

Lack Of Cold Storage, Ripening Chamber Facilities Damaging Apple Crop: Govt Report

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: In the ongoing apple harvesting season, where farmers are pumping tonnes of apples into cold storages across Kashmir, the Government of India has made an important observation suggesting that the Union Territory lacks cold storage and ripening chamber facilities,

resulting in damages during transportation. These observations surfaced in a report recently released by the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry. "Cold storage and ripening chamber facilities are not established in J&K, the agri-produce straight goes to Punjab which results in damages during transportation," the Union Ministry noted.



6 REASONABLENESS OF ROAD FREIGHT RATES and Prices of terminal services is perceived to be a challenge as is seen across the cluster. J&K has been rated below average on all indicators related to Operating and Regulatory Environment."

However, when Kashmir Observer contacted several farmers they said "as such there's no dearth of such facilities in Kashmir". "But yes, sometimes the space becomes very congested due to over burdening of stock. By providing more cold storage facilities, our produce can be retained for

more months, which will ensure that prices in the market are stable," says Parvez Sultan, a Baramulla based orchardist. Pertinently, Kashmir has about 30 cold storage units having capacity to store over two lakh metric tonnes of fruit. Pulwama's Lasipora industrial estate accounts for 22 cold storage units, while Shopian's Aglar | [More on P10](#)

SI RECRUITMENT SCAM

BSF Officer Arrested

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested BSF Commandant (Medical) Karnail Singh for allegedly using touts to get his son the question paper of the police sub-inspectors recruitment examination conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), officials said on Wednesday.

The Border Security Force (BSF) official was taken into custody on Tuesday and he will be produced before the special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court in Jammu later in the day, they said.

During the probe, the agency had found that Singh allegedly entered into a conspiracy with touts, and as part of it, arranged a leaked question paper for his son through one of them.

The question paper was allegedly provided to him early in the morning on the day of the examination, March 27, at a house in Gangyal in Jammu.

It is alleged that some other candidates also got the leaked question paper at Singh's residence just a few hours before the examination.

"It was further alleged that the accused manipulated and tampered the log book of the (his) official vehicle in a deliberate attempt to destroy evidence and was also evasive throughout during the investigation," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

Investigation has revealed that alleged payment of Rs 20-Rs 30 lakh was made by willing candidates and their families to the accused for | [More on P10](#)

SC Raps J&K Govt On Waste Management

'You Can't Play With Lives Of People'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday rapped the Jammu and Kashmir administration over unscientific dumping and disposal of solid waste, saying it cannot play with the lives of the people.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and C T Ravikumar dismissed a plea by Municipal Committee of Bandipora against imposition of environmental compensation of Rs 64.21 lakh

for unscientific dumping and disposal of solid waste.

"Is it the way you deal with matters? Is it the consciousness of your state? You cannot play with the lives of the people. Deposit the fine," the bench said while dismissing the plea filed by the civic body.

The lawyer appearing for the civic body submitted that the fine was levied despite the new dumping ground being ready. He submitted | [More on P10](#)



IAF OFFICERS KILLINGS Malik Appears In Court Through Video Conference



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail in a terror financing case, on Wednesday appeared in a special court here through Video conferencing in connection with the 1990 killing of four Air Force personnel personnel.

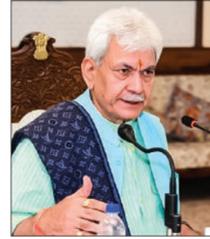
The special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act | [More on P10](#)

LG For Better Utilization Of Education Budget

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the first meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Council here and stressed on the need to develop a pragmatic roadmap to enhance the potential of human resources and progressively transform universities into economic growth centres.

Our Higher Education ecosystem needs to re-align itself to meet the needs of the

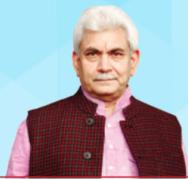


present-day challenges and be fully geared to participate in the development taking place in different | [More on P10](#)

'J&K Is The Land Of Various Creative Mediums'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dedicated efforts are being made since last two years to revive & promote Jammu and Kashmir's culture, art, literature, cinema, music Sinha made these | [More on P10](#)

6 DISCUSSIONS WERE ALSO HELD ON THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN IMPLEMENTATION of Gati Shakti, policy formation, vision 2047; conducting teacher-student exchange programmes; mapping & sharing of resources, collaborations and MoUs with International Institutions; adopting best practices; encouraging climate change study; identifying gaps and preparing actions plans accordingly."



"The Jan Abhiyan is a sincere endeavour to deliver services effectively and transparently. I urge all citizens to participate enthusiastically in this effort."

Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor



Towards Transparent and Effective Service Delivery

The Government of J&K is coming to your village!

Jan Abhiyan

Awami Muhim

October 15-26, 2022

Digital service camps in every Panchayat
J&K Bank counters in every Block

Revenue Department

aims at ensuring

- online generation/issuance of Land Passbooks
- completion of all pending inheritance mutations
- easy online access to the Land Records thereby reducing manipulation and improving efficiency of Revenue offices

Health Department

aims at ensuring

- distribution of PMJAY Golden Cards to leftovers
- clean and hygienic public health facilities in J&K
- behavioural change of hospital staff, patients and their attendants, particularly in respect of hygiene & sanitation in public hospitals

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Google Meet Calls Can Now Be Transcribed Into Text

These transcripts are intended to capture the meeting's discussion, serves as a record, and is helpful as a follow-up to attendees or host if they want to recall a particular segment or point in the whole discussion.



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Tech giant Google has announced that Meet calls can now be transcribed into text, and users can further save them in a Google Doc format.

According to Android Central, the saved file can be accessed from Google Drive.

Google Meet is one of the most popular apps, especially after replacing the Google Duo app for iOS and Android devices.

However, Google has stated the new feature that can be accessed in Google Meet for desktop or laptop clients and is available only for the English language.

Google said the transcribed file can be stored in the same "Meeting Recordings" folder of the Google Meet app from the accompanying Google Drive storage.

Before joining the Google Meet

call, attendees will be notified that the call is transcribed.

These transcripts are intended to capture the meeting's discussion, serves as a record, and is helpful as a follow-up to attendees or host if they want to recall a particular segment or point in the whole discussion.

Another nifty feature is that the transcript will automatically be attached to the associated calendar invite for the meeting.

And for meetings involving more than 200 attendees, the transcribed file will be shared with meeting organisers, hosts, co-hosts, and individual users who initiated a transcription.

The new feature is expected to roll out starting October 24. It will be available to Google Workspace Business Standard, Business Plus, Enterprise Starter, Enterprise Standard, Enterprise Plus, Education Plus, and the Teaching and Learning Upgrade customers.

'Representation Of Women In Companies Sees Mixed Trend'

Press Trust Of India

Representation of women in various companies has been increasing at the entry-level while it has been decreasing at the managerial and corporate executive-level, a report said on Monday. Avtar, and Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI) compiled the report. It said the representation at the entry-level grew to 38 per cent in 2022 compared to 33 per cent in 2017. At the managerial-level, it dipped by nine per cent, further declined by 18 per cent in senior managerial-level and at the corporate executive-level, it slipped by 17 per cent.

The study conducted in February 2022 had 351 companies in industry sectors.

Commenting on it, Avtar founder-president Saundarya Rajesh said, "Women's representation continues to improve, when we looked at a five-year data frame. We must note that the increase in primarily because of more women at entry-level, however, as we move up the talent pipeline the drop in representation of women at senior levels is stark."

"Celebrating women leaders and sharing their stories of success, conducting periodic



“The 2022-BCWI-MICI results illustrate a clear path to progress. The 100 best companies continue to lean in a career advancement for women in forms of sponsorship, mentorship and returnship programmes, as well as benefits that support their working mothers

audits of HR processes to ensure gender parity and promoting work-life balance around senior career stages are very important," he said.

"The 2022-BCWI-MICI results illustrate a clear path to progress. The 100 best companies continue to lean in a career advancement for women in forms of sponsorship, mentorship and returnship programmes, as well as benefits that support their working mothers," said president of Seramount Subha V Barry.

"The Most Inclusive Companies Index places emphasis on identifying and developing diverse talent, utilising best practices... It is through measures like these that ensure inclusive workplaces are built," he said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Anantnag PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal

NIT NO 136 OF R&B/Khanabal/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/15800-09DATED 18-10-2022

E-tenders (In single cover system) from qualified contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments are invited for Snow Clearance (Stage-wise) on a Percentage Rate basis for a contract period of one year that may be extended to three years depending on the performance of the successful bidder.

S.No	Stage Name	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Anantnag on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 1) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
2	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Anantnag on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 2) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
3	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Anantnag on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 3) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
4	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Anantnag on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 4) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
5	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Anantnag on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 5) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
6	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Anantnag on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 6) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
7	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 7) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
8	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 8) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
9	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 9) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
10	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 10) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
11	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 11) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
12	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 12) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
13	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 13) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
14	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Bijbehara on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 14) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
15	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Seer on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 15) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
16	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Seer on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 16) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
17	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Seer on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 17) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
18	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Seer on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 18) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
19	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Seer on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 19) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes
20	Restoration of road surface under the jurisdiction of PW(R&B) Sub Division Seer on emergency basis by way of Snow Clearance (Stage 20) for the year 2022-23	500	5000	3054Snow	All Classes

Note:- The annexure "A" uploaded with this NIT shows the Sub-Division wise and Stage Wise Details of Roads under the Jurisdiction of R&B Division Khanabal. All the bidders shall go through the Annexure "A" at the end of this NIT before participating in the bidding.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, (if any), 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-
Table:-

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-10-2022
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 18-10-2022 (03:00PM) To 25-10-2022 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 18-10-2022 (03:00PM) To 25-10-2022 (04:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	From 25-10-2022 (04:00PM) To 25-10-2022 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	25-10-2022 (04:30PM)

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. All bidders are required to submit bid security or earnest money for an amount of Rs.5000/= at the time of tendering in the form of CDRs, FDRs, or BGs pledged to the authority responsible for receiving bids, in this case Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal. In strict accordance with the Government's circular and other instructions as required, the successful bidder will be required to provide performance security in the amount of Rs.10,000/= at the time of contract award. Following the fixing of the contract in favour of the successful bidder, the successful bidders will receive the earnest money/bid security. The successful bidder's performance security will be released only after completion of successful performance of the Contract.

4. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on the 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 Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

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

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial 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 bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(ErQazJaveed Amin)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal

DIPK-11974/22

W: <https://jkhpnc.jk.gov.in> E: jkhpncitd@gmail.com
T: 0194-2311312 (S) F: 0194-2311420 (S)
T/F: 0191-2476079 (J)

Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government

Opposite Presentation Convent School, Rajbagh,
Srinagar-190008, J&K

No: JKHPMC eNIT 109 of 2022
Date: 19-10-2022

Subject: Corrigendum-5 w.r.t e-NIT No. 109 of 2022, Dated: 03-09-2022.

Due to inadequate response received in respect of the "e-Tender" for "Request for Proposal for Tender for Selection of Agency for Operation and Management (O&M) of Incubation Centres established under PM-FME Scheme at CIC Doabgah, Sopore, Baramulla (Package -1), CIC Achabal, Anantnag (Package -2) and CIC Narwal, Jammu, (Package -3) Jammu & Kashmir", Last Date of Online Bid Submission is hereby extended by a spell of seven (07) days' period and as such the Last Date of Online Bid Submission would be up to 25-10-2022. Subsequently the Technical Bid Opening Date would be 27-10-2022. Other Terms and Conditions shall remain the same unless notified otherwise.

DIPK-NB-4500/22

Sd/-
Managing Director
JKHPMC

No: JKHPMC/MD/22/2855-56
Dt: 19/10/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Gh Rasool Shah S/o Ghulam Mohi ud Din Shsh R/o Shaheen Lane Natipora Crossing want to correct my name from Ghulam Rasool shsh to Gh Rasool shah in my passport.

Any body having any objection in this regard may inform Regional passport officer srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.
Gh Rasool shah. inf

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:

Name: Ishaq Ahmad Parray

Parentage: Late Gh Mohammad Parray

Residence: Kitchama Baramulla

Registration No: 27131K-SJ-2013

Certificate/s lost: B.Com 1st Year Marks Sheet

Roll No/s: 29824

Session/ Year: Bi Annual 2015

Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled

Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof)
No: F(Duplicate/) KU
DATED: 27/9/2022 LAA

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

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

Azhar Farooq Lone

Father's Name: Farooq Ahmad Lone

Mother's Name: Sarwah Begum

Roll No: 108009299 Year 2021 session Regular

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Sopore
bmg

Mission Director J&K Dairy Mission Visits JKMPCL's Milk Plant

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Er. B. N. Singh (IAS), Mission Director, J&K Dairy Mission Wednesday visited JKMPCL's Milk Plant at Cheshmahahi Srinagar and took stock of the activities being implemented under Central Sector Scheme - National Program for Dairy Development. He discussed the project components threadbare with the officials of JKMPCL and directed them to expedite the execution of the work on double-shift patterns. He assured to facilitate the allotment of suitable land to JKMPCL in Kashmir valley for establishment of another dairy plant of 2.5 LLPD capacity expandable up to 5 LLPD which will further help the farmers thereby increasing job opportunities for the educated youth of Kashmir.

Further Singh directed JKMPCL officials to keep him intimated in case any help is needed in future for execution of work on fast track mode.

Residents Allege Prolonged Delay In Getting Building Permissions

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities in Srinagar are allegedly resorting to dilly daily tactics in issuing building permissions while authorities claim that all files with NOCs were cleared recently.

People from different areas of Srinagar living around Dal Lake said that since the government launched online permission to ease the issues faced by people but there is no clue about their cases.

They said that the government introduced the online system to provide relief to people so that they can submit all necessary documents online but it has added to their suffering as they are forced to visit the offices to check the status of their files.

It is taking months together to get permission as authorities are resorting to dilly daily tactics due to unknown reasons, they added.

They said that for months they were waiting to get the permission so that they can carry out necessary construction work in good temperate but now winter has approached and people are still waiting for their permits.

JAN ABHIYAN (AWAMI MUHIM)

Admin Organizes Prog. To Honor Girl Child

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With an aim to sensitize masses about significance of Birth of Girl Child and to highlight the opportunities created for women empowerment and emancipation, a programme under BBBP campaign was today held here at Niabat office, Harwan to Honour Birth of Girl Child.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad was the Chief Guest of the Programme which was jointly organised by the Social Welfare Department and District Program Office, Poshan.

Speaking at the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of birth of Girl Child and highlighted the initiatives of the Government launched for empowerment and overall development of women folk. He also highlighted the contribution of females who have excelled in all walks of life such as Administration, Sports, Health, Education, Art, Craft and Business.

The DC stressed on launching mass awareness regarding Women Centric Schemes, Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, Skill Development, BBBP and Legal Services through such programmes to achieve desired targets at ground level.

While lauding the efforts of the Departments for organizing the programme at Harwan to Honour Birth of Girl Child, the DC urged them to conduct such programmes in other parts of the district for encouragement and empowerment of Girl Child besides reach out the community at a large and generating awareness for wider dissemination of the women oriented schemes of the Government.

The DC said also various significant steps have been taken towards protecting the girl child and enabling best



education avenues to them and bringing a transformational shift in the way our society looks at the girl child.

During the programme, Mothers of the New Born Girls and Girl achievers were felicitated by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour.

Earlier, with a view to ensure benefits of Government sponsored welfare and flagship schemes reaches to every citizen of the District, the Deputy Commissioner flagged-off CSC DIGITAL VAN for generating awareness about online services among the masses at their doorsteps under 4th phase of Back to Village Programme.

The DC flagged off the CSC DIGITAL VAN, an initiative of Information Technology Departments under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), e-SHRAM, Pension schemes etc from Nayabat Office, Harwan in order to provide better services and to create awareness among the general public living in far flung areas of the District.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner impressed upon the concerned to work with added zeal and extra efforts to cover the to cover the remaining beneficiaries under PMJAY and other schemes at the earliest.

Besides, members of local PRIs, Director Social Welfare, Mohammad Shafiq Chak, Programme Officer, ICDS, Zeenat Ara, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, district Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Development, Farooq Ahmad, Tehsildar North, Kaiser Ahmad, besides CDPO Batwara, staff of District Hub for Empowerment of Women Mission Shakti, District Mission Coordinator and the Gender Specialists, Supervisors of Poshan and Aaganwadi Workers and large number of people were present on the occasion.

500 NSS Student Volunteers Join 'Clean India Campaign 2.0' At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Nearly 500 NSS student volunteers Wednesday joined the 'Clean India Campaign 2.0' at the University of Kashmir.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Nilofer Khan inaugurated the day-long campaign, organised by the office of National Service Scheme, KU, under the banner of 'Mega Swachh-ta Drive'.

Addressing the students at the Naseem Bagh Campus, where the cleanliness drive was held, Prof Nilofer urged the students to become ambassadors of the message of cleanliness within and beyond the four walls of the campus.

Appreciating the enthusiasm shown by the students in joining the 'Clean India Campaign 2.0', the Vice-Chancellor said participation of students, including girl students, in such important country-wide initiatives will certainly bring a discernible positive change in the society.

She said it's the University's endeavor to ensure that all its campuses are eco-friendly.

Registrar Dr Nisar A Mir, Dean School of Arts Prof Adil Amin Kak, Dean Students Welfare Prof Aneesa Shafi, NSS programme officers and other officials of the NSS Office were present on the occasion.

In his special address, Dr Nisar appreciated the work being conducted by KU's NSS and its endeavor to widen its reach to the colleges and schools across Kashmir.

Coordinator NSS Dr Mussavir Ahmad said the student volunteers drawn from teaching departments have shown exceptional enthusiasm in leading the cleanliness drive. He also highlighted the objectives of the 'Clean India Campaign 2.0', a month-long countrywide initiative aimed to raise awareness on clean surroundings, through the network of NSS-affiliated institutions and youth clubs.

Commissioner Secretary, Labour and Employment, Sarita Chouhan, who is also Roll Observer for Srinagar district, today chaired a meeting here to review the progress on Special Summary Revision (SSR-2022) of Electoral Rolls.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) was present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary took a detailed review of each Assembly Constituency with regard to targets achieved so far under ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR-2022) through Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

She instructed the Electoral Registering Officers (EROs) and other Electoral Officials to conduct revision of electoral rolls strictly in accordance with the Election Commission of India guidelines and schedule with completion of the whole process within the given timeline.

DC Holds Block Diwas At Fakir Gujri

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To reach out to the people living in the rural areas of the District to address their grievances, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad undertook an extensive tour of remote/hilly area of Fakir Gujri in Harwan Panchayat Block of District and presided over a Public Grievance Redressal Camp under weekly Block Diwas.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, PRI representatives, Public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC including installation of Mobile Tower, upgradation of local PHC & School, augmentation of water supply, timely sanction of PMAY cases, providing additional income generating units for setting up of Sheep, Beekeeping & Handicraft

sectors, construction of boundary and retention walls and other issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp and assured the people of Fakir Gujri and other areas of Harwan Block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority.

The DC also gave on the spot directions to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said the purpose of holding such grievance redressal Camps is to take appraisal of local issues from the general public for precise and unground assessment for their time bound redressal. He said

such programmes also provide feedback to the Administration to tailor its interventions for the public good and reach to the doorstep of the people instead of them visiting the DC office or other Government Offices.

Responding to the demands of providing additional income generating units for setting up of Sheep, Beekeeping & Handicraft sectors, the DC gave on spot instructions to the concerned Departments for fulfilling the demands. With regard to PMAY cases, the DC said that the matter of increasing quota has already been taken up with concerned Union Ministry for its fulfilment.

The DC also urged the local unemployed youth to come forward and take benefit from different Government self-employment schemes to earn a dignified livelihood for themselves and their family.

Sarita Chouhan Reviews Progress On Special Summary Revision

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Secretary, Labour and Employment, Sarita Chouhan, who is also Roll Observer for Srinagar district, today chaired a meeting here to review the progress on Special Summary Revision (SSR-2022) of Electoral Rolls.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO) was present on the occasion.

Commissioner Secretary took a detailed review of each Assembly Constituency with regard to targets achieved so far under ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR-2022) through Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

She instructed the Electoral Registering Officers (EROs) and other Electoral Officials to conduct revision of electoral rolls strictly in accordance with the Election Commission of India guidelines and schedule with completion of the whole process within the given timeline.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:18
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:14
Magrib	5:56
ISHA	7:15

HIJRI CALENDAR
23 Rabi ul Awwal
1444

This Day In History

- 1786 - Harvard University organizes 1st astronomical expedition in US.
- 1899 - Battle at Talana Hill, Natal: British army vs Boers
- 1902 - The Chamber of Deputies appoints a committee to consider questions on the separation of Church and State in France
- 190 - 3 US wins disputed boundary between District of Alaska & Canada
- 1904 - Bolivia and Chile sign a treaty ending the War of the Pacific; recognizing Chile's possession of the coast, providing for construction of a railway linking La Paz, Bolivia, to Arica on the coast
- 1905 - Great General Strike in Russia begins; lasts 11 days
- 1905 - Russian Tsar allows Polish people to speak Polish
- 1910 - The hull of the RMS Olympic, sister-ship to the ill-fated RMS Titanic, is launched from the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, Ireland.
- 1921 - Germany and Allies comes to an agreements over reparation payments in a meeting at Wiensbaden
- 1921 - The French and Mustafa Kemal nationalists sign a treaty at Ankara fixing the Turko-Syrian border
- 1935 - Communist forces end their Long March at Yan'an, in Shaanxi, China, bringing Mao Zedong to prominence
- 1936 - Spanish government moves to Barcelona
- 1941 - Nazi occupiers murder 500 inhabitants of Kragujevac Serbia.
- 1944 - Revolution by workers & students in Guatemala
- 1944 - Soviet and Yugoslav troops free Belgrade
- 1944 - US 1st army wins battle of Aachen
- 1944 - US forces under General Douglas MacArthur return to the Philippines with the landing of the US 6th army on Leyte
- 1950 - Chemists Archer John Porter Martin and James Lovelock give the first demonstration of gas chromatography at a meeting of the Biochemical Society. The technique is rapidly adopted by the petrochemical industry.
- 1952 - Emergency crisis proclaimed in Kenya
- 1965 - Mass arrests of communists in Indonesia
- 1971 - Senator in the US Congress Edward Kennedy calls for a withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and all-party negotiations to establish a United Ireland.
- 1973 - US president Nixon fires Watergate accuser Archibald Cox
- 1975 - Supreme Court rules teachers could spank their pupils after warning
- 1982 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to George Stigler
- 1982 - Sri Lanka President Jayewardene re-elected

From KO Archives

Kashmiri Student Murdered In Delhi

SRINAGAR - A Kashmiri student was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in Delhi last week. According to reports Naseer Ahmad Sofi, son of Ghulam Rasool Sofi, hailing from Baramulla, was doing an X-ray technicians' course in Mahipalpora. He was stabbed to death on Friday last week. The killers have not been identified so far. The victim's kin left for Delhi today to bring back the body. The incident has left parents of students studying outside the state deeply perturbed.

(Kashmir Observer, October 20, 2000)

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
International Banking Division, TRC, Srinagar, J&K-190001
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Tel: +91-194-2483854, 2483856

POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas Mr. Asaf Rasool Kanue, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 23.06.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely M/S COMTECH INTERIO Proprietor Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Sheikh S/o Ali Mohammad Sheikh R/o Kannispora Baramulla to repay an amount of Rs. 9,94,16,799.62 (Rupees Nine Crore Ninety Four Lacs Sixteen thousands Seven Hundred and Ninety Nine and Paise Sixty Two Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.05.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken Symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 11th day of month October of the year 2022.

The said borrower and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 10,20,40,308/- (Rupees Ten Crore Twenty Lac Forty Thousands Three Hundred and Eight Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.10.2022 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)
Mortgage of Land measuring 03Kanalis falling under Khasra no.1138min, Khata no.269 and Khewat no.115 situated in Mouza Diver Yakhmanpora, Tehsil Singhpora, Baramulla standing in the name of Mr. Syed Asif Shah (7 1/2 M); Syed Arif Shah (7 1/2 M); Syed Ali Shah (7 1/2 M); Syed Abbas Shah (7 1/2 M) All son's of Mr. Syed Ashgar Shah R/o Devar Parihaspora & Mst. Pakiza Showkat (01K 10M) D/o. Showkat Ali Banka R/o Hassanabad, Rainwari Srinagar.

Dated: 13.10.2022
Place: IBD, Srinagar
DIPK-NB-4516/22
Authorized Officer

In Mumbai, UN Chief's Strong Comments On Human Rights In India

Agenceis

Mumbai: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres today criticized India over its human rights record during a three-day visit.

Since PM Modi came to power in 2014, campaigners claim persecution and hate speech have allegedly accelerated against religious minorities.

Pressure has also grown towards government critics and journalists, particularly women reporters - some have suffered relentless campaigns of online abuse including death and rape threats, reported news agency AFP.

"As an elected member of the Human Rights Council, India has a responsibility to shape global human rights, and to protect and promote the rights of all individuals, including members of minority communities," Mr Guterres said in a speech in Mumbai.

Though he praised India's achievements 75 years after leaving British rule, Mr Guterres also said that the understanding

that "diversity is a richness... is not a guarantee".

"It must be nurtured, strengthened and renewed everyday," he said.

Citing Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr Guterres said their values need to be guarded by "condemning hate speech unequivocally".

India must do this "by protecting the rights and freedoms of journalists, human rights activists, students and academics. And by ensuring the continued independence of India's judiciary", he said.

"India's voice on the global stage can only gain in authority and credibility from a strong commitment to inclusivity and respect for human rights at home," he said, adding that "much more needs to be done to advance gender equality and women's rights".

"I urge Indians to be vigilant and to increase your investments in inclusive, pluralistic, diverse communities and societies," Mr Guterres said.



China Blocks India, US Move to List LeT Leader As Global Terrorist

Agenceis

United Nations: China has put a hold on a proposal by India and the US at the United Nations to list Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Shahid Mahmood as a global terrorist, the fourth instance in as many months that Beijing has blocked bids to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists at the world body.

It is learnt that China, an all-weather ally of Pakistan, placed a hold on the proposal by India and the US to designate Mahmood, 42, as a global terrorist under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

The US Department of Treasury had designated Mahmood as well as another LeT leader Muhammad Sarwar in December 2016 as part of the action "to disrupt Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) fundraising and support networks." The decision to hold comes at a time when UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is in India and has paid homage to the victims of the 26/11 attack in Mumbai. The Terror attack carried out by LeT in which over 160 people, including American citizens, were killed.

According to information on the US Department of the Treasury's website, Mahmood "has been a longstanding senior LeT member based in Karachi, Pakistan, and has been affiliated with the group since at least 2007. As early as June 2015 through at least June 2016, Mahmood served as the vice chairman of Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), a humanitarian and fundraising arm of LeT." In 2014, Mahmood

was the leader of FIF in Karachi. In August 2013, Mahmood was identified as a LeT publications wing member, the website said.

"Mahmood was previously part of LeT's overseas operations team led by Sajid Mir... Additionally, in August 2013, Mahmood was instructed to forge covert links with Islamic organisations in Bangladesh and Burma, and as of late 2011, Mahmood claimed that LeT's primary concern should be attacking India and America," the US Department of Treasury said.

This is the fourth time in as many months that China has put a hold on listing proposals to designate Pakistan-based terrorists under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee regime.

In June this year, China put a hold, at the last moment, on a joint proposal by India and the US to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

Makki is a US-designated terrorist and brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba head and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed. New Delhi and Washington had put in a joint proposal to designate Makki as a global terrorist under the 1267 ISIL and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council but Beijing placed a hold on this proposal at the last minute.

Then in August, China again put a hold on a proposal by the US and India to blacklist the senior leader of Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) Abdul Rauf Azhar.

Mallikarjun Kharge, Staunch Gandhi Family Loyalist, Is New Congress Chief



Agenceis

Bengaluru: Mappanna Mallikarjun Kharge, a staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, has become the Congress' first non-Gandhi president in 24 years.

The 80-year-old leader succeeds Sonia Gandhi at the grand old party's highest office.

Mr Kharge defeated Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram Shashi Tharoor in the October 17 Congress' Presidential polls, which saw over 9,500 delegates across the country voting.

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, he is also the second AICC President from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa and also second Dalit leader after Jagjivan Ram to hold the post.

Mr Kharge was elected MLA for nine times in a row, seeing a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home district of Gulbarga (renamed as Kalaburagi).

He joined the party in 1969 and went on to become President of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee.

That Mallikarjun Kharge was unconquerable at the hustings was mirrored until 2014 Lok Sabha polls in which he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly Hyderabad-Karnataka region, and had won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes.

He has won from Gurmitkal assembly constituency nine times before he plunged into the Lok Sabha poll arena in 2009 and has been a two-time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment.

However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls the veteran leader was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes.

For Mallikarjun Kharge, popularly known as "solillada Saradara", (a leader without defeat), this was the first electoral loss in his political life spanning more than five decades.

A hard-boiled Congressman and loyal to the core to the Gandhi family, Mr Kharge has played multiple roles in different ministries that has enriched his experience as an administrator.

He has also served as the leader of the opposition in Karnataka Assembly and President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

Mallikarjun Kharge was leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019 but could not become the leader of opposition, as the grand old party could not get the post as its numbers were less than the mandated 10 percent of the total number of seats in the Lower House.

He has served as Union Cabinet Minister for Labour and Employment, also Railways and Social Justice and Empowerment - in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

He had also held various portfolios in successive Congress governments that governed the state.

He was Home Minister of Karnataka in one of the most trying times, under S M Krishna as the Chief Minister, as the tenure saw kidnapping of Kannada thespian Rajkumar by the notorious poacher Veerappan and the Cauvery river water conflict, both of which had created a law and order situation in the state.

Mr Kharge was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in June 2020 and was the 17th Leader of the Opposition in Upper House until recently, ahead of his resignation from the post to contest the Congress' Presidential election. He had succeeded Ghulam Nabi Azad as LoP in February last year.

He was several times seen as a top contender to become the Chief Minister in Karnataka, but could never occupy the post.

"Why do you keep saying Dalit again and again? Don't say that. I'm a Congressman," Mr Kharge has said several times in the past, whenever the Dalit Chief Minister topic cropped up with him as the contender.

Sober by temperament and nature, Mr Kharge has never landed in any major political trouble spot or controversy.

Born in a poor family at Varavatti in Bidar district on July 21, 1942, he did his schooling and BA as well as Law in Kalaburagi. He was into legal practice for some time before plunging into politics. He is a follower of Buddhism and is the founder-chairman of Siddharth Vihar Trust that has built the Buddha Vihar complex in Kalaburagi. Married to Radhabai on May 13, 1968, they have two daughters and three sons. One son, Priyank Kharge is a MLA and a former Minister in Karnataka.

A vocal critic of the Narendra Modi-led government, Mallikarjun Kharge's elevation to head the Congress is expected to give a boost to the cadre amid hopes that it would unify the party leadership in the state that goes to Assembly polls by April next year.

PM Modi Wishes Mallikarjun Kharge Fruitful Tenure As Congress President

Agenceis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge on his election as party president on Wednesday and wished him a fruitful tenure.

"My best wishes to Shri Mallikarjun Kharge Ji for his new responsibility as President of @INCIndia. May he have a fruitful tenure ahead," Modi tweeted.

Kharge was elected Congress president, defeating Shashi Tharoor in an electoral contest, the sixth in the party's 137-year-old history. The Karnataka leader will formally take over as the



party's president on October 26. He will be the first party president from outside the Gandhi family in 24 years.

WATER DISPUTE WITH PAK

'Will Assess Matter,' India Tells World Bank

Agenceis

New Delhi: India on Wednesday said it has noted the World Bank's announcement to concurrently appoint a neutral expert and a chair of the Court of Arbitration in the matter relating to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power projects.

India and Pakistan are locked in a dispute over the two projects that come under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

"We have noted the World Bank's announcement to concurrently appoint a neutral expert and a chair of the Court of Arbitration in the ongoing matter related to the Kishenganga and Ratle projects," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The World Bank on Monday said it is confident that the neutral expert and the chair of the Court of Arbitration will engage in fair and careful consideration of their jurisdictional mandate, as they

are empowered to do by the water treaty.

"Recognising the World Bank's admission in its announcement that 'carrying out two processes concurrently poses practical and legal challenges', India will assess the matter," the MEA said.

"India believes that the implementation of the Indus Water Treaty must be in the letter and spirit of the treaty," it said.

India and Pakistan signed the treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers.

However, India and Pakistan disagree over whether the technical design features of Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants contravene the treaty.



Over 20 Nations Lined Up To Purchase Iranian Drones: Official



Agenceis

Iran's head adviser for military affairs, Major General Rahim Safavi, confirmed on 18 October that 22 nations have sent requests to purchase Iranian attack drones.

Safavi revealed that these clients include Armenia, Algeria, Serbia, Tajikistan, and Venezuela, among other countries. He also stated that Iran previously imported 80 percent of its military needs from abroad before the establishment of the Islamic Republic, and is now producing 80 percent of its defense requirements.

A day prior, Israeli media reported that Iran's Shahed-136 drones had already been spotted in combat zones across Ukraine, noting that these drones threaten Kiev's defense systems.

Despite Tehran's rejections of these claims, the drones were first spotted in Ukraine on 13 September, marking their first public appearance since US President Joe Biden's administration alleged that Russia intended to buy Iranian drones.

In May, Major General of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri inaugurated an Iranian factory manufacturing

Ababil-2 military drones in Tajikistan's capital.

These pinpoint accurate drones have been used extensively in Yemen by the Ansarallah movement against oil installations and airports in Saudi Arabia.

Back in September, Brigadier General Hamid Wahidi, Airforce Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stated that the nation has fully achieved self-sufficiency in the production of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

A few weeks prior, Tehran announced it had achieved self-sufficiency and "independence" in the field of defense industries.

"This huge amount of scientific achievements indicates an unparalleled opportunity to develop the [Iranian] defense infrastructure," Iranian parliament member Abu al-Fadl Amawi stated.

The official praised the defense equipment developed by Iranian scientists and scholars, focusing mainly on the equipment used in the field of cyberwarfare and air defense systems.

Last year, Iran launched large-scale military exercises in the country's northwestern region near its border with Azerbaijan to test its drone capabilities.

NEWS MAKERS

3-Year-Old Files Complaint Against Mom For 'Stealing' His Chocolates

Agenceis

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra has gifted a bicycle and chocolates to a three-year-old boy, who went to a police station in Burhanpur along with his father to complain against his mother who scolded him for being adamant.

After police delivered the gift to the boy on Tuesday, a video showing him happily riding the bicycle in the presence of cops and his family members was shared by the state home department on its official Twitter handle.

Earlier on Sunday, a video showing the child complaining against his mother to sub-inspector Priyanka Nayak at Dedtai po-



lice post in Burhanpur went viral on social media.

In the clip, the boy was heard claiming that his mother "stole" his candies, which Nayak wrote on a paper.

When the police officer asked the boy to sign the complaint,

he drew some lines on the paper, Nayak said.

The boy's father said the child insisted on complaining to police after his mother scolded him for not letting her apply a black "tika" (with a belief that it wards off evil forces) on his forehead after bathing.

Cake From King Charles, Princess Diana's 1981 Wedding To Be Auctioned: Report

Agenceis

London: A cake slice from Princess Diana and King Charles' wedding is going up for auction.

The royal wedding that took place in 1981 had more than 3,000 guests. Amongst them was a guest named Nigel Ricketts who passed away last year, according to New York Post. It has now come to notice that Nigel had preserved the 41-year-old wedding cake piece which is now set to be auctioned, as per New York Post.

The cake will be auctioned off by Dore and Rees Auctions in the UK.

According to New York Post, the piece of cake has a pre-sale estimate of GBP 300 which is equivalent to more than 27,000 (as per



the current conversion rate).

The cake is packaged in its original box and is anticipated to sell for much more, though.

According to The Post, although

feet tall. A slice of the same cake sold for GBP 1,375 in 2014, which is equivalent to more than INR 1,27,000 (as per current day conversion rate)

According to New York Post, Ricketts and other royal household members pooled together to purchase a writing table for Charles and Diana as a wedding gift, and Charles appeared to be overjoyed by the present.

The Dore and Rees website also has a handwritten thank-you note for the royal staffers. It reads, "Diana and I are touched beyond words that you should have gone to so much trouble to find something so eminently useful...And I can assure you that we will treasure it in whichever house it finally comes to rest!"

Kashmir Witnessing Sea Change Post Article-370: Minister



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Prof. S.P Singh Baghel said on Wednesday that it was a matter of pleasure that Kashmir is witnessing a sea-change in the field of peace, prosperity and development following the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A.

The Minister was addressing a public sabha at Public Park Langate in the frontier district of Kupwara.

The Minister enlisted various developmental programmes and welfare measures of Union Government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which people should remember for their prosperity. The Minister said that the people of J&K should also remember the discrimination made by a few families for years together.

He said people should remember that J&K is presently taking the benefits of the three tier Panchayat Raj System adding that this grass root democracy should have been here 70 years ago. He said that hefty funds are being released for the development of panchayats as per the planning and wishes of the local elected members.

He said Panchayati Raj system

is emerging as a game changer in the UT which reduced the effect of traditional family politics. He urged people to make education of children their first priority and invest some money on their quality education so that they can make good status in the society. He said UPSC IAS examination is known to be as most prestigious and tough exam in India which was topped by a person from Kupwara district. He said there is no dearth of talent here in any field.

Referring to the tourism sector, the Minister said that every nook and corner of Kashmir is green and beautiful and Bangus in Kupwara is emerging as world famous tourist destination.

Regarding various welfare schemes, the Minister said that people should take advantage of schemes like Ayushman Bharat, PM Beema Suraksha Yojna, PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojna and e-Shram and other schemes. He said these schemes have been designed by the Union Government for the welfare of general public.

The Minister revealed the historical background of Indian democracy and said that India is changing and every citizen has to live in this country with pride and dignity and equal opportunities of development.

Arrested Terrorist Killed During Shopian Operation: Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Lashkar-e-Taiba "hybrid terrorist", who was arrested following the death of two non-Kashmiri labourers in a grenade blast in Shopian, has been killed in an operation in South Kashmir's Shopian district, police said on Wednesday.

"Based on disclosure of arrested hybrid #terrorist & in continuous raids by Police & security forces, another contact has been established between terrorists & SFs at Nowgam #Shopian, in which hybrid terrorist namely Imran Bashir Ganaie killed by firing of another terrorist," Kashmir Zone police said in a tweet on Wednesday.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition has been recovered from the hideout/site of contact. Search is still going on. Further details shall follow," Police tweeted.

Notably, police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested Imran Bashir Ganaie of Harmain, who according to it, lobbed a grenade in which two labourers from UP were killed.

Meanwhile, police in a statement said that post terror incident at Hermain Shopian in the intervening night of 17/18 October, in which two outside labourers were killed by terrorists, investigation into the terror crime was immediately started.

During the course of investigation, it was revealed that the grenade at the accommodation of the labourers was thrown by one hybrid militant linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT identified as Imran Bashir Ganie of Hermain Shopian, police said.

The said hybrid militant along with his accomplice was promptly arrested within hours of the terror crime, police said, adding that various joint raids along with SFs were launched on the basis of disclosures made by the ac-

cused about militants and their hideouts. "In one of the raids on a hideout at Dongri Nala near Landoor bridge, where contact was established with the hiding militants but they managed to escape from the spot after initial fire," the spokesman said.

Following his disclosure another raid was conducted in Nowgam orchards of Shopian where he had earlier met with other militants responsible in his recruitment in terror ranks besides providing a grenade to him, a joint anti-terrorist operation was launched in the said area in the midnight after the accused agreed to show the exact place of hideout in the orchards, the police spokesperson said.

During the search operation, the hiding militant fired upon the joint search party, in which the arrested hybrid militant who was accompanying and leading the search party for identifying the place got injured. He was shifted to hospital where he was declared brought dead, police added further.

Taking advantage of the darkness, the militant managed to escape from the spot. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition has been recovered from the spot, police said, adding that all the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation

PARTIES SEEK PROBE

Several political parties, including the PDP and the National Conference have called for a probe into the killing of an arrested "hybrid" Lashkar-e-Taiba militant.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said the killing of Kashmiri Pandits and labourers was condemnable but the death of an accused by militants while he was in police custody has given rise to allegations that it was a part of the "catch and kill" policy.

"This has been earlier used in

Punjab... it looks like there will be attempts to disturb the peace here as the elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh draw closer so that the BJP can get the maximum benefit from Hindu-Muslim polarisation," she alleged.

Police have coined the term 'hybrid militants' for those radicalised youth who are not listed as ultras but carry out a terror strike and then slip back into routine life.

Taking to Twitter, Mehbooba questioned the police claim that terrorists managed to kill Ganaie while he was in custody. This "defies logic and deserves a thorough investigation", she said.

"If militants can kill someone in the custody of police with such ease, it goes on to show what could be the fate of ordinary people," she told reporters after a meeting at her party's office here.

National Conference MP from South Kashmir Hasnain Masoodi said the details given regarding the incident are "not only sketchy but leave many important questions answered".

Masoodi demanded an independent and impartial probe into Ganaie's killing and said, "While civilian killings call for outright condemnation and cannot be condoned on any ground whatsoever, the killing of a young boy labelled a hybrid militant, in police custody is cause of grave concern and warrants open, independent and impartial probe."

"The details given regarding the occurrence are not only sketchy but leave many important questions answered," he said in a statement.

CPI(M) state secretary Chulam Nabi Malik condemned the alleged custodial killing of Ganaie and demanded a credible probe into the incident.

"It is widely perceived that the said person had not been involved in any unlawful activity," he said.

J&K Higher Edu Institutions Progressing Rapidly: Kansal

Inaugurates State of Art Sports infrastructure at Govt. College of Education Srinagar



SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal today remarked that the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across Jammu and Kashmir are progressing rapidly and the National Education Policy (NEP)-2022 has laid a clear road map of developing these institutions in every sphere.

Kansal made these comments while addressing a large gathering of students and faculty members after inaugurating State of Art Sports infrastructure including Volley Ball complex, Double Storey Table Tennis Hall and Gymnasium at Govt. College of Education, M.A. Road here.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal Secretary complimented the college Administration, staff and students for Securing Grade "A" in NAAC assessment and impressed upon the management to initiate the process of achieving Autonomous Status for the college. He assured all support for development of infrastructure, up-

gradation of auditorium and other related services in the college and asked the teacher to develop the character of nation building among students and inculcate the values of nationalism among them.

The Principal Secretary further highlighted that NEP-2020 is focusing majorly on Skill based courses in Higher Education Institutions and therefore maximum efforts should be made for commencement of varied types of Skill courses in the institution. Kansal also called upon the management of college to hold regular interactions with students on development of curriculum and provide them facility to provide feedback on quality of education as well as other aspects of the college.

In her address, Principal, Prof. Seema Naz presented a brief profile of the institution and she applauded the efforts of all the stakeholders for accomplishment of Grade ANAAC Assessment and Accreditation.

4 Delhi Tourists Killed As Vehicle Falls Into Ladakh Gorge

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Four people were killed after their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a 100-metre deep gorge here on Tuesday, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Mohd Firoz, Reyaz Ahmad and Azam Khan, all residents of Delhi, and Zeeshan Ahmad of Uttar Pradesh, they said.

Superintendent of Police, Leh, P D Nitya said the accident occurred at Khardungla top owing to snowfall which made the conditions slippery.

She said police teams along with Disaster Response Force rushed to the spot and started the rescue operation.

The teams managed to rescue three injured people while the fourth person had already breathed his last, the SSP said.

The three injured, however, succumbed to injuries on way to a hospital, the official said.

Khardungla Pass, Changla Pass and other upper reaches of Ladakh besides Leh town received snowfall during the day.

In another incident, two tourists from Karnataka were

injured when their vehicle fell down from the road at Singayla in Lingshed area, the officer said.

She said the injured were rescued and shifted to block hospital at Khalsi where their condition was stated to be stable.

The police has asked people, especially the tourists, to avoid travelling towards Nubra, Pangong and other high altitude areas in view of the inclement weather.

"The citizens are once again requested not to venture out during the inclement weather period till the high passes get road traffic worthy," it said.

Pulitzer-Winning Kashmiri Photojournalist 'Stopped' From Travelling To US

Press trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Pulitzer-winning Kashmiri photojournalist Sanna Irshad Mattoo has said she was stopped from flying to the United States by immigration authorities at the Delhi airport "despite having a valid visa and ticket".

The 28-year-old photojournalist, who was awarded the Pulitzer for the coverage of COVID pandemic for Reuters, was scheduled to fly to New York on Monday.

"I was on my way to receive the Pulitzer award (@Pulitzerprizes) in New York but I was stopped at immigration at Delhi airport and barred from travelling internationally despite holding a valid US visa and ticket," Mattoo tweeted on Tuesday.

She said this was the second time she was stopped from travelling abroad in the past four

months. "This is the second time I have been stopped without reason or cause. Despite reaching out to several officials after what happened few months ago, I never received any response.

"Being able to attend the award ceremony was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me," she added.



Sunjwan ATTACK

NIA Files Charges Against Jaish Chief, 11 Others

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Five Pakistani terrorists, including the chief of proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfit, were among 12 people chargesheeted in a case related to a terror attack in April ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir's Samba after the abrogation of Article 370, an official said on Wednesday.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed the charge sheet against JeM chief Masood Azhar Alvi alias Maulana, a resident of Bahawalpur (Pakistan), his four Pakistan-based associates, two slain terrorists and five Kashmir residents in a special court here, a federal agency spokesperson said.

While two Pashto-speaking terrorists, who had infiltrated from across the border using an underground tunnel and transported from Samba to Jammu, were eliminated in the encounter on April 22, a CISF officer lost his life and nine others, including two policemen, were injured in the terrorist attack which took place just two days ahead of the Prime Minister's scheduled visit.

"The chargesheet was filed against 12 accused in the case relating to the conspiracy hatched among Kashmir based terrorist operatives, Pakistan based handlers and terrorists of proscribed terrorist outfit JeM, in furtherance to which, two JeM terrorists were infiltrated into India through a (cross-border) Tunnel," the NIA spokesperson said.

The NIA said the tunnel had been excavated on the International Border in the area falling under Border Out Post Chack Faqira in the Samba sector in J&K in order with the intention of disrupting the scheduled visit of Prime

Minister in the Jammu region.

The movement of the terrorists was intercepted by the security forces and both terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the area of Sunjwan on the outskirts of Jammu city, the official said.

The spokesperson said the case was initially registered on April 22 at Bahu Fort police station in Jammu and re-registered by the NIA on April 26.

Besides Azhar, others chargesheeted in the case include Pakistani terrorists Rouf Asgar Alvi alias 'Abdul Rouf Asgar' of Bahawalpur, Mohammad Musdaiq alias 'Doctor' alias 'Abdul Manan' alias 'Wahid Khan' of Salkot, Shahid Latif alias 'Chotta Shahid' alias 'Noor Al Din' of Guranwala-Punjab, Masood Ilyas Kashmiri alias 'Abu Mohammad' of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the NIA said.

Shafeeq Ahmad Sheikh, Abid Mushtaq Mir and Asif Ahmad Sheikh, all residents of Pulwama and Bilal Ahmad Wagay and Mohd Ishaq Chopan of Anantnag, besides the two slain terrorists were also chargesheeted in the case, the spokesperson said, adding the charge against the slain terrorists stand abated.

The official said the investigations have revealed that the accused, south Kashmir residents, entered into a criminal conspiracy with two freshly infiltrated Pakistani JeM terrorists and JeM leadership in the furtherance of which they received, transported and provided logistic support to newly infiltrated JeM terrorists who entered into the Indian territory to execute a suicidal attack on the security forces and other vital installations in Jammu region with a view to disrupt the scheduled visit of the Prime Minister to Jammu region.

Dogra Employees Posted In Kashmir Demand Relocation



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Dogra employees of the Union Territory administration on Wednesday held a demonstration here over targeted killings of minorities and demanded immediate relocation away from the Valley.

The protest follows the murder of Puran Krishan Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit who was shot dead, allegedly by militants, in Shopian district on Saturday.

Several organisations held protests across the Union Territory in the wake of Bhat's murder, while Kashmiri migrant pandit organisations expressed concern over the unabated targeted killings. The employees assembled under the banner of All Jammu-based Reserved Categories Employees Association.

Lashing out at the administration, the protesters alleged that 7,000 employees belonging to minority communities, including Kashmiri Pandits, serving in the Valley "have been caged by the

faulty and unconstitutional transfer policy" that did not allow them to transfer out of Kashmir.

They also hit back at the administration for issuing arbitrary orders to force them to join services in the Valley. The administration has withheld their salaries after they failed to report for duty, a protesting employee said.

"Whose orders are we to accept? Terrorists send threat letters warnings us that we would be killed if we return to the Valley. The administration says return to work or face stoppage of salaries or dismissal of services," said Sunita Devi, the protesting employee.

"We have been denied salaries for four months. Even on big festival days, salaries have not been released. The government has failed to address our demands for transfer and relocation from the Valley."

The employees returned to Jammu following the killing of Rajni Bala, a schoolteacher in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on May 31.

SHORT TAKES

Mughal Road Cleared Of Snow

JAMMU: Nearly 70 passengers stranded after suspension of traffic on the Mughal road here due to heavy snowfall in high altitude areas have been rescued and the road cleared of snow, officials said on Wednesday.

However, traffic on the road connecting Poonch in Jammu with South Kashmir's Shopian has been put on halt due to slippery road conditions.

There was snowfall in high altitude areas on Tuesday evening, leaving dozens of vehicles stranded between Pir Ki Gali and Poshana in Poonch, they said.

A joint rescue operation by police and Army was launched around 9 pm and was still continuing when last reports were received, the officials said.

"Nearly 70 passengers of 28 vehicles including 15 Light Motor Vehicles have been rescued and evacuated to safer places", Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Aftab Shah told PTI.

He said the highway has been cleared of snow but traffic has not been allowed due to extreme slippery road conditions.

Cop Dies Saving Two Children

JAMMU: A policeman lost his life on Wednesday while saving his two children from drowning in a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

The two children had slipped into the Ujh river while taking a bath in Jasrota area on Wednesday, they said. As father Seshpal Singh saw them drowning, he jumped into the river and rescued them, the officials said.

But he could not save himself from strong currents of the river. The locals and cops took him out of the river and shifted him to hospital in Kathua, where doctors declared him brought dead, they said. Singh was posted in Doda and was on leave for the past few days.

4.2 Magnitude Quake Rattles Ladakh

LEH: An earthquake of magnitude 4.2 on the Richter scale hit Ladakh on Wednesday, the National Centre for Seismology said.

The epicenter of the tremor, recorded at 8.07 am, was 135 km north-east of Leh belt of the union territory, it said. The officials said there were no reports of any damage. The quake hit at a latitude of 34.92 degrees north and longitude of 78.72 degrees east at a depth of 10 km, they said. The Himalayan region is prone to earthquakes.

Govt Shifts Two JKAS Officers

SRINAGAR: The government on Wednesday ordered transfer of two JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to a government order, Akshay Rajan, JKAS, Deputy Director, Motor Garages, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.

Irfan Manzoor, Junior Scale (2012-II Batch), BDO (Hqr) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary to the GAD.

IED Defused In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Wednesday detected an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

A joint team of Army and police detected the IED planted by terrorists along the road at Udipora in Handwara area of the district, the officials said. They said the IED was destroyed by the bomb disposal squad without causing any damage.

SIA Conducts Raids In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: State Investigating Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Wednesday conducted raid on the premises of a woman, the alleged lynchpin of a narco-terror network, in Sopore area of the Baramulla district.

"In a month-long chase of elusive leads to identify the lynchpin of a dangerous narco-terror module, SIA finally zeroed on to a woman who has overseen at least Rs 10 crores worth narcotics and drugs smuggled into India from Pakistan," a spokesman of the agency said. During the searches at the Sopore den of the lynchpin, the SIA officers seized digital devices among other records which have a bearing on the case.

"Preliminary investigations that triggered this investigation suggest that consignments of smuggled heroin and other narcotics are being partly sold in local markets. The bulk of the contraband, however, is further smuggled to other parts of the country for sale.

"Proceeds of the sale, as per initial findings are being brought back to Kashmir and used to finance terrorist and separatist organizations/terrorists to continue with unlawful activities," the spokesman said.

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More Killings

Over a span of three days, one Kashmiri Pandit and two migrant labourers were killed, the latter in a grenade attack. The Kashmiri Pandit Puran Krishan Bhat was outside his house at Chowdhary Gund village in Shopian when he was shot dead. Suddenly it seems like yesterday once more in Kashmir. The situation is back on edge. The air is again thick with mounting uncertainty and the prospect for the weeks and months ahead again appears grim.

The killings have been condemned by the political leadership across the board. The renewed attacks on civilians have taken people by surprise. They have taken place following a peaceful pause. Though successive killings of militants by the security forces give a sense that militancy may be on its way out in Kashmir, the recent spurt in attacks and the violence tell a different story. It shows there has been simultaneous replenishment of the depleted militant ranks through fresh recruitment and the influx of militants from across the border - a trend that has stayed constant over the past three decades. This is why while public unrest and stone-pelting have by and large since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, militancy has continued unabated. And there is little sign that the situation on this score will change for the better anytime soon.

The attacks on minorities and migrant labourers have emerged as a disturbing new pattern. This has been a source of deep worry for the security forces, who can't protect each and every migrant or Kashmiri Pandit. The greater success in the killings of militants has been no deterrent. According to an estimate, more than 500 militants, most of them local youth, have been killed since the withdrawal of J&K's semi-autonomy. Though the new estimates have put the number of militants under 200 - the first time the figure has fallen below this important psychological threshold - there has been little reduction in the levels of violence.

As has been the case in the last 30 years, the situation in Kashmir can take nasty, unpredictable turns and defy control. And that these killings are happening at a time when there has been unprecedented security domination testifies to this fact. In Kashmir, it is the exception that passes off as normal. The reaction to these killings has been predictable. There have been routine condemnations. The sections of media have either played the killings up or ignored them. But the situation cannot be allowed to go on regardless. The killings in Kashmir need to be stopped. And a security-centric approach seems to have reached its limits. It is time for politics and political outreach in Kashmir.

OTHER OPINION

Gone Girls: On Crimes Against Women

Reported violence against women is the proverbial tip of the iceberg; it conceals more than it reveals. But what it reveals can sometimes shock the collective conscience of a nation, especially a heinous crime that plays out in broad daylight as an assault on a young woman. Last week's incident of violence in Chennai, where college student Sathyapriya was decapitated as a young man pursuing her romantically pushed her in the path of an oncoming train did no less tug at the heartstrings of the public. The incidents of violence against women in train stations in Chennai are following a nearly copycat pattern after Swathi, a young techie was murdered in 2016, in broad daylight by a man, who was again stalking her, in a railway station. In 2021, Swetha, a young college goer was murdered near a suburban train station by a man in a 'troubled relationship' with her. In each of these cases, the inability of the stalker to accept the fact that his overtures were turned down by the girl directly led to the violence. Earlier this month, an eight-year-old girl in Delhi was kidnapped, sexually assaulted and murdered. In September, the bodies of two teenaged girls were found in Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh. Police said they had been strangled with a scarf and hung from a tree after they were raped. Only a few cases hit the headlines or make an impact on social media. Many more go unreported, the massive unseen underbelly of the iceberg.

In the chequered history of handling the many forms of violence against women in India, the horrific Nirbhaya rape of 2012 is a definitive milestone. It rocked the nation with such force that lawmakers rushed to strengthen laws, and put in place systems and infrastructure that were meant to ensure such dreadful incidents are never repeated. However, according to National Crime Records Bureau statistics, a whopping 4,28,278 lakh crimes against women happened in 2021. These included rape, murder, dowry harassment, kidnapping, forced marriage, trafficking, and online harassment. At this juncture, a decade later, it is pertinent to ask if the Government has rolled out all the strategies conceived of and fuelled by the Nirbhaya Fund. Speedy process of trial and resolution resulting in conviction of the accused is a casualty in courts that are flooded with pending cases. The Sustainable Development Goals underline the importance of building safe, resilient and inclusive cities from a gender lens. No slackening on the part of authorities is acceptable when it comes to dealing with violence against women; zero tolerance alone is acceptable.

The Hindu

ANTIBIOTICS

The New Emperor of Maladies



Javaid Iqbal



Antibiotic resistance leads to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs and increased mortality. Without urgent action, we are heading for a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries can once again kill

More than 80% of the bacteria are resistant even to last-resort antibiotics in Kashmir. There has been an increase in the consumption of antibiotics and painkillers like Dolo, Azithromycin, and Nicep since COVID-19 as people self-medicate in Kashmir

The average life expectancy in the early 20th century was 47 years in the industrialized world. There was no treatment for smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, and pneumonia. Something as simple as a scratch could get infected and lead to death. Out of the 10 million soldiers killed in World War I, about half died not from bombs or shrapnel but rather from untreatable infections from often relatively minor wounds and injuries. During World War 2, penicillin production became the War Department's No. 2 priority after the Manhattan Project's drive to build a nuclear bomb. Antibiotics changed the course of human history, and they were rightly called miracle drugs for their ability to cure people.

But now, these miracle drugs are giving rise to superbugs. Antimicrobial resistance or drug resistance happens when organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change in ways that cause the medicines used to cure the infections they cause to be ineffective. When the microorganisms become resistant to most antimicrobials, they are often called "superbugs." These superbugs are a significant concern because a resistant infection may kill, spread to others, and impose huge costs on individuals and society. Each time we use antibiotics, we allow the few superbug bacteria that can survive the antibiotic to thrive. Over time, the entire population of bacteria is made up only of these superbugs, and our antibiotics no longer work. Every time an antibiotic is used, it contributes to developing resistance and diminishes that drug's effectiveness.

Globally, drug-resistant infections caused due to antimicrobial resistance contribute to about 700 000 deaths annually and, without effective intervention, are projected to cause 10 million deaths and a global economic loss of US\$100 trillion by 2050. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could see up to 24 million people in extreme poverty. In the United States alone, antibiotic-resistant microbes cause more than 2.8 million infections and over 35,000 deaths annually. But recent research from Pew and the CDC shows that nearly 1 in 3 antibiotics prescribed at doctor's offices and other outpatient settings is unnecessary. That's some 47 million unnecessary prescriptions a year, all contributing to an-

antibiotic resistance.

Researchers feel that with the increasing number of drug-resistant bacteria, they will be forced to stop organ transplantation, chemotherapy, or even the most minor surgeries. They don't expect this to happen in a decade but within a few years. For example, bacteria causing Typhoid fever are becoming increasingly resistant to some of the most important antibiotics for human health, according to a study published in The Lancet Microbe journal.

The World Health Organization says antimicrobial resistance is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity today and calls superbugs a global health threat requiring urgent action.

According to an ICMR study, many patients in India may no longer benefit from carbapenem, a powerful antibiotic administered mainly in ICU settings to treat pneumonia and septicemia, as they have developed antimicrobial resistance. Resistance to Imipenem used to treat infections caused by the bacteria E Coli, has increased from 14% in 2016 to 36% in 2021. Things are so worrying that only 43% of the pneumonia infections caused by one pathogen in India could be treated with the first line of antibiotics in 2021, down from 65% in 2016. During the chaotic treatment of Covid-19, patients were treated with antibiotics, resulting in more adverse effects. Last year, an ICMR study of 17,534 Covid-19 patients in Indian hospitals found that more than half who acquired drug-resistant infections died.

The US Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics, and Policy have developed the Drug Resistance Index (DRI) tool, which maps out the efficacy of antibiotics for particular pathogens in a specific location. In a 2019 study, India was found to have the lowest DRI among 41 countries, indicating that the country has high levels of resistance to the most commonly consumed antibiotics. Other countries with extremely low DRI scores include Ecuador, Thailand, and Venezuela. Conversely, wealthy countries such as Sweden, Canada, and Denmark were the best stewards of antibiotics.

The researchers determined that a total of 16.29 billion doses of antibiotics were sold in India in 2020, slightly less than the amounts sold in 2018 and 2019. However, when researchers focused on adult

doses, usage increased from 72.6% in 2018 and 72.5% in 2019 to 76.8% in 2020. Yet another factor is that many drugs are expensive, especially the higher class of antibiotics. For example, if amoxicillin, a type of penicillin, costs about 100 for a strip of 10, meropenem can cost 2,500-3,000. The high costs often prompt patients to discontinue their medicines midway through a course when the symptoms of the disease have disappeared. But the bacteria remain in the body and are not killed when the same antibiotic is administered later.

Due to the rise in multi-drug-resistant infections. By 2032, it is predicted that it will not be possible to treat 85 percent of TB cases in India with common drugs. According to government statistics, resistant infections already claim the lives of 700,000 Indians annually - and some experts say this is an underestimate due to poor healthcare surveillance across the country.

There are also quality concerns over many of the antibiotics used. In 2019, more than 47 percent of antibiotics consumed had not been approved by the country's official pharmaceutical regulatory body. Doctors also routinely prescribe antibiotics for patients without ascertaining whether they are genuinely warranted, partly because medical diagnostic services such as blood tests are expensive, and the infrastructure is scarce outside big cities. For instance, antibiotics do not cure viral infections, but the drugs are often prescribed anyway.

According to the Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK), more than 80% of the bacteria are resistant even to last-resort antibiotics in Kashmir. There has been an increase in the consumption of antibiotics and painkillers like Dolo, Azithromycin, and Nicep since COVID-19 as people self-medicate in Kashmir.

Antibiotic resistance leads to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs and increased mortality. Without urgent action, we are heading for a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries can once again kill.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
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Qaleen Bafi: The Wilting Art of Kashmir

QALEEN is a type of hand knotted pile carpet. Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin introduced Qaleen making craft from Persia to Kashmir in the 15th century. The Sultan brought carpet weavers from Persia and Central Asia into Kashmir to train the local inhabitants. The art of Qaleen making of Kashmir is famous worldwide but it is now dying.

The craft of weaving Qaleens is practiced mostly by people in rural areas. The carpets are woven on a large

wooden loom having two logs fixed horizontally. White threads are carefully tied on these logs which form the base of the carpet. In Kashmir, either cotton or silk threads are used as the base of the carpet. The deadline for weaving a carpet is fixed by the middleman who buys the carpets from the artisans. The price depends upon the material used in the carpets. The carpets are made of three types: silk on silk, silk on cotton and art silk on cotton. The carpet trade is Rs 650 crore strong with a majority of prod-

ucts worth Rs 412.45 crores exported to United States, Germany, France, United Kingdom and Gulf countries. However these huge prices haven't changed the lives of the artisans.

Due to less returns, many artisans are switching their profession and the children of artisans are pursuing different professions. Another factor which has contributed to the decline in the art of weaving Qaleens is the decrease in the production of world renowned Kashmiri silk which has forced the dealers and govern-

ment to import silk from outside. The carpet industry is not regulated by the state government which means the artisans don't benefit from the rising price of Qaleens. Adding to this, educational backwardness of artisans often exposes them to being overexploited by middlemen. Their wages depend on how kind their middlemen are. So, the government needs to come up with policies to save the legacy of this art.

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U.S. Brokered Israel-Lebanon Maritime Agreement

Asad Mirza

The U.N. Secretary-General and Israeli and Lebanese politicians have hailed the agreement as historic, as it may bring an economic windfall for both Israel and Lebanon in the long term.

After decades of enmity, Israel and Lebanon last week signed a historic agreement agreeing to demarcate their maritime boundaries and also demarcating the disputed area in Qanaa prospect, which is believed to be rich in oil and gas reserves.

Further, it has in a de-facto manner, forced Lebanon to accept Israel as a sovereign nation, which it has refused to do so till now, as it maintains no diplomatic relations with Israel.

The disputed 860-square-kilometer area of the Mediterranean Sea potentially holds billions of dollars' worth of oil and gas. Tensions between Israel and Lebanon worsened earlier this year when, in June, a London-based vessel arrived to develop a gas field for Israel.

Though at present the deal seems to be a win for both sides, future security threats can't be ruled out after this maritime agreement.

WELCOME BY LEBANON

Lebanese Deputy Speaker Elias Bou Saab has described the maritime border agreement as a "game changer" with hope that "People will start talking to Lebanon again," adding that the deal will give Lebanon's youth "hope".

For the Lebanese government it may prove to be a shot in the arm to bolster its flailing economy and work out a package, which puts the nation back on the tracks for economic recovery and attracting potential investors.

Under the US-brokered deal, Lebanon would be able to begin gas exploration in the Qanaa prospect - which lies within Lebanon's exploration block but crosses over into Israeli waters. The Qanaa gas field is yet to be explored, but Lebanon believes it is rich with resources. It is currently estimated to be worth around \$3 billion (€3.08 billion) altogether. That could bring Lebanon between \$100 and \$200 million a year.

However, the immediate economic benefits from Qanaa for Lebanon, seems to be too far fetched, as its current infrastructure is in poor or at nascent stage and it'll not be able to start extracting natural gas and oil immediately. At the earliest it may take another four to five years.

If TotalEnergies does indeed begin exploration for the Lebanese, it could also offer incentives for other companies to get involved, with these prospects in mind, it is yet to be seen what the direct economic impacts will be.

For Israel also, the potential earn-



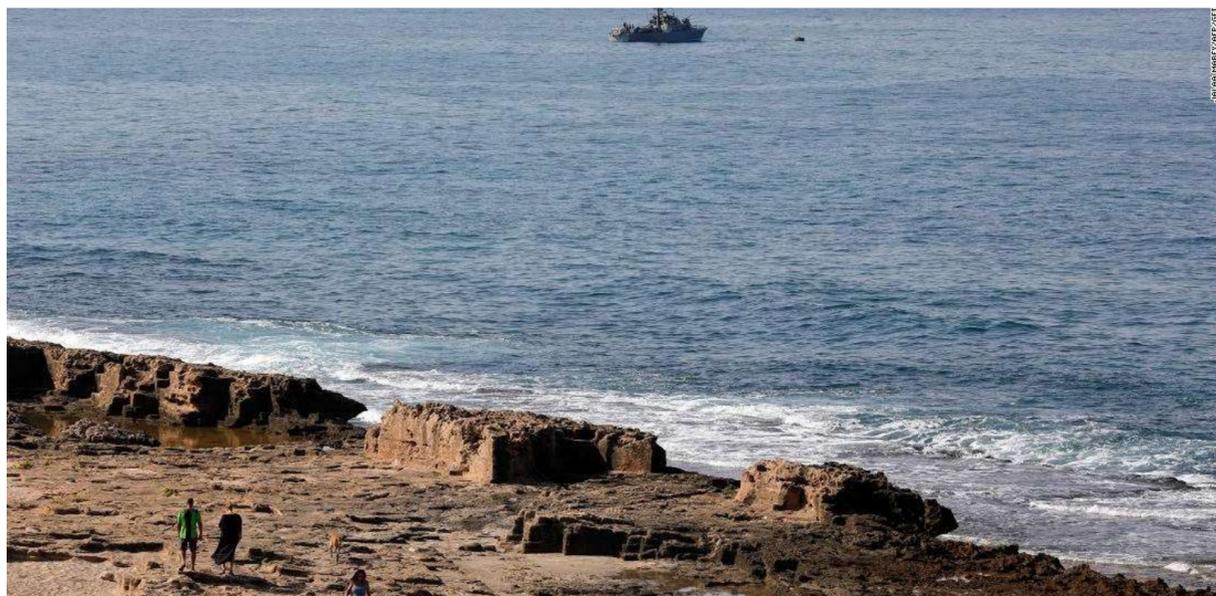
THE DISPUTED 860-SQUARE-KILOMETER AREA OF THE MEDITERRANEAN Sea potentially holds billions of dollars' worth of oil and gas. Tensions between Israel and Lebanon worsened earlier this year when, in June, a London-based vessel arrived to develop a gas field for Israel

ings may start after four to five years, once it signs agreements with France's TotalEnergies to explore the whole block.

ISRAELI RESPONSE

As for the Israeli politicians, they have started hailing it as a decisive victory against Iran-backed and Lebanon-based Hezbollah. These politicians led by Prime Minister Yair Lapid seem to be in a hurry to get the agreement approved by the government and thus be able to mobilise the votes in their favour in the upcoming general elections in the country on 1 November.

But the right-wing elements in Israel, led by former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu have described the agreement as a failure



of the centrist-Lapid government and describe this as conceding ground to Hezbollah, which may get further bolstered after this agreement.

But the US negotiator Amos Hochstein dismissed Netanyahu's criticisms as campaign rhetoric, saying the fact that two enemy countries managed to reach an agreement on the maritime border is 'enormously significant'. Overall a regional security crisis seems to have been averted due to economic interests of both sides.

Following the deal's approval by the cabinet, the agreement was presented to the Knesset for a review over the next two weeks, but not asking for the parliament's approval. Israel's Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, has opined that the current government is legally entitled to sign the maritime border agreement, and did not need to hold a referendum on the issue and suggested it would be preferable for the government to allow a Knesset vote on the issue, though it's under no legal obligation to do so.

Members of the Likud and other

right-wing parties approached Knesset speaker Mickey Levy, demanding that the agreement be put to a parliamentary vote.

Countering Netanyahu's criticism, Defence Minister Benny Gantz has said the talks started under his leadership, and if he were prime minister, he would probably "rush to sign the deal right now." Gantz also said that the deal also "has the potential to reduce Iran's influence on Lebanon."

Meanwhile, discounting allegations of Lebanon gaining an upper hand in the agreement, Israel's National Security Adviser Eyal Hulata said though Lebanon received almost all of the waters under dispute with Israel, it did not receive what it was really after.

BEHIND THE SCENE NEGOTIATORS

This brings out into the open the real negotiators behind the deal. The negotiations started months before at the US insistence and brokered by France. French diplomats helped US negotiator Amos Hochstein to stitch the deal together.

Thus, apart from political gains

for the ruling coalition in Israel, the agreement also brings political benefits for the US President Joes Biden, who also faces mid-term elections for both the houses, next month.

US mediation efforts were key to achieving the deal and it may bolster the Biden administration ahead of the midterm elections. Biden might use this agreement to assuage the rising resentment amongst the American public due to constantly increasing prices of oil and gas in America.

Meanwhile, Europe's gas crisis is increasing day by day. European governments are doing all they can to shield consumers from price shocks, but the crisis took a further dip after explosions damaged Nord Stream 1 and 2 last month. The Nord Stream 1 pipeline was Europe's main source of Russian gas.

Israel has said that, once the maritime deal is signed and delivered, it can begin extracting oil and gas from its Karish field and export it to Europe within weeks.

Lapid has repeatedly spoken about the role Israel can play to help Europe as Western countries try to

wean themselves off Russian energy.

This development comes in the background of worsening US-Saudi relations, which hit a new low last week when the OPEC+, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, defied the US with the largest output cut since the pandemic, bringing added pressure for the Biden Administration.

But, it is also a regional victory for the Biden administration, which lately has seen diplomatic tensions rise with some of its Middle Eastern allies. With the possibility of much needed gas from the Mediterranean and averting a potential security crisis between historic enemies, the United States notched an important win in a region where its influence has seemingly diminished.

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

Just Take The Solo Trip!

Asha Iyer Kumar

Ever since the scourge of Covid loosened its grip on us and we gingerly put our lives back on track, a new bug has bitten us, and that too, with a vengeance. Travel. We have all been seized by wanderlust of every conceivable kind. Airports are teeming with travellers despite prohibitive fares and the congestion and commotion are not deterring us. We have all been waiting to break free from the confinement of many months and are scattering ourselves to different destinations in search of distraction from our daily encumbrances.



Inspired by the globe-trotting sentiment around me, for the first time ever, I decided to depart from the tradition of travelling with the husband and go on a solo trip to a remote destination. While the joy of going with family and in groups is unparalleled, there is something uniquely empowering about going solo.

Inspired by the globe-trotting sentiment around me, for the first time ever, I decided to depart from the tradition of travelling with the husband and go on a solo trip to a remote destination. While the joy of going with family and in groups is unparalleled, there is something



uniquely empowering about going solo. I wanted to capture the spirit of true travel, leaving behind all the mental baggage I had gathered in the past years of strife and survival. I wanted to know how far I could go when I am unleashed and what new discoveries I would make about life and the world.

Solo backpacking has been in vogue for a while now, and more and more women are stepping out to explore the world without immediate company. I have

read about women obsessed with expeditions that regular folks like me may not even imagine because to those of us who haven't ever ventured out, it is an intimidating undertaking. Especially, with the kind of exaggerated reporting in the media about how perilous the world has become for women, setting out alone is always a matter of great self-doubt and debate for women. Add to it a traditional setting where women's solo travel can easily be labelled as 'daring'

and 'unbecoming', and as a mark of wild enthusiasm.

There are the societal pressures and misconceptions about solo travel and then there is the fear factor that we have bequeathed ourselves from hearsay and imagination. The former did not cause me as much worry as the latter did. It was the fear of walking into an anonymous world alone that was paralyzing, although I had an inkling that it was more of a mental block that stopped me

than the real state of the world. It was to rip this fence I had built around me with invented anxiety that I pulled up my socks and tied the shoelaces to go on a mountain trip alone.

The rewards of travelling alone, as I am discovering now, are not small. To begin with, it is the greatest ticket for a woman to taste freedom and an opportunity to break the fetters that she has placed on her herself with years of conditioning. It unlocks the innermost chambers of her power

and brings her face to face with what she is truly capable of. It is an acknowledgement of her right to cross the threshold of her home and influence the world with her feminine voice and whispers.

And may we not mix this with the idea of women making huge strides and claiming a place for themselves in the material world. Women have been doing that with ample consistency for a

while, but what solo travel does to a woman is bring her in touch with herself. It puts all the pressures and expectations aside, and she goes on a journey where she is accountable to only herself.

There is a lot of difference in assuming who we are and knowing our true selves. Often, positions of power and influence in the material world only create a version of women that the world wishes to see; it puts them in a mould that fits the description of modern, emancipated women, and in striving to accomplish the superficial image and create false impressions, they lose connection with their real selves inside.

It was in search of this real, raw, rustic woman in me, the one that had lost her true bearings in the melee of the pretentious world that I set out when I packed my bags on my first solo journey shedding all inhibitions. While I am still on it, I am learning things about myself that I never knew because I had been too engrossed in other things. I am seeing the world through a different prism and making little notes for the future. I am taking this sabbatical from my regular life, alone, because I knew I had dimensions that remained to be revealed. Towards this ultimate quest to know what she truly is in the absence of fabricated definition, every woman in the world should embark on a journey at least once on her own.

Asha Iyer Kumar is a Dubai-based author, children's writing coach and youth motivational speaker. - Khaleej Times



Covid Pandemic Caused Prolonged Decline In Global Life Expectancy

Press Trust Of India

Covid-19 has caused a prolonged decline in life expectancy levels, leading to global mortality changes unprecedented in the last 70 years, according to a study.

The researchers from the University of Oxford, UK, and Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Germany used data from 29 countries in Europe, as well as Chile and the US.

The study, published on Monday in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*, found that life expectancy in 2021 remained lower than expected across all 29 countries, had pre-pandemic trends continued.

Previous global epidemics have seen fairly rapid "bounce backs" to life expectancy levels, the researchers said.

However, the scale and magnitude of Covid-19, on mortality, confounds claims it has had no more impact than a flu-like illness, they said.

The researchers noted that life expectancy losses during recurring flu epidemics over the second-half of the 20th century have been much smaller and less widespread than those seen in the pandemic.

A clear geographical divide appeared in 2021. The researchers found most countries in Western Europe experienced life expectancy bounce backs from the sharp losses in 2020.

Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and France saw complete bounce backs, returning to pre-pandemic life expectancy levels. While England and Wales

saw partial bounce backs from 2020 levels in 2021.

Life expectancy in Scotland and Northern Ireland, however, remained at the same depressed level as 2020.

However, Eastern Europe and the US witnessed worsening or compounded losses in life expectancy over the same period.

The scale of life expectancy losses during the Covid-19 pandemic in Eastern Europe were similar to those last seen at the break-up of the Soviet Union, according to the researchers.

This East-West divide in life expectancy during Covid-19 generally reflects bigger losses in countries which had lower pre-pandemic life expectancy levels, they said. Bulgaria was the worst-hit of the countries studied, with a decline in life expectancy of nearly 43 months, over two years of the pandemic.

"Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia suffered substantially higher life expectancy deficits in 2021 compared to 2020, indicating a worsening mortality burden over the course of the pandemic," the authors of the study said.

In addition to pre-pandemic life expectancy, there appeared to be a vaccination effect which followed the same East-West divide in Europe. Countries with higher proportions of fully vaccinated people experienced smaller life expectancy deficits.

Older ages, especially those over 80 who had seen the bulk of deaths in 2020, benefitted from vaccine protection and a decline in excess mortal-

A notable shift between 2020 and 2021 was that the age patterns of excess mortality shifted in 2021 towards younger age groups, as vaccines began to protect the old

ity in 2021.

"A notable shift between 2020 and 2021 was that the age patterns of excess mortality shifted in 2021 towards younger age groups, as vaccines began to protect the old," said Ridhi Kashyap, a study co-author from Oxford.

However, there were "outliers," which had surprisingly high life expectancy losses, in spite of high vaccination rates.

"Finer-grained details of the age prioritization of vaccine roll-out and the types of vaccines used may account for some of these differences, as well as correlations between vaccine uptake and compliance with non-pharmaceutical interventions or the overall health care system capacity," said Jonas Scholey, study co-author from the Max Planck Institute.

"Countries, such as Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium and France, managed a recovery to pre-pandemic levels of life expectancy because they managed to protect both the old and the young," Scholey said.

The research team voices concern, however, about the possible wider international impact of the pandemic.

"In 2020, losses in life expectancy suffered in Brazil and Mexico exceeded those experienced in the US, so it is likely these countries may have continued suffering mortality impacts in 2021 -- even potentially exceeding the 43 months we estimated for Bulgaria," said study co-author, Jose Manuel Aburto.

Arthritis On The Rise Among Women Post Covid, Say Experts

IANS

The prevalence of auto-immune diseases, such as arthritis, which are more common in females with a female-to-male ratio ranging from 10:1 to 1:1, has increased manifold over the past decade, and the Covid pandemic has exacerbated the issue, says a medical expert.

"Around 15-20 per cent of the Indian population suffer from rheumatic musculoskeletal disorders. Majority of these involve multiple organs and develop the co-morbidities and resultantly their life span is reduced," Dr Uma Kumar, Professor and Head of Department, Rheumatology, at All India Institute of Medical Sciences here, said.

Talking to IANS, Dr Kumar said that the Covid pandemic has unmasked various inflammatory diseases. "We have observed in the post-Covid era that auto-immune diseases like pain in joints, stiffness of body, incursion of muscle have increased along with other rheumatic disorder," she said, adding that that though they were prevalent earlier also, the pandemic has increased the chance.

World Arthritis Day is observed to raise awareness of this critical medical illness every year in October. This year its theme "It's in your hand, take action" aims to take the essential steps that can enhance the quality of life for individuals with arthritis.

Dr Kumar said: "As a result of the genetic makeup, the condition is more prevalent among women. They have XX sex chromosomes, while men have XY sex chromosomes. The X chromosome impacts a greater number of immune-related genes as well as the immune regulatory genes, which aids and induces immunological responses in the body.

"Female hormones, such as progesterone and oestrogen, also participate in giving wom-

en immunity. The larger number of genes originating from the X chromosome creates a far greater possibility of a larger number of mutations occurring that places women at a greater risk of developing autoimmune diseases due to women having two X chromosomes." Activities such as walking, jogging, running and cycling along with control of weight can help in fighting and preventing arthritis, said Dr Kaushal Kant Mishra, Director Bone and Joint Institute, Fortis Escort, adding that more than a disease, it is an aging process.

"Till date there is no direct role of Covid-19 with arthritis but due to lockdown, activity and mobility was largely restricted which have aggregated the symptoms of osteoarthritis. It is only rheumatoid arthritis which commonly starts before 40 years and leads to multiple deformity at multiple joints that needs early and long-term treatment," he said. However, he also said that all joint pains are not arthritis.



Around 15-20 percent of the Indian population suffer from rheumatic musculoskeletal disorders. Majority of these involve multiple organs and develop the co-morbidities and resultantly their life span is reduced



SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

SEALING ORDER

Subject:- Sealing of structure/ building at Batmaloo Moominabad Srinagar under rule 2.11 of the J&K Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021.

Whereas, the Competent Authority has granted a building permission vide order No. 3523 of 2018, dated:- 19-12-2018 for construction of two number of residential house as below:

- Construction of double storeyed with attic semi-detached residential house at mark (a) and
- Construction of double storeyed with attic residential house at mark (b) and erection of compound walling on the land comprising Khasra No. 668/680 Min.

Whereas, the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B Circle Srinagar/ Budgam) vide No. SE/PS/2834-36, dated:- 17-05-2022 has forwarded a representation of inhabitants of Main Chowk Moominabad Lane No. 1A Sgr to this office for taking further necessary action which has been forwarded to Enforcement Officer South & Ward Officer Ward No. 28 for taking appropriate action and submission of action taken report;

Whereas, vide No. SMC/W-28/193-195, dated:- 03-06-2022, the Ward Officer concerned has reported that commercial activity is going on in the said area and heavy vehicular movement are causing much inconvenience to the inhabitants of the said area;

Whereas, a detailed and cohesive report has been prepared by Assistant Town Planner (U) forwarded by Joint Commissioner (Planning) vide No. SMC/PS/JCP/2038, dated: 20-08-2022, wherein it has been clearly reported that the permittee/ offender has totally violated the sanctioned plan/ building permission by raising of huge commercial building with shops instead of residential house and has clubbed these two residential houses (instead of semi-detached);

Whereas, the Enforcement Officer (South) SMC vide No. SMC/Enf/S/2961-62, dated:- 22-08-2022 has reported that on spot it has been found that four storeyed building without slab on 4th floor and converted residential into commercial purpose is presently functional and has recommended for sealing;

Whereas, a showcause notice for sealing of structure/ building in question under rule 2.12 of the J&K Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021 has been served upon the offender/ permittee vide No. SMC/Enf/12027-32, dated:- 09-09-2022 asking him to showcause within 7 days from the date of issuance of notice as to why the impugned structure/ building in question shall not be sealed in accordance with law;

Whereas, the offender has failed to submit the reply to the showcause notice which clearly indicates that the offender has nothing to say in his defence;

Whereas, the construction is unauthorized and is thus unauthorized development under rule 2.11 of J&K Unified Building Byelaws 2021 and thus the suitable action as warranted under law is required to be taken;

Whereas, the offender has violated the laws in force and master plan norms which entails an action of sealing of the said structure/ building under rule 2.11 of the J&K Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021;

Now, therefore, in view of the above and relevant provisions of law, the structure/ building in question is hereby sealed under rule 2.11 of the J&K Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2021. The structure in question is put under the Superdari with the Station House Officer Police Station Batmaloo and Ward Officer, Ward No. 28, SMC.

DIPK-NB-4508/22

No.SMC/Enf/14589-99.
Dated:-19/10/2022.

Sd/-
Commissioner,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

E-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Change of name in the Registration Certificate of Houseboat "Young Balmoral Castle" category (A) moored in Dal Lake.

Public Notice

Whereas, an application has been received from Kashmir House Boat Owners Association for transfer of registration of above mentioned Houseboat in favour of Mr. Mohammad Shafi Guroo S/o Lt. Abdul Rehman Guroo R/o Abi Karpura Dal Lake, Srinagar under the provisions of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act/Rules 1978/82/2011.

Whereas said houseboat is registered with this Department vide No. Reg/227/2CS/447/CT/3/L-1 dated 04/05/1982 with moose No.216, renewed upto 31/03/2016 in the name of Ab Rehman Guroo S/o Gh. Ahmad Guroo R/o Dal Lake, Srinagar who has expired as per death certificate submitted by the applicant;

Whereas, Mr. Mohammad Shafi Guroo S/o Lt. Abdul Rehman Guroo R/o Abi Karpura Dal Lake, Srinagar who is the son of the deceased has submitted the documents for change of Registration certificate of above mentioned houseboat in his favour i.e., NOC of KHBOA/ Bank, State subject, Irrevocable General Power of Attorney (Sub-Registrar), legal Heir Certificate, Pan Card, Character Certificate, Id proof, Death Certificate, copy of registration certificate and affidavit.

Whereas, Change in the registration certificate for the HB is purely for the purpose of running operation management of the said HB and does not confer any right of ownership of the HB.

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011 before the request of applicant for change in registration certificate in his favour is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/ Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations, etc. that incase of any objection, the same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. Objections received beyond period of 7 days will not be entertained and necessary change will be effected in the registration records of this office in respect of the above mentioned houseboat under rules after submission of all documents/as per merits.

No: Reg/Aey/92/Dal Lake/DTK/656
Dated: 19/10/2022

IPK-11983/22

Sd/-
Deputy Director Tourism
Registration Kashmir

Dulloo For Better Service Delivery At All FPSs Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To get a firsthand experience of the functioning of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs), Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo and Commissioner Secretary, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Zubair Ahmad visited a Fair Price Shop at Sanatnagar here on Wednesday.

During the visit the senior officers checked the FPSs for con-

confidence to the beneficiaries. This initiative has been undertaken with a holistic vision to incorporate all the aspects of Public Distribution System.

To bring in transparency and efficiency in the allocation and distribution of food grains the Department has already automated the FPSs by installing e-POS devices, accelerated Aadhar seeding and put in place many more reforms to enhance beneficiary experience. The Department has also enhanced its ef-



formity of norms by the dealers meant for delivery of food grains, under Public Distribution System (PDS).

The visit was in compliance to the directions of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Department of Food and Public Distribution, GoI, and as a part of the celebrations of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", under which an initiative has been undertaken to visit around 5000 FPSs across the country by senior officers to significantly enhance the visibility of FPSs, and to boost the morale of the officials/FPS owners as well as provide

forts to improve the profitability of FPSs, ensure their viability by offering more services and make some other interventions also.

During the visit, the ACS observed that departments of the Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare and FCS&CA need to explore the possibility of convergence of certain services provided by the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department in rural areas, so as to have such services delivered through FPSs. The ACS also inspected the quality of food grains at the FPSs.

One Nation, One Fertilizer Plan To Badly Squeeze Margins: Crisil Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The new fertilizer policy is going to adversely squeeze the margins of the manufacturers, warns a report.

The government announced the 'one nation, one fertiliser' scheme recently, under which all subsidised fertilisers will now be sold under the 'Bharat' brand across the country.

With this, the government intends to reduce the criss-cross movement of fertilisers (urea, di-ammonium phosphate, and potash have fixed nutrient content as specified under the fertiliser control order and which does not change with brands) that will eventually help reduce freight subsidy bills and improve the availability.

While the policy will have all-round impact, including on farmers, distributors, manufacturers and the government itself, the maximum impact will be on the margins of the manufacturers, Crisil said in a note on Wednesday.

The agency's interactions with farmers across suggest they prefer certain brands, but overall, their brand loyalty is weak. In contrast, farmers don't switch



brands easily when it comes to pesticides and seeds. In case of fertilisers, farmers quickly go for alternatives if their preferred brand is not available on time.

Distributors, while acknowledging low brand loyalty, say certain fertiliser brands have built very strong trust with farmers, so implementation of the new scheme may be a challenge initially.

For manufacturers, the scheme is likely to adversely impact margins. They'll have to build strong marketing and promotional strategies to maintain their share and grow, which will add to selling expenses and thus impact margins.

Additionally, industry interactions suggest that basic fertiliser brands have been used as umbrella brands to push forward premium and specialty fertilisers to farmers, says the report.

CS CHAIRS 8TH UT-LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE MEETING

Directs Banks To Saturate Self-Employment In J&K By End Of November



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Government is committed to bring down the unemployment in J&K and the financial sector needs to put in place an actionable mechanism to saturate the self-employment in J&K by the end of November 2022. This was stated by the Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta while chairing the 8th Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee meeting in Srinagar to review achievements of banks and financial institutions operating in Jammu and Kashmir for the half year ended September 2022.

He said banks now need to move towards sustainable, equitable and outcome based banking for sustained gains.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, Prashant Goyal, MD& CEO, J&K Bank (Convenor J&K UTLBC) Baldev Prakash, Administrative Secretaries of various Departments, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Dr. A. K. Sood and other senior functionaries of the Government, RBI, NABARD, Banks, line departments, insurance companies were also present on the occasion. Joint Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Gol Pankaj Sharma, District Development Commissioners of all districts of J&K and Lead District Managers joined the meeting virtually.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Secretary, Dr Mehta stated that employment generation is the major challenge of the Gov-

ernment and it is the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to address the issue.

"Banks need to come forward and provide financial assistance to the unemployed youth for achieving the gainful employment. We need to show empathy towards the unemployed youth in guiding them towards the path of prosperity and self-sufficiency through various credit facilities tailored in accordance to their entrepreneurial aspirations. We have to create an environment where youth have to think beyond Government jobs and strengthen avenues to self-employment," he said.

Earlier in his welcome address MD & CEO J&K Bank (Convenor J&K UTLBC) Baldev Prakash assured J&K Government that banks operating in J&K will extend all possible support for implementing the programmes and schemes aimed at entrepreneurial development, employment generation and poverty alleviation in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

While appreciating banks for 100% coverage of the unbanked villages by opening of banking touch points under National Strategy for Financial Inclusion Programme, Dr Mehta impressed upon the banks to cover remaining one village under roadmap of opening banking outlets in villages having population over 5000 expeditiously. He directed banks to expedite the roll out of brick and mortar branches in 10 identified villages with population over 3000.

The Chief Secretary reiter-

ated his earlier direction to IT department, J&K Government to come up with a single portal for all employment generation schemes integrating all departments and banks in J&K.

Financial literacy in real terms, he said, was bringing more people under the ambit of banking. "Banks should work in tandem with education department to make sure all school going children have bank account which is real measure of success of financial literacy and financial inclusion."

Dr Mehta impressed upon the Banks to take advantage of the B2V4 programme commencing from October 27, 2022 for disseminating the information on various products/schemes to the grass root level and identifying the prospective aspirants.

Dr Mehta said that farmers' views need to be considered in the fixation of scale of finance in the agri and allied sectors.

He urged for upsurge in credit off take under Mission Youth saying, "I am of the belief that Mission Youth Schemes are the most attractive schemes and more youth need to be covered under the scheme." He said self employment schemes need to be targeted in a focussed manner on SC/ST/OBC sections of the society for inclusive growth.

While hailing J&K's performance under PM SVANidhi, he said "J&K performance is amongst the best in the country and Banks would need to expedite disbursement of 2nd instalment under PM SVANidhi to the eligible beneficiaries in a time bound manner."

RBI Rate Hikes To Contain Price Rise; Inflation To Fall Below 6% Next Year

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Ashima Goyal on Wednesday said that the efforts of the Reserve Bank to contain price rise by repeatedly increasing interest rates will help in containing inflation, which is likely to fall below 6 per cent next year.

Goyal further said that the policy rate hikes have largely reversed pandemic-time cuts but the real rate remains low enough not to hurt the growth recovery.

"With a lag of two-three quarters, higher real rates will reduce demand in the economy."

"International commodity prices are softening with the global slowdown and supply chain bottlenecks have reduced," she told PTI in a telephonic interview.

In order to control rising inflation, the RBI on September 30, raised the short-term lending rate for the third consecutive time by 50 bps to take the repo rate to 5.9 per cent. Since May it has cumulatively increased the key interest rate by 190 basis points.

"The Indian government is also taking action to reduce supply-side inflation. Current projections show inflation falling below 6 per cent next year," Goyal said.

The central bank is mandated to keep inflation at 4 per cent with a 2 per cent margin on either side.

According to Goyal, a mildly positive real interest rate can



act to reduce inflation, with supportive supply-side action, while imposing minimal growth sacrifice.

She noted that today the forward-looking real interest rate is positive and such a rapid response in an inflation targeting regime to inflation exceeding tolerance bands, helps anchor inflation expectations.

India's consumer price index (CPI) based inflation in September rose to a five-month high of 7.41 per cent, remaining well above the upper tolerance level of RBI's inflation targeting framework for the ninth consecutive month.

Replying to a question on the Indian rupee touching a historic low, Goyal pointed out that a more depreciated rupee makes imports more expensive and hurts those who have borrowed abroad but may raise returns for some exporters.

While observing that lower imports and higher exports can help reduce the current account deficit, she said the dollar is strengthening against all currencies as rising Fed rates attract funds back to the US.

'India's Domestic Passenger Volume Rose 47% To 10 Mn In September'



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Domestic air passenger volume grew 46.54 per cent to 10.35 million in September over the same period last year, according to data released by aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday.

Indian domestic carriers (excluding newly launched Akasa Air) had flown a total of 7.06 million passengers on the local routes, the data showed.

Akasa Air commenced its flight services on domestic routes from August 7 this year.

The average passenger load factor of these carriers stood at 77.5 per cent against 72.5 per cent PLF delivered in August 2022, the DGCA data show.

PLF is an airline metric that measures how much of an airline's passenger carrying capac-

ity is used.

In terms of market share, leading carrier IndiGo cornered 57 per cent of the total domestic traffic pie, carrying 59.72 lakh passengers across its domestic network followed by full service carrier Vistara, which flew 9.96 lakh passengers with 9.6 per cent market share. The combined market share of Vistara, Air India and AirAsia India stood at 24.7 per cent in September.

Besides, Vistara also had the best on-time performance with 91 per cent of its flights arriving and departing from four key airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru -- on time.

In Vistara, Tata Group holds 51 per cent while in AirAsia India, it has 83.67 per cent holding.

Moreover, Tata Group regained the control of Air India on January 27 this year following its privatisation.

Rupee Plunges By 61 Paise To Dip Below 83 Mark For First Time

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The rupee plunged 61 paise to decline below the 83-mark for the first time against the US dollar on Wednesday amid unabated foreign capital outflows and a strong dollar in the overseas markets.

Besides, rising crude prices in the international markets and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local currency, traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened strong at 82.32 but later pared gains to settle



at an all-time low of 83.01 (provisional) against the American currency, down 61 paise over its previous close. In the previous session on Tuesday, the rupee slipped 10 paise to end at 82.40 against the dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six

currencies, advanced 0.31 per cent to 112.48.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.82 per cent to USD 90.77 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained 146.59 points or 0.25 per cent to end at 59,107.19, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 25.30 points or 0.14 per cent to 17,512.25.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 153.40 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

SHORT TAKES

J&K Agro Adds 550 MT Cold Storage Facility

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo Wednesday inaugurated 550 metric ton (MT) capacity Cold Storage facility at Agri Complex Lal Mandi here.

The 550 MT capacity cold storage facility would house perishable items and veggies for preservation at nominal charges to fetch marginal farmers' attractive prices for their produce. On the occasion, Dulloo took the round of the facility and enquired about the capacity, charges and storing of produce, regulation of temperature of chambers, etc.

Managing Director J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd (JK Agro), Arun Kumar Manhas informed the ACS that the facility has been constructed by J&K Agro under PMDP and was outsourced to the highest bidder through the tendering process on rental charges. MD said that the cold storage facility would aid farmers to preserve their perishable produce and prevent wastage and losses of their produce.

He said the facility has been outsourced to Kanwal Foods & Spices Pvt Ltd. Speaking at the inauguration, Dulloo said that as J&K is in need of a more cold storage facility for which the government is taking several steps to increase the capacity in cold storage.

Training Prog On Commercial Floriculture Inaugurated

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Wednesday visited Budgam and inaugurated an awareness cum training programme on Commercial Floriculture for growers and entrepreneurs at Kanira Park in Chadoora block.

The programme was organised by District Floriculture Office under ongoing Jan Abhiyan (B2V4) programme in the district. Among others, Director Floriculture, Farooq Ahmad Rather, Deputy Director, Shahid Rasool, District Floriculture Officer, Mazhar Mustafa and other officers were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary deliberated upon various schemes including MIDH, RKVY and ATMA. He urged upon the unemployed youth and aspiring entrepreneurs to register themselves under these schemes to start their own business in aromatic plant cultivation, cut flower and ornamental nursery for their as well as others employment and revenue generation.

He impressed upon the officers to carry out intensive training, exposure and awareness across the district to reach out to maximum number of growers attracting them towards highly profitable cultivation including lavender, Bulgarian and Kashmiri rose farming.

GST Council To Meet Before Mid-November

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The GST Council is likely to meet in the first half of November to discuss the reports of the panel of ministers on setting up GST appellate tribunal and levy of tax casinos and online gaming, an official said.

In addition, the status on the much awaited full report of the committee tasked with rationalisation of GST rates may also come up for discussion at the 48th Council meeting in Madurai.

Even if the report, which is to look at merger in GST slab that may result in prices of some goods and services going up, is presented, it is unlikely to be acted upon by the GST Council in view of high inflation.

The GoM on rate rationalisation set up on September 24, 2021 was originally due to submit its report within two months or November 2021. The panel has got subsequent extensions since then. The Council, in its last meeting in June, had given the GoM time till September to submit a full report.

The official said that the GoM on GST appellate tribunal has already submitted its report, while the differences with respect to GST on casinos and online gaming are still being ironed out.

Adani Says Committed To Open Offer For NDTV

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Adani Group, which missed the date for the launch of an open offer to buy an additional 26 per cent stake in NDTV, on Wednesday said it is committed to completing the process and has asked SEBI to provide comments on its draft open offer letter.

The conglomerate, run by India's richest man Gautam Adani, in August acquired a little-known company that lent over Rs 400 crore to NDTV's founders more than a decade ago in exchange for warrants that allowed the company to acquire a stake of 29.18 per cent in the news group at any time.

Post that, Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL) - the firm that Adani group bought out - announced that it would on October 17 launch an open offer to buy an additional 26 per cent stake from minority shareholders of NDTV.

In a stock exchange filing, Adani Enterprises Ltd said VCPL has urged SEBI "to provide its observations on the Draft Letter of Offer filed in relation to the Open Offer, in accordance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations." VCPL along with AMG Media Networks and Adani Enterprises Ltd had proposed to acquire an additional 26 per cent or 1.67 crore equity shares at an offer price of Rs 294 per share.

Jewellers Cautiously Optimistic This Dhanteras

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: With Dhanteras around the corner, the jewellery industry is cautiously optimistic about the demand, mainly due to the exceptionally high base last year, inflation worries and the rising cost of living overall.

The industry is cautious despite benign gold prices, which are ruling at around Rs 47,000-49,000 per 10 grams, and despite consumer sentiment being positive.

After the first wave of the pandemic, revenge purchases along with postponed weddings boosted demand, resulting in an exceptionally good Dhanteras in 2021, with sales crossing even the pre-pandemic levels. Dhanteras, which marks the first day of Diwali in India, is considered an auspicious day to buy gold and silver as part of Hindu festivities.

"The demand for jewellery during Dhanteras is likely to be at par with last year as 2021 was an exceptional year for the industry when the country slowly inched towards normalcy after the pandemic."

"Postponed weddings and revenge purchases last year boosted demand with sales crossing the pre-pandemic levels," All India Gem And Jewellery Domestic Council chairman Ashish Pethe said.

MoS Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh Visits Rajouri

'434 Villages Of J&K Have Been Covered

Under 'Adi Adarsh Gram Vikas Yojana'

Observer News Service

Rajouri: As a part of special public outreach initiative to J&K UT, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Singh on Wednesday said that Government has launched multiple initiatives for the welfare of tribal community which is evident from the fact that 434 villages of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir have been covered under PM 'Adi Adarsh Gram Vikas Yojana'.

During her address, the Minister highlighted the significance of the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission, saying that providing tap water connections to all the households of the country is the priority of the Govt. and persistent efforts are being

made in this connection.

Stating that the Central Govt has taken a number of measures for the all round development of the J&K UT, the Minister said that inclusive, holistic and substantial development of the Jammu and Kashmir UT is the major goal of the Union Govt. and much emphasis is being laid on every sector to take the UT to newer heights and new levels of prosperity.

The Minister said, the objective of the visit is to disseminate the information about the importance of the government policies with regard to the overall development of J&K and its people along with steps taken in this direction.

Reiterating the Centre's commitment, its strong resolve and special concern for the overall development of J&K UT, she said that numerous



Mann's Protest Over Denial Of Entry Into J&K Enters 3rd Day



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Shiromani Akali Dal (A) chief Simranjit Singh Mann's protest at Lakhanpur -- the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab -- after being denied entry into the Union Territory entered the third day on Wednesday.

Mann, a Member of Parliament from Sangrur in Punjab, was stopped on the orders of Kathua District Magistrate Rahul Pandey, leading to protests by the politician and his supporters since Monday evening.

He spent a second night in his vehicle on the road at Lakhanpur, SAD(A) officials said.

Supporters from Jammu, Kathua and Punjab continued to throng the protest site and

raised slogans against the BJP and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the officials said.

Mann is in the process of approaching courts in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, they added.

Pandey and Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) RC Kotwal visited the protest site again on Tuesday night and requested Mann to return to Punjab, the party officials said.

Pandey, in his order issued under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), had said Mann's was scheduled entry into Jammu and Kashmir was likely to cause "disturbance in public tranquility".

"Therefore, I, in exercise of the powers vested in me under Section 144 CrPC do hereby prohibit Mann from entering the

jurisdiction of Kathua," Pandey had said.

Criticising the administration's decision, Mann had earlier said, "I am a Sikh and that is why BJP and the RSS did not allow my entry into Jammu and Kashmir."

"There is no legislature in Jammu and Kashmir, which is under military rule. There is no democracy. I have come to visit the people of Kashmir to see for myself what is happening (post abrogation of Article 370). I want to highlight the real picture to the outside world," he had told reporters.

The administration has beefed up security at Lakhanpur and additional deployments have been made as a precautionary measure to enforce the prohibitory orders and maintain law and order, officials said.

KIIT-TBI Identified By MoD To Nurture Defence Start-Ups



Observer News Service

Bhubaneswar: The KIIT Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI) has been identified as one of the five incubation partners by the Ministry of Defence to build the capacity of Defence related start-ups and mentor them towards scale.

This is one of the major achievements of KIIT-Deemed-to-be-University in its quest for joining the Government-led initiative in creating robust research and start-up-based ecosystem in the country.

The KIIT-TBI will be a major partner for the innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) program, the announcement of which was made during the DefExpo 22 at Ahmedabad on October 18.

The announcement was made in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of the Defence staff, Department of military affairs General Anil Chauhan,

Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pandey, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R H Kumar, Chief of Air Staff Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Additional Secretary, Defence Production Sanjay Jaju.

During the event, an agreement was exchanged between KIIT-TBI, represented by Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO of KIIT-TBI and the iDEX, Defence Innovation Organisation, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

Founder of KIIT & KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta congratulated Dr Suar for this achievement of KIIT-TBI and said the recognition was a testament to KIIT's sustained focus on developing and supporting ideas that contribute to the socio-economic growth of the nation and creating opportunities.

This is an important recognition to work for the Indian Defence innovation ecosystem said Dr Suar in his reaction.

SDM Kangan convenes introductory meetings with DDCs from Kangan and Gund blocks

AGENCEIS

Kangan: The Sub divisional Magistrate Kangan Javid Ahmad Rather today chaired an introductory meeting with the DDC members and Chairmen of BDC Kangan and Gund blocks. BDO Kangan Arif Ahmad sheikh was also present during the meeting. The members and chairmen accorded warm welcome to SDM and assured full support for overall development and welfare of the people. On the occasion



the members and chairmen apprised the SDM about the various issues of their areas particularly completion of ongoing works before onset of winter, availability of night doctors at various health centres, the issues of electricity, transformers and drinking water during winters, sanitation and beautification of Kangan market, upgradation infrastructure of some high schools and other issues.

The SDM assured that their issues will be taken up with concerned

departments for the redressal with in the frame work of rules.

The SDM assured the members of full support and cooperation in the ambit of law and reiterated the commitment of administration to provide the hassle free, prompt delivery of services and redressal of grievances.

The SDM also shared his vision of the holistic and overall development for Kangan Subdivision with the participants and sought their cooperation.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Lack Of Cold Storage

industrial estate area has six, one at Anantnag, two at Rangreth Srinagar and three in north Kashmir.

Last year, J&K administration had said that they're coming up with three cold storage clusters with an investment of Rs 500 crore. This included 15 cold storages in the industrial estate of Aglar Fruit Mandi in Shopian.

But while sharing these observations on cold storages and ripening chambers, the report also shared certain facts about the state of affairs in J&K's industries and Commerce sector.

According to the data shared in the survey titled, 'LEADS 2022, Logistics Ease Across Different States', J&K was ranked among the "achievers" category within the UT cluster. The states and Union Territory have been ranked in three different categories - Achievers, Fast Movers and Aspirers - for this year's ranking.

The data revealed that the UT has scored above average across indicators related to quality of Infrastructure including Road, Rail, Terminal and Warehouse. Besides that, the data also noted that the UT has scored above average across all indicators related to Reliability of Logistics Services.

Among the UTs, in the 'Quality of overall logistics services', Chandigarh, Puducherry and Delhi lead in the category. However, J&K has been placed in the 'Fast movers' category alongside Daman & Diu/ Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Andaman & Nicobar.

"Reasonableness of Road freight rates and Prices of terminal services is perceived to be a challenge as is seen across the cluster. J&K has been rated below average on all indicators related to Operating and Regulatory Environment," the survey observed.

The survey has also said that there's a shortage of skilled labour in J&K. "... as per Industrial policy, to avail industries benefits 75% staff should be local, however local people are not skilled which hampers the trade," the report said.

According to the survey, currently there are no driver training schools to train the drivers for hilly terrains in J&K.

"Walnut kernels and Saffron strands are sent to Delhi from Srinagar by air for Exports, thereby increasing the cost of logistics," reads the survey, adding that the theft/ pilferage of commodities is a matter of concern.

However, while pointing towards the higher transportation costs, the survey said that due to truck unions at Kathua, transportation rates are high. "Entry tax is levied on non-J&K goods vehicles, which increases the transportation cost," the survey observed.

BSF Officer

accessing the question paper before the examination began, it said.

The CBI has also named Avinash Gupta, owner of a coaching centre in Jammu and Kashmir's Akhnoor, and a Bengaluru-based company in the FIR, the officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had cancelled the police sub-inspector recruitment process in July following allegations of irregularities and recommended a CBI probe.

It was alleged that there were irregularities in the written examination held on March 27.

"The results were declared on 04.06.2022. There were allegations regarding malpractice in the examination. The Jammu and Kashmir government had constituted an inquiry committee to look into the same," the CBI had said in a statement following searches on August 5.

"It was alleged that the accused entered into a conspiracy amongst officials of the JKSSB, Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of sub-inspectors," it had said.

The inquiry report showed that there was an "abnormally high percentage" of candidates who were selected from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts, the agency had said.

"Violation of rules by JKSSB was allegedly found in assigning the task of setting question paper to a Bengaluru-based private company," it had said.

SC Raps J&K

that the municipal council has taken remedial action for scientific management of solid waste.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Bandipora, Kashmir against an order of the National Green Tribunal which refused to quash levy of the environmental compensation levied by J-K State Pollution Control Committee.

The pollution control committee

had found that the solid waste was being continuously dumped at Zalwan Nassu site in close proximity of the district headquarter Bandipora and on the catchment of Wullar lake near Zalwan Nallah in a haphazard and unscientific manner by the municipal committee.

Malik Appears

court has now issued the production warrant to the CBI for cross-examining witnesses in the case on October 23.

"Malik appeared through virtual mode. Malik is the main accused among 10 accused in the case," Senior advocate S K Bhat, who appeared on behalf of the prosecution, said. Malik, 56, is serving life sentence in a terror-funding case.

On September 21, the special TADA Court had issued a production warrant to ensure the physical presence of Malik before it on October 19 in the 1990 IAF personnel attack case. However, the Tihar jail informed the court Malik's travel to Jammu was not possible.

"The superintendent of jail number 7 of Tihar jail said in their request to the court that as Malik has been awarded life sentence in the NIA case (terror-funding case), and they have appealed for enhancement of judgement to death sentence in Delhi High Court, they are ordered not to move him outside (Delhi)," he said.

The court accepted the plea and fixed October 23 for his virtual production during the cross-examination of witness V K Sharma, he said.

"On September 21, a special TADA Court had issued production warrants to ensure physical presence of Malik before the court on October 19. Now, he has to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses via virtual mode. Otherwise, his right to cross-examination will be closed," said Bhat.

He said Malik has been given a fair trial and the court offered legal aid but he refused.

The special court in March 2020 framed charges against Malik, who heads the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), and six others for their alleged involvement in the killing of four unarmed IAF personnel, including Squadron Leader Ravi Khanna, on January 25, 1990 at Rawalpindi in Srinagar.

Malik was charged with the CBI before the TADA court in Jammu on

August 31, 1990.

Malik has been arrested in a terror-funding case by the National Investigative Agency (NIA) and is currently lodged in Tihar Jail.

He also faces a case related to the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. He will appear through video conference on Thursday for cross-examination in this case

LG For Better

sectors of the Union Territory," Sinha said.

The Lt Governor advised for expanding collaborations with other stakeholders, especially in the sectors like agriculture and tourism.

"Increased technological input in agriculture is the need of the hour. Universities need to closely work with this sector, facilitate mechanization and undertake value-added tasks for economic connectivity and prosperity of the villages," he said.

The participants in the meeting gave their valuable suggestions on the reforms and necessary interventions required for improving quality of learning and teaching in the Higher Education sector of the UT, an official spokesman said.

He said the meeting held a threadbare discussion on the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 in the Colleges and Universities across J&K UT; improving accountability and responsiveness in the system; encouraging research, innovation, skill development, capacity building, competitiveness; enhancing employability; integrating technology for transforming Education; Multidisciplinary Education, Flexibility and Student Mobility and increasing access through Digital Learning.

Sinha said the aim is to create a global cadre of skilled youth and Colleges, Universities need to make them competitive and also bridge the employable skill gap.

Seeking suggestions from the members of the council for better utilization of the education budget, Sinha said the government will ensure effective implementation of the recommendations of the Council.

The spokesperson said that discussions were also held on the role of higher education in implementation of Gati Shakti, policy formation, vision

2047; conducting teacher-student exchange programmes; mapping & sharing of resources, collaborations and MoUs with International Institutions; adopting best practices; encouraging climate change study; identifying gaps and preparing actions plans accordingly.

The meeting, he said, further discussed encouraging students' participation, especially girls in sports, cultural and other such activities.

According to the spokesperson, Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department presented a detailed overview of the Higher Education sector in the UT, roadmap for institutional accreditations and future readiness of the department.

He informed about the Capacity building, training & mentoring programmes; student feedback & faculty evaluation, growth & development mechanisms; gross enrolment & gender parity ratio; Aadhar-based biometric attendance system for teachers; adoption of e-Samarth in colleges & universities and registration of students with Academic Bank of Credits.

"All eligible colleges will ensure NAAC Accreditation in academic year-2022-23. We are also ensuring that the Uniform Academic Calendar for the UT will be followed in letter and spirit," Kansal added. (With PTI inputs)

'J&K Is The Land

remarks while inaugurating the Kumaon Literary Festival at the Kashmir International Convention Centre here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.

The LG said that the festival brings together celebrated authors, poets, thinkers of the country to celebrate art, culture & literature and provides an opportunity to the people to explore new ideas and perspectives.

"J&K is home to a rich literary tradition, dating back to many millennia and our quest for knowledge continues," he said.

"The nation is witnessing an Economic, Cultural and Scientific Renaissance under the leadership of PM. Our ancient literary culture and values are rich and diverse and always guided us on the path of peace, co-existence and brotherhood," he added.

Terming Culture as a way of life and a mirror that reflects people's aspiration and socio-economic transformation, the LG, as per the spokesperson

said that efforts are being made to involve local artists and people as stakeholders in maintenance and promotion of art, heritage sites etc.

Sinha, he said, recalled the contribution of famous writers and thinkers from Jammu Kashmir and said the cultural ethos of our great Nation is deeply connected with the Jammu Kashmir UT since time immemorial.

"From storytelling to Classical Indian Music, Jammu Kashmir is the land of various creative mediums," the LG said.

"There are end numbers of revered writers from Jammu Kashmir, who have enriched the cultural history of India. I believe that the past was prosperous and, I am sure that the new generation of writers will take it to greater heights," he added.

The LG, the spokesperson said, also spoke on the efforts to promote local languages including Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri, Dogri, Punjabi. The LG, he said, also asserted that his administration is committed to provide the right platform to harness the potential of talented young writers of Jammu Kashmir, said the Lt Governor.

Referring to the Jammu & Kashmir's Film Policy launched last year, the LG, as per the spokesperson, observed that the policy has facilitated the shooting of films in the picturesque locations across UT and the Bollywood's golden era of 70s-80s is making a comeback.

"The administration has started cinema halls in Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar and efforts are afoot to start cinema halls in every district. Record 1.60 crore tourists had come to Jammu and Kashmir till September this year, which in itself is testament of a vibrant Jammu Kashmir," Sinha said.

The spokesperson said that Dr Bibek Debroy, author, and Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, spoke on the literary, cultural and historical legacy of Kashmir. He also threw light on the Kashmir and the Sharda Peeth connection.

He said that Rahul Rawail, veteran Filmmaker expressed his happiness to witness the glorious days of film making back in Kashmir.

"Asha Batra, co-founder Kumaon Literary Festival, said that we are delighted to organise the Kashmir edition of the Kumaon Literary Festival. She also expressed gratitude to the UT government for its support to the festival," the spokesperson added.



1st Inter College Sports Festival Concludes At GCOPE

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Youth Services and Sports Department's first ever Inter-College Sports Festival which was organised at the Government College of Physical Education (GCOPE) concluded on Wednesday with a closing ceremony at the Sports Stadium of the college here.

The six-day event, which started on 12th October, 2022, saw 27 colleges of Kashmir take part with over 1500 participants competing.

The festival hosted an impressive merger of eight events comprising of Football (Men), Volleyball (Men & Women), Basketball (Men & Women), Kho-Kho (Men & Women) and Table-Tennis (Women) under the theme "Creating a Healthy Community Through Sports".

Clinching the title of the best overall performer, GCOPE bagged four trophies in Volleyball (Women), Table-Tennis (Women) and Kho-Kho (Men & Women).

In Football (men) GDC Baramulla were victorious. In Volleyball (Men), GDC Ganderbal were declared winners. In Basketball (Women), WC MA Road were the

champions.

In Football (Men), GDC Baramulla got 1st, Amar Singh College got 2nd and GDC Pattan got 3rd positions. In Volleyball (Men), GDC Ganderbal got 1st, GDC Baramulla got 2nd and GCOPE got 3rd positions. In Volleyball (Women), GCOPE, Women's College MA Road Srinagar and GDC Zukura got 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

In Basketball (Women), Women's College MA Road got 1st, GCOPE got 2nd and Women's College Nawakadal got 3rd positions. In Kho-Kho (Men) GCOPE clinched 1st, GDC Baramulla 2nd and GDC Ganderbal 3rd position.

In Kho-Kho (Women) GCOPE got 1st, Women's College MA Road got 2nd and GDC Ganderbal 3rd positions. In Table-Tennis (Women) GCOPE got 1st, Women's College Baramulla got 2nd and GCET Ganderbal got 3rd position.

Subhash Chibber, Director Youth Services & Sports, Shyamir Singh, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Bashir Ahmed, Joint Director (Kashmir) YSS, Dr Hartej Singh Principal GCOPE, Shafiqat Ahmed DYSSO Ganderbal distributed the trophies and cash prizes among the winners.

Pakistan To Pull Out Of 2023 WC In India If Asia Cup Shifts



Reuters

ISLAMABAD: Shifting the 2023 Asia Cup out of Pakistan because of India's refusal to tour the country may prompt a similar tit-for-tat reaction from the Pakistan Cricket Board, the PCB said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, secretary of the BCCI Jay Shah, who also heads the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), said India would not travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup and that the tournament itself would be shifted to a neutral venue.

The PCB said Shah's "unilaterally" made statement was

issued "without any thoughts towards the long-term consequences and implications".

"The overall impact of such statements have the potential to split the Asian and international cricketing communities, and can impact Pakistan's visit to India for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and future ICC events in India in the 2024-2031 cycle," it said in a statement.

The ACC, which runs the Asia Cup, and tournament host PCB were not aware of any discussion regarding the rescheduling of the tournament, the Pakistan board said.

"The PCB has to date not re-

ceived any official communication from the ACC, on the statement of the ACC President," it said.

"As such, the PCB has written to the Asian Cricket Council to convene an emergency meeting of its Board as soon as practically possible, on this important and sensitive matter."

Thanks to their soured political relations, bilateral cricket remains suspended between India and Pakistan who play each other only in multi-team tournaments. The arch-rivals are set to clash in a sold-out T20 World Cup blockbuster in Melbourne on Sunday.

Afridi's Lethal Yorker Sends Afghan Batter To Hospital



Reuters

BRISBANE: Heavy rain in Brisbane poured cold water on the final batches of warm-up matches ahead of the T20 World Cup but a fit Shahjean Afridi's trademark arms-aloft celebration lifted spirits in the Pakistan camp, on Wednesday.

The India vs New Zealand and South Africa v Bangladesh matches slated for the afternoon, were abandoned without a ball being bowled but 2009 champions Pakistan would be happy even if rain halted their victory charge against Afghanistan earlier in the day.

Afridi, returning from a knee injury, sent an ominous signal to the batters who have converged in Australia bowling four overs at full tilt to claim two wickets

for 29 runs.

The left-arm speedster removed both the Afghan openers in his first two overs and the danger he poses was best illustrated when he trapped Rahmanullah Gurbaz lbw with a searing toe-crushing yorker.

Gurbaz was carried off on the back of a teammate and was later sent to the hospital for a scan. Afridi had bowled two overs in the warm-up match against England but completed his full quota against Afghanistan who managed 154-6. Afghan captain Mohammad Nabi made 51 not out and Ibrahim Zadran scored 35.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam and his deputy Mohammad Rizwan were looking to get some batting practice but were forced off the ground as the rain stopped play in the third over.

Super League Gets New CEO To Revive Plan



Agencies

GENEVA: The Super League project that aims to revolutionise European football has hired a new top executive to steer a revived plan after a failed launch last year.

German former television boss Bernd Reichart is the new CEO of A22 Sports Management, the Madrid-based company said Wednesday. The company worked with 12 elite clubs from Spain, England and Italy to create a breakaway league in April 2021.

Reichart's hiring comes as A22 and Super League holdouts Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus await a European Court of Justice ruling in their challenge to the alleged monopoly control they say Champions League organizer UEFA has over international competitions.

A revamped Super League plan — likely involving more clubs from more countries in a multi-

tier competition with promotion and relegation — is expected regardless of the Luxembourg court's final ruling next year.

The "Super League" brand that proved so toxic last year would likely also change, Reichart said Wednesday in an interview with reporters from German news agency DPA.

"The name Super League is not set," Reichart said.

His role was described by A22 as "to initiate an active and extended dialogue with a comprehensive group of football stakeholders including clubs, players, coaches, fans, media and policy makers."

The Super League was first planned as a 20-team breakaway with 15 founding members given protected places and guaranteed extra income. The top Champions League teams currently earn up to about 130 million euros (\$127 million) per season in prize money from UEFA. (AP)

AJKMF Mountaineers Scale Tatakooti Peak



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An eight-member group of All Jammu Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation (AJKMF) in a joint expedition with Hike The Trails Adventure Pvt. Ltd and The North Col successfully scaled the technically difficult peak of Kashmir, Tatakooti Peak in PirPanjal Range.

To conquer the highly technical peak, the group was led by Everest Mohammod Iqbal Khan and included Danish Dhaar (AMC), Waseem Hassan (AMC), Inayat Ullah Bhat (AMC), Faizan Shafi (AMC), Arun Diti (AMC), Amir Lateef (BMC) and Muazam Ahsan (BMC).

"On Day 1 team reached Dumail via Ashtar Valley and stayed overnight here and on Day 2 team left for the summit at 5:10

a.m. Amid recent snowfall the team facing all the odds and with never giving up attitude team at 11:30 am on October 16, successfully scaled the Tatakooti Peak with an elevation of 4760 meters," an AJKMF statement said.

"After spending almost an hour on the summit Team safely descended back to base camp at 3:42 pm after facing snow storm," the statement added.

The Managing Director of AJKMF thanked Everest Mohammod Iqbal Khan who has climbed all major peaks of Kashmir and Tourism Department for their support.

Tatakooti or Tatakuti Peak is a highest mountain in the Pirpanjal Range with a peak elevation of 4,760 metres. It stands on the border of Budgam and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir's Wheelchair Bound Hoopster Will Play For India Again

Agencies

Ishrat Akhtar, Kashmir's first international wheelchair basketball player, has been selected to represent India once again by the Wheelchair Basketball Federation of India after a recent camp.

Ishrat hails from North Kashmir's Baramulla district and is also a motivational speaker. The player has accepted physical weakness as a blessing.

She is not only Kashmir's first international wheelchair basketball player but is also a torch for many other people. Even before this, Ishrat has represented the country at the international and national levels.

Ishrat said that on August 24, 2016, she had an accident which broke her spine, leaving her permanently disabled and forcing her to spend her life in a wheelchair.

She said "After this accident,



I had to face many difficulties." But it was her courage and independence that gave her the opportunity to be included among successful people.

"For training, I had to travel from Baramulla to Srinagar every day, due to the lack of infrastructure in Baramulla. I was able to overcome this difficult period only with the full support of my parents. They always encouraged me and never let me lose heart," she added. (ANI)

Rohit Reveals What India Must Do To Win T20 World Cup

Press Trust of India

BRISBANE: India last won a world cup 11 years ago and skipper Rohit Sharma knows his team will have to do a lot of things right to lift the coveted trophy in Australia.

Their last ICC trophy came back in 2013 when they won the Champions Trophy.

"If individuals can keep themselves calm and composed during the game we will get the results that we are looking for. It has been a while since we won the World Cup.

"The motive and thought process is to win the World Cup but we know we need to do a lot of things right to get there. So one step at a time for us and focus on each team we are going to come against and not think about semis or finals," Rohit said in a video posted on bcci.tv.

The 2022 T20 World Cup is Rohit's first ICC event as captain. Virat Kohli had led India in the previous T20 World Cup 12 months ago.

"It is a big honour to captain



the side. my first World Cup as captain so I am excited about it. It is great opportunity to come here and do something special.

"Every time you come for a World Cup it is a great felling. We had a great camp (training) in Perth. We won two series at home recently but Australia will be a different challenge. Conditions

will be challenging but there is a reason why we came here early."

India play their opening game against Pakistan in Melbourne on October 23.

"It is a big game to start with but we are going to keep relaxed and focus on what we need to do as individuals. That is going to be the key for us," he added.

T20 World Cup: West Indies Beat Zimbabwe, Ireland Defeat Scotland

Press Trust of India

HOBART: West Indies kept alive their hopes of reaching the Super 12 of the ICC T20 World Cup with a comfortable 31-run win over Zimbabwe here on Wednesday.

Described as a must-win game by skipper Nicholas Pooran after their shock defeat to Scotland, West Indies posted 153 for seven after opting to bat first at the Bellerive Oval.

The total proved to be enough as the West Indies packed off Zimbabwe for 122 in 18.2 overs, with pacer Alzarri Joseph picking for four wickets for 16 runs in his full quota of four overs.

The seasoned Jason Holder also shone with the ball, taking three wickets for 12 runs in 3.2 overs.

Opener Johnson Charles top-scored for the West Indies with a knock of 45 in 36 balls. Sikandar Raza was the most successful bowler for Zimbabwe, finishing with figures of 3/19 in four overs.

Following the West Indies' victory, Group B has become wide open, with all four teams currently on two points each.



Ireland keep T20WC hopes alive

Curtis Campher struck his maiden half-century after a fine show with the ball to guide Ireland to a six-wicket win over Scotland and keep their T20 World Cup Super 12 stage hopes alive here on Wednesday.

Campher bailed out Ireland from a spot of bother while chasing a challenging 177-run target and took his side home with one over to spare in the

first round Group B match.

The win infused a fresh lease of life to Ireland's T20 World Cup campaign, which had a stuttering start as they lost by 31 runs to Zimbabwe in the opener.

In trouble at 61 for 4 in the 10th over, Campher (72 not out) joined hands with George Dockrell (39 not out) as the duo shared 119 runs for the unbroken fifth-wicket stand to chase down the target comfortably in the end.

Pandas Sent By China Arrive In Qatar Ahead Of WC

Agencies

AL KHOR: A pair of giant pandas sent as a gift from China arrived in Qatar on Wednesday ahead of next month's World Cup.

They will take up residence in an indoor enclosure in the desert nation designed to duplicate conditions in the dense forests of China's mountainous Sichuan province. Eight hundred kilograms (nearly 1,800 pounds) of fresh bamboo will be flown in each week to feed them.

Jing Jing, a 4-year-old male weighing 120 kilograms (265 pounds), has been given the Arabic name Suhail, and 3-year-old female Si Hai, at 70 kilograms (154 pounds), has been given the Arabic name Thuraya.

The pandas will quarantine for at least 21 days before visitors will be allowed to see them.

Qatar is expecting some 1.2 million visitors for the month-long World Cup beginning Nov. 20. The gas-rich Gulf nation will be the first Muslim or Arab country to host the world's biggest sporting event.

Tim Bouts, the director of Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation, said that in addition to providing the perfect indoor climate for the pandas, the enclosure will also shield them from stressful noises while allowing them to interact with visitors.

"There was a lot of thinking which went into this building to make it, I think, the best building for pandas in the world," he said. China's ambassador to Qatar, Zhou Jian, said the two pandas "will live a happy life here and bring more happiness, joy and a love to the people of Qatar and in this world." (AP)



Canadian Citizenship For 300,000 People By March 2023, Indians To Benefit

Agenceis

Ottawa: Canada aims to grant citizenship to 300,000 people in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, a move likely to benefit many Indians.

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) memo recommends that it process a total of 285,000 decisions and 300,000 new citizens by March 31, 2023.

A decision means a review of an application which is then approved, denied, or marked as incomplete. The citizenship target means that 300,000 approved applicants must take the oath of citizenship, which would be either in person or virtually.

IRCC also said that minors under the age of 18 will be eligible to apply for citizenship online by the end of the year.

This is a significant increase over the 2021-2022 fiscal year and even exceeds the pre-pandemic targets of 2019-2020, when 253,000 citizenship applications were processed.

In March 2020, IRCC became

unable to process most applications due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was because the department was only able to process paper applications that were mailed to a central location.

IRCC was unable to conduct interviews with candidates and there could not be any oath swearing at citizenship ceremonies.

So far in the 2022-2023 fiscal, Canada has welcomed 116,000 new citizens and is on track to achieve its target. By comparison, over the same period in 2021, the country had only sworn in 35,000 people.

Though there is no country-wise break-up of the numbers, Indians are the top immigrant group to take up residence in Canada in 2022.

According to the country's 2016 reports, Canada has some 1.4 million people of Indian descent.

In 2021, nearly 100,000 Indians moved to Canada under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and some 130,000 got work permits under the International Mobility Program.

DU Announces First List Of Admissions To Undergraduate Programmes



Agenceis

New Delhi: Delhi University announced on Wednesday the much-awaited first list of seat allocations for admission to undergraduate programmes.

This marks the commencement of the third and last phase of the admission process. The list was initially slotted to be announced on October 18. However, it was deferred to Wednesday.

"The first round of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) of the University

of Delhi has been released today," said DU Dean of Admission Haneet Gandhi.

The list has not been issued in the public domain and the candidate will only be able to see the college and courses allotted to them on their dashboard.

The candidate will have to click on "Accept Allocation" under user action tab.

"On receiving the 'Approval from the College Principal', student will proceed to pay the fee to confirm the admission. The candidate should take a printout of the acknowledgement

receipt," the university said in a statement. The university has advised candidates to ensure that they secure their admission to the seat allocated to them, whenever offered.

"Only candidates who are admitted to a programme in a college will be able to opt for upgradation in subsequent rounds," the statement said.

"Candidates are advised not to be in a haste and, at the same time, not to wait for the deadlines. Sufficient time has been provided for processing the applications," the varsity added.

Bihar Class 7 Paper Refers To Kashmir As Separate Country, Probe Ordered

Agenceis

Patna: Bihar Education Minister Chandra Shekhar Singh on Wednesday assured a probe into the Kishanganj incident wherein a class seven exam paper contained a question that allegedly mentioned Kashmir as a separate country.

Reacting to the matter, Chandra Shekhar Singh said there would be no lapses in the investigation of this matter and it would be probed thoroughly.

"This is a serious matter for which the probe shall take place even if it involved top officials," state Education Minister Chandra Shekhar Singh said.

The class 7 paper setter cited the example of China and asked "As the people of China are called Chinese, what are the people of Nepal, England, Kashmir, and India called?"

This question was allegedly put before these students in Araria, Kishanganj, and Katihar.

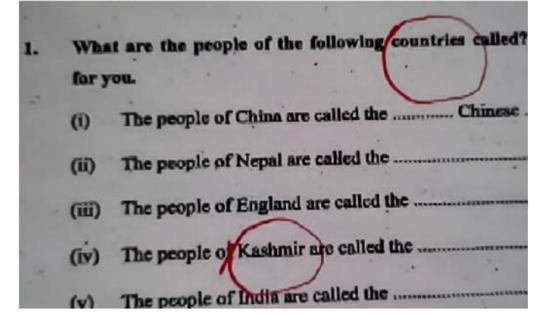
"We got this via Bihar Education Board. The question had to ask

what people from Kashmir are called. But, it mistakenly carried as what are people of the country of Kashmir called. This was human error," Headteacher SK Das clarified.

Bihar BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal took to his social media and shared the image of the question paper alongside captioning it as: "... Bihar government is still silent on my concern that they feel Kashmir as not a part of India. This question itself advocates that the officials in Bihar government consider Kashmir as a different country as Nepal, England, China, and India," he wrote in a Facebook post in Hindi.

Reacting to Mr Jaiswal's allegations, state Education Minister Chandra Shekhar Singh asked why nobody pointed when Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Taksh Shila, which is in Pakistan a part of Bihar.

"Why did you not question when PM Modi called Taksh Shila a part of Bihar? That was as legit human error as the one that has been made now," Mr Singh said.



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