strike on August 5 (the third anniversary of revocation of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K into two Union Territories) and August 15.

Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella body of separatist groups in J&K, which once enjoyed a dominant position in the valley, was made inconsequential after jailing of several of its leaders in the wake of abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, and the death of its main leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani in 2021.

August 15 was celebrated in a befitting manner all across the J&K, from Kishtwar to Kathua and in the Kashmir valley with people hoisting the national flag on their homes.

I recently visited the remote Karnah and Keran along the Line of Control (in north Kashmir’s



THE PEOPLE GAVE A TIGHT SLAP ON THEIR FACE BY REJECTING their bandh calls, which was evident from the fact that there was no strike on August 5.

Kupwara) where the tricolour is still seen fluttering from top of every house, the DGP said.

He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir want peace and they have understood the criminal folly of Pakistan which is trying to instigate the youths against their own country.

Pakistan is misusing social media which is under watch 24x7 and we are frustrating their designs, Singh said.

Asked about the recent arrest of a madrassa teacher in Kishtwar, he said for most part madrassas are doing a good job. Some people from madrassas joined terrorism in the past and so it is imperative that we keep a close watch on them, and it is being done.

If anyone is doing anything wrong, action as per law will be taken against them. Those who involve youngsters with positive thinking are being welcomed, he said.

On September 3, a 25-year-old madrassa teacher was arrested under Enemy Agents Ordinance Act for allegedly **More on P10**



A group of women manually thrash rice crop at their paddy field in the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

30-Year Wait For Films On Big Screen In Kashmir To End Today

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Aaqib Bhat is eagerly waiting for the opening of the first multiplex of Kashmir in Sonawar area of the city, which he says will put an end to his regular visits outside the valley to watch Bollywood movies on big screen.

“I travel once every three to four months to Delhi or Jammu to watch the latest Hindi movies on the big screen. Although all the movies are available on various platforms within no time, the feel and experience of watching it on a big screen



is unmatched,” Bhat said. The 30-year-old said ever-since noted businessman Vijay Dhar announced his project for opening the first multiplex in Kashmir, he has been keeping a track of the development.

“I think the wait is finally over!” he said.

Dhar, who also owns a reputed private school here, said the multiplex will be thrown open to the public on Tuesday with a special screening of Aamir Khan-starrer ‘Lal Singh Chaddha’.

“Regular shows will start from September 30 with the screening of Vikram Vedha, starring Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan,” Dhar said.

The first multiplex in Kashmir will have three movie theatres with a total capacity of 520 seats. The premises will also have a food **More on P10**

Ulema-e-Ahl-e-Sunnah Call On LG



Discuss Promotion Of Reshi-Sufi Culture With LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A delegation of renowned Islamic scholars on Monday discussed promotion of Reshi-Sufi culture and tradition

of Jammu Kashmir with the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

A delegation of United Ullma-e-Ahl-e-Sunnah comprising of Moulana Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Nageeb, Moulana Ghulam Rasool Haami, Moulana Showkat Hussain Keng and Prof Bashir Ahmad Dar called on **More on P10**

Police Warns Against Apps Offering Soft Loans

Amid complaints of harassment and blackmailing, the cyber wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday cautioned people against downloading Chinese money lending apps offering online soft loans. Senior Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime Investigation, Sandeep Chaudhary shared a 3.39-minute video clip on social media, discussing in detail the modus operandi of the culprits behind these apps. “Chinese loan app while using the internet you come across certain apps offering loans of Rs 5,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 15,000 on a very low interest rate for a specified period. Sometimes people deliberately or unintentionally download such apps. “While the loan **More on P10**

2 Students Killed In Ramban Accident

Two Jammu University students died and as many were injured on Monday when their car rolled down a deep gorge after being hit by a truck on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway in Ramban district, officials said. They were identified as Esetan Dolma and Rigzen Lamu, residents of Ladakh. Paranav Bandral (24) and Harman Anand



(23) were injured, the police said. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Pardeep Kumar Sen said the car was going towards Jammu. The injured are being treated at a Batote hospital, he said.

DIG South Kashmir Inducted Into CBI

The Union Home Ministry has inducted deputy inspector general of police South Kashmir Range, Abdul Jabbar into the CBI for a period of five years. According to an order, DIG Central Kashmir Range, Sujit Kumar has been given the additional charge of the post of DIG South Kashmir Range. The order stated that Abdul Jabbar had been inducted into the CBI on deputation basis for a period of five years at DIG level. “Consequent upon the approval of the Competent Authority for induction of Shri Abdul Jabbar, IPS (AGMUT:2008), Deputy Inspector General of Police, South Kashmir Range, in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at DIG Level, on deputation basis, **More on P10**

Sopore Man Drowns In Jhelum

A 45-year old man drowned in the river Jhelum in Seer Jagir area of Sopore in North Kashmir’s Baramulla district on Sunday late evening. News agency KNO quoting an official reported that the man identified as Rafiq Ahmed Mir of Drangbal village of Baramulla slipped and drowned in the river while washing his vehicle.



He said that soon after a team of police reached the spot and launched a rescue operation. The official said that a rescue operation was underway when reports last came in.

Man Burnt Alive In Truck Fire

A man was charred to death after a truck he was travelling in caught fire on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway in Kathua district here, police said on Monday. The victim, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was the truck driver’s helper, and they were travelling towards Jammu when the vehicle suddenly engulfed into flames late on Sunday, they said. The driver jumped out of the burning truck and rescued himself, but his helper failed to come out of the vehicle, they said. A fire tender reached the spot and controlled the fire, but it was too late to save the man, they said, adding a detailed investigation was being conducted.

Kashmir Logs 12 New Covid Cases

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 12 fresh Covid cases on Monday that took the infection tally to 4,78,947, officials said. The death toll stands at 4,784. No Covid-related fatality was reported in the Union Territory, they said. All the new cases were reported from Kashmir division, officials said. There are 194 active cases, while the overall recoveries has reached 4,73,969, they officials said, adding that there were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus). “Moreover, 29 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 12 from Jammu division and 17 from Kashmir division,” the official added.



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2

Novel Test Can Identify Patients At Risk Of Severe Covid-19

Press Trust Of India

Scientists in the US have developed a new genomic test that can predict a patient's risk of developing severe COVID-19, an advance that could help doctors quickly begin tailored treatment.

The test proved over 90 per cent accurate at predicting patient outcomes for COVID-19 among over two dozen patients in intensive care and 100 patients from publicly available data, the researchers said.

The test, called CovGENE, analyses genes expressed in a person's blood to determine whether they may experience a severe disease course with increased risk of death, they said. "We have come far in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in the past two years. Regardless, we still struggle to identify patients at highest risk for severe disease," said Alexandra



Kadl, from the University of Virginia, US. "Our study uses a gene-analysis approach to identify an immune cell signature, distinct from other respiratory illnesses, that correlates with worse outcomes," Kadl said in a statement.

The approach, described recently in the journal Frontiers in Immunology, has the potential to help evaluate patients' immune profile with commonly, readily available tests to identify patients at risk for bad outcomes.

Such patients would benefit from closer monitoring and advanced therapies to aid their recovery, the researchers said.

Immune profiling helps to understand why one person may differ from another in their immune response to a virus, looking specifically at the immune markers (proteins) and cells present over time.

This analysis can help determine the likelihood

of disease, individual response to a virus and the impact of vaccinations.

CovGENE's developer, AMPEL Biosolutions, is seeking to partner with a diagnostic testing company or pharmaceutical company to bring the approach to market as a simple PCR-based blood test.

"This unique collaboration with our colleagues from the University of Virginia has provided an easy and novel means to assess an individual patient's response to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and predict the clinical outcome," said Peter Lipsky, AMPEL's CEO, chief medical officer and co-founder.

"Now that this unique approach has been validated, we look forward to its rapid development as a precision-medicine tool that can improve the outcome of patients with COVID-19 and reduce the number of hospitalisations, especially the most vulnerable," Lipsky added.

Instagram Is Internally Testing New Tipping Feature For Creators

IANIS

Meta-owned photo and video-sharing platform Instagram is internally testing a new tipping feature for creators on the platform, media reports say. The test feature called "Gifts" would enable creators to earn money through Reels, reports TechCrunch. "This feature is an internal prototype and not testing externally," a company spokesperson was quoted as saying in an email to the website. The feature was first spotted



by app researcher Alessandro Paluzzi back in July, when Instagram was developing the feature under the name "content appreciation".

According to screenshots posted by Paluzzi, the feature would allow creators to toggle an option that will enable their fans to send them "Gifts".

Creators would also be able to check if they are eligible for the feature under a new Gifts tab in their settings. The screenshots also suggest that users would be able to send Gifts via a button displayed at the bottom of Reels.

In 2020, Instagram launched Badges, a feature that allows users to show support to creators during a live video. Badges can cost \$0.99, \$1.99 or \$4.99.

When users purchase a badge during a live video, a heart icon appears next to your name in the comments, the report said.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bandipora.
FAX: 01957-225533. e-mail: ee_rnb_bandipora@yahoo.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Fresh E-NIT No: (121) of 2022-23 DATED:-16-09-2022.

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 Cement Concrete Drain at Peer Masjid Bandipora	0.80	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	1600.00	10 Days	22-09-2022 at 4:30 PM	DEE	MH-3054
2	Construction of cement concrete drain approach leading to Dak Bungalow incld P/F Trash Plates at spots for cross drainage.	3.95	200 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	7,900.00	15 Days	22-09-2022 at 4:30 PM	DEE	MH-3054

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

SNo	Date of issue of Tender Notice	16-09-2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 16-09-2022. 6:30 PM
3.	Bid Submission Start date	16-09-2022 from 6:30 PM
4.	Bid Submission End date	22-09-2022 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)	22-09-2022 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 forfeited, if :-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer 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.
8. 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 acquire 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-10247/22

No:-EE/R&B/Bandi/4867-73
Date:-16-09-2022

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

E:jkhpmttd@gmail.com
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Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd
Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government
Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (E-NIT)

Tender Reference No: 111 of 2022 Dt : 19-09-2022

For and on behalf of Managing Director, JKHPMC Ltd., e-Tenders under "Single Cover System" are invited from Firms/Companies/Proprietary Agencies (Registered with UT of J&K/Other State Govts./PWD/CPWD/PDD) for the following Work :-

Name of Work	Cost of Document	Estimated Cost of Work in Lakhs	Time of Completion	Date of Opening of tenders	Class of Contractor
Balance Work pertaining to repair/renovation of Common Incubation Centre at Doabgah, Sopore, Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir	Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) NON-REFUNDABLE (Only to be deposited in JKHPMC's Bank Account Online)	06.52	1 (one) Month	27.09.2022	Class AAY/BEE/CEE/DEEC-ivil Contractors registered with UT of J&K/Other State Govts. PWD/ CPWD

The Bidding Documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. website <https://jkenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> from 19-09-2022 to 26-09-2022.

The Bidding Documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the JK Govt. website <https://jkenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> from 19-09-2022 to 26-09-2022.

DIPK-NB-3928/22

No: JKHPMC/MD/22/2426 Dt: 17/09/2022

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my passport bearing No: K1425574 as Ghulam Mehdi S/o Ali Mohd Bhat Instead of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat
S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat

mcb

از نیات سرکل نندپورہ تحصیل ناتھ سرینگر

مضمون: درخواست منجانب ابرار حسین تیلی ولد غلام رسول تیلی ساکنہ چک صدرہ بل سرینگر بمراۓ عطا کی گئی SC تحت 294 SRO اشتہار بمراۓ آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

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نائب تحصیلدار inf



DAK Urges People To Get Influenza Vaccine Ahead Of Possible Flu Season

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Monday urged people to get vaccinated against influenza (flu) ahead of possible severe flu season.

"We are expecting a bad flu season, making this year's flu shot all the more critical," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

As per a statement issued Dr Hassan said the past two flu seasons have been milder than usual, with low numbers of cases and very few hospitalizations.

The decline was because of Covid precautions such as face masking and social distancing. People were also traveling less during the height of the pandemic, he said.

"Now that people are out without masks, travelling extensively, business has resumed and children are back to schools, there are more opportunities for the virus to circulate and flu could make a comeback," he said.

The DAK President said in typical years, a good percentage of

the population gets infected with influenza and builds immunity against the infection. "What we are seeing are a couple of years where we didn't see infection. So more people may be susceptible to influenza in this season that could lead to higher rates of infection and also more severe cases," he said.

"Moreover, the southern hemisphere witnessed the worst flu season in five years which is an indication that this could be a bad flu season in the northern hemisphere as well," he added.

"That makes this season's flu vaccine vitally important," said Dr Nisar.

He said everyone 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine before the start of flu season which begins in October and can last late into May. "Since it takes 2 weeks for the flu vaccine to become fully effective, it is best to get the vaccine now. However vaccination should continue to be offered throughout the flu season. This season's flu vaccine has been updated to better match currently circulating viruses."

Shop Sealed For Selling Expired Items In City

Agencies

Srinagar: A joint team of Food Safety department and Police today sealed a shop and imposed a fine of Rs 10000 for selling expired items.

An official said that action was taken on the basis of a complaint received from a Municipal Corporation that expired food items were being sold in a shop at Saidakadal Srinagar.

A joint team comprising officers of Food Safety, Police and Municipality inspected the shop and found the complaint

based on facts, he said.

Taking strong cognizance of the complaint, the concerned Food Safety Officer seized food items worth Rs. 10000 and lifted two samples for laboratory analysis. The shop was sealed for further investigation, he added.

All food business operators have been directed not to sell any food article whose best before date has elapsed otherwise action under relevant provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act shall be initiated against them. (KNS)

S P College Kick-Starts Week-Long Cleanliness Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with its ongoing celebrations related to Gandhi Jayanti, the Sri Pratap College Srinagar Monday kick-started the week-long campus cleanliness drive.

The event was flagged off by Principal Prof (Dr) Khurshid Ahmad Khan followed by a pledge drawn from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy, "Everyone is his own Scavenger" administered by the Principal on the occasion.

The drive was jointly organized by the College Discipline Committee, NSS Units and Eco Club of the college.

NSS volunteers and

members of the college Eco Club took part in the drive enthusiastically and collected garbage from various spots of the College in bins and biodegradable trash bags.

The drive was monitored by senior-most faculty members Prof Bashir Ahmad Mir, Convenor Discipline Committee, Prof Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar, Convenor Eco Club, Prof Shahid Ahmad Wani, NSS Programme Officers Dr Nadia Shah and Dr Syed Rashid Maqsood besides members of discipline committee Dr Shabana Aslam (Co-Convenor, Discipline Committee), Dr Rouf Farooqi, Dr Javadi Andrabi, Owais Wani and Prof Sana.



Calligraphy Comes Alive In City Gallery As Commemorative Event

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Calligraphy enthusiasts thronged Mahatta Art Gallery to get familiar with the art of calligraphy. The day-long calligraphy workshop was part of the ongoing week-long Exhibition on Arbreen at Mahatta Art Gallery.

The Art, Photography and Calligraphy exhibition has attracted the attention of Art lovers who thronged the exhibition from the day it commenced on Wednesday.

Yawar Abbas, a student of 12th class came all the way from Budgam to witness the calligraphic works at the exhibition.

"I have been trying to write calligraphic works but this exhibition

has encouraged and motivated me. I will try to learn and put more effort into learning more about calligraphy" Yawar said.

Organizers say the event envisions bringing together children, parents and other educationalists from different disciplines to feel the essence of mourning Imam Hussain (A.S) in Kashmir.

Mohammad Afzal, a pass out of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages have been doing calligraphic works since years.

He developed interest towards calligraphy through an Urdu magazine. He says he could not miss the opportunity of showcasing his work at the Mahattas.

"Different groups of people in-

cluding students are showing interest in calligraphy, this is heart-warming. The kind of interest young people are showing in calligraphy is more than ever before"

"It is pleasing to teach them calligraphic skills but one day is a small duration and it takes years to learn this art" Afzal said.

Ilyas Rizvi, organizer of the event Artists have blended fine Art with Calligraphy to pay tributes to the Karbala martyrs.

"It has been organized to pay tributes to the martyrs of Karbala and remember their sacrifices they made for the sake of humanity. Imam Hussain unites every race and community to work for the welfare of humanity", Ilyas said

Paediatric Hospital Bemina To Start Functioning This Week

Agencies

Srinagar: The much awaited 500-bed Children Hospital in Bemina Srinagar is set to be functional this week.

A Health official said that all machinery and other equipment are being shifted to the hospital which is going to take a few days and after that it will be made functional.

He said that machinery and all equipment are being installed at the hospital so that the patients won't suffer at any cost.

Medical superintendent GB pant hospital Srinagar Dr Nazir Choudhary said that all machinery is being shifted and it will take 2-3 days and after that it will start functioning.

Asked about infrastructure set

up there, he said that whatever is required is being fulfilled and the process of shifting is going on and



within 2-3 days it will be functional. Notably, just a few days back the health and medical education department has given nod to shifting of GB Panth hospital to 500 bedded paediatric hospital Bemina.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 12th pass Marks certificate bearing regd no: NI7342210020. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the JK BOSE Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ulfat Jan
D/o Mohammad Ibrahim Malla
R/o Shariefabad Budgam

FKO

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• CAPD: 18001807011
• SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
• Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

• SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
• BJBHERA: 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 :53
ZUHR	12:24
ASR	4:48
Magrib	6:35
ISHA	7: 55

This Day In History

- 1643 - First Battle of Newbury (English civil war): King Charles I's forces beaten by a parliamentary army led by the Earl of Essex and Philip Stapleton
- 1688 - French troops occupy Palis
- 1854 - Battle of the Alma: first major battle of Crimean War. British and French alliance defeat the Russians.
- 1861 - Battle of Lexington, MI-captured by Union
- 1863 - Battle of Shepards town VA
- 1863 - Civil War Battle of Chickamauga, near Chattanooga Tenn, ends
- 1909 - The British Parliament passes the South Africa Act; it calls for union of Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal; and both English and Dutch as official languages.
- 1932 - Gandhi begins hunger strike against treatment of untouchables
- 1939 - British navy captures German U-27 boat
- 1954 - 1st FORTRAN computer program run
- 1954 - 1st National People's Congress adopts Chinese constitution
- 1960 - UN General Assembly admit 13 African countries & Cyprus (96 nations)
- 1963 - JFK proposes a joint US-Soviet voyage to the moon
- 1966 - US Surveyor B launched toward Moon; crashed Sept 23
- 1967 - Benin separates from Nigeria
- 1970 - Soviet spacecraft Luna 16 lands on Moon's Mare Fecunditatis, drills core sample
- 1972 - Libya acquires a 50 percent interest in two ENI oil concessions
- 1972 - The Social Democratic and Labour Party issues a document entitled "Towards a New Ireland", proposing that the British and Irish governments should have joint sovereignty over Northern Ireland
- 1979 - NASA launches HEAO3
- 1979 Leelacocai selected president of the Chrysler Corporation.
- 1979 - The Punjab wing of the Unity Centre of Communist Revolutionaries of India (Marxist-Leninist) formally splits and constitutes a parallel UCCRI (ML).
- 1982 - Jallaluddin takes a one-day hat-trick Pakistan v Australia

From KO Archives

4 Teenagers Die In LoC Blast

Srinagar: Four teenagers were blown to pieces after a live artillery shell they were fiddling with in a village in Uri sector of the line of control (LoC) exploded today. Elsewhere, 10 people including a woman and five militants were killed even as security forces arrested a militant across the state since yesterdays. Some shops in Tral bazaar were damaged in an IED blast near the bus stand last night.

According to reports received from Uri, 4 teenagers including a brother and a sister in the age group of 12 and 14 were killed at Garkot village on the Wednesday afternoon in a Shell explosion.

Three teenagers were out grazing the cattle when one of them found some unexploded shells in the field, when one of the boy started fiddling with a shell it exploded killing all three of them on spot, police sources in the Baramulla said. The village has been witness to intermittent exchange of artillery shells and mortar firing between India and Pakistani troops during recent weeks.

Lance Naik Gian Singh of 14 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) was killed when a group of militants ambushed an army patrol in Panar forests in Bandipora area of Baramulla district in north Kashmir, earlier an official spokesman said.

He said troops returned the fire but the militants escaped. Reinforcements had been rushed to the forest area to flush out the militants. The operation was going on when the reports last came in.

In another incident, a militant identified as Muhammad Asgar Khan alias Waheed s/o Ghulam Rahmani of Chak Arsal Khan was killed in an armed clash with the troops of 14 Rashtriya Rifles at a Chak Arsalan Khan in Bandipora last night, the spokesman said. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead Ab Razak Lone s/o Ghulam Ahmad inside his house at Waterkhani Drugmulla in Kupwara district early last night.

(Kashmir Observer, September 20, 2000)

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank
Estates & Engineering Department
Corporate Headquarters, MA Road
Srinagar J&K-190001

On-Line Request for Tender (e-NIT)
for
Repair of Window / Split Air Conditioners not covered in AMC installed at various Branches / ATMs under Zonal office Jammu

NIT Notice along with Complete NIT document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. September 19, 2022, 16.00 Hrs. NIT Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is October 03, 2022, 17.00 Hrs.

e-NIT Ref. No.: JKB/E&ED/Repairs-ACs/2022-416
Dated: 16-09-2022 DIPP-KB-3929/22

Shashi Tharoor Gets Sonia Gandhi's Nod To Contest Congress President Election

Agenceis

New Delhi: Congress leader and Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor on Monday received the nod from Sonia Gandhi to contest in the upcoming poll for the party president's post, sources said.

Tharoor received interim-party president Sonia Gandhi's go ahead after he met her here.

According to sources, Tharoor, during the meeting, expressed his wish to contest the elections scheduled to be held on October 17 to "make internal democracy" in the party stronger. Gandhi, in response, giving her nod to the Thiruvananthapuram MP and said that anybody can contest elections.

"Senior Congress leader and MP Shashi Tharoor gets a nod from Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi to contest for the post of the party president, after he reached out to her in a meeting today, citing he can make internal democracy stronger. Sonia Gandhi, Congress interim president, replied that he (Shashi Tharoor) can contest (for the post of the party president) if he wants, anybody can contest elections," said the sources.

Notably, Tharoor is one of the signatories of a letter written to Sonia Gandhi by the G-23 group (seeking reforms in the party). The meeting has brought clarity to his contesting the party president polls, which earlier was a matter of much speculation.

Congress General Secretary Incharge of Communication Jai Ram Ramesh while speaking to ANI about Tharoor's candidature said that anybody who wants to contest is free and welcome to do so. "This has been the consistent position of CP (Congress President) and RG (Rahul Gandhi). This is an open, democratic and transparent process. Nobody needs anybody's nod to contest," said Ramesh.

The meeting with Sonia Gandhi took place after Tharoor welcomed a petition seeking party reforms. "I welcome this petition that is being circulated by a group of young @INCIndia members, seeking constructive reforms in the Party. It has gathered over 650 signatures so far. I am happy to endorse it & go beyond it. <https://memo.withinc.in>", Tharoor had tweeted.

Earlier, in his article in a Malayalam daily on presidential elections, he said that people are free to speculate whether he would contest for the top post in the party.

Tharoor said, "The point I put forward in the article is that elections are a good thing for the party. A democratic country like ours needs a democratic party. I welcome Congress's decision to conduct polls. People are free to speculate as they like."

The Thiruvananthapuram MP also welcomed elections in the party and said that Rahul Gandhi's refusal to be appointed as the Congress president was disappointing. According to him, however, the party should not be limited by the belief that only one family can lead it.

Tharoor further said, "The process is a few weeks away. Let us wait for the time the procedures begin. In my article, I said multiple candidates will be a good idea. At the end of the day, only one person emerges but the process attracts a lot of attention."



Tharoor had penned an article in Malayalam daily Mathrubhumi saying that the party polls were the first step towards rejuvenation of the organisation. What transpired in the meeting today is yet to be known.

However, several leaders have expressed their demand that Rahul Gandhi accept the position.

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Mallikarjun Kharge is of the opinion that Rahul Gandhi should take the lead of the Congress party since he has the ability to lift the party from the crisis.

The election of the Congress president post will be held on October 17 as per the decision of the Congress Working Committee (CWC). The counting of votes will be done on October 19. (ANI)

Jaishankar Arrives In New York For Hectic Diplomatic Week At UNGA High-Level Session



S Jaishankar with Antony Blinken in Washington. PTI file photo

Agenceis

New York: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has arrived here for the high-level UN General Assembly session, with a packed diplomatic week ahead that will include more than 50 official engagements including bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Jaishankar arrived in New York on Sunday to participate in the high-level 77th session of the UN General Assembly, which kick-starts on September 20 with the opening of the General Debate.

"#IndiaAtUNGA. Delighted

to welcome our External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar who is now here to attend the 77th Session of the @UN General Assembly #UNGA. He will co-host & participate in several bilateral, plurilateral & multilateral meetings during this hectic week," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said in a tweet.

Counter-terrorism, peacekeeping, reformed multilateralism, climate action and equitable access to covid vaccines will be among the key focus areas for India during the high-level UN

General Assembly session that begins this week here.

Jaishankar will address world leaders from the UNGA podium on September 24, after a packed week of more than 50 official engagements at the high-level session and on the sidelines.

His first day of engagements will include several bilateral meetings, including with counterparts from Albania, Malta, Egypt and Indonesia as well as President of the 77th UNGA Session Csaba Korosi.

He will also headline the France-India-UAE trilateral.

Pakistan Braces For More Floods, More Than 1,500 Dead, Now, Eye On India

Agenceis

Islamabad: Pakistan is facing the risk of fresh floods and more deaths, after unusually severe torrential downpours triggered by climate change submerged a third of the country and killed more than 1,500 people.

Although waters have started receding in some areas, authorities are worried heavy rains in parts of neighboring India could swell key rivers in Pakistan. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority has advised that people be evacuated from some areas of Pakistan to avoid further loss of property and lives.

The rivers have not seen any increase in water levels yet, the Pakistan Meteorological Department's website showed on Saturday.

The climate catastrophe in the South Asian nation -- already reeling from depleted currency reserves and the highest inflation in decades -- has caused \$30 billion of damage and affected 33 million, more than the population of Australia. The country recently avoided a default after the International Monetary Fund's help. Bonds have hit the lowest since mid-July, while the rupee is near a record low.

"The economic impact of the floods is a major source of concern for global investors," said Abdul Kadir Hussain, head of fixed income asset management



at Dubai-based Arqaam Capital Ltd. Also, there is nothing tangible on dollar inflows that were supposed to follow the IMF loan, he said. On top of that, political uncertainty continues in the country, Hussain said.

At a time when the country is struggling to provide relief to millions of flood-affected people, the political atmosphere remains charged. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan received a rare public criticism from the army after he accused the government of delaying elections until a new army chief is appointed. Mr Khan, who was ousted in April and is calling for early elections, is also facing multiple legal challenges that risk setting off street protests.

The focus stays on the disaster. Scientists say climate change made peak rainfall in Pakistan's

Sindh and Balochistan provinces 75% more intense than it would have been in a world without warming. A heat wave in India and Pakistan earlier this year, also fueled by climate change, worsened the flooding, according to World Weather Attribution, a scientific group that studies the link between extreme weather events and climate change.

India's weather office predicts monsoon rains in some parts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir until Tuesday. Still, the overall situation in Pakistan is improving. Some areas should be clear of floods in two to three weeks, but it could take as long as three months at some places, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's office said in a reply to Bloomberg's questions.

6 Children Killed After Myanmar Army Helicopters Fire On School: Report

Agenceis

At least six children were killed and 17 wounded when army helicopters shot at a school in Myanmar, media reports and residents said on Monday, as the military said it opened fire because rebels were using the building to attack its forces.

Myanmar has been gripped by violence since the army overthrew an elected government early last year. Opposition movements, some of them armed, have since emerged across the country, which the military has countered with lethal force.

In a statement, the military said the Kachin Independence Army, a rebel group, and the People's Defence Force (PDF), an umbrella organisation of armed guerrillas that the junta calls "terrorists", had been hiding in the monastery and using the village to transport weapons in the area.

Security forces sent by helicopter had conducted "a surprise inspection" and were attacked by PDF and the KIA inside houses and the monastery, it said.

It said security forces had responded and said some villagers had been killed in the clash and that the wounded were



Reuters could not independently verify details of the violence that took place on Friday in the village of Let Yet Kone in the central Sagaing region.

According to reports in the Mizzima and Irrawaddy news portals, army helicopters had opened fire on the school housed in a Buddhist monastery in the village.

Some children were killed on the spot by the shooting, while others died after troops entered the village, the reports said.

Two residents, who declined to be identified due to security worries, said by telephone the bodies were later transported by the military to a township 11 km (7 miles) away and buried.

Images posted on social media showed what appeared to be damage including bullet holes and blood stains at a school building.

taken to public hospitals for treatment. The statement accused the armed groups of using villagers as human shields and said that weapons including 16 handmade bombs had later been seized.

In a statement after Friday's violence, Myanmar's pro-democracy shadow government, known as the National Unity Government (NUG), accused the junta of "targeted attacks" on schools.

The NUG also called for the release of 20 students and teachers it said had been arrested following the air strikes.

Documented violent attacks on schools surged to about 190 in 2021 in Myanmar from 10 the year before, according to Save the Children, a non-governmental organisation.

Foreign Currency Worth ₹6.05 Crore Seized At Amritsar Airport

Agenceis

Amritsar: The customs department at the Sri Guru Ram Das Jee International Airport here has seized foreign currency worth 6.05 crore from a passenger, officials said on Monday.

On the evening of September 18, during security check of baggage of outgoing international passengers, airline staff alerted customs officers about suspicious luggage, they said.

Customs officers carried out profiling of the passenger who owned the luggage and found him to be suspicious, following which his movement was monitored, the officials said.

When he was intercepted and asked whether he was carrying excess Indian or foreign currency with him, he denied, they said.

Thereafter his checked-in bag was examined and 80 packets of



foreign currency concealed in special cavities were found, an official said.

It included USD 7,55,700, worth nearly 6 crore in Indian currency, and some Saudi Riyals, he said.

The passenger could not produce any evidence for its lawful acquisition, possession and exportation. He was offloaded and searches carried out at his residence and shop, the officials said.

The passenger and his father have been detained. Further investigation is in progress, they said.

Russia, China To Hold Joint Military Exercises: Report



Agenceis

Moscow: Russia and China have agreed further cooperation on

defense issues with a focus on holding joint exercises, Interfax reported today, citing Russia's powerful Security Council.

NEWS MAKERS

Don't Believe PM Modi Behind Misuse of CBI, ED: Mamata Banerjee

Agenceis

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said she doesn't believe that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is behind the alleged excesses of central agencies in the state and blamed a section of the BJP leaders for misusing them to serve their interests.

Banerjee, who was speaking on a resolution in the Assembly against the "excesses" of the central probe agencies, urged the Prime Minister to ensure that the agenda of the union government and the interests of his party do not get mixed up.

The BJP opposed the resolution which was later passed by the Assembly.

"The present union government is behaving in a dictatorial way. This resolution is not against anyone in particular, but against the biased functioning of the central agencies," Banerjee, also the Trinamool Congress supremo, said.



Leader of the Opposition Suvedu Adhikari said such a "resolution against the CBI and ED" is against the rules and regulations of the Assembly.

The resolution was passed through division, with 189 voting in favour of it and 69 against.

Central agencies such as CBI and ED are probing into several cases in the state, in which senior TMC leaders are accused.

Video: Mumbai Teen Cuts Cakes With Sword, Faces Police Case



Agenceis

Mumbai: A case has been registered under the Arms Act against a 17-year-old youth for cutting cakes with a sword, said the police on Monday.

As per reports, the young man was celebrating his birthday with his friends on Friday night. A video of the incident has gone viral

where the young man is seen cutting 21 cakes with a sword.

"The video is from the Borivali area of Mumbai. A case has been registered against the 17-year-old youth under the Arms Act," said Mumbai Police.

The accused has been on the run while the search for the youth is still on. Further investigations are underway.

Hatemonger Yati Narsinghanand, 2 Others Charged For Hate Speech

Agenceis

Aligarh: Controversial seer Yati Narsinghanand, an Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha functionary and her husband have been booked by the police for allegedly making inflammatory statements against a particular community, a police official said on Monday.

The head priest of Dasna Devi temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, national general secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha Pooja Shakun Pandey and her husband Ashok Pandey allegedly made the provocative statements during a religious programme held in the city on Sunday night.

Superintendent of Police (city) Kuldeep Singh Gunawat told reporters that the programme was held without prior permission.

A video clip that has gone viral on social media shows Narsinghanand purportedly using derogatory language against the Quran and also making provocative comments against the Aligarh Muslim



University (AMU) and madrassas. He is seen and heard demanding that such institutions should be "demolished".

A number of Muslim youth leaders, including former leaders of the AMU Students' Union, accused the trio of deliberately trying to incite communal violence and demanded their immediate arrest.

Mr Gunawat said they have been booked under Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its

religion or religious beliefs), 298 (uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings), 505(2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Narsinghanand has been involved in hate speech cases in the past as well. An FIR was lodged in Haridwar against him for making highly provocative speeches against Muslims at the Dharma Sansad, which was held in the holy city from December 17 to December 19 last year.

Govt Working For Welfare Of All: LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory government is working towards the inclusive and equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir keeping the welfare of all sections of the society on priority, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Monday.

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with a delegation of ST Morcha headed by its National President and Member Parliament Samir Oraon here at Raj Bhawan on Monday, an official spokesperson said.

The members of the delegation, he said, apprised the LG about various concerning issues of the Tribal community. He further said that Oraon, an MP from Jharkhand also discussed with the LG various developmental and public important issues.

The LG, according to the spokesperson, observed that the UT Government is working towards the inclusive and equitable development of J&K keeping the welfare of all sections of

the society on priority.

“The government with its various schemes and programmes is reaching out to the tribal community for their socio-economic empowerment,” Sinha said, while assuring the members of the delegation that the issues raised by them would be looked into for early redressal on merit.

The delegation comprised newly nominated Rajya Sabha MP, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana; National Secretary BJP ST Morcha, Choudhary Mushtaq Inqlabi; General Secretary J&K BJP ST Morcha, Choudhary Roshan Hussain and Permarshver.

Earlier, the spokesperson said, Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat, Founder President, Kafila Foundation, accompanied by Abaas Ashraf Dar, member of the foundation also called on the LG and apprised him about the initiatives of their foundation regarding the opening of a School at Border area of Kupwara.

The LG, he said, appreciated the noble cause and assured them of necessary assistance from the administration.

Pvt Health Facilities Told To Register On Ayushman Bharat Portal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government on Monday directed all those hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres and private clinics to immediately get registered on the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Portal (abdm.gov.in) on the HFR Registry (Health Professional Registry).

The same is said to be required as all these establishments rendering health services to the citizens shall form a integral part of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission ecosystem, an official spokesperson said.

He said that a circular issued by the government reads that these directions are mandatory



Ayushman Bharat Yojana

and may be complied at the earliest. For any queries/clarifications the State AB-DM Office, J&K may be contacted through email: amd.abdmjk@gmail.com, as had been given out in the circular.

Work On Zojila Tunnel In Full Swing: Officials



Agencies

GANDERBAL: Work on prestigious Zojila tunnel is in full swing with Nilgar 1 tunnel ready while lining of Nilgar 2 tunnel has commenced, officials said.

They said that 4 km length two each from Kashmir and Ladakh of the main Zoji La tunnel has been completed so far.

Officials told a local news agency KNOthat the tunnel is envisaged to provide all-weather connectivity to Ladakh and the MEIL has paced up the work to ensure its timely completion.

Project Manager Megha engineering and infrastructures Ltd Harpal Singh said that of total 13.5 kilometres, work on four kilometres of the main Zojila tunnel has been completed besides sub structure of three major bridges 1 km cut and cover has been completed so far.

The work on the tunnel was started in the year October 2020. The highway will have two

twin-tube tunnels, 4 bridges, and 2 snow galleries, 8 cut and cover structures, catch dam and deflection dam and lots more.

He added that in addition, a 2,350 metre concrete 'cut and cover' tunnel will be built, along with 3 ventilation caverns or shafts.

“Works also include construction of portals, control buildings, ventilation buildings and muck disposables along the route,” it said.

With the construction of the tunnel, distance from Baltal to Minamarg will come down to 13 kilometres from the present 40 km and travel time is expected to be cut by an hour and a half.

The project is expected to lead to integrated development of both the UTs.

The tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Ladakh and Kashmir, which is otherwise hampered during winters as Zojila pass is covered in snow and avalanches during winters.

EOW Initiates Probe On Teachers Opting For Higher Education While In Service

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As many among the teaching staff in the School Education Department opt for admissions in higher educational institutions while being in service to build on their qualifications, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Srinagar Crime Branch has initiated an enquiry into the practice.

The enquiry officer of EOW in a letter shot to Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has said that these staff members have not obtained proper permission or leave from the competent authorities for pursuing higher qualification during the services.

The communiqué issued to DSEK said that the EOW has the requisite documents from DSEK.

“On perusal of the record, it surfaced that the said incumbents have not obtained proper permission or leave from competent authorities for pursuing higher qualification during services,” it reads.

Accordingly, the EOW officer has requested the DSEK to furnish the detailed service particulars with parentage and present address and posting in respect of the incumbents.

DSEK was also requested to forward the copies of appointment or promotion order as Master, if any and a copy of MSC final year marks cards cum de-

gree certificate.

According to the communiqué, DSEK has been requested to forward the permission cum leave statement availed by the incumbent while pursuing higher qualification.

Besides, EOW has also been said to confirm as to whether the higher qualification certificates produced by the incumbents are issued by the recognized institutions or universities or otherwise.

The officer has also said that the place of posting of the incumbents at the time when they have pursued MSC degree along with the dates for appearing in examination of MSC degree shall also be submitted.

DSEK was further requested to explain as to whether there was any provision by virtue of which an in-service incumbent can pursue PG degree through regular or distance mode.

According to news agency KNO “Among over 35,000 ReT teachers recruited under erstwhile scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) across Jammu and Kashmir, nearly 5,000 teachers from Kashmir division have ‘enhanced’ their qualification through distance, private or regular mode.”

The ReTs who have enhanced their qualification in private mode were given post-facto sanction by the department as the one time exemption as per

the government and State Administrative Council (SAC) directions for conversion of RRETS to Teacher Grade-II

Sources also said, all those ReTs have enhanced their degrees while being in service, adding, “To cross check their credentials they were asked to submit their bonafide certificates.”

He also said, “The ReTs who have enhanced their degrees in arts subjects were also asked to produce their bonafide certificates from their respective universities so that the SED will verify the time period when they have enhanced their degrees and the mode of passing.”

“The mystery is putting a question mark on ReTs only because they cannot enhance their degree while being in service simultaneously. They have either produced fake certificates or they have remained absent from the place of their posting,” sources said.

Sources further said, “ReTs wishing to enhance their degree are supposed to seek permission either at directorate level or from secretary education. However, most of the existing ReTs have got permission from ZEO’s which is not permissive.”

With the qualification of 10+2, the pay scale of ReTs under this qualification is lower than the ReTs having graduation in any discipline.

J&K Congress Urges Rahul Gandhi To Lead Party

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Monday passed a resolution, urging Rahul Gandhi to lead the party as next president, a party spokesperson said.

JKPCC president Vikar Rasool Wani moved the resolution in favour of Gandhi during the meeting, which was attended by 170 newly-elected delegates of the state unit and chaired by AICC PRO Ranjit Ranjan, and was passed unanimously, the spokesperson said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir AICC in-charge Rajni Patil and working president Raman Bhalala along with several former ministers, legislators, councilors and Panchayati Raj Institution members attended the meeting.

Earlier, Ranjan moved a reso-

lution authorising Congress president to nominate or elect new PCC president and AICC members from Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution was seconded by Wani and also passed unanimously by the house, the spokesperson said.

Patil, in her address, launched a scathing attack on Ghulam Nabi Azad for ditching the party after enjoying all important positions over the past 50 years.

Azad resigned from the Congress last month and is scheduled to announce the formation of his own party in the coming days.

Several Congress leaders, including former ministers, legislators and prominent workers also resigned from the Congress in support of Azad.

The party will emerge stronger in the days to come in Jammu and Kashmir as new leadership shall emerge, Patil said.

Ranjan, in her address, advised the partymen to strengthen the Congress party while taking a jibe at Azad.

Rahul Gandhi has attracted unexpected responses during his Bharat Jodo Yatra,” she said.

JKPCC president expressed confidence that the party will emerge stronger despite defections by some opportunists who enjoyed all power over the years.

He asked the young and loyal party leaders and workers to come forward to lead the party.

Bhalala, in his address, lashed out at the BJP government at the Centre for scrapping the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Congress shall continue to fight for the lost rights (of people of Jammu and Kashmir) under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, he said.

DGP Reviews Security Situation In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Monday reviewed the security scenario in Kishtwar and also visited Neel top in nearby Ramban district, a police spokesperson said.

The police chief was on a day-long visit to Kishtwar where he presided over the closing ceremony of 3rd Shaheed DSP Aman Thakur memorial T20 Cricket tournament and also chaired officers meeting, the spokesperson said.

He later visited Neel Top, Mal Tragan in Ramban and had an interaction with the locals.

Chairing the officers meeting to review the security scenario in Kishtwar, the DGP stressed on high alertness and vigilance so that no chance is provided to anti-national elements to revive their structure in the district.

He directed for settling down the sensitive cases on priority.

He asserted that intensified efforts must be made to curb drug trafficking and said that habitual offenders should be booked under the Public Safety Act.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Shafat Hussain Batt and officers of the Army and CRPF briefed the DGP about the measures taken to maintain peace and order in the district.

Besides Additional Director General of Police, Jammu, Mukesh Singh, the meeting was attended by Deputy Inspector General of police, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban range Sunil Gupta and other jurisdictional officers

of Police, Army and CRPF, the spokesperson said.

Earlier, the DGP addressed a gathering at the closing ceremony of the cricket tournament and paid rich tributes to Thakur, saying the brave heart was a dedicated and devout officer who voluntarily worked to end terrorism.

He was awarded the prestigious Shuriya Chakra for his gallant act in service of the nation. This tournament is dedicated to remember the martyrdom of the fallen hero, he said.

He said Jammu and Kashmir Police has lost a number of officers and jawans in the war against terror.

The DGP lauded the people of Kishtwar for their contribution in strengthening peace in the district and hoped that they will continue to cooperate and support police.

He also emphasised on strengthening brotherhood and communal harmony in the region.

“With the cooperation of people from across the UT, we are witnessing peace in Jammu and Kashmir. More collective efforts are required to stabilise it further, he said.

Later, the DGP accompanied by ADGP Jammu and DIG DKR range visited Neel Top, Mal Tragan in Ramban and complimented the people for maintaining brotherhood and taking part in peace activities.

He alerted them about the cross-border conspiracies and advised the youth to take part in sports activities.

House Gutted In Bandipora Fire Incident



Agencies

SRINAGAR: A residential house and cowshed in its vicinity was gutted in a fire incident in Sheikhmuqaam village of Aloosa Bandipora last night, officials said on Monday.

They said a single-storey residential house, belonging to one Javad Ahmad Gojer son of Late Khaleel ullah, was gutted along with household good in the fire incident.

Also, one cowshed and a Tinshead belonging to his neighbour Mohammad Shafi son of Late Taj Mohammad was also damaged in the fire, the cause of which was not immediately known.

Confirming it, an official of the Fire and Emergency department told a local news agency GNS that timely response by Fire Services Station headquartered in Bandipora saved surrounding property worth of crores of rupees.

Div Com Reviews Recruitment Process Under Agnipath Scheme



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P.K Pole accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Monday paid visit to Hyderabad Pattan where he was briefed regarding first ever UT level Agnipath Recruitment Rally being organized under the Centrally Sponsored Agnipath Scheme.

The Rally witnessed participation of youth from different parts of the Kashmir Division including Shopian, Pulwama and Ganderbal and were screened for recruitment into the Indian Army.

Addressing the participants at the event, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the significance of the Agnipath Scheme and urged youth to take part in the recruitment process of Agnipath Scheme to contribute in Nation building and its protection.

P.K. Pole further highlighted that the Agnipath Scheme would provide a good opportunity for building youth to become Agniveers to serve in the Armed Forces and to promote a younger

profile of the Armed Forces.

He reiterated Agniveers would bring about a transitional shift towards a more tech savvy and enthusiastic Armed Forces.

Interacting with the participants, the Divisional Commissioner said that Agniveers on completion of a four years period would go to the society as disciplined, dynamic and responsible citizens. He asserted that Agnipath scheme would have a significant positive impact on Agniveers as individuals, Society as a whole and armed forces to contribute greatly to the Nation.

Meanwhile, DC Baramulla Dr Syed Sehrish briefed about the recruitment Process and said that all the arrangements are being supported by district administration in order to smoothly conduct the first ever Agnipath Recruitment Rally in the Baramulla District.

Among others Col G suresh Director recruitment army recruiting office Srinagar and ladakh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and Tehsildar Pattan were present on the occasion

Two-Day Surinsar -Mansar Festival Concludes

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The 2-Day Surinsar-Mansar Festival concluded at Mansar with a special rendition of local cultural performances and celebrity Musical performance, an official spokesperson said Monday

Director Tourism Jammu, Vivekanand Rai was the chief guest at the valedictory function.

Mansar Lake, laced with hills and engulfed in forests, came into limelight once again when a cultural extravaganza was organised by the Tourism Department, J&K and Surinsar Mansar Authority. The highlights of the event included Musical Performances, amazing food, open MIC performances, Blogger meet, MTB rally and nature walk. The festival was inaugurated by Chief Secretary of J&K, UT Dr A K Mehta at Surinsar on September 17, 2022 and the day 2 activities were held on the shores of Mansar Lake. The festival full of excitement, fun, adventure, entertainment, melodies, delicious food and a beautiful backdrop left visitors awestruck.

Speaking to the media, the Director Tourism, Jammu said that the festival is an elaborate effort of the tourism Department to put Mansar Lake on the Traveller itinerary and must visit list. The whole idea is to popularise Jammu as a stellar tourist destination.

The celebration started with the fun filled adventure activity i.e mountain terrain biking from Surinsar to Mansar which was flagged off by Bodh Raj Sarpanch Surinsar. Over 20 participants joined the bike Rally which transversed the beautiful Surinsar to Mansar route

and were flagged in by Dr Gurvinder Jit Singh CEO, SMDA at Mansar.

A painting competition was also held at Mansar where Miss Shivani and Miss Shakti, brought various Tourist destinations live on Canvas adding to everyone's delight.

In the evening, an open MIC was held. The acts varied between poems, songs and magic where budding artists showcased their talent. Also Bloggers Meet was held in the evening wherein an informal discussion with the famous bloggers was held by Sunaina Sharma Mehta, Joint Director Tourism Jammu.

She announced that a photography competition "Sabse Bada Ghumakkar" shall be held which shall be open to all and anyone can get registered this week to get the entries of photographs clicked by them from across all the ten districts of Jammu division highlighting the scenic beauty of the area alongwith a description of 50 words with Directorate of Tourism Jammu, rules/regulations of which shall be advertised later.

After screening by an expert panel, the best three entries shall be rewarded on World Tourism Day which is to be celebrated on 27 September. Later in the evening a scintillating cultural programme was held which included high energy performances by Rinku Ji, Karan Menia, Police Rapper, Dheeraj Kumar, Shumalini Goswami etc. However, the main highlights of the events was the energetic performance by famous Singer Dilpreet Dhillon. The various Performances cheered the audience who appreciated the efforts of the department for organising such a grand event.

MeT Forecasts Mainly Dry Weather In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weather department here on Monday forecast mainly dry weather over Jammu and Kashmir in next 24 hours.

A meteorological department official here said that “mainly dry weather to isolated very light rain” is expected in the subsequent two days.

Regarding the minimum temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 12.6°C against 12.4°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.7°C above normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 9.8°C against 11.2°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.5°C below normal there, he said.

In Pahalgam, he said, the mercury settled at 8.0°C against

6.1°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the south Kashmir resort.

Kokernag recorded a low of 10.7°C against 10.8°C the previous night and it was normal for the place, he said.

World famous Gulmarg resort recorded a low of 8.0°C against 6.0°C on the previous night. It was 0.1°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 9.8°C against 9.6°C the previous night, the official said. It was 0.4°C below normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 22.7°C against 21.5°C on the previous night. It was 0.7°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said. Banihal recorded a low of 9.8°C, Batote 14.0°C, Katra 21.2°C and Bhadarwah 12.6°C. (GNS)

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K O V I E W

India-Pak dead-end

The expectation that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will provide yet another opportunity to India and Pakistan to resume engagement has been belied. Prime minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Shahbaz Sharif didn't meet, as was the expectation. It is thus unlikely that the two countries will be able to resume dialogue during the ongoing terms of the two governments. India and Pakistan were added as permanent members of the SCO in 2017, an upgrade from their earlier observer status. India's formal entry into the SCO at the time had made some analysts in India question the wisdom of country's stand against the Chinese Border and Road initiative. However, in South Asia, the real interest in the SCO summits has always been about the summit leading to a resumption of a long suspended dialogue between them. The people expected a pull-aside between PM Modi and Sharif but it didn't come through. This is a sad culmination to an engagement that had begun in 2015 with PM Modi's surprise stopover at the Lahore residence of the then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on his way back from Kabul. All seemed to be going well before it was unraveled by the Pathankot attack in January 2016. The ties have remained frozen ever since.

The just concluded Shanghai summit had therefore created some hope. But the outcome has been disappointing. However, there is still some possibility to hope against hope. And we might soon witness a follow-up action. And if not then we can only hope that the current climate of distrust and antagonism doesn't lead to further escalation of tensions. More so, when due to suspended talks, the two countries lack the diplomatic tools to manage the fallout. It is therefore important that the two countries get back to the dialogue and work towards the resolution of their issues for durable peace in the region. But it looks very unlikely that the two countries will be able to get back to dialogue. More so after New Delhi revoked Article 370 that granted semi-autonomy to J&K within Indian Union. Pakistan has since insisted that India reverse the move. India, on the contrary, has not only refused to do so but also sought to remove Kashmir as a subject of discussion between the two countries. The neighbors tried to pick up the pieces with the surprise re-affirmation of the 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control in February 2021. Ever since, however, they have failed to build upon the truce and restore the dialogue. Will things change in near future? The prospect looks unlikely unless the leaders of the two countries act statesmanly and re-engage for the sake of peace in the region.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Era of War is Over

However, more focus was on the bilateral meetings on the sidelines, as this was the first such major conference that Russian President Vladimir Putin attended since the Ukraine war, as well as part of the first visit abroad by Chinese President Xi Jinping since the COVID-19 pandemic and Taiwan tensions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attendance was equally meaningful, given that it was the first time he met Mr. Putin since the war, and Mr. Xi since the standoff at the LAC, in 2020. This was also the first time he came face to face with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and speculation was rife that he would hold meetings with India's adversaries. While the meetings with Mr. Sharif or Mr. Xi did not materialise, western capitals focused on his Putin meeting. Mr. Modi's opening comment to Mr. Putin, that the "era of war" has ended, has been read as an "admonition" of Russia's war in Ukraine. However, it would be wrong to read Mr. Modi's engagement with Mr. Putin as any kind of "public shaming", but rather an expression of the concern over the war, something that Mr. Putin said he understands. A day before, Mr. Putin had also said to Mr. Xi that he understood China's concerns, indicating Russia's realisation of the need to effect a ceasefire and dialogue. India now comes into prominence as Chair of the SCO, and is making preparations for next year's SCO summit ahead of the G-20 summit in New Delhi. India needs to ensure the participation of all SCO members including China and Pakistan, despite the tensions, which will entail some diplomatic elbow grease by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in the next few months, beginning this week at the UN General Assembly. India's pitch to the SCO for connectivity with the Eurasian region hinges on its development of Chabahar port through Iran and traversing U.S. sanctions, while still competing with the China-Pakistan backed transit routes through Gwadar. On terrorism, India will have to ensure the SCO walks the talk on building a new consolidated list of terrorist groups, an area where it is frequently thwarted by China. Meanwhile, New Delhi will also have to balance its ties, keeping western partners in the Quad and other groupings reassured, especially as the polarisation between the U.S.-EU coalition and a Russia-China-led combine continues to grow.

The Hindu

Man – Wild Encounters
The Unwelcome Guests



Photo for Representational Purposes Only

Amir Suhail Wani

Superficiality will not work here and if we want to understand the Man-wild dynamics in all its colour and complexity, the pervasive material culture, non-terminating human greed and identification of self with "explorer" and "exploiter" of nature rather its "guardian" and "custodian" cannot be discounted

Wildlife dislocation, poaching, shrinking forest habitat, extending human settlements into protected and fragile areas have all played a role in augmenting human-wild encounters causing irreparable damage to both the sides. The recent prowling of the bear and cub in the heartland of Srinagar is only an epilogue to a long series of forays by wild animals into inhabited localities. These episodes, increasing in their frequency as they are, raise both a social concern and ecological alarm. We might, in our complacency, ignore or marginalise the severity of these issues but that will only amount to turning a blind eye to the intricacy and complexity of a web of factors on which human life itself depends. Visible signs in the form of climate change, wildlife disturbance, global warming are only a footnote to the precariousness of the biosphere and they awaken us to the impending disaster that looms large over the horizon. We have not actually woken up to the real gravity of the situation and rarely do we understand that a talk of endangered species only accelerates our own extinction, that shrinking wildlife sanctuaries implies directly the insecurity at our own home and a disequilibrium in biosphere is a subtle way towards suicide. Our negligence towards growing man versus wild encounters and the complacency rooted in indifference to matters of ecological and biotic purport have virtually pushed us to the precipice of vulnerability to all shades of disasters.

Ignorance may not be as lethal as indifference and in the womb of our indifference do fester problems growing in magnitude beyond our control. Masses may have a rough idea of factors leading to climatic and ecological disequilibrium – but an idea they have, no matter how vague. But agencies, departments and institutions entrusted with the preservation of wildlife, forests and ecosystems have an exact idea of their work, its criticality and finesse. But is this knowledge and competence witness to any change on ground – the ground

facts, priorities and sensibilities speak the opposite. In pursuit of comforts, luxuries and meeting our aesthetic standards, we forgo the fact that we don't only violate the equilibrium that sustains life but are infringing upon the rights of animals – wild animals in this case. "A good deed done to an animal is as meritorious as a good deed done to a human being, while an act of cruelty to an animal is as bad as an act of cruelty to a human being", quotes Sira Abdul Rehman from the Prophet of Islam in one of his paper. Superficiality will not work

formulate an exhaustive and exclusive wildlife and forest policy which will delineate the dos and don'ts viz a viz forest and wildlife. Forests need grading and preservation in order of their criticality and fragility and any violation of wildlife laws need to be deterred by severe penal action. This is in the interest of the entire society and everybody needs to pin this fact to his/her mind. There is an immediate need to look for alternatives of wood for construction and other jobs of lesser importance. In fact, a large amount of materials are already in vogue and all that is needed is to gen-

This is as simple an equation as that – you infringe on my premises, I will hit you back

here and if we want to understand the Man-wild dynamics in all its colour and complexity, the pervasive material culture, non-terminating human greed and identification of self with "explorer" and "exploiter" of nature rather its "guardian" and "custodian" cannot be discounted. A change in outlook towards wildlife, forests, environment and creation in totality can't be brought about in absence of a principle emphasising ideals and objectives higher than material comfort, sensual pleasure and raping of earth and robbing its resources without any hindsight or foresight of the detrimental consequences. With the thinning of the forest cover, wild animals will be deprived of shelter and they will inevitably venture into residential areas. This is as simple an equation as that – you infringe on my premises, I will hit you back. But what ought to be done in an age of growing demand for forest wood, growing appetite for adorning our houses at the cost of reckless cutting of trees? This problem, if it is to be solved, has to be approached from all angles and that will imply collaborative and selfless contribution from a number of agencies. Foremost is the necessity to

erate awareness, bring in a legal perspective and make these alternatives cheap and affordable. Another area of concern is to provide nomadic tribes – which usually use forest trees as firewood with alternatives and put a curb on their ruthless cutting of trees or to earmark zones which they can cater their firewood needs from. All this may seem to be a digression from our main concern of minimizing and finally eliminating Man – Wild encounter, but a moments' pause is enough to bring home the fact that these are actually the reasons responsible for this clash and a remedy thereof is sure to bring us respite from the iterative episodes of Man-Wild conflict. We have to decide and decide in all earnestness if we want to live in sync with nature or at a state of constant war with it, with the reminder that no species can survive while it is at war with nature.

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

The author is a Srinagar based columnist



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Kashmir Still Lacks Proper Destitution Management

To tackle this conflict-created load, many orphanages have cropped up over the years. They help these children in many socio-economic ways. Some of these orphanages run a program called Wedding Assistance in which they provide a wedding kit comprising of ladies suits, footwear and cosmetics products worth Rs. 15,000 to orphans.

Another strife-hit group is of the women whose spouses have disappeared and are referred to as half-widows. They don't know whether their husbands are alive or not. Under Indian law, a person is considered to be dead if they have disappeared for more than seven years. Before that period, no assistance is provided to these women, leaving them financially vulnerable.

A 2005 study by Médecins Sans Frontières revealed that the Kashmiri women are one of the most repressed groups around the world, with almost 11.6 per cent of the respondents claiming that they faced situational abuse. There has been a 57 per cent increase in crimes against women between 2013-18. So far as the government efforts have not been up to the mark to tack-

le this situational destitution in the valley, the policies need to be drastically improved. An umbrella needs to be created where all the independent organisation can work in tandem for the orphans and widows of Kashmir.

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Parent's Phone Addiction, Child's Ruin

Raian Ali

Teenagers are often accused of being addicted to their mobile devices, but new research shows they're often just modelling their parents' behaviour. Of course, we all use digital devices for work, for fun, and for socialising – but too much screen time can be harmful. There is such a thing as “digital addiction” and it's characterised by excessive and obsessive attachment to technology, associated with harm to users and people around them.

Parents are often considered part of the solution when it comes to their children's technology addiction. However, in my team's recent study, we found parents may be part of the problem. The study involved 168 parents of adolescents living in Qatar.

We explored whether there was any connection between the intensity of internet addiction in parents and their children. Parents answered a questionnaire about themselves and a second one about their teenage children.

The results showed a direct relation: the more addicted the parents, the stronger their children's compulsions were. Setting an example is a powerful form of parenting. The way parents use technology is no exception.

There are ways to tackle the problem. We analysed the first survey with parents, and conducted further research involving a questionnaire with over 500 adolescents and interviews with 44 parents, 42 adolescents and 13 health and education practitioners in Qatar to understand the issue more and get best practice guidelines.



1. FOCUS ON BONDING

An effective approach to parenting digital addiction is to strengthen your connection with your child. Although it may sound simple, our findings showed that low levels of emotional engagement in both authoritarian (such as turning wifi off) and lenient parenting styles worsened digital addiction in their children.

Almost all (94%) of our study's parents followed either an aggressive, assertive or lenient digital parenting

style. Yet most of their adolescents were either at-risk or already addicted to technology.

Internet addiction increased in adolescents who did not have a warm relationship with their parents. Instead, family cohesion and low levels of conflict were linked with low scores for internet addiction in children. Planning enjoyable activities as a family gives teenagers something rewarding to fill their time with and increase their feeling of social support.

2. LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Setting limits on when teenagers can use the internet, punishments for breaking rules and rewards for cutting technology use is not, by itself, a strategy that works. What was clear is the value of meaningful dialogue with your child about how to manage screen time and online activities.

You need to understand the issues underlying their addiction. Build on what you learned from listening to your child. Once

Internet addiction increased in adolescents who did not have a warm relationship with their parents. Instead, family cohesion and low levels of conflict were linked with low scores for internet addiction in children. Planning enjoyable activities as a family gives teenagers something rewarding to fill their time with and increase their feeling of social support

you've agreed on a goal, be consistent. Target and limit setting, incentive schemes and regular review of technology did work in combination with constructive conversations.

3. SELF-DISCIPLINE

Our findings suggested that no matter the frequency of parental monitoring, there was no decrease in addiction levels. Change can only happen if the child is willing. Low levels of self-control are linked to internet addiction in children and adults alike.

A sense of ownership and commitment will empower teenagers to feel as though they are in control and make them more willing to take action. Allow adolescents to decide on limits for their digital use (for instance, how much time

they spend on a device and which mobile apps to delete).

4. TURN THE TABLES

When children teach others about an issue, they are more likely to change their own behaviour. Let adolescents guide you to put a plan together to address your own internet use. Work with your children to create trust and shared accountability.

For example, if you decide to create a weekly schedule to record your family's internet use, include a column for yourself. This approach shows a commitment from both sides to solve the issue. Being a role model is essential to teenagers' success.

5. DON'T SOLELY RELY ON PARENTAL CONTROL TOOLS

The levels of digital addiction that we are seeing among adolescents indicate that parental software controls aren't working. A 2017 study found that 22% of its adolescent participants used the internet excessively.

The tools are limited in what they can do. They are missing important features, such as group limit setting.

The word “control” has negative connotations, especially in the mind of adolescents: something to get around rather than work with. People feel it is a threat to their freedom.

Digital addiction is associated with a wide range of negative life experiences such as lower grades in exams and job loss. But good, old-fashioned family bonding could be the solution.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Suffering Centaur

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

It is now more than three months since Centaur Lakeview Hotel Srinagar has been sealed and taken over by the Government of J&K. For more than a year, the hotel had been earning Rs 2.50 Crore revenue every month on an average but now this is not the case at all. The hotel is sealed, all the rooms are locked and even the supplies that had been purchased to run the hotel kitchen are almost rotting in the store rooms.

160 employees of this hotel are protesting and demanding justice. These employees say that they were forcibly evicted by the Jammu & Kashmir Government on June 14th this year. Since then, the hotel has been sealed. The employees say that they are being sandwiched between this tussle as their future seems dark.

BACKGROUND

Centaur Hotel Srinagar is owned by Hotel Corporation of India (HCI), which is a Govt of India Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The J&K Government alleges that the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) violated the lease agreement conditions by allowing a third party to take control of the hotel more than 10 years back. Centaur Hotel Srinagar was constructed in early 1980s near Dal lake Srinagar. It was a joint venture between the J & K Government and Hotel Corporation of India. The Jammu & Kashmir Government under cabinet order No. 237 dated 25.06.1979 leased out Govt land measuring around 13 acres (104 kanals) located near Kabootar Khana Boulevard Road Srinagar to the Hotel Corporation of India. This was followed by a Government order number 118 of 1981 dated 17th October 1981. On March 10th, 1982 a formal lease agreement was executed between J&K Govt and Hotel Corporation of India (HCI).

The construction work on the hotel began in 1982 and within a few years the 252 rooms 5 star hotel was made operational. The hotel started its operations by the end of 1984. As per the terms and conditions in the lease agreement the ownership rights over the structure on the land were to be equally held by the both parties.

VIOLATION OF LEASE AGREEMENT, LG ACT

The Jammu & Kashmir government alleges that the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) has violated the lease agreement and the J&K Land Grants Act, 1960 by sub-letting the premises to a third party without consent from the Government. This is true to some extent. HCI tried to give management a contract to a Mumbai based company DB Realty in 2010. But the employees during that time had resisted that move and even went to the court. The said agreement was cancelled later on. This author had a detailed conversation with Ghulam Hyder, a senior member of Centaur Hotel Employees Association. He



said that employees were being targeted for none of their fault.

“In 2010 a management contract between the Hotel Corporation of India and the Mumbai-based DB Realty had been signed wherein HCI intended to ensure better management of the hotel and to undertake some repairs and renovations to make the property more attractive. We the employees of the hotel had raised our voice against the said management contract as we apprehended that our jobs were not secure once a private company would take up the hotel operations. We even moved to High Court & apprised the then state Government. The HCI in 2011 terminated the contract. Centaur Hotel Srinagar was earning Rs 2.50 Crore as revenue every month and out of this Rs 17 lakhs the hotel management paid as electricity bill. Now that seems like history”, said Ghulam Hyder, a senior employee of the hotel.

TAKING OVER CENTAUR HOTEL

On 25th April 2022, the Government served notice to Hotel Corporation of India (HCI), Centaur Hotel Srinagar. According to the notice, J&K Government charged the Hotel Corporation of India of violating the lease agreement conditions by subletting the Hotel to a third party. It is pertinent to mention that in pursuant to the cabinet decision No. 237 dated 25.06.1979, the then State Government vide Govt order No.118 of 1981 dated 17.10.1981 leased out a piece of land measuring 13 acres to the Hotel Corporation of India Pvt Ltd. for a period of 99 years and accordingly a lease agreement was executed

on 10.03.1982. The terms and conditions in the agreement stipulated that the ownership rights over the structure on the land shall be equally held by the parties, the use whereof shall be determined by the parties by mutual undertakings and it was also agreed that for matters not covered by the agreement the laws of the J&K State will apply. When the Government took over the Centaur hotel on June 14th after serving the show cause notice in April, the building was sealed completely and all the employees were forcibly evicted as they had lodged a protest inside the hotel premises. The decision of the Government has not only made the future of 160 employees dark but even their families have had to bear the brunt of this decision.

The Government should have first thought about the rehabilitation of these employees before taking any action. Is this the role of the Welfare State?

The order for sealing the Centaur Hotel was issued by local Tehsildar (Executive Magistrate). The order said: “It is hereby informed that the Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar has been sealed today on 14th June, 2022, under J-K Public premises (eviction of unauthorised occupants Act, 1988) before me under my seal and signature.” Therefore, no one is allowed to enter the main gate till further orders otherwise stern action shall be taken under prevalent law “

From June 14th onwards, the employees of Centaur Hotel Srinagar have been protesting off and on. They held several demonstrations in Srinagar's press enclave but it

seems the Government isn't bothered about their future.

LEGAL BATTLE

When the Government took over the control of Centaur Hotel Srinagar, the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) moved a petition before the Supreme Court of India. The petitioner organisation in its petition before the SC said that HCI is a fully-owned Central Government company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA). The counsel for Hotel Corporation of India said that the J&K government had terminated the 99-year lease of their hotel without giving a show cause notice. The petition reads:

“The state authorities have started the eviction process and this action would render the employees of the hotel functioning on the banks of Dal lake unemployed. The State authorities started the eviction proceedings. This would bring the functioning of the hotel with 250 rooms and a similar number of employees to a halt”

Before moving the petition in Supreme Court, the HCI had filed a case in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir who disposed of the petition saying that Hotel Corporation of India could approach the District Magistrate Srinagar (appellate authority) against the action of the State government. Pertinently, the District Magistrate is the Appellate Authority under the J&K Land Grants Act 1960. The HCI moved to the Supreme Court when the District Magistrate Srinagar didn't give any relief to them. The Supreme Court

forwarded the case to J&K High Court. For the last few months, the high court has listed the case several times and now the order has been reserved which might be announced around October.

CONCLUSION

I am personally unable to understand why the Government raised the issue of Centaur Hotel lease agreement after around 12 years even as the said agreement was cancelled way back in 2011 when the employees themselves had protested over the same and even went to High Court. On one hand, the Govt wants to promote tourism in Jammu & Kashmir and the hotel which was earning a revenue of Rs 2.50 Crores per month has been shut down. Some of the officers of the Central Government departments who are permanently stationed in this hotel are supplied food from outside and the Govt seems to be least bothered about the future of 160 employees and their families. Centaur hotel Srinagar was not only earning revenue for itself but the salaries of many employees working in Centaur's Delhi units would also get support from Srinagar. The power department would get a revenue of Rs 17 lakhs per month and that too has now stopped. This summer we had a huge tourist rush in Kashmir and in three months Centaur Hotel Srinagar would have earned huge revenue, more than what it was earning already.

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

How Social Factors Affect Overprescription In India



360info

Increasing use of antidepressants in India stems not only from pharmaceutical company marketing. Social stigma and economics are pushing people to take a pill. India is afflicted by a boom in depression. A mind-boggling 56 million of its people have the condition, another 38 million have an anxiety disorder. It was among India's top 15 causes of early death in 2019. Not surprisingly, antidepressants are rife: prescriptions grew by 23 percent over the last year.

In Japan, pharmaceutical companies coined the term *kokoro no kaze*, meaning a cold of the soul, for depression. This carefully crafted disease awareness campaign was behind a growing acceptance of depression and antidepressants to treat it, according to Professor Hiroshi Ihara. In India, interviews with medical professionals, clinical psychologists and even traditional healers show how the pharmaceutical industry is adopting new measures in an attempt to grow its market.

Doctors have described how pharmaceutical companies keep prescription records and in many cases pay doctors a percentage of the value of prescriptions. If someone writes a prescription of 100 rupees, he gets 10 rupees; the amount is added [and] paid through conference sponsorships, foreign trips, books and gifts, said Prabir*, a clinical psychologist.

GPs are often willing and able to prescribe low-dosage antidepressant drugs and consequently, liberal antidepressant prescriptions by non-psychiatrists is rampant in India according to psychiatrist Gopala Sarma Poduri.

But the pharmaceutical industry is not entirely to blame for overprescription of antidepressants in India. The situation is more complex and nuanced.

Patients might turn to an antidepressant because of the stigma of seeing a mental health professional. Mihir*, a GP reported that even if he recommends the services of a specialist psychiatrist, patients are often in denial: [Patients] don't recognise themselves as having that kind of a problem. [They would say] I am having loose bowels, or heart palpitations, why are you sending me to doctors for mad people?

Patients often prefer taking medicines over psychotherapy. Samir*, a clinical

psychologist said: People think that if they are not having medicines and they are only going to the therapist to talk, then they don't have depression; if there is no medicine, there is no problem.

Indian medical education has been criticised for too little emphasis on psychiatric issues. People first go to a GP but GPs have limited understanding of psychiatric medicine and might keep changing medicines and resort to polypharmacy, said Prabir.

Often the lack of economic resources to afford therapy makes patients and their families see a general practitioner or non-specialist whose lack of adequate training makes them especially prone to erroneous diagnosis and overprescription of antidepressants.

With 0.3 psychiatrists, and 0.07 psychologists per 100,000 people in India, there is no way to effectively handle the caseloads. Suggested figures for these categories recommend a minimum of 1-4 per 100,000.

A shortage of qualified mental healthcare professionals makes it impossible to cater to the needs of the difficult-to-access rural population. The problem is so acute that in 2010, the Ministry of Health proposed a bachelors program in community health/rural health care. This program has suffered a failure to launch. In remote areas, researchers have shown a large share of antidepressant sales are not generated by licensed doctors, but by an amorphous group of unlicensed prescribers who have never been formally trained in medicine.

In many ways these unlicensed prescribers are unavoidable. Amit*, a surgeon put it this way: Our rural population is dependent on quacks'. We are unable to supply qualified medical officers, so the so-called unauthorised, or those that are called quacks, can't be eliminated overnight.

Patients are often forced to move toward antidepressants even when they don't really need that level of treatment. The drugs are cheaper than therapy. A therapy session takes 3045 min, and that has implications on the fees. A person might then think I have to set aside 25003000 rupees for counselling, and I will just talk ... On the other hand, if I take antidepressants, my monthly medical bills won't cross thousands of rupees', said Samir.

Clinical depression is a sad and growing reality in India. Promotion of prescription products by pharmaceutical companies has most definitely happened, and continues relentlessly, in spite of the changes made to the Indian Medical Council Regulations in 2002.

But big pharma cannot be declared the only culprit. There is a clear case of sociocultural economic causes including stigma, lack of affordable care, and infrastructural constraints like unavailability of qualified healthcare professionals creating a breeding ground for overprescription to proliferate.

'Low Self-Esteem Among Reasons For Body Revealing Social Media Posts'

Press Trust Of India

Low self esteem are among the reasons why people use body-revealing social media posts, according to a noted psychologist. There is substantial concern about body image misconstructions and their complex psychological influence during the process of content consumption and creation, said Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma, a professor in National Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) here. Sharma, a professor of the department of clinical psychology, service for healthy use of technology at NIMHANS Centre for Well Being, is the corresponding author of a study titled Making the body public: Implications of the new standards of body, which has been published recently in the 'International Journal of Social Psychiatry'.

People with low self-esteem due to poor academics and other reasons use such body-revealing social media posts, Dr Sharma, who also heads SHUT (Service for Healthy use of Technology) clinic at NIMHANS, told PTI on Sunday.

One of such social influencers, who used to take selfies and post on the social media used to get depressed whenever she did not get 'approvals' (read likes and comments), he said.

The study said that body revealing videos have problematic effect on the prolonged exposure and sexual appeal is the primary objective of body revealing and outfit changing videos on short film video content services.

Sexual appeal is the primary objective of the body revealing and outfit change videos are wide-



ly popular on Short Film Video Content Services (SFVCS), it said.

"The similarities between these body revealing videos and softcore pornographic material are perplexing. Millions of viewers eagerly repeat the amateur videos, often carefully done and edited, according to the study.

Watching such videos can exacerbate pre-existing psychological problems such as addiction, social problems, and negative well-being.

When a social media influencer poses for the camera, there is a blatant copy of prominent celebrities through similar costumes, make-up, and mannerisms besides video editing tricks, it said.

The content creators tend to acquire a 'famous self' status by enacting a fantasied gesture before the camera. Hence, every social media influencer has elevated themselves to micro-celebrity status, the study said.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Shopian

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Subject :This office fresh E-Nit S. No 34 of 2022-23 issued under No: IDS/ 4560-78 Dated 16-09-2022

The above mentioned E-Nit has been cancelled due to error in BOQ's.

DIPK-10297/22

No.SID/4675-98
Dated: 17-09-2022

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division Shopian.

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (Phe) Mechanical Division South Awantipora

Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: phemechsouth@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments and construction of pump house/panel room/ operator room at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

Reference: This Office ENIT No.: 43 of 2022-23 Dated: 25-08-2022 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/2071-90 Dated: 25/08/2022.

This Office ENIT No.: 47 of 2022-23 Dated: 01-09-2022 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/2195-2207 Dated: 01/09/2022.

This Office ENIT No.: 48 of 2022-23 Dated: 01-09-2022 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/2225-43 Dated: 03/09/2022.

In modification of eNIT 43, eNIT 47 & eNIT 48 of 2022-23 to the (FORM IX) PERFORMANCE BANK GUARANTEE (UNCONDITIONAL) of the last paragraph shall now be read as, This guarantee shall be valid up to ____ (a date 45 days after the end of the date of completion of Five Years maintenance i.e. 5 years and 45 days).

And in modification to the Clause No. 18 (Trial Run) of "General terms & Conditions" of Appendix 'B' Shall now be read as, After Completion of the work the firm will have to make a trial run of the scheme for a period of 03 Month during which the bidder will have to operate & maintain the executed work to the full satisfaction of the Department.

Rest all terms shall remain same.

No:- JSD/PHE/MDSE/Camp/12
Dated: 17/09/2022

DIPK-10298/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech.
Division
South Awantipora

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOURISM (M&W) KASHMIR, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. DT/M and W/K/ 49 of 2022-23, Dated 14.09.2022

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited by Deputy Director Tourism (M&W), Kashmir on **(Aggregate Percentage Basis)** from approved and eligible **Civil/Electric** Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt., PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. cost	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Solid Waste Management Plant at Bage-Sangerwani, Rajpora Pulwama.(For Site-I & Site-II)	21.07	42150	800	45-days	BEE/ CEE	PMDP
2	Repairs to front porch at Tourist City Centre Srinagar.	1.90	3800	200	15-days	DEE	M&R
3	Completion of balance work to Imam Bara at Bopat, Beerwah Budgam	5.50	11000	300	25-days	CEE/ DEE	PLAN
4	Finishing works to Imam Bara Qadeem at Durbal, Budgam.	6.15	12300	300	30-days	CEE/ DEE	PLAN
5	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2 No. 62.5 KVA Diesel Generator Sets and other allied works at Bagh-I-Sangerwani Pulwama.	26.11	52220	1100	45-days	AAY-class Electric	PMDP

Position of AAA/TS: Submitted for Accord.
Position of Funds: Available.

Special conditions:-

- The intending tenderers must have sufficient skilled /unskilled labour force.
- All intending Bidders have to upload Scanned copy of Earnest money @ **2%** as per the circular issued by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir, vide No. CE/RBK/HD/32857-92, Dated: 01-01-2022.
- Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card / PAN / GST registration and Treasury Receipt **(1452-TSM Revenue Head)** and CDR or FDR. However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same within 3 days after opening of tenders.
- The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to **5%** of allotted cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 03 days after opening of tenders and same shall be released after expiry of Defect Liability period (DLP)
- The Earnest Money Deposit of **2%** of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of **5%** performance security.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- If the bidder / bidders do not have latest renewal of valid registration card, then it is mandatory to submit / furnish an affidavit from First Class Magistrate stating that the renewal of his registration card is under process.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14/09/2022
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14/09/2022 3.00 P.M to 29/09/2022,04.00 P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	14/09/2022 From 3.00 P.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29/09/2022 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	30/09/2022 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Dy. Director Tourism, M&W

General Conditions:

- The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site 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 online on same Website in o/o **Dy. Director Tourism, (M&W) Kashmir, Srinagar** (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised to visit and examine the site / location of work, its surroundings and familiarize himself with existing facilities / difficulties and environment and collect all other information which he may require for preparing and submitting the bid entering into the contract. Claims and objections due to ignorance of existing conditions are in-adequacy of information will not be considered after submission of the bid and during execution of work.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
- 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.
- 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.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid .

NIT No:- DT/M&W/K/ 49/ 241-45/TD,
Dated: 14/09/2022

DIPK-10232/22

Deputy Director Tourism
(M&W), Srinagar

TVDP To Mobilize Socio-Economic Landscape Across J&K: Govt

181 Villages To Be Rejuvenated By Mission Youth Under This Programme



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The initiative of Tourist Village Development Programme (TVDP) has the potential and propensity to mobilize the diverse geographical and socio-economic landscape of entire Jammu and Kashmir, a government spokesperson said on Monday.

According to spokesperson, the ambitious programme under Mission Youth initiative, which aims at developing 181 villages having distinction in terms of scenic beauty, adventurous terrain, art and cultural significance, history and archaeology, is gaining tremendous momentum with heavy tourist influx thronging the new destinations.

The main objectives of the programme are to develop new tourism destinations which will integrate social, cultural and spiritual characteristics with economic contours having requisite infrastructural facilities for tourists within such selected villages.

The villages that are part of the programme were selected on the basis of their rural tourism potential in consultation with Tourism Department by an expert committee of Mission Youth.

The scheme has twin benefits of promoting rural tourism and

employment generation for local youth. For the youth who want to setup their ventures in tourism and hospitality service sector, the gamut of financial assistance is worth Rs 10 lakh including Rs 8.50 lakh from banking partner, Mission youth of J&K will provide an amount of Rs 1.5 lakh or 15% of project cost (whichever is minimum) as special upfront incentive (subsidy); under the scheme, special subsidy of Rs 3.5 Lakh towards repayment of loan also.

Similarly, for developing Home Stays under the Programme, financial assistance to the tune of Rs 1 Lakh including 0.85 Lakh from Banking partner. Mission Youth shall also provide an amount of 0.15 Lakh or 15% of the project cost (whichever is minimum) as a special upfront incentive, 25% project cost as upfront subsidy in case of women applicants besides special subsidy of 0.35 Lakh loan towards repayment of loan.

Moreover, the beneficiary must be unemployed and registered with the concerned District Employment and Counselling Centre. The initiative is destined to promote home stays across the UT and will strengthen the rural economy in the region, turn youth into entrepreneurs besides empowering women by offering them numerous opportunities of em-

Ensure Smooth Passage To Fruit Laden Trucks: IGP Traffic To SSPs

'Horti Deptt, Associations To Depute Representative At Banihal, Qazigund For Full Transparency'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP), Traffic, Vikramjit Singh on Monday directed all the SSPs of traffic to take immediate necessary measures to ensure smooth passage to the fruit laden trucks.

The directions were passed days after the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union (KVFGCDU) staged protests in all Fruit Mandi's of the Valley against what they termed as the deliberate stoppage of apple and pear loaded trucks on various spots of Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

IGP Traffic J&K Srinagar chaired a meeting at Traffic Headquarters here to discuss the issue of movement of trucks from Kashmir and to further facilitate their movement.

The meeting was attended by Directors of Horticulture and Agriculture Kashmir, JKHPMC and other stake holders including fruit growers and traders association of J&K Union Territory.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held on issues pertaining to the movement of trucks carrying fruits through the National Highway and other roads.

The Traders present in the meeting raised their concerns and urged for the movement of Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs) from the Kashmir Valley.

After detailed discussion, the IGP Traffic directed all SSPs of traffic including SSP National Highway to take immediate necessary measures so that fruit laden trucks are provided a smooth passage and are not stranded. "Besides, extra time may be



given to down convoy to ensure clearance of stranded fruit laden vehicles and it was assured no vehicle would be allowed for up traffic on down HMV days to ensure hassle free movement."

To ensure full transparency, IGP Traffic asked the Horticulture department and Horticulture associations to depute their representative with Traffic officials at Banihal and Qazigund for ensuring smooth movement of fruit trucks.

The matter of decongesting at Ramban and Banihal market was taken up with DC Ramban, who was kind enough to issue the orders without any delay for removal of encroachments and declaring Banihal market (main congestion point as no parking zone) so that vehicle traffic movement could be facilitated, the statement said.

Department of Horticulture was asked for pasting of stickers of an "Apple" picture on the windscreen of each fruit laden trucks for ease of identification, so that the Apple carrying truck could be parked separately and

released on priority, the statement said, adding that it was decided that a Whatsapp group would be created at Traffic Hqrs level in which all stakeholders including representatives of Horticulture associations shall be added for timely redressal of grievances of fruit growers.

As HMVS ply on NH-44 on alternate days, it was suggested to the representatives of various trade associations to follow the time table for release of trucks on the National Highway and dispatch their vehicle accordingly, so that fruit trucks loaded with fruit would not get stuck at Qazigund, the statement said.

It was also suggested to Directors of Horticulture and Agriculture to use Mughal Road on those days when HMVS plays from Jammu to Srinagar on NHW-44.

Meanwhile, IGP Traffic J&K assured the participant traders and fruit growers that frequent review meetings will be held in the coming days to ensure hassle free movement of fruit laden trucks and implementation of decisions.

Dulloo Reviews Status Of Lumpy Skin Disease In J&K



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department (APD), Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a meeting to review measures being taken up for controlling the spread of lumpy skin disease in Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary APD; Special Secretary APD; Director Finance APD; Director Animal Husbandry, representatives of SKUAST Jammu and Kashmir, Joint Director ARV R S PURA; Joint Director IAH and BP Zakura, Srinagar; Chief Animal Husbandry Officers of all districts and other concerned officials attended the meeting in person and through video conferencing.

During the meeting, a power point presentation was presented highlighting district wise status of lumpy skin disease besides detailing controlling measures like vaccination, use of medicines, procurement of vaccines and sampling collection for testing.

The CAHO of both the divisions gave detailed report about all measures being taken up under the guidance of experts, scientists and task force.

It was informed that with the help of local PRIs and others various awareness camps on Lumpy Skin Disease are also being organized.

The meeting received feedback, inputs and recommendations from the Task Force teams, experts and scientists alike in order to contain the spread of the disease. The experts and scientists informed that 48 new epicenters have been added in Jammu division during this week.

ACS asked the officers to keep a control on movement of animals besides ensuring

maximum vaccination to the migrating animals so that further spread of this disease is prevented. He stressed that fogging is most important part of the vaccination drive while asking for engaging maximum field staff to ensure proper fogging in rural area as well as far flung areas.

Dulloo also stressed strict adherence to proper protocols of treatment as per the recommendations by government of India. He directed the officers for ensuring visits of expert teams from SKUAST Jammu to Udhampur, Reasi and Poonch to check the current situation in the wake of this disease.

He said that a team from SKUAST Kashmir would also be visiting Kupwara to assess the situation. He called upon the concerned officers to implement all the guidelines of Government of India in letter and spirit to contain the disease.

ACS also enquired about the availability of medicines while directing both the Directors to ensure availability of required medicines in all the affected areas so that the spread can be tackled timely and effectively. He directed the CAHOs to ensure vaccination of animals reach 2000 to 3000 per day in every district.

He directed the concerned to launch awareness campaign and door to door inspections besides visits by field staff to make farmers aware about the Lumpy Skin Disease.

Earlier, it was informed that till date 38083 animals have been affected with Lumpy Skin Disease, of which, 28619 have recovered, so far. It was also informed that 213250 doses have been administered to the cattle across J&K.

Global Artificial Intelligence Market To Reach \$450 Bn In 2022

IANIS

NEW DELHI: The Artificial Intelligence (AI) market value is expected to reach nearly \$450 billion this year and maintain a year-over-year growth rate in the next 5 years, a new report has forecast.

In 2021, the global revenues for the AI market, including software, hardware, and services for both AI centric and AI non-centric applications, reached \$383.3 billion, an increase of 20.7 per cent over the prior year, according to the International Data Corporation (IDC).

"Across all industries and functions, end-user organisations are discovering the benefits of AI technologies, as increasingly powerful AI solutions are enabling better decision-making and higher productivity," said Rasmus Andsbjerg, associate vice president, Data & Analytics at IDC.

The reality is that AI offers solutions to everything we are facing at the moment.

"AI can be a source for fast-tracking digital transformation journeys, enable cost savings in times of staggering inflation rates and support automation efforts in times of labour shortages," Andsbjerg added.

AI software accounted for the largest share the overall AI market in 2021.

The four AI software categories AI Applications Delivery and Deployment, AI Applications, AI System Infrastructure Software, and Artificial Intelligence Platforms delivered more than \$340 billion in market value in 2021 with AI Applications representing nearly half the total.

Artificial Intelligence Platforms delivered the strongest year-over-year growth at 36.6 per cent, albeit from a smaller baseline.

GI Tagged Kashmiri Saffron Reaches Global market: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Monday visited India international Kashmir saffron trade centre, Dussu pampore to take stock of its functioning.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture expressed the satisfaction over the performance of IJKSTC over the period of last two years.

He said the lab at IJKSTC which the department uses on trial bases for the last two years have been able to process more than 3000 kgs of fresh saffron flowers from which more than 300 kgs of saffron was harvested.

He said that due to the GI tagging facility of saffron, our farmers have been able to market their produce on na-



tional and international marketing platforms.

He said the e-auctioning and GI tagging facility has helped our produce to reach global market like Dubai and other international destinations.

Director said that we are expecting much better results in the coming times. He asked

the concerned officers to ensure that all the set parameters of quality are adhered to every time.

He said, "We have MoU with different global marketing platforms and in coming times we are expecting that our saffron will cover more marketing platforms on a global level."

Rs 466.51 Cr Yes Bank Fraud: CBI Charges Kapoor, Thapar

Agencies

NEW DELHI- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a charge sheet against former Chief Executive and Managing Director of Yes Bank Rana Kapoor and Avantha Group promoter Gautam Thapar in the Rs 466.51 crore alleged bank fraud, officials said today.

The officials said that in the beginning when the FIR was registered on June 2 last year, the CBI did not name Kapoor as suspect, but his role in the scam later surfaced during the investigation.

In its charge sheet filed before the special CBI court in Mumbai, the probe agency has also named Thapar and Oyster Buildwell Pvt Ltd (OBPL) in the scam.

Within six days of receiving a complaint from the then Chief Vigilance Officer Ashish Vinod Joshi, the CBI had filed an FIR on



June 2 last year against Thapar, directors of OBPL- Raghuraj Kumar Sharma, Rajendra Kumar Mangal and Tapsi Mahajan - unidentified executives of Avantha Realty Pvt Ltd and Jhabua Power Ltd.

After nearly 15 months of probe, which included questioning of Yes Bank co-founder Kapoor in April this year, the agency had submitted its charge sheet before the special court, the officials said, adding that the agency has kept the probe open to investigate larger conspiracy and role of individuals unidentified so far.

SHORT TAKES

'Veg Sector Has Potential To Ensure Economic Security For Farmers'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Monday inaugurated the distribution of vegetable seedlings for Rabi season at Kitchen Garden premises Lal-mandi, Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, Director appreciated the efforts of the concerned officers & officials of Kitchen Garden, Hi-tech Poly House Installations and said that the Department is vigorously pursuing the ambitious target of providing seedlings of different vegetable crops to the farming community of the region. The Department has introduced many initiatives to ensure round the year availability of vegetable seedlings to the farmers, he added.

Amid prevailing agro economic scenario, Director Agriculture marked the importance of diverse vegetable cultivation for the region. He said the strengthening of vegetable cultivation in the region could play a vital role in achieving the economic security for the farming community.

"Our climatic conditions are one of the most suitable in the country for the cultivation of vegetables (traditional, exotic) therefore to channelize this potential a collaborative approach is needed wherein both farming community and the Department has to come forward and work shoulder to shoulder", he further added.

One Day Artisan Exhibition/Awareness Camp Held

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: A one day Artisan Exhibition Cum Awareness Camp was organized by Handicrafts Department Baramulla in Sub Division Pattan.

The Event was inaugurated by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Pattan Syed Faheem Shahab and Chairman Municipal Community, Pattan Prit Pal Singh in presence of representatives of various line Departments and artisans.

The event was attended by a huge number of artisans and other people of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, SDM Pattan encouraged the artisans for adopting the centuries old crafts. He advised the Department to make efforts in upliftment of the artisan fraternity by providing the services in a time bound manner.

Assistant Director Handicrafts Baramulla, Mohd Sidiq Lone briefed the participants about the schemes and services being provided by the Department under the able and dynamic leadership of Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir.

Assistant Director Handicrafts Baramulla thanked all the participants especially the artisans and the District Administration in making the event successful.

Enough Wheat Stock In India: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Monday said there is sufficient wheat stock in the country and that it will take action against hoarders, if needed, to boost domestic supply.

The Centre may consider steps like asking for disclosure of wheat stocks by traders and imposing stock limits to augment domestic availability.

Addressing the 82nd AGM of Roller Flour Millers Federation of India, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said there is no problem of wheat in the country and the Centre has 24 million tonne of wheat in godowns of state-owned FCI.

The secretary pointed out that wheat prices have gone up due to "speculative trading". Pandey said the government's wheat production forecast is around 105 million tonne in rabi season of 2021-22 crop year (July-June) while the trade estimates are 95-98 million tonne.

Even if trade estimates are to be believed, Pandey said the production is enough to meet the domestic demand.

The country has exported 4.5 million tonne of wheat so far this fiscal year. Out of that, 2.1 million tonne were shipped before imposition of ban on wheat exports on May 13.

India, Saudi Discuss Rupee-Riyal Trade, UPI Payment System

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and Saudi Arabia have held discussions on the feasibility of institutionalising Rupee-Riyal trade, and introduction of UPI and Rupay cards in the kingdom, the commerce ministry said on Monday.

These issues, among others, were discussed during the visit of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to Riyadh during September 18-19.

He attended the ministerial meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

Goyal and Saudi Minister for Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud co-chaired the ministerial meeting of the Committee on Economy and Investments of the council.

"Diversification and expansion of trade and commerce, removal of trade barriers... automatic registration and marketing authorization of Indian pharma products in Saudi Arabia, feasibility of institutionalizing Rupee-Riyal trade, introduction of UPI and Rupay cards in Saudi Arabia; were amongst the key points of discussion," it said.

Goyal also discussed various issues with Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud.

Gold Falls Rs 303; Silver Drops Rs 197

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices declined by Rs 303 to Rs 49,571 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak global cues and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 49,874 per 10 grams.

Silver also dipped by Rs 197 to Rs 57,090 per kilogram from Rs 57,287 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee appreciated 14 paise to 79.64 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday in line with its Asian peers and as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,662 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 19.28 per ounce.

"Gold prices extended losses as firm dollar and speculation ahead of US FOMC meet has pinned down investment sentiments on expectations of larger rate hike," Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities, said.

SC Seeks Centre's Response To Plea Seeking To Declare 'Talaq-e-Ahsan' Illegal



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others to a plea seeking to declare 'Talaq-e-Ahsan' and all other forms of "unilateral extra-judicial" dissolution of marriages under the Muslim Personal Laws as illegal and unconstitutional.

The petition has also sought directions to the Centre and others to frame guidelines for a gender neutral, religion neutral uniform ground and procedure for divorce.

According to the petition filed by a Pune-based woman, as per the customs and procedure, 'Talaq-e-Ahsan' requires pronouncement of Talaq once followed by abstinence from conjugal relation for three lunar months or 90 days and thereafter, if the parties to the marriage do not resume their conjugal relationship within 90 days, the marriage stands dissolved.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka agreed to hear the petition and issued notices to the Centre and others, including the National Commission for Women, seeking their responses.

The plea, filed through advocate Nirmal Kumar Ambastha, has said the petitioner, who is an engineer by profession, was divorced by her husband through the 'Talaq-e-Ahsan' procedure by sending a letter through speed post after she was driven out of her matrimonial home.

It claimed that the petitioner was assaulted and driven out of her matrimonial home during two years of her marriage on several occasions only for the reason that she was

unwilling to meet all the demands for money by her husband and his family.

The plea said the petitioner's husband sent her a letter of divorce on July 16, 2022 through speed post levelling various baseless and untrue allegations against her.

"The petitioner tried to approach the local police against the atrocities and harassment by her husband and in laws and also against the unilateral dissolution of marriage, but the local police did not register the case on the ground that 'Talaq-e-Ahsan' is a recognised process for dissolution of Muslim marriages," the plea said.

The petition said 'Talaq-e-Ahsan' and all other forms of "unilateral extra-judicial" dissolution of marriages contravene Article 21 of the Constitution, offending right to dignity of Muslim Women. Article 21 relates to the right to protection of life and personal liberty.

It has sought court's direction declaring that section 2 of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 is void and unconstitutional for being violative of Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25 of the Constitution, in so far as it seeks to validate practices of Talaq-e-Ahsan' and all other forms of unilateral extra-judicial dissolution of marriages.

While issuing notice on the plea, the apex court tagged it with two separate pending writ petitions which have raised the issue of 'Talaq-e-Hasan'.

'Talaq-e-Hasan' is a form of divorce in Muslims by which a man can divorce his wife by pronouncing talaq once every month over a three-month period.

THE PETITIONER TRIED TO APPROACH THE LOCAL POLICE AGAINST the atrocities and harassment by her husband and in laws and also against the unilateral dissolution of marriage, but the local police did not register the case on the ground that 'Talaq-e-Ahsan' is a recognised process for dissolution of Muslim marriages."

IAF Set To Retire Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 Squadron By Sept End



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force is set to retire its Srinagar-based MiG-21 squadron 'Sword Arms' that Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was a part of when he had downed an F-16 combat aircraft of Pakistan a day after the Balakot strike in February 2019, sources said on Monday.

'Sword Arms' is one of its four remaining squadrons of ageing MiG-21 fighter jets.

The No. 51 Squadron is to be retired by the end of September, "as per the plan", the defence sources said.

The remaining three squadrons of MiG-21 will be phased out by 2025, they said. IAF fighter jets had bombed a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot on February 26, 2019, nearly two weeks after the Pulwama terror attack. Pakistan had retaliated on February 27 by attempting to target Indian military installations.

Varthaman (now Group Captain) had taken to the skies to thwart an aerial attack launched by adversaries and engaged in a dogfight with Pakistani jets during aerial combat.

Before his MiG-21 Bison jet was shot down, Varthaman had downed the F-16 fighter of Pakistan. He was conferred the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry medal, on the Independence Day in 2019.

The MiG-21 jets were inducted into IAF over four decades ago and many of these planes were lost in crashes.

Though the Soviet-era Russian fighter jets have also been in news in the last several years for multiple crashes

causing death of pilots, the sources said "when an IAF aircraft is air-borne, it means it is fully serviceable".

"Ageing is a factor, but we read reports that even a modern aircraft can crash. A crash can happen due to multiple factors, including weather," a source said.

And, the retiring Srinagar-based No. 51 squadron, also known as 'Sword Arms', is "happening as per the plan", he said, adding that the old fleet were in operation also as new ones were awaited.

"It was conferred with one Vayu Sena Medal and three Mention-in-Dispatches for its effective contribution. During Operation Parakram, the Squadron was tasked with the Air Defence Of Kashmir Valley," according to Bharat Rakshak website. It was raised at Chandigarh in 1985. The crest of the squadron portrays a pair of muscular arms firmly clasping a sword, depicting the motto "Vijaya Prakrama" which means 'Valour for Victory', it said.



IT WAS CONFERRED WITH ONE VAYU SENA MEDAL AND THREE MENTION-IN-DISPACHES for its effective contribution. During Operation Parakram, the Squadron was tasked with the Air Defence Of Kashmir Valley," according to Bharat Rakshak website. It was raised at Chandigarh in 1985. The crest of the squadron portrays a pair of muscular arms firmly clasping a sword, depicting the motto "Vijaya Prakrama"

The No. 51 Squadron or 'Sword Arms' is one of the decorated squadrons of the IAF, and it participated during Op Safed Sagar (Kargil conflict) in 1999.

For its meritorious and glorious service to the nation, since its inception, the squadron was awarded the President's Standards in 2018, the website says.

DEATH PENALTY

SC Refers To 5-Judge Bench Case For Framing Guidelines On Mitigating Circumstances

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday referred to a five-judge Constitution bench a suo motu case concerning the framing of uniform guidelines for the trial courts on granting "real and meaningful opportunity" on the issue of the sentence to the convicts held guilty for offences entailing capital punishment.

The top court said that this order is necessitated due to a difference of opinion and approach amongst various judgements, on the question of whether, after recording a conviction for a capital offence, under law, the court is obligated to conduct a separate hearing on the issue of sentence.

A bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia referred to various verdicts on the issue passed by different benches of the apex court including in a 1983 judgement of Bachan Singh versus State of Punjab, where the top court, in its majority judgment, upheld the constitutional validity of the death sentence, on the condition that it could be imposed only in the "rarest of rare" cases.

The bench said this court in Bachan Singh (1983 verdict) had taken into consideration the fairness afforded to a convict by a separate hearing, as an important safeguard to uphold the imposition of the death sentence in the rarest of rare cases, by relying upon the recommendations of the 48th Law Commission Report.

"Consequently, this court is of the view that a reference to a larger bench of five Judges is necessary for this purpose. Let this matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India for appropriate orders in this regard", it said.

The bench said that in the 1983 verdict the court was conscious of the safeguard of a separate hearing, on the question of sentence, and articulated such a safeguard as a valuable right, which ensures to a convict, to urge why in the circumstances of his or her case, the extreme penalty of death ought not to be imposed.

The bench noted that it is also a fact that in all cases where the imposition of capital punishment is a choice of the sentence, aggravating circumstances would always be on the record, and would be part of the prosecution's evidence, leading to conviction, whereas the accused can scarcely be expected to place mitigating

circumstances on the record, for the reason that the stage for doing so is after conviction.

"This places the convict at a hopeless disadvantage, tilting the scales heavily against him. This court is of the opinion that it is necessary to have clarity in the matter to ensure a uniform approach on the question of granting real and meaningful opportunity, as opposed to a formal hearing, to the accused/convict, on the issue of the sentence", the bench said.

It added that the question of what constitutes 'sufficient time' at the trial court stage, in this manner appears not to have been addressed in the light of the express holding in Bachan Singh.

"This, in the court's considered opinion, requires consideration and clarity", the bench said.

It added that a common thread that runs through all these decisions (referred verdicts of the apex court) is the express acknowledgment that a meaningful, real and effective hearing must be afforded to the accused, with the opportunity to adduce material relevant for the question of sentencing but what is conspicuously absent, is consideration and contemplation about the time this may require.

The bench said that in cases where it was felt that a real and effective hearing may not have been given (on account of the same-day sentencing), this court was satisfied that the flaw had been remedied at the appellate (or review stage), by affording the accused a chance to adduce material, and thus fulfilling the mandate of Section 235(2).

It noted that this court's decision in Manoj Pratap Singh versus State of Rajasthan (2022) is an example, where 'sufficient time' for compliance with Section 235(2) CrPc was considered; it was concluded that the trial court had "scrupulously carried out its duty in terms of Section 235(2)" since the sentence was awarded three days after the conviction, after considering both the aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

The bench said that after hearing the parties on the question of conviction in Manoj and others versus State of Madhya Pradesh (2022), this court had adjourned the matter for submissions on sentencing, with directions eliciting reports from the probation officer, jail authorities, a trained psychiatrist and psychologist, etc., to assist the accused in presenting mitigating circumstances.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Waqf Board Ends

Waqf Board Dr Darakhshan Andrabi told Kashmir Observer that the government wants to run the religious places without the interference of political parties.

"Religious places are not meant for political parties. You go to these places for worship," Andrabi said, adding that "Waqf had to save these religious places".

Hailing the move, public circles have said that it had become a custom now to tie Dastaar on every Tom, Dick and Harry visiting the shrines. "Now politicians from all hues would visit shrines and custodians there would be ready with a turban cloth without any consideration whether that person merited the honour", said Muhammad Farooq Ashai, a civil society activist.

The turban order comes on the heels of another unprecedented move by the J&K Waqf Board to remove the donation boxes installed at the Sufi shrines. All shrines and Khanqah's had numerous donation boxes installed with custodians appointing people to man these collection points with little or no accountability.

Meanwhile, National Conference General Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar criticized the move and said that the tradition of tying the 'Dastaar' has been practiced for centuries and it was meant to give respect to the visitors and political leaders.

While calling the order 'laughable', Sagar said when Amir-e-Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamdani came to Kashmir to preach and propagate Islam, he was welcomed by people with 'Dastaar Bandi'.

Sagar alleged that "It was yet another attempt to play with the identity of Kashmir".

SC Refuses Probe

the plea was related to a "very serious matter" and has been filed by a person whose father TL Taploo was brutally murdered by the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in 1989.

"Considering the atmosphere that prevailed there, all that I am looking today is justice and nothing else," Bhatia said.

He referred to an order passed by the apex court in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases and said after over 30 years, action was taken, charge sheets were filed and people were convicted. "We are not inclined to entertain," the bench responded, observing the petitioner can seek relief before the high court.

"We still have faith in our high courts," the bench observed.

Bhatia said the petition, which the apex court had recently refused to entertain, was filed by an NGO whereas this plea is by a person whose father was brutally murdered.

He said the petitioner, who is residing in Delhi, was asked to leave Kashmir immediately after his father's killing.

On September 2, the apex court had asked an NGO that raised the issue of alleged "genocide" of Hindus and Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir during 1989-2003 to make a representation before the Centre and the appropriate authority.

In its plea, the NGO had sought constitution of a Special Investigation Team to identify the perpetrators and those who aided and abetted the alleged genocide.

The top court had allowed the petitioner to withdraw the plea with the liberty to make a representation to the government and the appropriate authority.

The plea, filed by the NGO, had also sought directions for conducting a census of the Hindus and Sikhs, who were either the victims or survivors of the "genocide" and are now residing in different parts of India. It also sought the rehabilitation of those who had migrated after the exodus triggered by the rise of militancy in 1990.

Maharaja's Birthday

institutions across the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the

Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881," the order reads.

Last week, Sinha announced the government's decision to observe the birthday of the last Dogra ruler of J&K as a public holiday, keeping in view "the aspirations and feelings" of the people and the great contribution of the Maharaja.

"The government has taken a decision to declare Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's birthday as a public holiday. Maharaja Hari Singh was a great educationist, progressive thinker, social reformer and a towering man of ideas and ideals. The public holiday will be a fitting tribute to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's rich legacy," the LG had said.

Pertinently, on the directions of Lt Governor, a four-member committee was constituted by the UT administration earlier this year to examine the public demand regarding the holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh.

Interestingly LG administration removed 13 July as a state holiday from the official calendar soon after the Article 370 was scrapped on 5 August 2019. The erstwhile state of J&K observed 'Martyrs' Day' on 13 July as a state holiday to mark the beginning of protest movement against the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh. (With Inputs From PTI)

Hurriyat Finished

passing on information related to security installations to Pakistani intelligence agencies and terrorists.

About the militants active in Kishtwar, he said the guardians of peace are more active than terrorists who are almost wiped out from the region.

The terrorism is on crutches with one or two active members, and they too will be neutralised soon, he said.

The DGP said the situation in the entire Jammu and Kashmir is well under control with the holding of cricket tournaments and events to pay homage to the police martyrs.

Our youngsters have seen a ray of hope with the atmosphere of terror

and bloodshed long gone. We want to provide ample opportunities to the youth to move ahead and excel in a peaceful atmosphere, Singh said.

Referring to the inauguration of multipurpose cinema halls in south Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian districts on Sunday, he said their opening may also in future lead to the youth to show their talent, produce films, and watch them on the same big screens.

We have a long list of filmmakers who want to shoot in Jammu and Kashmir, engage local talent, and show the beauty of J&K to the outside world. Kishtwar is one such scenic spot which we would like to showcase, he said.

The DGP said Samradhi Sen, an eight-year-old resident of Kishtwar, has become a national icon in the field of singing after participating in Chhoona Hai Aasman', a talent-hunt show initiated by the police.

Today she is taking part in every national event and we stand with her, he said, adding we will support anyone who has a talent and wants to make it big in his or her own field.

30-Year Wait

court aimed at promoting the local cuisine.

Bhat, who is into handicrafts business, said he travels regularly to places outside Kashmir mostly related to his work. "Many a time the line between business and pleasure, which for me is watching movies in a theatre, would blur. Now on, I will be travelling purely for business," he said with a sheepish smile.

The scheduled opening of the multiplex, which will be operated by INOX, comes close on the heels of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurating multipurpose cinema halls -- one each in the twin Pulwama and Shopian districts.

The cinema halls have reopened in the valley after three decades as theatre owners downed their shutters in the Valley due to threats and attacks by terrorists in 1989-90.

Sinha described the occasion as "historic" saying "we will build such

multipurpose cinema halls in every district of Jammu and Kashmir soon".

He said cinema halls in Anantnag, Srinagar, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar and Reasi will be inaugurated soon.

Asked if the government wanted to send out a message by building such cinema halls, the LG said, "There is no message."

"Cinema is a powerful creative medium which reflects the culture, values and aspirations of the people. It opens the door to the world of knowledge, new discoveries and enables people to get a better understanding of each other's culture, Sinha said.

The Valley had seen nearly a dozen stand-alone cinema halls functioning till the late 1980s, but they had to wind up businesses after two terror outfits threatened the owners.

Though authorities made attempts to reopen some of the theatres in the late 1990s, militants thwarted such efforts by carrying out a deadly grenade attack on Regal Cinema in the heart of Lal Chowk in September 1999.

Two other theatres -- Neelam and Broadway -- had opened their doors but had to shut business due to poor response.

Jammu and Kashmir has a long association with the world of cinema. The new film policy and facilities created has once again made the Union Territory the favourite shooting destination and has brought back the golden era of film-making here, the LG said.

Ulema-e-Ahl-e-

LG at Raj Bhavan here on Monday, an official spokesperson said.

The delegation, he said, put forth the demands of the constitution of the Madrasa Board for effective dissemination of Sufi teachings, establishment of Sheikh-ul-Aalam Research University and promotion of cultural values in schools, colleges and universities.

"The members of the delegation discussed promotion of Reshi-Sufi culture and tradition of Jammu Kashmir," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the delegation also discussed the issues of fruit growers regarding transportation of fresh fruits to other parts of the country.

The LG, he said, issued on spot directions to the concerned for hassle-free transportation of fresh fruits of Jammu Kashmir across the country.

"The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation all assistance from the UT administration for promotion of ancient Sufi teachings and values," he added.

Police Warns

applications are under process, the app operators hack the messages, phone gallery and contacts, and transfer data to their servers outside the country," Chaudhary said.

He said the app then asks for copies of Aadhaar and PAN, following which the loan amount is transferred immediately.

After a week or 10 days, the borrower finds his loan amount almost doubled and is threatened and blackmailed since all his details are compromised and a vicious cycle starts, the SSP said.

Advising people not to download such apps in the first place, the SSP said mobile phone users should stop giving permission for viewing messages, gallery and contacts and immediately uninstall such apps.

Chaudhary has released a couple of awareness videos on two major issues sextortion and impersonation to extort money over the past two months.

DIG South Kashmir

for a period of 05 years from the date of the assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier, he is hereby relieved to enable him to take up the new assignment," reads the order.

It reads that Sujit Kumar, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Central Kashmir Range, shall hold the charge of DIG, South Kashmir Range, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

IND vs AUS: India Look To Lock Middle-Order, 6th Bowler Ahead Of T20 WC

Press Trust of India

MOHALI: India will look to sort out their combinations, especially in the middle-order, while giving a final shape to their plans and preparations for the T20 World Cup when a three-match home series against Australia begins here Tuesday.

Though a few fast bowlers will be rested over the course of six games before the World Cup—three matches against South Africa to follow after the Australia series—India have a full strength squad at their disposal to finalise combinations.

The T20 format is a lot about being flexible but as he mentioned ahead of the first T20, India skipper Rohit Sharma would like to get 'all the answers' from his players before the flagship ICC event in Australia.

Though India did bat well at the Asia Cup, they did resort to a lot of changes during the tournament. Their lack of depth in the bowling department was also exposed but Harshal Patel and Jasprit Bumrah are now back to bolster the attack.

Rohit has made it clear that K L Rahul will be his opening partner in Australia but there is a possibility that Virat Kohli gets to open alongside him. With the star batter scoring a memorable hundred in his last T20 innings, there will always be a temp-



tation to make him bat at the top.

The top-four are pretty much sorted but the jury is still out on the role of wicketkeepers Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik in the playing eleven.

With Ravindra Jadeja injured, will India keep the left-handed Pant over Karthik who is a designated finisher in the squad?

Karthik, who hardly got to bat in the Asia Cup, would be hoping for substantial game time over the next two weeks.

Deepak Hooda played all the Super 4 games in the UAE but lack of clarity remains over his role in the side.

Jadeja's injury during the Asia Cup upset the bowling balance of the team. From six bowling options, India

were forced to play with five bowlers.

If India play both Hardik Pandya and Jadeja's like-for-like replacement, Axar Patel, the team will have the extra bowling option.

Axar and Yuzvendra Chahal can be the two spinners with Bumrah. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal and Hardik forming the pace attack.

The conditions in Australia will be

vastly different from here and the management will go about its business keeping that in mind.

Australia, on the other hand, have come to India without few of their main players including David Warner (rested).

Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Marsh, who are nursing minor injuries ahead of the World Cup,

have also stayed back in Australia.

The focus will be on skipper Aaron Finch, who recently retired from ODIs after a prolonged lean patch. He will be aiming for a bagful for runs ahead of the World Cup at home.

Another player who has attracted a lot of attention is power-hitter Tim David who is set to make his Australia debut after playing international cricket for Singapore.

David has made a name for himself with his performances in the T20 leagues around the world and he would be looking to replicate that at the highest level.

SQUADS:

AUSTRALIA: Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Aaron Finch, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Kane Richardson, Daniel Sams, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade, Adam Zampa.

INDIA: Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul (vc), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav. Match starts 7.30 IST.

J&K Police To Hold Cycle Race On Sep. 23



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Police on Monday announced that it has rescheduled its Cycle Race "Pedal for Peace" 2022 to September 23, 2022 and enhanced the prize money to 5.13 Lakhs.

The Cycle Race's prize distribution ceremony will also see a raffle draw of the participant's chest numbers, in which three bicycles worth ₹25,000, ₹16,000 and ₹15,000 have been earmarked for the first three prize winners.

The registered cyclists will have to assemble at Lalit Ghat Boulevard Road Srinagar for the flag-off ceremony at 05:00 hours on Friday, September 23. The entry form for participation will be entertained till September 21, 2022. The cyclists of Junior and Sub-Junior categories will have to produce their DOB certificates.

As per the programme, the Cycle Race shall be flagged off at 06:30 hours conclude at 10 am at Police Golf Course Boulevard Road, Srinagar.

As per the enhanced prize money scale set for the winners, the first five position holders in Senior (Men) above 17 years (ATB) professional Cyclist (41 Kms race category) shall get ₹50,000, ₹30,000, ₹25,000, ₹15,000 and ₹10,000 respectively whereas the next five position holders shall get ₹2000 each.

In Senior (Men) above 17 years (MTB) Cyclist category (28 Kms race) the first five position holders shall get ₹30,000, ₹25,000, ₹20,000, ₹15,000 and ₹10,000 respectively while the next five position holders will receive ₹2000 each.

In Open Girls (MTB) Cyclist (24 Kms race) category the first five position holders will get cash prize of ₹30,000, ₹25,000, ₹20,000, ₹15,000 and ₹10,000 respectively. The next five position holders shall get ₹2000 each.

In Jr. Boys U-17 Years (MTB) Cyclist (27 Kms race) category the first five position holders shall get prize of ₹20,000, ₹15,000, ₹10,000, ₹5000, ₹3000. The next five position holders shall get ₹1000 each.

In Sub-Junior (Boys) U-14 Years (MTB) Cyclist (19 Kms race) the first five position holders will get ₹15,000, ₹10,000, ₹5000, ₹3000, ₹2000. The next five position holders will get prize of ₹1000 each.

Similarly in Sub-Junior (Girls) U-14 years (MTB) Cyclist (13 Kms race) the first five position holders will get ₹15,000, ₹10,000, ₹5000, ₹3000, ₹2000. The next five position holders will get prize of ₹1000 each.

In the Veteran Cyclist category (21 Kms race) the first five position holders will get ₹5000, ₹4000, ₹3000, ₹2000 and ₹1000 respectively.

JKFA Appoints Chairman For Its 'Committee Of Stake Holders'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The ten-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) for Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA), headed by Prof B.A. Shah, on Monday appointed Wasim Aslam as Chairman of its 'Committee Of Stake Holders'.

In a press release, the FA stated, "In a meeting held today at Polo Ground, various Office Bearers and Stakeholders of football were present. The General Secretary and Custodian of J&K Football Association Prof B.A. Shah officially appointed Wasim Aslam as the Chairman of Committee of Stake Holders of JKFA, to monitor the activities and functioning of DFA Srinagar and other Districts also."

"Meanwhile efforts will be made to under go the process of election of other DFAs as well.

Wasim Aslam is a prominent sports promoter and has played a pivotal role in the recently held election of DFA Srinagar. The meeting was attended by many sports promoters and representatives of most of the Associate clubs," the statement added.



"Also in the meeting, the recently elected office bearers of DFA Srinagar, Bashir Malik (President DFA Srinagar), Showkat Masoodi (Secretary DFA Srinagar) and Zahoor Teli (Treasurer DFA Srinagar) were felicitated by Prof. B.A Shah and Chairman Wasim Aslam as they took charge of the DFA Srinagar formally today," the statement concluded.



KASHMIR'S ACE FOOTBALLER DANISH FAROOQ BHAT poses after Bengaluru FC won the prestigious Durand Cup on Sunday, September 18. Danish wrote: "This team. Couldn't have asked for a better way to end the #DurandCup." Bengaluru defeated Mumbai FC 2-1 in the final.

FIFA Chief Infantino Might Call On PM Modi Next Month



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: World football governing body president Gianni Infantino might visit India next month and call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the way forward for Indian football," the AIFF said in a statement issued after the executive committee meeting.

"(AIFF) President briefed the executive committee on the deliberations that took place with the FIFA president and also the possibility of him meeting our Prime Minister which would be updated once it's scheduled," said AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran.

"That would be an important day once the FIFA president meets our honourable Prime Minister. They would be making some announcements

which would be path-breaking," he added.

This was the second executive committee meeting of the new dispensation headed by president Kalyan Chaubey and secretary general Prabhakaran.

Former Mohun Bagan and East Bengal goalkeeper Chaubey became the new AIFF president after drubbing former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia 33-1 in the polls decided by 34 members of the electoral college made up of state association representatives.

Chaubey, a Bharatiya Janta Party leader from West Bengal, thus became the first former India player to be elected as the head of the country football's governing body.

3rd Baramulla Taekwondo Championship Concludes



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The closing ceremony of 3rd District Baramulla Taekwondo Championship was held on Monday at JKSC Indoor Sports Complex, Khwajabagh, Baramulla.

The Championship was organised by Baramulla Taekwondo Association under the aegis of J&K Taekwondo Association (JKTA).

The competition comprised of all age divisions with inclusion of the youngest age division (Pee Wee). The final day witnessed a massive combative skill show between the Senior and Junior Athlete's in both male and female categories. More than 100 players participated in different weight categories.

The championship was closed off with the demonstration of Taekwondo fights by young boys and girls of different clubs/institutions.

The Chief Guest of the closing

ceremony was Adv. Neelofar Masood (Joint Secretary, J&K Taekwondo Association) joined by Dr Khalid Mehraj (Patron) Baramulla Taekwondo Association as Guest of Honour.

While speaking on the occasion, the Joint Secretary congratulated all the medallists for taking part in the championship. She said that the Gold medallists will have a chance to participate in the forthcoming UT Taekwondo Championships. The guests then distributed medals among all the medallists and memento of honour were given to Coaches also.

Special Guests on the occasion were Ramanjeet Kaur, Farkhanda Khan, Mumtaz Nazir (Joint Secretary, BTA), Mohsin Ali (Coach), Zain Nazir (International Medallist).

The technical team was lead by Danish Manzoor (Indian Team Athlete) along with all the officials to make this event technically fair for every participant.

23rd District SQAY C'ship 2022 Ends In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The 23rd District level SQAY championship concluded on Monday at Indoor Stadium Sehpora, Ganderbal.

Around 250 students from different clubs and schools participated in the championship being organised by District SQAY Association Ganderbal under the aegis of J&K SQAY Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir witnessed the closing ceremony as chief guest.

On the occasion the DC interacted with students and complimented the organisers for holding such an event in the district

which would immensely help towards promotion of quality sports in the district.

He stressed the need for providing proper training to the students to further polish their talent so that they can excel at higher level. He further added that district administration is committed to provide better sports facilities to the youth within the district and urged them to participate actively in such events.

Among others, BDC Chairperson Ganderbal, youth influencer Sayim Mustafa, District SQAY President Nisar Ahmd Khan, Chairman Voice for Peace Farooq Ganderbal and senior citizens attended the function.

British Muslim Charity Breaks World Record For Most Blood Donations In A Day

Aina J Khan/ The Guardian

LONDON: A British Muslim charity has broken the world record for the largest number of blood donations in one day, months after the NHS urged more donors to step forward.

The volunteer-run world record effort was led in August by 'Who Is Hussain', a social justice charity that worked with NHS Blood and Transplant, as well as the Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign, one of the country's oldest Muslim blood donation organisations.

As part of the campaign, called #GlobalBloodHeroes, blood donation centres across the UK – and dozens of other centres in 27 countries including Argentina, Iraq, and Thailand – collected blood from more than 37,000 people. Donations began at a centre in New



Team from Who Is Hussain in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Photograph- Who is Hussain

Zealand and concluded in the US.

"The pandemic hit blood reserves across the world hard. With hospitals struggling to meet demands, Who Is Hussain volunteers rallied together and launched our Global Blood Heroes campaign," said Muntazir Rai, the charity's director.

"Donating blood is a universal act of compassion that can unite people all around the world – we all bleed the same," he added. "We're so excited that so many first-time donors came forward and many have committed to donating again and will continue to, hopefully, for years to come."

Authenticated by the official world records, the total number of blood donations was 37,018, beating the previous record of 34,723 set in 2020.

One donation can help to save or improve the lives of up to three

DONATING BLOOD IS A UNIVERSAL ACT OF COMPASSION that can unite people all around the world – we all bleed the same, We're so excited that so many first-time donors came forward and many have committed to donating again and will continue to, hopefully, for years to come."

people, according to NHS Blood and Transplant, which means more than 110,000 lives could be saved or improved by the British charity's efforts.

Large numbers of first-time donors took part in the campaign, with 25% of UK donors giving blood for the first time, the charity confirmed, adding that the campaign was particularly successful in encouraging BAME donors to come forward.

The world record attempt coincided with Muharram, the first month

of the Islamic calendar, which is especially significant for Muslims who commemorate the legacy of Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of the prophet Muhammad (Pbuh), who was massacred with his family 1,400 years ago after he refused to give allegiance to a corrupt ruler.

"It's incredible to think that the selfless altruism of this man, who lived over a thousand years ago, has inspired more than 37,000 people to participate in the biggest blood drive in history," Rai added.

Queen's Wedding, Coronation, Now Funeral At Same Church, To Same Prayer

Agenceis

London: Queen Elizabeth II was married and crowned in Westminster Abbey. In death, she entered and departed the thousand-year-old church to the same words of prayer: "May God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest."

The words are engraved on a stone slab next to the Great West Door through which Elizabeth's coffin was borne for Monday's Anglican funeral service, attended by leaders of all faiths from around the world.

They were the same words intoned by the dean of the abbey, David Hoyle -- part of the final blessing concluding the hour-long service, before trumpeters sounded the Cavalry Last Post.

Then followed a two-minute silence in the abbey and throughout the new kingdom of the late monarch's eldest son, now Charles III.

The ceremony closed with the national anthem, "God Save the King", symbolising the transition from one reign to another, and a lone piper playing the Scottish lament "Sleep,



dearie, sleep".

Eight minutes before arriving at the abbey, the coffin had departed on a gun carriage pulled by Royal Navy sailors from Westminster Hall, where hundreds of thousands of public mourners had filed past since Wednesday.

At one end of the medieval hall, it passed under a stained-glass window commissioned by parliament for the queen's record-breaking Platinum Jubilee this year, and then past a fountain erected in 1977 for her Silver Jubilee.

The window features the royal coat of arms with the monarch's motto "Dieu et mon droit" (God and my right) -- symbolising, like the funeral service, the monarch's divinely ordained role as guardian of the nation.

On the heavy lead-lined oak coffin lay a new wreath of flowers, with the message "In loving and devoted memory, Charles R" (for Rex, or king).

The coffin also bore the instruments of state -- the Imperial State Crown, the Orb and the Sceptre.

Dubai's Future Is In The Hands Of Two Very Different Princes

Agenceis

Guests jostle to snap selfies with the beaming ruler-in-waiting flanked by dozens of local officials. The royal works the room with the ease of an Instagram celebrity who's used to mixing with superstars like footballer Cristiano Ronaldo.

A few meters behind him, blending into the crowd at an event in the Dubai Expo earlier this year, stood another man who may be less conspicuous in the city's social scene yet whose impact is winning praise from foreign investors while keeping executives at government-run companies on their toes.

As their 73-year-old father, the ruler of Dubai, hands them more responsibility, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, 39, and brother Sheikh Maktoum, 38, have each carved out a niche. They face the task of safeguarding Dubai's status as the Middle East's pre-eminent business hub amid competition from regional rivals and international scrutiny following Russia's war on Ukraine.

"Think of it as a company," said



Nasser Al-Shaikh, Dubai's former finance chief, who helped steer the emirate through the 2009 debt crisis. "Hamdan is the chairman and Maktoum is the CEO. Hamdan is the face of Dubai and the crown prince, but decisions on all issues are made after consultation between the two brothers."

Sheikh Hamdan, the charismatic crown prince and heir, is marketer-in-chief in a city built on glitz and its ability to attract capital and millions of tourists. Sheikh Maktoum is proving key to Dubai as a financial market this year as he calls the shots across the emirate's sprawling state-run enterprises. He's part of a push to sell stakes

to investors – most recently, road toll operator Salik this month – and has occasionally summoned corporate chiefs to talk through their numbers.

Beyond financial markets, Dubai is under pressure to clamp down on illegal money flows, while the energy crisis may have provided a boost to oil revenue in the United Arab Emirates but in the longer term will accelerate the global move away from fossil fuels.

The brothers – who were born a year apart to the same mother – also need to maintain the delicate balance of power within the UAE. That comes after Dubai's leadership persuaded Abu Dhabi to refocus on business and the economy and less on foreign policy that led to military engagements in conflicts stretching from Yemen to Libya and Turkey. Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, poses another challenge with its desire to emulate Dubai as a magnet for foreign talent and investment.

The two men rarely speak to the media. The Dubai Media Office said it was not possible to arrange interviews within the timeframe given and declined further comment.

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