

J&K Govt Redraws Social Caste List

WPRs, Gorkhas, Jats Among 15 More Classes To Get Reservation Benefits

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has expanded the social caste list by including 15 new classes to it.

In a notification, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has included 15 more classes into its social caste category list. Under the Jammu & Kashmir Government's reservation rules, social castes have four percent reservation in government jobs.

The new classes added are Waghey (Chopan), Ghirath/Bhati/Chang community, Jat community, Saini community, Markabans/PonyWalas, Sochi community, Christian Biradari



(converted from Hindu Valmiki), Kouro (Kaurav), Bojru/Decount/Sunar/Swarankar Teeli (Hindu Teeli along with already existing Muslim Teeli), Perna/

Kouro (Kaurav), Bojru/Decount/Dubdabay Brahmin Gorkans, Gorkhas, West Pakistani refugees (excluding SCs) and Acharyas".

It has also made certain modifications in the existing social castes by substituting their names.

According to the notification, potters (Kumahars), shoe repairers (working without the aid of machines), Bangies Khakrobes (Sweepers), barbers, washermen and Dooms have been respectively replaced by Kumahars, Mochi, Bangies Khakrobes, Hajjam Atrai, Dhobi, and Dooms (excluding SCs).

The social caste list has been redrawn on the recommendations of the Jammu and Kashmir Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission which was constituted by J&K Government in 2020. Former High Court Judge,

Early Snowfall Dips Mercury Further In J&K

Gulmarg Records Minus 2.4°C, Pahalgam -0.4°C

Agencies

Srinagar: Night temperature recorded a further drop in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday with Gulmarg recording minus 2.4°C and Pahalgam minus 0.4°C.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of 4.2°C against 5.5°C on the previous night. The temperature was 0.9°C below normal for the summer capital during this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.6°C against 3.8°C on the



previous night.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at minus 0.4°C against 2.0°C on the previous night and it

was 1.9°C below normal for the south Kashmir resort, he said. Kokernag recorded a low of 3.7°C against

Health Dept Orders Winter Preparedness In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two days after the higher reaches of Kashmir received snowfall plunging mercury by a few degrees, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir on Saturday ordered Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Medical Superintendents (MSs) and Block Medical Officers (BMOs) to gear up for better health care in view of the early start of winter in the Valley.

"In view of early starting of winter (cold weather) in Kashmir Division, all the Chief Medical Officers/ Medical Superintendents/

Block Medical Officers are hereby impressed upon to mobilize and gear-up resources in advance in terms of Doctors, Paramedics, availability of drugs in sufficient quantity, readiness of fleet of Ambulances, ensuring power backup & heating arrangements in all Government Health Care Institutions across the Valley, so that the patients coming to the Health Care Institutions are managed, so as to avoid any referrals to Tertiary Care Hospitals, especially when all the roads remain cut off during snow in Valley," reads a circular issued by the DHSK. Besides, the

MOREOVER, THEY WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS like placing of curtains on Doors and Windows in Government covering of Windows with polythene wherever needed warm."

Mughal Road Thrown Open For Traffic

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Mughal road, connecting the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in the Jammu region with south Kashmir's Shopian district was reopened for vehicular traffic on Saturday after a two-day closure due to heavy snowfall, officials said.

The road was reopened for vehicular traffic on Saturday morning, they added. All the vehicles

stranded on the alternative highway have been cleared, the officials said.

There was heavy snowfall in the high-altitude areas of Pir Ki Gal, Poshana and adjoining places on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, the officials said.

Due to early snowfall on October 18, the road remained closed for a day and nearly 100 passengers were stranded after traffic was suspended on it.

SHORT TAKES

Man Given Lifer For Killing Wife

A local court here on Saturday awarded a life-imprisonment to a man for killing his wife in sleep and dumping her body in a nallah six years ago. The court of Principal Sessions Judge, Udhampur Y. P Bourney awarded life imprisonment to Ashok Kumar, who was facing trial for the murder of his wife for the last 6 years. Kumar, according to police, had

Hideout Busted In Ramban: Police

Police on Saturday claimed to have recovered an arms cache from a hideout in a forested area of Khari in Ramban district. Police and army's 23 RR on Saturday launched a search operation in the far flung hilly and forested area of Khari after receiving information through reliable sources regarding presence of arms and ammunition in the

Criminal Held Under PSA In Jammu

A criminal involved in drug peddling has been arrested in Jammu district after being slapped with the Public Safety Act (PSA), officials said on Saturday. Based on a tip-off, police teams arrested Paramjeet Singh alias Sunny, resident of Simbal camp in Jammu city, on Friday evening after conducting a raid in the Miran Sahib area, they said. The accused was involved in a number of heinous cases including attempt to murder, snatching and those registered under the Narcotic Drugs and

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Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.



Scholarship Name 1: L'Oréal L.E.A.D. 2022

Description: L'Oréal India invites applications from students in their final and pre-final years of diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
Eligibility: Must be studying in the final or pre-final years* of a diploma, under-graduation or post-graduation programme at any recognised college or university within India.
Must be within the age group of 18-30 years
*Final or second-last year of the course, depending on the duration of the course. Click on the short source URL for more details.
Prizes & Rewards: Opportunity to participate into an elaborate online upskilling webinar, to be conducted by the top management professionals of L'Oréal India. A two-month free-of-cost unlimited access to 33 courses on Coursera, a learning platform with more than 5,000 courses, professional certificates, and degrees from universities and companies all around the world. Exclusive one-to-one mentorship sessions from industry experts at L'Oréal India.

Last Date to Apply: 02-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LEAD1

Scholarship Name 2: Panasonic Ratti Chhatr Scholarship 2022-23

Description: Panasonic invites applications from students getting admission into the graduate program (B.E./B.Tech.) of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) of India.
Eligibility: Open for students across India who are getting admission into B.E./B.Tech. courses at any of the IITs (Indian Institute of Technology) in 2022-23. Appli-

cants must have cleared their Class 12 examination or are awaiting final results. Applicants must have scored more than 75% marks in Class 12. Annual family income of the applicant must not be more than INR 8,00,000 from all sources. Only candidates from 2022-2023 batch are eligible to apply.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 42,500 per year for 4 years
Last Date to Apply: 11-11-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RCSF5

Scholarship Name 3: Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children

Description: Mahindra Finance invites applications for the 'Saksham Scholarship Program for Drivers' Children' from students belonging to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. The scholarship is meant to support underprivileged and meritorious children of drivers (all light motor vehicles and small commercial vehicles such as Taxi, Jeep, Car & delivery vans such as Pickup, magic, school van etc) holding a valid driving license who are studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level.
Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying at Class 1 to postgraduation level in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Telangana. Applicants who are pursuing studies from Class 9 onwards must have scored 60% or more marks in the previous final examination. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 4,00,000.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship ranging from INR 5,000 to INR 20,000 for 1 year
Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2022
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SKSP1

New AI-Powered Diagnostic Tool May Provide Test Results In Minutes

Press Trust Of India

A new diagnostic platform that uses artificial intelligence (AI) could provide test results for health conditions such as cardiovascular disorders, and Alzheimer's disease within minutes, scientists say.
The diagnostic tool being developed by researchers at Swansea University in the UK could revolutionise the health care sector due to the application of a form of AI -- machine learning (ML). The implementation of ML has meant it is possible, for the first time, for results to be delivered within minutes, the researchers said.
Biofluids such as synovial fluid, blood plasma, and saliva contain proteins that are an important biomarker for the diagnosis of several health conditions. The specially designed platform has been programmed to detect the concentration of these proteins to assist in diagnosis and monitoring disease progression, according to the researchers. The research proposes that hospital waiting times could be drastically cut and the option for self-screening and self-monitoring is now possible with the potential for at-home diagnostic kits in the future, they said.
"Existing technologies for the measurements of macromolecules in biofluids are limited; they require a long turnaround time, or require complex protocols, thus calling for alternative, more suitable, methodologies aimed



at such measurements," said project lead, Francesco Del Giudice.
"In our research, we looked at whether we could rapidly detect different concentration of macromolecules in solution at different temperatures using only 100 µl of sample (equivalent to two drops of blood).
"The key innovation is the fact of providing a result within 2 minutes, which is a leap forward compared to standard testing that can take several hours," Giudice said. The proof-of-concept study, published in the journal Analytical Chemistry, can be further developed in a tool to help clinicians making decisions on clinical data obtained quickly, the researchers

said.
They also plan to develop the platform further for an at-home-point-of-care self-screening diagnostic platform. "The ability of artificial intelligence to drive down the time required to complete various tasks has been demonstrated across a number of disciplines," said Claire Barnes, co-author on the research.
"The advantage of speed offered by the implementation of machine learning allowed us to adjust almost in real-time the experimental parameters to fulfill the requirements of the theoretical model associated with this work," Barnes added.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT DISTRICT, Kupwara

e-NIT NO: -10 OF 2022-23 DATED:-21/10/2022

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Jammu & Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with union Territory of J&K /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S. No	Name Of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Receiving/Opening Authority	DLP
1	Co. 70/AB Punzwa (New) i) Establishment of S.C Unit by way of erection of Barbed wire Fencing 6 strands using Angle Iron Fence posts and Wooden Fence posts (2575) ratio (3000 Rfts), ii) Protection work by way of 15000 No of earth filled nylon bags. iii) Construction of 1Km inspection path (Details as per BOQ)	5.65	11682=	C&D	Rs. 300/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	06 Months
2	Co. 70/AB Punzwa 2020-21 i) Protection work by way of 12 No. of live crib structures, ii) Protection work by way of 20000 No of earth filled nylon bags iii) Construction of 1Km inspection path (Details as per BOQ)	4.61	9220=	D	Rs. 200/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	03 Months
3	Co. 70/AB Punzwa 2021-22 i) Protection work by way of 15 No. of live crib structures, ii) Protection work by way of 10000 No of earth filled nylon bags iii) Construction of 1Km inspection path (Details as per BOQ)	3.15	6300=	D	Rs. 200/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	03 Months
4	Co. 49/NH Warson i) Establishment of S.C Unit by way of erection of Barbed wire Fencing 06 strands using Angle Iron Fence posts and Wooden Fence posts (50 50) ratio (3000 Rfts), ii) Construction of 1Km inspection path iii) Construction of 200 cum DRSM Check Dams iv) Laying and Providing of 25 No. of Crate wire protection bunds (Details as per BOQ)	10.19	20380=	*B, C & D	Rs. 600/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	06 Months
5	Co. 32 Budwankamah i) Establishment of S.C Unit by way of erection of Barbed wire Fencing 6 strands (3000 Rft) using key material dumped at site 375 Angle Iron Fence posts, Barbed wire, sign board and gate. ii) Construction of 270 cum DRSM Check Dams (Details as per BOQ)	6.17	12234=	C & D	Rs. 300/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	06 Months
6	Co. 69/R Chumar i) Establishment of S.C Unit by way of erection of Barbed wire Fencing 6 strands using Angle Iron Fence posts and Wooden Fence posts (50 50) ratio (2800 Rfts), ii) Construction of 1Km inspection path, iii) Protection work by way of 12000 No of earth filled Jute bags iv) Protection work by way of 20 No. of live crib structures (Details as per BOQ)	8.06	16120=	C & D	Rs. 600/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	06 Months
7	Co. 101/NL Nunwani Loab i) Establishment of S.C Unit by way of erection of Barbed wire Fencing 6 strands using Angle Iron Fence posts and Wooden Fence posts (3366) ratio (7000 Rfts), ii) Construction of 1Km inspection path, iii) Construction of 150 cum DRSM Check Dams iv) Laying and Providing of 30 No. of Crate wire protection bunds (Details as per BOQ)	13.99	27980	*B, C & D	Rs. 600/=	50 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	06 Months
8	Co. 48/R Hangnikote i) Protection work by way of 20 No. of live crib structures, ii) Protection work by way of 35000 No of earth filled nylon bags. iii) Construction of 1256 Water holes (Percolation trenches) (Details as per BOQ)	8.015	16030=	C & D	Rs. 600/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	03 Months
9	Co. 65/M Churnar i) Protection work by way of 11 No. of live crib structures, ii) Protection work by way of 30000 No of earth filled Jute bags. iii) Construction of 1256 Water holes (Percolation trenches) (Details as per BOQ)	6.445	12890=	C & D	Rs. 300/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	03 Months
10	Hangnikote i) Up-gradation of 03 No of natural springs (Details as per BOQ)	2.10	4200=	D	Rs. 200/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	03 Months
11	Churnar i) Up-gradation of 03 No of natural springs (Details as per BOQ)	1.95	3900=	D	Rs. 200/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	03 Months
12	Punzwa i) Restoration of Pond (Details as per BOQ)	1.20	2400=	D	Rs. 200/=	45 calendar days	Tender Opening Committee	03 Months

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:-www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of Funds: Budgeted
Position of AA/TS: Accorded.

Publishing Date:-	21.10.2022
Download Start Date:-	22.10.2022 from 10:00 APM
Bid submission Start Date:-	22.10.2022 from 10:00 APM
Bid submission End Date:-	31.10.2022 Up to 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:-	01.11.2022 at 11:00 AM (In the Office of Joint Director Soil & Water Conservation Department, Kashmir Haft Chinar Srinagar)

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: - www.jktenders.gov.in.
- The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened on 01-11-2022 at 11.00 AM in the office of Joint Director, Soil & Water Conservation Department Kashmir Haft Chinar Srinagar. In case of public holiday on the date of opening of the bid, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bids must be uploaded along-with cost of tender document as shown against the work in the shape of Scanned copy e-challan/copy of receipt from treasury favouring Assistant Conservator of Forests Soil & Water Conservation Department Division Kupwara by crediting the requisite charges to the MH 0406 - FOREST (Revenue).
- As per Rule 171 of GFR -2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- Unbalanced Bid in case of the lowest Bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce Additional Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR within two days after opening of price Bid, as per following breakup.
No: - ACF/SWC/Kup/-e-tender/2022-23/413-18
Dated:-22/10/2022

DIPK-12207/22

Sd/-
Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Soil & water Conservation Department,
District Kupwara.

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

5th Fresh NIT No-184 of RnB-Sopore of 2022-2023 e-tendering DATED 22.10.2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.Hof Account
01	Restoration of Balhama Naribal road by way of crate work.	4.22	200/-	8440/-	15 days	03.11.2022	DEE	3054 M&R
02	Construction of Protection work of Khahmoh Baraman road Km 3 rd by way of construction of crate bund and Toe wall to RCC culvert.	3.00	200/-	6000/-	15 days	03.11.2022	DEE	3054 M&R
03	Restoration of Balhama Ladoolad doora road by way of construction of crate protection work.	3.10	200/-	6200/-	15 days	03.11.2022	DEE	3054 M&R

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA/TS: Accorded

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	22.10.2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22.10.2022
3	Bid Submission start date	22.10.2022
4	Bid submission End date	02.11.2022 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	03.11.2022 (12.30 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

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

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

4. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online same website in the office of the Tender receiving authority).

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads" options well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquainted with the submission process.

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

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

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time scheduled in the Para-1.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 1 of 2022-23 issued under No: -369-89 dated: 20.04.2021 PWD Form 25 (Double agreement form) and NIT No: 59 of 2022-23 and NIT 98 of 2022-23 and NIT 122 of 2022-23 & NIT 159 of 2022-23

21. If the contractor/HMP quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&KUT,

No: 11847-67

Dated: 22.10.2022

DIPK-12244/22

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

Poet Akbar Allahabadi's Grandson Filming Kashmir's 'True' Picture

Syed Mohammad Burhan

A poet from Allahabad whose songs became chartbusters of Bollywood during late 1990s is now presenting Kashmir's "true image" amid the festive footfall of filmmakers creating competitive genres in the valley.

With his upcoming flick "Unseen Love Lane", Bollywood lyricist Tauqeer Zaidi is making his Kashmir debut this November.

"I used to think a lot about



Kashmir," Tauqeer told Kashmir Observer. "And I believe it's not fine to look

into paradise from a hellish perspective. Kashmiri people are beautiful and



"I BELIEVE IT'S NOT FINE TO LOOK INTO PARADISE from a hellish perspective. Kashmiri people are beautiful and hospitable but they became victims of circumstances. I want to show the true face of Kashmiris."

hospitable but they became victims of circumstances. I want to show the true face of Kashmiris." | [More on PIO](#)



SIA Searches Multiple Locations In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday conducted searches at multiple locations across the Valley in connection with a terror funding case.

About 14 houses and a business premise of suspects in Srinagar, Sopore, Baramulla and Shopian were searched in compliance to search warrant obtained from the Court of Special Judge, Designated under NIA Act (TADA/POTA) Srinagar in connection with investigation of case FIR No. 7/2022 u/s 13, 18, 19, 39, 40 UA (P) Act, 121, 121-A IPC, registered in Police Station CIK (SIA) Kashmir, an SIA spokesperson said Friday.

During the searches, he said, incriminating material, electronic gadgets, mobile phones, bank documents and other articles having bearing on the investigation have been recovered and seized.

"Analysis of the data would follow and leads that would emerge would become the basis for further investigation," he added.

Divulging more details, the spokesperson said that the case pertains to financial networks of terror outfits operating in the valley.

"The case came to be registered on a reliable information that a group of over ground workers of terrorist organisations in connivance with and active support from their Pakistan based terrorist handlers including terrorists who had exfiltrated from valley, now based in Pakistan are arranging a variety of logistic support including channeling finances with the overall objective of furthering and sustaining terror activities in J&K in order to destabilize the Union of India by clandestinely waging war," he said.

He further said that it is pertinent to mention here that the searches are aimed at dismantling the financial networks of the terrorist outfits.

Troops Ready To Tackle Any Situation: MoS Defence



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Asserting that the morale of the Indian Army is very high, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt on Saturday said our soldiers are always ready to tackle any situation at any given point of time.

He said Indian troops always gave a befitting reply in troubled situations.

"Today, the morale of our soldiers is very high. We are always ready to tackle any situation at any time", Bhatt said while addressing troops after laying a wreath at the Dhruva War Memorial at Northern Command and paying homage

to the bravehearts who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

He said that whenever the country faced any situation of trouble or during calamities, troops gave a befitting response.

Bhatt said that the situation in the country has changed today. Negative thoughts have turned into positive thoughts in terms of development, he said.

He commended the Northern Command for always being in combat while securing the borders and keeping the internal security situation stable in the union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The Union minister | [More on PIO](#)



A TRUCK PASSES THROUGH SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS along the Mughal road in Shopian district after the highway connecting the south Kashmir district with Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu division was thrown open for traffic on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME

J&K Utilizes Only 3 % Funds Allotted By Centre

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir during 2021-22 have utilized 'only three percent' of the funds allocated by the central government on account of erstwhile Mid May Meal Scheme (MDM) scheme.

"UT has reported utilization of 3 percent of the allocated funds during the year 2021-22," reads an official document.

The Project Approval Board (PAB) in a recent meeting with Jammu and Kashmir authorities has emphasized on the importance of monitoring and awareness generation for better implementation of the scheme.



It also advised the UT to ensure full and effective utilization of the funds under MME," it reads.

The official document also reads that "UT was also advised to

ensure prominent display of entitlements of children in all schools and carry out appropriate IEC activities for awareness generation through publicity." | [More on PIO](#)

What's The Big Deal? Says Mehbooba On Eviction Notice

Accuses Media Of Wasting Time By 'Discussing Non-Issues' Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday hit out at the media, saying instead of covering real problems, it was wasting time by discussing non-issues such as the Jammu and Kashmir administration issuing an eviction notice to her.

The administration had earlier this week issued an eviction notice

to the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, saying she was not entitled to use the bungalow on the high security Gupkar Road.

"The media is wasting time in discussing non-issues like Mehbooba Mufti vacating the house. Ideally, they should focus on real issues and problems faced by people (of Jammu and Kashmir) but they are not doing that," the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader told reporters after paying obeisance at her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's grave in Anantnag district. | [More on PIO](#)

Hands Over Appointment Letters To 25 Youth

Union minister Ajay Bhatt handed over appointment letters to 25 youths recruited in the Northern Railway at an event in Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir as part of the "Rozgar Mela" launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. Officials said the railway selection process has been simplified and tech enabled to expedite recruitments. The Northern Railway has appointed 598 candidates since June 1, they said. Appointment letters were given to 50 new recruits -- 25 in Ambala and 25 in Udhampur -- | [More on PIO](#)

6 MOREOVER, THEY WILL ALSO ENSURE that necessary arrangements like placing of curtains on Doors and Windows in Government covering of Windows with polythene wherever needed warm."

Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

KASHMIR OBSERVER



How Water Has Been Weaponised In The Russia-Ukraine War

Agencies

Mykolaiv, Ukraine: Sveta has no doubt about why the Ukrainian-held southern city of Mykolaiv, a ship-building centre that is home to a half a million people, has gone without fresh water for the past six months.

"They (the Russians) are committing genocide against us," she growled as she waited this week with dozens of others to fill containers with water from tanks hauled to a downtown thoroughfare aboard an electric tramway repair car.

ed electricity across large parts of Ukraine, killing dozens of people and leaving other places without access to clean water.

But Mykolaiv's water problems have gone on much longer.

The Russians, Ukrainian officials say, closed the city's freshwater intakes in the adjacent Kherson province after they overran the region as part of what Vladimir Putin calls "a special military operation."

"We don't know whether this was an intentional explosion or an accidental ammunition



The shutoff is bitter affirmation for Sveta, and some 220,000 other residents who remain in the off-shelled city, that Russian President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine extends beyond the battlefield to civilian infrastructure.

The Kremlin dramatically intensified strikes on energy facilities with pre-winter missile and drone onslaughts over the past two weeks, in what Vladimir Putin has called legitimate retaliation for an attack on Russia's bridge to Crimea.

The attacks have disrupt-

strike," municipal water chief Borys Dydenko told Reuters. He said he believed the Russians shut the intakes to avenge Ukraine's closure of freshwater supplies to Crimea in 2014. The Kremlin and the Russian defence ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

'The way we live'

Every day, Mykolaiv's residents lug plastic containers by hand or in carts to water distribution points across the city that sits at the sweeping confluence of the Dniro and Southern Buh rivers.

Syrian Air Defenses Repel Israeli Airstrikes On Damascus

Agencies

Damascus: : On 21 October, Israeli jet fighters launched a new round of airstrikes on the surroundings of the Syrian capital Damascus, as state media says no casualties were reported.

The state-run Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reports that Syrian military air defense systems downed most of the incoming hostile missiles, as the aftermath losses were limited to materials.

"Approximately at 11:03pm, the Israeli enemy carried out a missile aggression from the direction of Tiberias lake, targeting some points in the vicinity of Damascus, as the Syrian air defense repelled the aggression missile and downed most of them," a military source told SANA in a statement.

While there has been no official comment from Tel Aviv, the Israeli Sham FM radio station said the attacks were "close" to Damascus International Airport south of the capital.

Last month, five Syrian soldiers were killed in an Israeli missile attack near Damascus airport. Israeli raids in June also caused Damascus and Aleppo airports to be out of service for about two weeks.

The newest round of Israeli

airstrikes in Syria come at a time of escalating tensions between Tel Aviv and Moscow.

After Russia started allegedly using Iranian drones to target Ukraine, Israel has been under pressure from Kiev to provide it with its Iron Dome missile defense systems. However, occupation officials refused to comply in order to avoid sparking a crisis with the Kremlin.

Nonetheless, Israel's Defense Minister Benny Gantz this week said his country might supply Kiev with early warning systems, asking the Ukrainians to provide the country with information on its needs for air defense systems. During the past several years, Israel has launched hundreds of airstrikes inside Syria, targeting Syrian army positions and alleged Hezbollah and Iranian militias.

Israel rarely confirms being behind these attacks, but often reiterates that it will continue to confront what it describes as "Iran's attempts to establish its military presence" near the borders of occupied Palestine."

Friday's bombing of Damascus coincided with the announcement of the Palestinian Hamas movement to resume relations with Syria after a landmark meeting with President Bashar al-Assad.



Pak Exits FATF Grey List. What It Means For India

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Ending the speculations, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on 21 October excluded Pakistan from the grey list of the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering after four years

"Pakistan is no longer subject to FATF's increased monitoring process; to continue to work with APG (Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering) to further improve its AML/CFT (anti-money laundering & counter-terrorist financing) system," it said.

Pakistan was put in the inglorious list in 2018 for its failure to check risk of money laundering, leading to corruption and terror financing.

What It Meant for Pakistan?

With Pakistan's continuation on the grey list, it had increasingly become difficult for Islamabad to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the cash-strapped country.

The South Asian country needed 12 votes out of 39 to exit the grey list and move to white list. To avoid black list, it needed support of three countries. China, Turkey and Malaysia are its consistent supporters.

Following being placed on the grey list by the Paris-based global watchdog on money laundering and terrorist financ-

ing In June 2018, it was given a plan of action to complete it by October, 2019.

The FATF reviewed Islamabad's progress since June 2022, and took a decision in its plenary held in Paris on October 20-21.

Addressing the press conference at the conclusion of its plenary, FATF president T Raja Kumar said that Pakistan has largely addressed all the 34 items flagged by the watchdog.

What is FATF?

FATF is a global terrorist financing and money laundering watchdog that sets international standards that aim to prevent these "illegal activities."

It's essentially a policy making body, who works to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

As of now, over 200 nations and jurisdictions are committed to implementing the standards developed by them.

How has Pakistan reacted to this?

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan's exit from the FATF grey list was a "vindication of our determined and sustained efforts over the years."

In a tweet, Sharif said, "I would like to congratulate our civil & military leadership as well as all institutions whose hard work led to today's success."

How did India react?

Many in India view it as a travesty of the fight against terror. Pakistan is now free of the control of the world anti-money-

laundering body, even the proposal for which, last week, had led to anger in New Delhi.

Commenting on Pakistan's move to get out of the FATF list, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha told a New Delhi based news channel that Pakistan was not happy with peace in India. "The world is watching which country is aiding terrorism...Our ministry of external affairs (MEA) is vigilant and takes appropriate action."

Reacting to this statement, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that "as a result of FATF scrutiny, Pakistan has been forced to take some action against well-known terrorists, including those involved in attacks against the entire international community in Mumbai on 26/11."

The world should remain clear, Bagchi added, that Pakistan must continue to take credible, verifiable and irreversible action against terrorism.

"It is in global interest that the world remains clear that Pakistan must continue to take credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustained action against terrorism and terrorist financing emanating from territories under its control," Bagchi said on Friday.

"We understand that Pakistan will continue to work with the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) to further improve its Anti Money Laundering (AML) or Counter Terror Financing (CFT) system," he added.

What We Have Reduced Religion To Is 'Tragic', Says SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: "Where have we reached in the name of religion, what have we reduced religion to is tragic," an anguished Supreme Court observed on Friday, as it asked three states, including Uttar Pradesh, to crack down hard on those making hate speeches, calling them shocking for a country that is religion-neutral.

Holding that the Constitution of India envisages a secular nation, the court directed Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand to promptly register criminal cases against the offenders with-

out waiting for a complaint to be filed. The apex court warned any delay on the part of the administration in taking action on this "very serious issue" will invite the court's contempt.

A bench of Justices K.M.Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy also issued notices to Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand on the petition filed by journalist Shaheen Abdullah.

"This is the 21st century! Article 51A (Fundamental duties) says we should develop a scientific temper. Where have we reached in the name of religion, what have we reduced religion

to is tragic," a distressed Justice Joseph said. "Statements are certainly very shocking for a country that is to be religion-neutral," he went on to add.

A number of leaders, including lawmakers of the ruling BJP, have been accused of making hate speeches and some are even facing cases over their utterances. "The Constitution of India envisages Bharat as a secular nation and fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and unity and the integrity of the country is the guiding principle enshrined in the Preamble."

Demand For Separate Nagaland State By People "Not Wrong": CM

Press Trust Of India

Kohima: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Friday said the demand for a separate state by the people of the eastern part of the state is "not wrong".

Eastern Nagaland comprises six districts — Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator — which are inhabited by seven tribes of Chang, Khiamnuingang, Konyak, Phom, Sangtam, Tikhir and Yimkhuing.

"Nagas, we speak our mind and it is not wrong for them (Eastern Nagaland people) to say what their thinking and desire is but all these issues will be resolved," Rio said.

During a function here, the CM was asked by reporters that Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) has decided not to participate in the ensuing Hornbill Festival and also asked 20 legislators from the region to resign in support of their demand for the separate state.

"We are talking with them and will give an appointment to ENPO during the union home minister's (proposed) visit to the state. If the prime minister also comes, we will request him to have a talk with them," Rio said.

The clamour for the separate state in eastern Nagaland has gained momentum ahead of the assembly polls due early next year, with the 20 MLAs from the region extending support to a



call not to take part in any election until the demand is met.

The CM, however, said that the state government is yet to receive any final schedule for the proposed visit of the home minister or the PM.

On ENPO's decision not to participate in Hornbill Festival, Rio said it will be held as usual and every tribe should take part.

"It is a responsibility of the state, and one cannot dishonour the state but all have to take responsibility to make it successful," Rio said.

The ENPO has been demanding 'Frontier Nagaland' since 2010, alleging "negligence" by the government in all aspects of development after 58 years of Nagaland statehood.

It has declared not to participate in any election, including the 2023 assembly poll, till their demand is fulfilled.

Honey-Trapped Govt Employee Can't Believe Woman He Loved Was A Pak Agent

Press Trust Of India

Jairpur: Jailed Ravi Prakash Meena, a class-4 employee at the Sena Bhawan in Delhi, is not able to believe that the woman he loved was a Pakistani agent. Honey trapped, the 31-year-old is accused of sharing sensitive and strategic information about the army.

He was "madly in love" with the agent who befriended him on Facebook, said an intel-



ligence officer here familiar with the investigation into Meena's case.

From Sapotara in Rajasthan's Karauli district, Meena was apprehended in October first week, making him the 35th person arrested by the state police since 2017 for allegedly sharing sensitive information after being honey trapped by Pakistani agents, including those from the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

In Meena's case, the officer said, "The Pakistani agent, who went by the name Anjali Tiwari, posed as an Indian Army officer posted in West Bengal.

Even after his arrest, and looking at the evidence, Kumar could not believe that the woman was a Pakistani agent."

On October 8, following his arrest, Director General of Police (Intelligence), Rajasthan, Umesh Mishra, had said that Meena was sharing confidential and strategic information about the army with her.

He was providing information to the agent through social media in exchange for money which was deposited in his bank account, Mishra had said, adding that he has been charged under the Official Secrets Act.

Of the 35 people, including civilians and security personnel, six were arrested in 2017, as many in 2019, five in 2020, eight in 2021 and 10 so far this year, according to Rajasthan Police data.

"In earlier, cases people provided confidential and strategic information in exchange for money. But, now, it is being seen that people are being honey trapped, emotionally blacked-mailed and then asked for information in exchange for money," DGP (Intelligence) Mishra told PTI.

He said that among those arrested are civilians and security personnel.

In total, 26 cases have been registered since 2017 against the 35 arrested people, who include 10 security personnel and 25 civilians, according to police data.

NEWS MAKERS

Techie Out On Bike Ride Gang-Raped By 10 In Jharkhand

Jharkhand: A 26-year-old software engineer was allegedly gang-raped by around 10 men in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, police said today.

The woman, who is in Jharkhand as she is working from home, was out with her boyfriend on a motorbike on Thursday evening when the incident took place.

A group of eight-ten men stopped the couple, beat the boyfriend up and allegedly gang-raped the woman after taking her to a secluded area, the police told Press Trust of India.

Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar said that a case was registered at the local police station and an investigation underway to identify those behind the incident.

The woman works at a well-



known IT company, police said.

After raping her, the accused left her at the spot and fled. They also took away her wallet and mobile phone.

The woman somehow managed to reach home, and told her family about the incident after which they filed a police complaint.

Her medical check-up was conducted at the local hospital.

US Woman Sues L'Oreal, Alleges Hair Products Caused Cancer

Washington: An American woman who contracted uterine cancer after using chemical hair straightening products sold by L'Oreal USA sued the company on Friday, her lawyer said.

The woman, Jenny Mitchell, said in the civil lawsuit that she had used the products for more than two decades, then was struck with uterine cancer that forced her to undergo a full hysterectomy.

The suit comes just days after the publication of a study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute establishing a link



between usage of chemical hair straightening products and uterine cancer.

The study found that women who used the products more than four times a year were more than twice as likely to

develop uterine cancer than those who didn't use the products.

Cancer of the uterus is relatively rare, but its incidence is rising in the United States, especially among Black women.

Neighbour Tried To Resolve Couple's Fight Over Chicken, Killed

Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh): A man died while resolving a neighbouring couple's dispute over cooking chicken at home in Chawani Pathar village under Bilkhriya police station in Bhopal, an official said.

The incident occurred on Tuesday but it came to the fore after the arrest of the accused Pappu Ahirwar on Friday.

Bhopal Dehat Superintendent of Police (SP) Kiran Lata Karketa said the couple fought over cooking chicken at home on Tuesday. The woman refused to cook chicken at home on Tuesday. Following that, her husband Pappu Ahirwar assaulted the woman. Some people living in the neighbourhood reached there and resolved the dispute between the couple. But later, Pappu reached the house of one of his neighbours, Bablu Ahirwar and attacked him with a stick. Due to this he sustained severe injuries and was admitted to Hamidia Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The accused Pappu Ahirwar has been arrested and further investigation is going on, the SP of Karketa added.

Bus Terminal Will Be Shifted Back To Batamalo Soon:BJP

Agencies
Srinagar: BJP's Media in-charge Manzoor Bhat on Saturday said that the historic bus terminal will be shifted back to Batamalo and urged LG Manoj Sinha to look into the issue.

In a statement, Bhat said the party leadership is in consistent touch with Batamalo

People were forced to sell their vehicles and shops as they faced financial losses due to shifting of the terminal to Parimpora from Batamalo

traders who were massively hit by the shifting of bus terminal in the year 2017.

He said the delegation of Batamalo traders and transporters has already met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UT's Party President Ravinder Raina.

The party leadership has assured them justice will be delivered to the people who have suffered due to the wrong decisions of the previous regimes, he said.

Bhat said thousands of

people including transporters, shopkeepers, and vendors lost their livelihood due to the wrong policies of some persons, who did it for their vested interests.

"Considering the aspirations of people, the bus terminal should be shifted back to Batamalo, so that they will not face further financial loss," he said.

He said traders and shopkeepers were assured to be rehabilitated but things have remained restricted to papers only.

"People were forced to sell their vehicles and shops as they faced financial losses due to shifting of the terminal to Parimpora from Batamalo," he said.

Meanwhile, Bhat urged LG Manoj Sinha to take the cognizance of the issue, so that people associated with business and trade will have a sigh of relief. (CNS)

'Career Counseling Sessions Important For Students'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The chairman JK Students Community, Paraypora Srinagar, Dr Majid Ashraf in his message to student community emphasized about guidance and career counselling sessions for students and also talked about the importance of education in overall personality development of humans.

Dr Majid said that for those who want to Opt MBBS

Admission in India have to go for MCC registration.

For those students who look to seek admissions in foreign countries like Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan and Georgia he said that "a student can get enrolled there on the basis of Scholarship like SAARC Scholarship, Year by Year Scholarship and Through IMAT and students intending for MBBS in India and Abroad can call on 7006834759, 7006403841"



Students Flanked By Musicians Hold Protest Against Dog Menace

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: In an unusual move, students of a private school from Khanyar held a protest demonstration against dog menace at Rainawari chowk on Saturday.

Dozens of students flanked by their teachers were also part of the protest demonstration.

What made the protest unusual was the presence of musicians in the protest demonstration.

Students carrying placards sang songs in Kashmiri condemning what they called the "stray dog menace"

"aajiz loukh gaey doh kiyov raath, yeti gaey honian himz bohtaath"

People are troubled day in and day out by the outnumbering of dogs "bozarg gaemith sakh pareshan, masjid gachnas chi kichoachan"

The elderly are sad as they are afraid to go mosques

"dushwar gomut garae waatun, yeti kaensi honiov chop hi-

yutun" It is difficult to reach home as dog bites humans

Student protestors caught the attention of the passerby who were seen clicking pictures and videos of them. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the protest a female student said the stray dog menace is spreading by the day and not much is being done to end the menace.

"The authorities should ramp up efforts to sterilize the dog population so that we can get rid of the menace," she added.

While city people are up in arms against the stray dog menace, the authorities say they have been doing their bit to curb the menace.

Earlier, speaking to Kashmir Observer, Veterinary Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr Tawheed Ahmed said the availability of non-vegetarian food is the main reason for their breeding and

garbage dumps on the roadsides provide them with more than enough food.

Dr Tawheed further said that abiding by the Law, we cannot kill stray dogs.

However, he said, in order to reduce the dog population, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation has been carrying out the dog sterilization programme for the last many years.

"The sterilization of dogs is being done at Shuhama Sterilization centre and around five to six surgeries are being performed daily on a daily basis. Another dog sterilization centre is being made operational at Tengpora Bypass and work is nearing completion" Dr Tawheed said.

"Once the center is made operational, we will be able to perform more sterilizations. Once the dog sterilization programme is done for the next six to seven years, the dog populace will stabilize," he added.

Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt. Conducts Craft Safari VIII In City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Artisans have contributed greatly in shaping the global identity of the valley. With an increasingly homogenized spectrum of the present day world, it is these disciplines that help the region retain its cultural identity. It is an undeniable fact that a plethora of rich and colorful art traditions have made Kashmir stand apart from the rest.

Considering such unique features of the crafts and arts, it augurs well that the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir unremittingly works towards not just sustaining these art traditions but further build upon them. Conducting the Craft Safaris is a mechanism created to bring into lime-light otherwise unfamiliar artisans so that they receive the appreciation directly from craft lovers across the globe.

The team of the officers from the Handicrafts and Handloom



Department besides Intellectuals, Academic Scholars, Journalists, Tour Operators, Students and players from other fields treaded their way through the narrow alleyways of Amda Kadal, during the latest ie 8th edition of Srinagar Craft Safari. Stories of workmanship followed the onlookers in the lanes of Amda Kadal and each artisan proved to be a storehouse of generations' worth of craft heritage.

Craft Safari commenced while appreciating the hard work of Ghulam Rasool Khan who has been conferred the Padma Shri award in addition to the many other honours at the state and national level. His en-

thusiasm, patience, and knowledge of the colours and designs has enabled him to bring out the extraordinary work into his Jamavars. The prime attraction amongst his artistic creations is a matchless Jamavar shawl made up using 360 individual Jamwar cutouts of different colours and shades to give it a pattern.

The team next stopped at Mohammad Shafi Tinda's workshop of carpet weaving which has a history of carpet weaving for the past two hundred years. The Master craftsman M.S.Tinda has created sophisticated designs in the carpet that are full of gorgeous patterns and vibrant colours.

DLIMC Meeting Held To Review "Computerization of PACS"

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The first meeting of District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DLIMC) for Srinagar recently constituted by the Government for implementation of centrally sponsored Project "Computerization of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies" (PACS) was held today under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad.

The meeting discussed threadbare various aspects with regard to identification of Primary Agriculture Credit

Societies (PACSS) of Srinagar District to be recommended to State Level Implementation & Monitoring Committee (SLIMC) for computerization under centrally sponsored project for computerization of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACSS).

The meeting also took a detailed overview of the key components of the Project including Hardware, Comprehensive Enterprise Resource & Planning (ERP), Project Monitoring Unit(PMU), Training, handholding support and Maintenance. While implementation methodology also came under discussion.

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of 03No. Lavatory Blocks and conversion of Store Room into Washroom for Specially Aabled Students in the Department of Computer Sciences at Main Campus.	13.13	600/-	26,260/-	21-10-2022 to 01-11-2022 (6.00 PM)	02-11-2022 (11.30 AM)	"BEE" "CEE" & "DEE"
2	Providing and Fixing of Ornamental Grill Gate for Allama Iqbal Library at Main Campus.	4.80	200/-	9,600/-	21-10-2022 to 01-11-2022 (6.00 PM)	02-11-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

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

DIPK-NB-4566/22
NIT No: - F(E.Tend)(UCD)/KU/46/22
DATED: 22/10/22.

Executive Engineer

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
BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5:21
ZUHR 12:16
ASR 4:11
Magrib 5:53
ISHA 7:12

HIJRI CALENDAR
26 Rabi ul Awwal
1444

This Day In History

- 1086 - Battle of az-Zallaqah: Army of Yusuf ibn Tashfin defeats the forces of Castilian King Alfonso VI.
- 1157 - The Battle of Grathe Heath ends the civil war in Denmark. King Sweyn III is killed and Valdemar I restores the country.
- 1702 - Battle of Bay of Vigo: Dutch & English fleet destroy & occupy Spanish silver fleet & French squadron
- 1739 - War of Jenkins' Ear starts: British Prime Minister, Robert Walpole, reluctantly declares war on Spain
- 1812 - Failed coup against emperor Napoleon
- 1813 - The Pacific Fur Company trading post in Astoria, Oregon is turned over to the rival British North West Company (the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest was dominated for the next three decades by the United Kingdom).
- 1853 - Maastricht-Aken railway in Netherlands opens
- 1854 English newspaper "The Times" gives precise British positions in Crimea during Crimean War
- 1864 - Battle of Westport, Missouri: Union General Samuel R Curtis defeats Confederate General Stirling Price.
- 1935 - Mackenzie King is elected as Prime Minister of Canada for the third time
- 1942 - First ships of invasion fleet to Morocco leave Norfolk
- 1942 - During WW II, Britain launches major offensive at El Alamein, Egypt
- 1944 - Soviet army invades Hungary
- Jackie Robinson
- 1946 - UN General Assembly 2nd session convenes (1st NYC-Flushing Meadows)
- 1947 - NAACP petition on racism "An Appeal to the World" presented to UN
- 1947 - Husband & wife Dr Carl Cori & Dr Gerty Cori are 1st spouses to be awarded joint Nobel Prizes.
- 1953 - France grants Laos' sovereignty
- 1953 - German FR applies to NATO
- 1954 - Britain, France & USSR agree to end occupation of Germany

From KO Archives

70-Yr-Old Sets Himself Ablaze

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Overcome by his daughter's defiance, a 70-yr-old set himself and his house ablaze in Sopore village today. Mu-hammad Sabid Malla later succumbed to burn injuries.

Reports said that Sabir's daughter had opposed the match he had arranged for her. Unable to bear this rebellion, Sabir drenched himself and his two story home with petrol, climbed atop the building and set himself alight. The village Sopar Naghama some 7 kilometres from Handwara watched aghast as flames engulfed the man and his dwelling. Fire tenders rushed from Dangiwacha prevented the blaze from spreading to the ground floor. Sabir who had sustained extensive burns passed away soon after.

Meanwhile there were reports of two youth and women trying to put an end to their lives in different parts of the Valley.

Tired of his life Shiraz Ahmad Lone of Sahpora Pattan at-tempted suicide but was rushed to the hospital, where he is reported to be in a serious condition.

Saleema w/o Muhammad Shaban Bhat of Baran Pattan was rushed to hospital after she consumed some poisonous substance in a bid to put an end to her life. Doctors saved her life.

(Kashmir Observer, October 23, 2000)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name of my son from Koausar Khurshed to Mohammad Zyan & Correction to his mother's name from Nazia Habib to Nazia Habib. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tyndale Biscoe & Mallinson School within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Khursheed Ahmad Mir
F/o Mohammad Zyan
R/o Sanoora Kalipora
Budgam
bmg

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Mashood Ahmad Bhat
S/o Shabir Ahmad Bhat
R/o Utterpora Beerwah



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Higher Secondary School Examination (class 11th)
Roll No 2150452 Session /Year Annual Regular 2015
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.
Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam
bmg

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Beginning at Bonn

A historic accord was signed in Bonn, Germany on Wednesday. This first step on the road to recovery after more than two decades of death and destruction was taken when rival Afghan factions signed a power-sharing agreement following nine days of extensive and exhaustive negotiations. The accord, hailed all over the world, holds a promise of peace, prosperity and tranquility for the war-ravaged people of Afghanistan. It has paved the way for installing an interim administration headed by Hamid Karzai, a moderate from the dominant Pashtun ethnic group. Signed by the leaders of the four delegations and the UN special envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, in presence of the German chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, the agreement provides the Northern Alliance control of three key portfolios in the 30-member cabinet, which also includes two women. It also gives a symbolic role to the former king and provides for a UN security force for Kabul. The appointment of the 44-year-old Pashtun leader as head of the government is seen as a positive step for balancing the ethnic mix of Afghanistan. The statements made by Mr Karzai after his nomination have generated hopes that the twenty years suffering of one of the worlds proud and brave nations will now perhaps end.

After the Soviet invasion the people of Afghanistan had suffered agonies beyond description. Soviet bombers raised cities, towns and villages to the ground and reduced the country to rubble. Millions of uprooted people became refugees in neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran, and some even trickled into India. More than a million people were consumed by bullets, bombs, and land mines. By fighting Soviet forces and driving them out, the brave nation not only defeated one of the two super powers but also proved catalytic in its collapse. But the clash of interest between Afghan leaders pushed the nation into a terrible civil war. Post September 11, Afghans faced yet another bout of misery, suffering the rage of the United States against Saudi fugitive, Osama bin Laden, and his organisation, Al Quaida.

Now that the Taliban government has collapsed, and its leader, Mullah Omer, has surrendered his last stronghold, there is a need for all important nations to play a positive and substantive role for rebuilding the war ravaged country.

After his nomination as prime minister, Mr. Karzai emphasized that he is a man of peace and wants to resolve the present crisis with the Taliban through talks instead of war, and announced amnesty for the Taliban militia. He also identified friendly relations with neighboring countries as the main plank of his foreign policy. This is bound to be welcomed both within and outside Afghanistan. The experience after the Soviet withdrawal should guide the new Afghan government for making a new beginning and ensuring lasting peace in the country.

The Afghan community not only needs a healing touch but also emancipated leadership. National reconstruction, and not ethnic considerations, should be the priority with the new government. The global community should provide all possible assistance to the new Afghan government in the stupendous task of national reconstruction, building of infra-structure, strengthening of democratic institutions and initiating a massive educational programme.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on Dec 9, 2001

Polls Apart

RIYAZ WANI

Although home minister Amit Shah mentioned holding elections for the Assembly after the electoral records were updated during his recent trip to Jammu and Kashmir, it is unclear when or whether this will happen. But the visit had all the hallmarks of an election campaign. The visit stood out mostly for its political signals and the two rallies that the home minister addressed in Rajouri and Baramulla, though he also attended a security review meeting and launched some development projects.

The big takeaway from the Shah's visit was his public mobilization around the idea that Kashmir after the withdrawal of its special constitutional status in August 2019 was better than before. To this end, his two rallies were meant to make a symbolic point. They were well-attended too. Over ten thousand people attended the Baramulla rally, which was unusual and unexpected for a BJP leader, otherwise perceived to be working against Muslim interests - more so in Kashmir. This, despite the fact, that Baramulla town where the rally was held was under siege for the entire day. The shops weren't allowed to open, and the traffic couldn't pass. No traffic was allowed also on the Srinagar-Baramulla highway.

This, however, didn't de-



tract from the significance of the Baramulla rally. It was once unthinkable that a rally of this size could be held by a top BJP leader in a north Kashmir town, once roiled by militancy and conflict. And Shah made most of it by training guns on the three families - Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis - who, according to him, have ruled and ruined Jammu and Kashmir over the past seven decades. He asserted that Naya Kashmir forged after the erasure of the special constitutional status was a far better place than the earlier, counting the reduction of violence, investments in development projects, and the resurrection of tourism among the BJP government's achievements.

Shah's claims were reinforced as the two-day visit went incident-free. In the run-up to the visit, however, there were a few incidents of violence in Jammu, including the blast on passenger buses and the killing of the DGP Prisons H K Lohia, the latter termed by the police as a crime.

The home minister's other political signal was the outreach to the Gujjar, Bakerwal and Paharis communities. Shah announced the implementation of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for economically disadvantaged communities. Addressing the rally at Rajouri, the home minister said minorities and Dalits living in the Union Territory would not have gotten reservation rights if there was no abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in 2019. And in Baramulla, he reiterated the reservation promise to the three communities. The ST quota in J&K carries 7 percent reservations in government jobs and educational institutions.

The decision to give reservations to the communities is seen as a clever pre-political gambit by the BJP. Largely Muslims, Gujjars, Bakerwals, and Paharis comprise 40 percent of the population in border districts. And if the gambit succeeds as looks likely, it could persuade a large section of these tribal communities to vote for the BJP, further assuring its victory in the Jammu division and also enabling the party to make some inroads in Kashmir Valley.

Eight assembly seats in the Rajouri and Poonch districts of the Jammu division are decidedly influenced by the Paharis, the Gujjars, and the Bakerwals. For any political party hoping to form the government in J&K, where elections appear likely to take place toward the end of the year or early the next year, these seats are crucial. If the BJP wins these seats, it can hope to sweep the Jammu division with 43 seats, fortifying its chances to form a government with support from a Kashmir-based party. There is a catch

here though: Gujjars and the Bakerwals already have ST status, enjoying it since 1991, so they are worried about the dilution of their quota, with Paharis also partaking in the pie. And as a result, the BJP may not end up benefiting to the extent it expects.

But considering the electoral war machine that the BJP has become, it has the resources, the capacity, and the power to steamroll the combined opposition in the union territory. As for the opposition, it has become a crowded scene with the entry of new political actors over the last three years, the former Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad is the latest. And all of them are acting at cross-purposes against one another. This includes even the PAGD which has recently witnessed some rumblings between the National Conference and the PDP - two principal parties. And there is now a question mark whether the two parties will even contest jointly as they had indicated earlier. This all benefits the BJP, should there once again be a Hindu consolidation in the Jammu division, paving the way for a BJP-led rule in the UT. The scenario has never looked as imminent as it does now.

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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The strategic partnership between the United States and India is pivotal to maintaining the balance of power in the vast Indo-Pacific region and counterbalancing China's hegemonic ambitions. The US is India's second-largest trading partner, and deepening the ties between the two countries is one of the rare bipartisan foreign policies that exists in Washington today.

The upcoming October 18-31 joint military exercise known as Yudh Abhyas (War Practice), in a high-altitude area less than 100 kilometers (62 miles) from India's border with China, highlights the partnership's growing strategic importance. India holds more annual military exercises with the US than any other country, as the two powers seek to improve their forces' interoperability. As Admiral Michael M. Gilday, the US Navy's Chief of Naval Operations, put it recently, India is a "crucial partner" in countering China's rise.

But President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan and effectively surrender the country to a Pakistan-reared terrorist militia, in addition to tensions related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have strained the relationship between the world's most powerful and most populous democracies.

Like many other countries, including US allies such as Israel and Turkey, India has taken a neutral stance on the war in Ukraine. Much to the chagrin of the US and Europe, the country has continued to purchase discounted oil from Russia, rebuffing the Biden administration's offer to replace Russian oil with US supplies. Instead, India has increased its imports of Russian crude.

At the heart of India's decision is fear of losing out to China. Since 2019, the US has used the sanctions on Iran's oil exports to deprive India of cheaper Iranian oil, thereby turning it into the largest market for US energy exporters. The main beneficiary of the sanctions is China, which has increased its purchases of Iranian oil at a discount and de-

veloped a security partnership with the Islamic Republic without facing US reprisal.

While the US has already surpassed Russia as India's largest weapons supplier, the American defense sector views the war in Ukraine as a "great opportunity" for arms sales to India to "surge." Moreover, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has urged Indian officials to avoid buying Russian equipment and purchase US-made weapons from now on.

Yet Biden's overriding focus on punishing Russia could exacerbate India's security challenges, especially if the international efforts to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin inadvertently empower an expansionist China. The US-led sanctions and Europe's shift away from Russian energy effectively put Russia - the world's most resource-rich country - in the pocket of the resource-hungry Chinese. Its alliance with Russia has allowed China to build an energy safety net through an increase in land-based imports, which, unlike sea-borne deliveries, cannot be blockaded if Chinese President Xi Jinping decides to invade Taiwan.

Meanwhile, America's recent \$450 million deal to modernize Pakistan's F-16 fleet - unveiled days after the US helped the country stave off an imminent debt default through an International Monetary Fund bailout - has evoked bitter memories of the US arming Pakistan against

India and supporting the initial development of the Pakistani nuclear-weapons program during the Cold War.

The Biden administration's disingenuous claim that upgrading Pakistan's US-supplied F-16 fleet would advance counterterrorism has prompted a sharp response from India. During a recent visit to Washington, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar publicly condemned the deal, saying that the American explanation "is not fooling anyone": Pakistan would undoubtedly deploy the upgraded fighter jets against India.

Against this backdrop, some observers have revived the old theory that US-India ties fare better under Republican administrations. Bilateral relations thrived during President Donald Trump's administration, which relied heavily on India in developing its Indo-Pacific strategy. Trump instituted new US policies on China and Pakistan, whose increasingly close partnership has raised the prospect of India fighting a two-front war. In a major policy shift, Trump ended the 45-year US policy of aiding China's rise. He also cut off security aid to Pakistan for not severing its ties with terrorist groups.

Biden, on the other hand, has resumed America's coddling of Pakistan, made outreach to Beijing a high priority, and said nothing about China's encroachments on Indian territory in the Himalayas. But by locking horns with China in a 30-month military standoff, India has openly chal-

lenged Chinese power in a way no other world power has done in this century.

Nothing better illustrates Biden's neglect of the relationship with India than the fact that, since he took office, there has been no US ambassador in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the US ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, caused an uproar during a visit to the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir, which he called by its Pakistani name - "Azad [Liberated] Jammu and Kashmir" - instead of "Pakistan-administered Kashmir," as the United Nations calls it.

Moreover, the Biden administration has been trying to leverage human-rights issues against India. In April, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken alleged a "rise in human-rights abuses" in the country, prompting Jaishankar to counter that India is similarly concerned about the state of human rights in the US. Likewise, prominent members of the US Democratic Party can barely conceal their hostility to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his brand of Hindu nationalism.

Given that the US and India are both bitterly polarized democracies, officials should avoid statements that could inflame domestic tensions. If the US wishes to shift strategic focus to the Indo-Pacific, it must improve relations with its most important strategic ally in Asia. To that end, Biden must not squander the historic opportunity to forge a "soft" alliance with India. If the US is to prevail in its escalating rivalry with China and Russia and avoid strategic overreach, it needs India more than ever. But without mutual respect, the bilateral partnership is doomed.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate

Discipline for Dreams

Ali Ashhar

Everyone is free to dream, but fulfilling them comes with a price. The price is discipline. Success is most often craved for yet paying the price that comes with is least often loved. What distracts people from their long term goals is usually short term pleasures. In reality, people get in a conflict with themselves— a conflict of dopamine and discipline. It's easier getting swayed by pleasure inducing chemical than to suffer the rigorous stint of discipline. Our brain perceives short term pleasures as a merrymaking and keeps craving it over and over again. The addiction is never ending. Be it scrolling down the reels on your mobile device or binge watching web series. Short term pleasures is an easy path that leads you to barren destinations while leading a life on discipline may be rigorous yet it leads you to beautiful destination.

In order to overcome the hurdles spawned by short term pleasures, we ought to be clear on what we want to achieve in life and why. As Abraham Lincoln said, "Discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want best." People want best for them but are often distracted by worst in the form of short term pleasures. Conquer your inner self, everything else will

comply. Battles are fought in the battleground but won in mind. The best investment you can make is in yourself. You need to learn about yourself what your body requires— physically, mentally and for some people spiritually.

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To achieve big goals set small targets. As Shams Tabrizi said, "It's pointless to know where the way leads. Think only about your first

step, the rest will come." Instead of focusing on your results on what

might go right or wrong, you need to focus on the process. It's the path

that leads to the right destination. Start with small targets. Fulfilling

them certainly gives you a sense of satisfaction at the end of the day. When short term targets get fulfilled more, short term pleasures distract you less. It keeps you focussed on your goals. The next thing to keep in mind is your endurance. To endure it all mentally, you need great physical and social well-being as well. Don't dwell on pizzas and burgers. Feed your brain healthy foods and thoughts. Take a daily dose of laughter and sunshine. Read books, quotes and articles. The best thing about reading is that it brings you in the proximity of great people. Reading motivational quotes and watching motivational videos puts you in the virtual camaraderie of smart people. Surround yourself with people who make you believe "Impossible is possible", not with those who make you believe "Possible is impossible". You should have people around yourself who can mitigate your worries and amplify your happiness. Conquer your inner self, everything else will comply.

Sometimes things aren't that much complicated as we are made to believe. You are what you believe so be positive, be optimistic. You can change, you can succeed. Have faith in yourself. Have a vision of your own and define your life.

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HAPPY IN VIRTUAL, Unhappy In Real World!

Are We Living in a Post-Happiness World?

Saiqa Jan

These modern times where we live in an era of advanced technology, high-speed internet available at our fingertips, and countless social networking apps that allow us to connect with people all around the world, with a click of a button we can be part of our friend's lives living in different continents, and with a click of a button we can share our most important and beautiful moments/ phases of life.

We can reach out to hundred of people from around the world in a matter of minutes. We can suggest a hundred things to the people living even in the remotest corners of the world. Advancement of technology has made us more connected than we have ever been. In older times we couldn't have even thought of such a closely knitted web that can connect you to world in a matter of seconds.

But as we go deeper into the study of this closeness we come to realise that if the advancement of technology has brought us so close to each other, how come there are more socially isolated people in real life? If technology has helped us maintain a very good connection with all of our friends and family then, why do people still feel lonely and get depressed and isolate themselves eventually leading to even suicides?

But as we go deeper into the study of this closeness we come to realise that if the advancement of technology has brought us so close to each other, how come there are more socially isolated people in real life? If technology has helped us maintain a very good connection with all of our friends and family then, why do people still feel lonely and get depressed and isolate themselves eventually leading to even suicides?

Why do relationships seem fake and why do we see everyone complaining about having trust issues and not being able to connect in real life with the people?

Why are our suicide rates higher than ever?

Why is the depression rate getting higher and higher with each passing day?

Why do people develop and suffer through various psychosocial problems?

Why are we emotionally and psychologically so vulnerable that the only way out seems to be self-harm?

Why are we very adjustable and easy to get along with on social networks whilst we find it difficult to do the same in real life?

Here I am not trying to degrade the place and value of social net-

working and technological advancement, instead what I am emphasising on is the need and dependency we feel in our lives upon social networking and technology in general. We have become so dependent upon it that we don't realise that we are missing out on real life. We try and condition our brains to find our happiness virtually. We have hundreds of friends online who we text, who we chat and talk with, but when we close our social networking sites, shut down our computers or cellphones, who do we have with ourselves?

How many of us meet up and interact with strangers in a park? None. Because we aren't supposed to, because we don't know how those people are going to turn out and react to us interacting with them. But how many of us follow those self-made rules and regulations of interaction with strangers on social media?

The answer to that is none, because in our heads our virtual space is our safe space, a place where we can express ourselves better, e x -



press our emotions better, interact with strangers and make new friends. But have we ever thought that all this display of emotions and interactions is getting faker and faker along the way somewhere? Have we ever questioned ourselves about why we need all those likes? All those comments? Why do we need that entire technologically social acceptance? Why do we feel a compulsion to check and recheck our posts and see who liked, who disliked and who said what about our very own emotions?

Why is it that every time we get a negative comment we feel more affected and hit by it than a damn! Tornado itself?

I know many of you might be thinking right now, well! That doesn't happen with me, but deep down even you know that you crave that social attention, that acceptance and the feeling of belongingness you get when your posts hit a huge number of likes and com-

ments. You feel satisfied once your posts blow up, that's from where the process of social loneliness (as I call it) starts because once you've hit the mark, then you feel the pressure. The pressure to do better next time, the pressure which spins you around, makes you go take a million pictures and choose one to post it, because you need those likes and if you don't get them you won't be satisfied. In that pressure you neglect your real emotions and start posting and pretending to be someone who you are not, you make your life look picture perfect, when it isn't that way. You share your emotions and moments online pretending to be happier than you are, and whilst doing that you are slowly isolating yourself from people existing in your real life.

At first you find your happiness online among the group of people who you think are exactly like you in terms of feelings, emotions, likings, disliking, and whatnot.

You start living two

lives at the same time, one is a virtual life while the other is the real life you have which you tend to ignore every time you hop into that

you realise that virtual acceptance isn't enough, where you need someone to be by your side in real life, but you find none because the world you created for yourself, the happiness you got was all virtual and not real and that's where the process of technological depression starts.

You start going into self-hate, you think of yourself as not being

good enough, like you are lacking something, which you aren't, then you start feeling lonely as if you had the world in one min-

ready misplaced and is-attached to something else. Technology is no longer a part of our lifestyle, but it has become the lifestyle itself and

The truth is no one is as happier as they show online, you can never make out a difference between real and fake happiness virtually, but doing all this we are not only tricking people into believing we are happy but we also trick ourselves and maybe that is why when the moment of realisation comes to us, most of us cannot even handle that and give up to the first and most stupid thoughts that come to mind



virtual roller coaster and ride away with the thrill and fun of it and all this happens so gradually that you don't even realise that it's happening, until you reach a point where all the fun and thrill starts to vanish away, where you start to realise that you do a double time living two lives is of no good to you. A point where

ute and another you had nothing. And all that leads to the only way, the road to the socialised loneliness.

It's sadly amusing how we subject our happiness to a virtual world. We create and ignore the real world, and eventually we come back to the real world to find the same happiness that we have al-

maybe that's why we feel so incomplete and lonely, because the more we dive into it the more we lose the taste and fun of simple things in life.

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back to the real world to find the same happiness that we have already misplaced and is-attached to something else. Technology is no longer a part of our lifestyle, but it has become the lifestyle itself and maybe that's why we feel so incomplete and lonely, because the more we dive into it the more we lose the taste and fun of simple things in life.

We share our virtual emotions but no one actually knows what we feel for real, because they see what we make them see and they cannot see beyond that. No one can see beyond a fake smile in a picture, because we have them believe that our life is exactly as it looks in the posts, and we do the same with others as well. We put ourselves and our emotions in comparison with others online and unknowingly get ourselves drowned into more self-pity and self-hate at the same time and that is what makes us chaotic inside out.

The truth is no one is as happier as they show online, you can never make out a difference between real and fake happiness virtually, but doing all this we are not only tricking people into believing we are happy but we also trick ourselves and maybe that is why when the moment of realisation comes to us, most of us cannot even handle that and give up to the first and most stupid thoughts that come to mind. It's like self-caging ourselves, getting used to the feeling and then not wanting to come out of it.

After reading this you might think I am asking you to give up on technology and social networking all together but that's not what it is. This is meant to make you understand whether you are using technology or you are being used by it.

All this was made to make us feel more connected when in reality, how we use it has gotten us to move away from each other.

Studies show that due to the excessive use of technology and social media people have developed a dependency upon it which leads to various psychological problems and diseases like FOMO (fear of missing out), Insomnia due to problems with circadian rhythms, depression, and not to mention the ill effects of electronic gadgets on eyes and brain.

Technology is not the problem. The way we use it, is. That is where the problem lies and that is where we need to find the loopholes and fix them to have a better life in real and not a virtual one.

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Achabal Family Stages Protest, Allege Daughter's 'Murder' By In-Laws



Agencies

SRINAGAR: A family on Saturday staged a protest in Achabal area of Anantnag district in South Kashmir against the alleged murder of their daughter by her in-laws.

The family and relatives of the woman assembled at Achabal and shouted slogans in support of their demanded for "immediate action against the in-laws for alleged murder of her" at Kehribal Mattan Anantnag.

"The height is such that her in-laws left the hospital after

she died instead of taking her body for last rites," they said.

Meanwhile, the family demanded strict action against the in-laws and urged authorities to act swiftly so that the "culprits are brought to book immediately." A police team later reached the spot and pacified the protesters, mainly women, with the assurances of action as warranted under laws. Later traffic through the area was restored.

When contacted, a police official told a local news agency GNS that proceedings have been launched into the incident.

JAN ABHIYAN PROGRAMME

Principal Polytechnic College Suspended For Failing To Furnish Info

Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Baseer UI Haq Choudhary suspended Principal Polytechnic College Awantipora, Mahmood Ahmad Khan for failing to furnish the requisite information with respect to Activities undertaken and Deliverables achieved during the preparatory phase of Jan Abhiyan, an official spokesperson said Saturday.

The suspension order issued reads that whereas as per the Government Orders issued for timely conduct of Back to Village Phase Fourth (B2V4) Programme, all Sectors have been directed to achieve the fixed Deliverables during Jan Abhiyan phase with effect from 15th to 26th October 2022, it is mandatory to furnish Daily Progress Report with respect to the Deliverables achieved vis-a-vis set targets and Cumulative Figures, for onward submission to the Government of J&K.

It further reads that Principal Polytechnic College Awantipora Pulwama has miserably failed in furnishing the requisite information with respect to Activities undertaken and Deliverables achieved during the preparatory phase of Jan Abhiyan besides it is also found that his progress has remained quite dismal and he has taken this important programme of the Government of

J&K in a very casual manner.

The suspension order states that neither any Deliverables have been achieved by the said Institution (Polytechnic College Awantipora) nor has any information been submitted to Deputy Commissioner's Office Pulwama in this regard, which has unnecessarily hampered the progress on this prestigious Program of the Government.

Moreover, it states that on October 21, 2022 a phone call was made by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama to the said Principal seeking the requisite information for compilation and onward submission to higher ups but the said officer hardly bothered to respond properly and in fact outrightly denied the submission of B2V4 information to this office.

"Such lackadaisical attitude displayed by Principal Polytechnic College Awantipora speaks volumes on his part and constitutes dereliction of duties and official misconduct which attracts disciplinary action. Therefore, pending inquiry into his conduct, Mahmood Ahmad Khan, Principal Polytechnic College Awantipora Pulwama, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect and is attached with the office of Assistant Commissioner Revenue Pulwama till further orders", states the order issued by Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama.

Meeting Held To Form Women's Association Of Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over a 100 women activists from different walks of life held a preliminary meeting here on Saturday and unanimously decided to form the "Women's Association of Kashmir".

The women present spoke about the difficulties that they facing in the present circumstances, a statement issued by the organizers said. They said that the State Women's Commission had been dissolved in 2019 and now there was no forum where their grievances could be discussed and resolved. "AIDWA (All India Democratic

Womens Association) Vice President, Subhashini Ali, attended the meeting and spoke of the need to form a broad-based women's organisation to take up the issues of women across society in Kashmir. She discussed ways in which the organisation could be formed and strengthened," the statement said.

It further added that the Kashmiri women participated with enthusiasm and spoke about their problems and also their determination to overcome them.

A 15 member organising committee was elected with Latifa and Laila as Convenors.

Policeman Slips, Dies In Poonch

Agencies

POONCH: A policeman died after reportedly slipping down during the night while he was heading towards washroom in Poonch, officials said on Saturday.

Police said that proceedings under 174 CrPc have been initiated into the death of the 48-year-old policeman.

Officials identified deceased

as Narinder Sharma son of Rameshwar Sharma of Rehari Colony of Jammu.

He was on duty at Kalika Mandir in Chakrara Mandi area in Poonch district, they said. Station House House Mandi Mukhtar AI confirmed to a local news agency GNS the death of the policeman and said that body is being handed over to the family after completion of medico-legal proceedings.

J&K Bags Top Awards Under PMAY-URBAN During IUHC 2022

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant achievement, Jammu and Kashmir has won top awards in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-Urban) during three day "India Urban Housing Conclave 2022" (IUHC 2022) organized by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in Rajkot, Gujarat.

The conclave was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on 19th of October, 2022. J&K has won two awards including "Overall best performing Union Territory and best performing UT for implementation of Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)".

Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Dheeraj Gupta received the award on behalf of the UT Government.

The J&K team, which was led by Dheeraj Gupta, was comprised of S A Keen, Managing Director, J&K Housing Board and other officials of PMAY (Urban) Mission.

The conclave included exhibition of departmental stalls highlighting the achievements and best practices adopted across the states and UTs in implementation of the Mission.

PMAY-U is a flagship Mission of Government of India being implemented by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban



Affairs (MoHUA) which addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pacca house to all eligible urban households by the year 2022, when Nation completes 75 years of Independence.

Pertinently, J&K has achieved 100 percent saturation in implementation of PMAY Mission. About 44,701 beneficiaries have been identified and approved under BLC component, out of which, 44630 dwelling units have been grounded and will be completed within the prescribed time schedule.

The UT government has for the first time introduced a new initiative wherein interest free loan/subsidy is being provided for an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakh

per beneficiary for construction of dwelling unit under BLC component. Besides, 336 houses are being reconstructed under Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) at Sunjwan, Jammu while 968 flats at are being constructed at Bhalwal and lower Roopnagar Jammu under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) component.

Also, a Demonstration Housing Project (DHP) under Technology Sub-Mission (TSM) of the Mission has been taken up at Bhalwal, Jammu. The technology to be used for DHP is EPS Core Panels. After completion, J&K Housing Board will not only gainfully utilize the structure but will also showcase it as latest proven alternate/green technology solution suitable to the geo-climatic & hazardous conditions of Jammu region.

Union MoS Education Annpurna Devi Concludes Budgam Tour

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Union Minister of State (MoS) for Education Annpurna Devi during her visit to Budgam on Saturday laid foundation stone of Rs. 3.27 crore Additional Classroom Accommodation project at Higher Secondary School Humhama in Budgam.

During her visit, the MoS also visited Boys Higher School Budgam and inspected Atal Tinkering Lab. She interacted with the students and appreciated them for coming up with some of the best innovative models.

Felicitating beneficiaries, the Union Minister distributed sanction letters for sheep, agriculture and dairy units besides wheelchairs and other aids among specially-abled persons and financial aid among the eligible beneficiaries covered under various centrally sponsored schemes.

The Minister also interacted with members of Self Help Groups who apprised the minister about their successful business with the proper handling by RLM department.

During the visit, the Minister took first hand stock of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman in the district. In order to check the quality of food served to



children under the PM Poshan scheme, the minister also had lunch with student beneficiaries of Mid-day meal scheme at Boys High School Budgam.

The Minister also interacted with various NEET qualifiers and various other youth who have excelled in sports, martial arts and other fields.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Union Government is committed to provide all support to the youth of J&K so that besides education the youth of Jammu and Kashmir excel in other fields also.

Stressing on the importance of education, the Union Minister assured that the Central Government is committed to provide all possible assistance for infrastructure development and to introduce new initia-

tives to improve the quality of education and the new education policy is a step in that direction. She outlined the need to focus on upgradation of infrastructure in schools to equip the future generation with all the skills they need to excel in today's world.

The minister also flagged off a Common Service Centre Van to generate massive awareness regarding the ambitious programme of Back to Village-4 and Janbhagidari among the masses and to provide number of services to the general public of Budgam at their doorsteps.

The Van was flagged off at Dak Bunglow Budgam and will move to all urban and rural areas of the district for awareness generation and public service delivery to the citizens.

MPCC Meet Calls For Strengthening Coordination Between Media Units

PIB Fact Check Feature Is Valuable To Check Misleading Information

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A meeting of the Inter-Media Publicity Coordination Committee (IMPPC) was organized Saturday by Press Information Bureau, Jammu at Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Additional Director General (Region) PIB J&K and Ladakh, Rajinder Chaudhry.

During the meeting, Chaudhry highlighted the working of Press Information Bureau, Jammu and Kashmir and Central Bureau of Communication, J&K & Ladakh Region.

Chaudhry emphasized that there is an essential need for strengthening inter-media relations between different media units of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, J&K DIPR and Central Government Departments in Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Regions.

Chaudhry further stressed upon the cooperation between the departments in giving meaningful information and data and better media integra-

tion and synergy in achieving better media coverage.

Assistant Director, Press Information Bureau Jammu, Ayushi Puri said that PIB Jammu whenever approached by any of the Central Government Departments based in J&K provides best media coverage to their events, even arrange media for making the events successful. She also said that their social media handles are too taken care of by requesting the important handles to amplify their tweets and Facebook posts.

PRO Defence Udhampur, Abhinav Navneet suggested more coordination between the media units and departments for better media coverage of important events like those organized by Defence. He also suggested that social media handles of media units and departments must be verified so that authenticity is maintained and tagging done during important events.

Field Publicity Officer, Udhampur, Khurshheed Yousuf

gave an overview about the department and functioning of its various units. The mandate of CBC offers an opportunity to all the media units and departments to highlight various centrally sponsored schemes and initiatives, he said. He also highlighted the role of CBC during the recently held Katra Festival, information dissemination related to Poshan Maah, Har Ghar Tiranga etc.

Head Regional News Unit, AIR and DD, R K Raina said that for future collaboration, the departments must share news of important events with DD and AIR so that the same is given wider coverage which will also ensure better coordination among us.

Renu Raina, All India Radio, Jammu said that AIR is giving a wide coverage to the ongoing public outreach program by the Union Ministers in J&K, taking on air special weekly programs on Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, PM's 15 Point Program, Swachhta Campaign 2.0 etc.

CBSE Organises National Conference On Inclusive Education

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Central Board of Secondary Education organized a 2-day National Conference on Inclusive Education., officials said Saturday.

The conference was hosted by CoE Chandigarh and Jammu Schools on 21st and 22nd Oct 2022 at Teachers' Bhawan, Gandhinagar.

The two day Conference aimed at Inclusive Education, focusing that all students, irrespective of any difference they may have, are placed in age - appropriate general education classes to receive high quality instruction, interventions and support that enable them to meet success in the core curriculum.

The inaugural session on day one commenced with the welcome address by Dr Ramshankar, Director Training. In his address, he welcomed the Chief Guest, the chairperson CBSE, Nidhi Chibber, Vice Chancellor SMVDU Katra, Ravindra Kumar Sinha- the guest of Honour, besides Dr Ravi Shankar Director School Education; Renu Gupta, Director MIER Group of education; all the teachers and heads of different schools from across the country briefly introducing the elaborate audience about the two day long programme.

The programme began with the kindling of the auspicious lamp of knowledge and wisdom, the students of Jammu Sanskriti School presented the Saraswati Vandana followed by a welcome song by the students of Model Academy.

Opening remarks were delivered by Chairperson CBSE Nidhi Chibber. Who, in her address talked about the importance of Inclusive Education (IE) - a new approach towards educating children with disability and learning difficulties with the normal ones and under one-roof. She stressed upon bringing all students together in one classroom and community regardless of their strengths or weaknesses in any area, and sought to maximize the potential of all students.

The guest of honor, Vice Chancellor Ravinder Kumar Sinha

SMVDU University, in his keynote address enlightened everyone on successful inclusive education that happens primarily through accepting, understanding, and attending to student differences and diversity, which can include physical, cognitive, academic, social and emotional.

Dr. Ravishanker Sharma, Director School Education, appreciated the thought of CoE Chandigarh and Jammu Schools in collaboration with CBSE on inclusive education which is the need of the present society.

Various schools across the country presented the papers on Inclusive education, removing Physical and Attitudinal barriers, Parental involvement in Inclusive education, differentiated instructions, universal design for learning, Psychological assessment in classrooms, Response to intervention and Capacity building of teachers for inclusion. It focused on the school and classroom operate on the premise that students with disabilities are as fundamentally competent as students without disabilities. Therefore, all students can be full participants in their classrooms and in the local school community.

A Panel of Experts composed of a Councillor, a CBSE official, a Principal from the organizing committee gave their scientific reviews and an expert comment on all the papers that were presented.

The second day commenced with cultural events of the region to make all the delegates know about the cultural aspect of the Jammu region. DBN Amarvillla presented a Dogri Folk Song that mesmerised each one present there. It was followed up by a folk song of Jammu presented by the students of APS Jammu Cantt.

A video presentation on Best Practices in Inclusive Education showcasing the Jammu region was the next item.

An array of eminent speakers from different professions having rich experience and achievements shared their expertise with the participants. Over 350 trs and heads joined from across various states to witness the programme on the second day too.

Bandipora Police Solved Burglary Case, Accused Arrested

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have solved a burglary case by arresting a man and recovering stolen jewelry worth thousands, besides cash from him in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

According to a spokesperson, police Station Bandipora received a complaint from one person namely Gh Qadir Dar S/o Late Mohamad Subhan Dar R/o Lankreshipora Bandipora that some thieves had barged inside his residential house at Lankreshipora Bandipora and have some golden ornaments worth thousands of rupees and some Cash.

"In this connection Case FIR No.169/2022 under relevant sections was registered in PS Bandipora and investigation started," the spokesperson said.

"While, acting on this complaint police team of police

station Bandipora under the supervision of DYSP HQRS Bandipora Mohammad Shafat-JKPS comprising of SHO PS Bandipora INSP. Ashiq Hussain, PSI Saqib Ahmad & PSI Rakesh Kumar was constituted. During the course of Investigation many suspects were called for questioning and after utilising all available technical /human resources the team arrested one accused person," he added.

The spokesperson identified the accused as Amir Ahmad Rather of Aanchar Soura Srinagar. During questioning, he said, the accused confessed the commission of crime and upon his disclosure stolen goods which included Golden Jewellery and Cash Rs 21350 were recovered from his residential house in Aanchar Soura Srinagar.

"Further investigation has been taken up," the spokesperson added.

DG Planning Visits Shopian, Inspects Developmental Works Of ABDP Blocks

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The Director General (DG) Planning, Parvaiz Sajad Kakroo who is also Visiting Officer for Shopian Saturday visited Shopian District to take first hand review of Developmental initiatives taken up under Aspirational Block Developmental Programme (ABDP).

At the outset, the DG took review of many developmental sectors in a meeting with concerned departments. Works undertaken by Health, Education, Irrigation, R&B, Handicrafts and other departments were reviewed here at Mini Secretariat, here.

It was intimated during the meeting that multifarious works in skill development, school education, RDD, etc are under execution in two

Aspirational Blocks of Keller and Ramnagri which shall be completed within the stipulated time frame.

The Visiting Officer asked the concerned officers to focus on saturation of targets.

Joint Director Planning, Khurshheed Ahmed Khatana briefed the meeting about developmental scenarios in these two Aspirational Blocks.

The DG said that department-wise developmental works are to be completed as part of Jan Abhiyan and stressed for achieving the set goals. He directed the officers to submit the report on developmental works besides emphasizing upon departments to ensure close monitoring and follow-up for cent percent completion of projects within stipulated time.

Buyers Splurge As Diwali Shopping Makes Grand Return After Covid-Induced Lull



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: It is the season of lights, parties and gifts. And this Diwali, after a two-year pandemic-induced lull, people are thronging the markets to grab the perfect gift for their loved ones and keep the ritual of exchanging goodies alive.

This season, shoppers are once again contending with the problem of plenty, be it in deals or offerings, which has bewildered even the most seasoned buyer.

This was why Vandana Thapa, a homemaker in her 40s, played it safe and bought a mixed-bag of sorts, including electronics, home accessories to "tried and tasted" mithai, to satiate her annual festival shopping cravings.

Her laundry list of items includes a bar cabinet for her brother, phone for her father, home decor items for colleagues and sweet boxes for her house help.

According to industry experts, even though gourmet hampers, home furniture and accessories, such as chic candle stands or crockery, and sweets are in huge demand, electronic devices, including mobile phones and smart wearables, remain the ones to beat.

Gaurav Khatri, co-founder of

technology brand Noise, told PTI. "During the festival season, the demand for electronics and smart gadgets is at an all-time high and it's no different for the smart wearables segment... We speculate the industry to grow 2.2 times this festival season while we at Noise are expecting a growth of 150 per cent."

Expecting a "truly grand" Diwali, Manish Aggarwal, director of leading packaged food brand Bikano, has set a mammoth target of "Rs 400 crores" in sales across India.

Sid Mathur, founder of premium mithai brand Khoya, echoed Aggarwal's sentiments and claimed that sweetmeat sales at his Chanakya-puri store here had gone "beyond their own projections".

The festival season has set the cash registers ringing even louder for brands selling furniture, homeware and soft furnishing.

"We have seen a buoyant 50 per cent increase in sales over last year... Keeping up with the capital's trend, our other fast selling products have been our bespoke candles, the poker box and Eden collection, which are all doing very well," said Vikash Gupta, founder and CEO of Three Sixty, a lifestyle brand and design studio.

expected to reach the pre-COVID levels," Singhania told PTI.

Besides, commercial vehicles as well as tractor and three-wheeler sales are expected to be much better than the pandemic-affected last year, he added.

FADA is an independent collective of automobile dealers. It represents over 15,000 automobile dealers and 26,500 dealerships pan-India.

Singhania said the dealers were expecting a minimum of 40 per cent growth in retail sales this festive season (Navratri to Diwali period) as compared to last year.

He noted that even the two-wheeler segment, which has lagged behind, is witnessing improvement with robust demand coming in from urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

Singhania said the FADA expects that around 2 lakh passenger vehicle units would be retailed during the festive period this year from the total bookings of 7-8 lakh units so far.

"The rest of the units would be retailed in the coming months.. it is all about supply now as the booking numbers remain at a very high level," he added.

Worsening Geo-Political Crisis Could Fuel Inflation, Cautions Finance Ministry Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Sounding a note of caution, the Finance Ministry's Economic Review said on Saturday that inflation might witness another resurgence in case of deterioration of geo-political situation leading to higher global energy prices and supply chain pressures.

Observing that India has managed inflation better than most other countries in the world, the Review said that barring further weather extremities, retail food inflation is expected to decline in the coming months, leading to lower headline retail inflation.

However, it added, global energy prices and supplies remain sources of concern.

"Geopolitical conflicts may yet intensify reigniting supply chain pressures that have eased recently. If so, inflation may yet see a resurgence rather than a decline in 2023," the review said.

Retail inflation for India during these six months stood at 7.2 per cent, lower than the world inflation of 8 per cent, as represented by the median inflation of major economies, it said.

During the same period, it said, the INR depreciated by 5.4 per cent against the USD, less than the depreciation of 8.9 per cent of six major currencies in the DXY Index.

A series of measures taken by the RBI during July 2022 is expected to stabilise the capital



flows further and support the INR, it said.

The report said India's growth narrative in the first six months of the current financial year featured the uninterrupted thrust government provided to its capital expenditure that, until August of FY 2022-23, stood 46.8 per cent higher than the corresponding period of the previous year.

The increase marked a decisive shift towards improved quality of spending as the ratio of revenue expenditure to capital outlay fell to 4.5 from 6.4 in the last year, it said, adding, rising capital expenditure levels were also supported by stronger revenue generation following an improvement in tax compliance, higher corporate profitability, and growing economic activity.

Increasing revenue generation has further kept the fiscal deficit until August aligned with its budgeted level, which otherwise could have gone

awry with high capital expenditure, higher fertilizer and food subsidies and excise tax cuts to rein in inflation, it added.

While capital formation and digitalisation boost medium-term potential growth rate, learning losses caused by the pandemic-induced shutdowns and rising obesity levels restrain it, the report said, a healthy and educated India is a productive India.

The government quietly went about facilitating the development of India's digital infrastructure on the foundation of unique national identity, financial inclusion and payments, it said.

Similarly, quietly rebuilding the economy's ability to grow and letting it grow, after at least half a decade of financial stress followed by the pandemic, the global inflation shock and the global tightening of financial conditions will yield results that will be harder for the world to miss, it added.

GI Tagging Opened New Windows For Kashmir Saffron At Global Level: Dir Agri

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Saturday visited saffron fields of Balhama and adjacent areas to oversee saffron harvesting and flower picking which is going on in full swing these days.

Speaking to the saffron growers, Director Agriculture said that geographical indication GI Tagging has built a global reputation for Kashmir Saffron.

He said it has opened new windows for Kashmir saffron

taking benefit from the e-marketing facilities at IIKSTC.

He said Kashmir saffron is finding ways to net markets at international level and the department is continuously endeavoring to ensure that the concerned growers' economic interests are secured at all levels.

The Director Agriculture directed the concerned officers and technical experts to work in close coordination with the saffron growers and guide them during all the pre and post harvesting operations.



and the department is endeavoring to ensure that all the globally accepted quality parameters are met during the cultivation and post harvest management of the saffron. GI tagging is making saffron a success story, he added.

Iqbal asked the saffron growers to avail facilities from the IIKSTC and ensure that all the mandatory set parameters are taken care of. He said that saffron growers could get maximum price for their produce by

The Director was accompanied by Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Information Officer Kashmir, some senior officers and technical officers from the Department.

Later, the Director visited Noorpora, Lurgam, Tral areas of Pulwama to monitor the agriculture activities under the Rabi campaign.

Expect Record Deliveries Of Cars, Two-Wheelers On Dhanteras: FADA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Rebounding after two pandemic-hit years, automobile dealers expect a bumper sale of two- and four-wheelers during the auspicious Dhanteras this year.

Dealers expect a rush for automobiles across categories. Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said dealers are sitting on a record number of bookings this festive season and most customers are insisting on deliveries on Dhanteras.

Dhanteras, also known as Dhanatrayodashi, is celebrated each year as the first day to mark the beginning of Diwali. On this day, Hindus, Jains and Sikhs buy brass, silver and gold objects as it is regarded as one of the most auspicious and ideal days to purchase expensive items. This year, Dhanteras is being celebrated on October 22 and 23.

Auto dealers are expecting bumper sales in all segments, including passenger and commercial vehicles and two-wheelers.

"We expect record retail sales of passenger vehicles on Dhanteras. Even two-wheeler sales are

India Making Every Effort To Deal With Global Economic challenges: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the "Rozgar Mela" on Saturday to recruit 10 lakh people and underscored his government's efforts to create jobs in the last eight years amid the opposition's constant criticism of it on the issue of unemployment.

In his address after more than 75,000 people were given appointment letters for various government jobs in the first tranche, Modi acknowledged the challenges facing the economy the world over with many countries hit by a record inflation and unemployment and said India is making every effort to come out of the situation unscathed.

"It is a fact that the global scenario is not very good. Several large economies are struggling. In many countries, problems such as inflation and unemployment are at their peak," he said.

No one thinks that the side-effects of the once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic will go away in 100 days, the prime minister said, adding that the crisis is grave and global, caus-



ing adverse effects all around.

"Despite this, India is taking new initiatives and some risks to shield our country from being affected by these problems. It is a challenging job, but with your blessings, we have been protected till now," he said, adding that it was made possible as his government dealt with the shortcomings that were a hindrance to the economy.

The efficiency of the government departments has increased manifold and India has now leapt from being the 10th biggest economy to occupy the fifth spot in the world in the last eight years, Modi said.

In his speech to the new appointees, Modi cited numerous measures taken by the govern-

ment, including the push to the manufacturing, infrastructure and tourism sectors, to boost employment opportunities.

Unemployment has been a major plank of the opposition in several state elections as it has accused the government of failing to create adequate employment opportunities.

The government has rejected the claim, with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) citing its victories in most of the poll contests to counter the charge.

Modi cited the record amount of loan given under the "Mudra" scheme, which funds prospective entrepreneurs, and noted that the assistance to the tune of more than Rs 3 lakh crore during the pandemic helped avert a crisis to over 1.5 crore jobs in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

He said the Centre is working on multiple fronts to create maximum job opportunities for youngsters and asserted that the "Rozgar Mela" is an important milestone in the efforts to create employment and self-employment in the last eight years.

SHORT TAKES

Ola Ramping Up E-Scooter Production, Capacity: CEO

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Ola Electric is ramping up production of its e-scooters and is parallelly expanding capacity at its factory in Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu to meet future demand, company Founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said on Saturday.

The company, which launched its new S1 Air electric scooter at an introductory price of Rs 79,999, said it will also make a foray into electric motorcycles by next year.

"We have sold upwards of a lakh units now (since the company made a foray into the electric two-wheeler space last year in August). Now, we have very significant momentum behind us. We are already producing more than 1,000 a day now at the future factory. We will be scaling it up significantly beyond that," he said in a virtual press conference.

Aggarwal further said, "We feel that in the next six to eight months we will exhaust the (current) installed capacity and we are also in parallel expanding our capacity in the future factory." He was responding to a query on how many electric scooters has the company sold so far and by when it expects to fully utilise the initial installed capacity at its manufacturing unit.

Two-Day Dhanteras Kickstarts On Positive Note

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Dhanteras, spread over two days of the weekend, got off to an auspicious start on Saturday as consumers began trickling into markets, with jewellers expecting the momentum to increase towards the evening. Dhanteras, which marks the first day of Diwali in India, is considered an auspicious occasion to buy gold and silver as part of Hindu festivities.

"Since the day has just begun, the footfalls are just trickling in. As this year Dhanteras is spread over the weekend, we expect the momentum to increase towards the afternoon and evening and tomorrow.

"Mainly, since morning people who had pre-booked, are coming to pick up the items to avoid the crowd," All India Gem And Jewellery Domestic Council chairman Ashish Pethe told PTI.

Since the last 3-4 days the consumer sentiment has been good and the sales momentum has been positive. The industry expects a good two days of business, he added.

PNG Jewellers Chairman and Managing Director Saurabh Gadgil said in Maharashtra, the footfalls have been quite good since morning as people are coming in to either pick up their pre-booked jewellery or to buy gold and silver coins.

SpiceJet To Operate Over 50% Flights As DGCA Lifts Curbs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet will be able to operate more than 50 per cent of its flights from October 30 as the three-month-long restrictions imposed on the embattled airline will be lifted in the winter schedule.

In the wake of multiple incidents involving the aircraft of SpiceJet, aviation watchdog DGCA had on July 27 capped the number of flights the no-frills carrier could operate at 50 per cent. Later, the restrictions were extended till October 29, also the last day of the summer schedule.

Now, in the winter schedule starting from October 30, the airline will be operating 3,193 flights every week. This is also 6.6 per cent more than the number of weekly flights operated by the airline in the previous winter schedule.

From October 30, SpiceJet has been allowed to operate more than 50 per cent of their flights. The 50 per cent restriction on the number of flights was co-terminus with the summer schedule that ends on October 29, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) chief Arun Kumar told PTI on Saturday.

With respect to the operations of the airline, the DGCA chief said all precautions are being taken and "we will ensure things remain well under control".

Agriculture Dept Introduces Hydroponic Fodder Cultivation

Observer News Service

KATHUA- In a first, Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Department Kathua installed first ever Hydroponics fodder growing structure at the farm of progressive woman entrepreneur Sonika Sharma of Krishna Colony, Kathua.

The newly established unit was inaugurated by President, Municipal Council, Kathua Rekha Kumari when Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua Sanjeev Rai Gupta was also present.

The Agriculture Department Kathua in its handholding efforts is facilitating the interested farmers by installing such structures based on Soil Less fodder culture technique at 50 percent departmental subsidy besides guiding them with proper know-how about green fodder cultivation with hydroponic techniques.

The Team Urban Farming and Hydroponics from Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare Kathua installed the first ever Hydroponics Fodder Growing Structure at the farm of progressive woman Agripreneur Sonika Sharma of Krishna Colony, Kathua.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Sanjeev Rai Gupta said rapid urbanization has caused shrinkage of land availability for grazing & land holdings causing farmers not to set aside land for cultivation of green fodder.

Forex Reserves Fall USD 4.5 Bln To USD 528.37 Bln

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped by USD 4.50 billion to USD 528.37 billion for the week ended October 14, the RBI said on Friday.

The overall reserves had increased by USD 204 million to USD 532 billion in the previous reporting week, which was the first weekly increase in the kitty since August this year.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, saw a drop of USD 2.828 billion to USD 468.668 billion during the week to October 14, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves, whose value had risen by USD 1.35 billion in the previous reporting week, saw a decline of USD 1.502 billion in the value to USD 37.453 billion, it said.

Plane Crashes Into New Hampshire Building; All On Board Die

AGENCEIS

Keene: A small plane crashed into a building in New Hampshire, killing the two people on board and sparking a large fire on the ground, authorities said.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement Saturday that a single-engine Beechcraft Sierra aircraft crashed into a building north of Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Keene, New Hampshire, on Friday evening. City officials said on their Facebook page that no one was injured in the building hit by the plane but those on the plane have perished.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate. The NTSB will be in charge of the investigation and will provide additional updates, the FAA said.

Keene Mayor George Hansel told The Associated Press that two people on the plane died but that they have not been identified. He said the plane hit a two-story barn connected to a multi-family apartment building. All eight people were evacuated from the apartment building due to the subsequent fire.

At a morning press conference, Hansel said the plane was owned by Monadnock Aviation, which is based at the airport. He said it was unclear where the plane was headed and no one answered the phone at Monadnock. The cause of the crash remains under investigation and the operations at the airport were not affected, he said.

We are very fortunate in some ways that the plane didn't hit a part of the building where people were, Hansel said. This obviously could have been much worse but any loss of life is a tragedy.

Shaughn Calkins told WMUR-TV that he saw the fire as he was driving. We were probably close to quarter of a mile away, and you could feel the heat from the fire, Calkins said. It was billowing, so it was a big fire. (AP)

White Collar Crime Affecting Nation's Economy Has To Be Considered Seriously: CBI Court On Anil Deshmukh's Bail Plea

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: A white collar crime involving and affecting the nation's economy has to be considered seriously, a special court here observed while denying bail to former Maharashtra minister Anil Deshmukh in a corruption case probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader was arrested on November 2, 2021 and has been in judicial custody. He is currently admitted to a private hospital for coronary angiography.

The special CBI court on Friday rejected Deshmukh's bail plea and the copy of the same was made available on Saturday.

The court observed that the investigation had established the factum of collection of money from bar owners and delivery of the same to Deshmukh through Kundan Shinde (a former aide), who is also accused in the case.

"In the present case, so far it is clear that a huge amount affecting the economy of nation is involved. Such a white collar crime involving and affecting the economy of the nation has to be considered seriously," the court said in its order.

The entire community is aggrieved if economic offenders who ruin the economy of the state are not brought to books, it said.

"A murder may be committed in the heat the moment upon passions being aroused. An economic offence is committed with cool calculation and deliberate design with an eye on persons profit regardless of the consequences to the community," the order said.



Special CBI court judge S H Gwalani noted that there was an active involvement of Deshmukh in the offence of corruption and attempt to obtain undue advantage of his public duty for improper and dishonest performance.

"Considering the seriousness of the offence, the manner in which crime is committed, likelihood of the accused fleeing from justice and tampering with prosecution witnesses, I am of the view that in order to prevent such type of serious offence, it is not proper to release applicant (Deshmukh) on bail," the order said.

"A disregard for the interest of the community can be manifested only at the cost of forfeiting the trust and faith of the community in the system to administer justice in an even-handed manner without fear of criticism from the quarters which view white-collar crimes with a permissive eye unmindful of the damage done to the national economy and national interest," it stated.

The bench noted that investigation with regard to Deshmukh exercising influence over police transfers and postings was still on.

"Therefore, at this stage it cannot be said that there is no prima facie case is made out against accused No 1 (Deshmukh). Thus, in my considered opinion applicant is not entitled to be enlarged on bail," the court said.

It further noted that the statements of witnesses, specifically dismissed policeman Sachin Waze's, cannot be overlooked and the same play a very important role.

The court said that at the stage of granting bail, a detailed examination of evidence and merits of the case need not be undertaken and that there is only a need to indicate why bail cannot be granted in cases where the accused is charged with a serious offence.

Citing the statement of Waze, who is an approver in the case, the court said that he always referred to Deshmukh as "number one".

"Deshmukh directed Waze to collect an amount of Rs 40 to 50 crore per month from such bars. The factum of demand and collection of money from bar owners is well corroborated and established," the court said.

Prima facie, it is also established that bar owners were put in fear of loss of their business unless they paid money, the court said.

In March 2021, senior IPS officer Param Bir Singh had alleged that Deshmukh, the then home minister, had given a target to police officers to collect Rs 100 crore per month from restaurants and bars in Mumbai.

Waze, who was arrested in the 'Antilia' bomb scare case in March 2021, had levelled similar allegations against him.

The high court in April 2021 directed the CBI to carry out a preliminary inquiry. Based on this inquiry, a first information report (FIR) was registered against Deshmukh and his associates for alleged corruption and misuse of official power.

No Fine For Flouting Traffic Rules In Gujarat During Diwali, Announces Govt

Owaisi calls it 'Revdi'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surat: No fine will be collected for violation of traffic rules in the state till October 27 in view of Diwali festivities, the Gujarat government has announced.

The decision was taken so that people's "Diwali is not spoiled," said Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi.

The announcement evoked criticism from All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi who termed it a "Revdi" (freebie) from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

The BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been vocal against the culture of offering freebies to woo voters.

Assembly polls in Gujarat are expected to be announced soon.

"From October 21 to 27, traffic police in Gujarat will not collect any fine from people. If anyone is caught without a helmet or driving licence or found violating any other traffic rule during this period, our police will give them a flower," said Sanghavi in Surat on Friday.

The decision was taken to give relief to people during Diwali and it was being done under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, he said.

In a tweet on Saturday, AIMIM chief Owaisi said, "In 2021, Gujarat saw 15,200 road traffic accidents in which 7,457 people lost their lives. This 'revdi' bonanza by BJP Gujarat govt is putting people's lives at risk."

Sanghavi hit back later in the day without naming anyone, saying those doing politics over the issue will get a befitting reply from middle-class



citizens. "Middle-class citizens go out during Diwali to do shopping with their family with whatever they have saved during the year. Many also go out on their two-wheelers with their aged parents. People many times forget to wear helmets or carry a driving license. Instead of collecting fine, we will give them a flower to make them realise their mistake," the minister said in Surat.

The intention was to ensure that people's "Diwali is not spoiled" due to traffic fines, he said.

"On the other hand, we do not consider racing by bikers on roads a mistake. This is an intentional crime. Gujarat police very well knows the difference between unintentional mistake and crime. Surat police have caught many such bikers in the last few days. So no one needs to teach us anything on that," Sanghavi said.

Govatsa Dwadashi, celebrated on Friday, marked the beginning of the Diwali festival this year. Laxmi Pujan, the main day of the festival of lights, will be celebrated on October 24.

Meanwhile, at a function in Meantia City in Ahmedabad on Friday, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated or performed ground breaking for 16,359 projects and works worth Rs 3,338 crore.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Govt Redraws

G. D Sharma heads the three-member panel.

The other significant change made in the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules is that the words "Pahari Speaking people (PSP)" or has been substituted with "Pahari Ethnic people".

Early Snowfall

2.8°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C below normal for the place, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against 2.0°C on the previous night and it was 5.3°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

In Kupwara town, the mercury settled at 2.2°C against 5.5°C on the previous night, the official said. It was 2.3°C above normal for the north Kashmir place, he said.

"Mainly dry weather is expected over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours," the official said, adding, "No large change is expected for subsequent days till Oct 30," the official added.

Health Dept

officers have been asked follow the directions already circulated by the Directorate in letter and spirit regarding setting-up of control rooms at District Headquarters as well as at Block level to manage any eventuality that may arise and ensure that all the drugs are available in all the hospitals, availability of doctors & Paramedical staff in the hospital 24x7.

The DSHK has also asked concerned officials to ensure adequate medicines and emergency drugs and oxygen cylinders in order to meet any eventuality.

Moreover, the officials have been directed to ensure that necessary arrangements like placing of curtains on doors and windows besides using polythene wherever needed to keep warm.

Man Given Lifer

strangled his wife with her dupatta during the night of May 17, 2016 when she was asleep in their bedroom and dumped her dead body in the Dhol nallah. The police had filed a FIR No: 53/2016 for offence under section 302 RPC and setting into motion of the investigation, which ultimately culminated into the presentation of instant charge sheet before the Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class Ramnagar on July 18, 2016.

"It is no doubt true that convict had committed the murder of his wife, but after taking into consideration aggravating and mitigating circumstances, I am of the opinion that

this case does not fall in the category of 'rarest of the rare'. In view of the discussion made above and on the facts and circumstances of the case, convict is sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life and a fine of Rs. 1, 00,000/- under section 302 RPC," Principal Sessions Judge Y. P Bournay observed after hearing Public Prosecutor Koshal Kotwal for State and counsel for the accused.

"The fine amount shall be recovered from the assets of the convict and in this behalf a separate warrant be issued in terms of section 387-A Cr.P.C.," he added.

The judgment also noted that infant son of the victim has been deprived of the parental care for all times to come as his mother has been murdered and father would be undergoing sentence for the offence for rest of his life.

"Therefore it would be imperative for this court to provide some monetary amount to the child who would be suffering in every respect and that too for all times to come," the court said.

"Keeping in view the peculiar circumstances of the case, I think the State is duty bound to provide some solace in the form of monetary assistance to the innocent victim out of its own funds, because it is the protector of life and property of its citizens being their custodian. Therefore, in my view, a compensation of Rupees Two Lakh will be just and reasonable amount for providing financial assistance to the victim which shall be kept in fixed deposit till he attains majority but the guardian shall be at liberty to draw the interest part and use the same for the welfare of the child. The amount so determined shall be paid within one month by the Member Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir State Legal Services Authority," the court ruled.

Hideout Busted

woods, a police spokesperson said. During the searches that continued till evening, he said, a hideout was busted and arms and ammunition, mostly rusted, was recovered from the spot.

The recovery, he said, included 310 rusted rounds of AK-47, 30 rusted rounds of 9mm, one 9mm magazine, six rusted magazines of AK-47, one grenade, one tape recorder, one handset with antenna, two cassettes, three battery terminals besides other items.

"In this regard, a case FIR no. 237/2022 u/s 7/25 Arms act and Sec 4 Explosives substances act has been registered at P/S Banihal and investigation has been taken up," he added.

Criminal Held Under

Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Arms Act, the officials said.

The District Magistrate issued an

order slapping charges under the PSA based on the dossier filed by police against the accused.

Police executed a warrant of arrest and the accused was sent to Central Jail in Kot Bhalwal, they said.

Poet Akbar

Apart from local casts like Qayoom Badshah, Tauqeer's film is likely to have one of the Khans of Bollywood. "The film will give a message of peace," he said. "It will show the sacrifices of Muslims for their motherland."

As writer and producer of the movie, Tauqeer said several films have already been made on Kashmir, but his picture will focus on the consolation and confluence.

In a chat with *Kashmir Observer*, the poet progeny of Mir Taqi Mir talks about his literary and filmy journey along with his Kashmir story.

Before the film, tell us about yourself.

Well, I was born in a literary family of Allahabad. Akbar Allahabadi is my great grandfather, while the great Urdu poet, Mir Taqi Mir is my forefather.

My maternal uncle Muazzam Pasha Rizvi has been my mentor. During his poetic symposium in my childhood, most of the poets struggled to complete a verse—*Yaad rehni hai kise saahil pe tu faano ki baat*. Once I heard it, I quipped: Yeh to dasture zamaana hai khata unki nahi.

This is how my poetic journey began.

At the age of 18, my first work "*Sangam Ki Lehre*" came into the market in Hindi and Urdu languages. That created uproar because it was for the first time in the history of Allahabad that a young artist had released his poetic anthology.

During those years, I wrote in all genres: nouha, marsiya and qasida. There was not a single magazine that would not carry my poems.

As I gained prominence, I started getting offers. Then some of my books got published and among them *Sangam Ki Lehre*, *Gurbat*, *Aaho Fughan*, *Daaru Rasan* and *Sehra* were hailed and awarded. I wrote *Mout-o-Hayat*, the largest masnawi ever written. It has around six to seven thousand couplets. I also translated 700 shloks of Bhagavad Gita into 4000 Urdu couplets.

I've received many awards in literature. From the government of UAE, I got the Shair-e-Azam award. I also got an award from the Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Committee and Ministry of Culture.

How did your film journey begin?

Soon after completing my Masters in Urdu from Allahabad University also known as the Oxford of the East, I wanted to go for a Ph.D. but my father told me to look for a job. That is how I went to Mumbai and worked as a bureau chief of a newspaper there. I started to meet cine-stars related to my newspaper coverage.

I once went to interview the music director, Dilip Sen. Under the Yash Raj banner, he was composing the title track for Sony TV. But somehow, he was not satisfied with lyricist Sameer and wanted me to write a new one. I wrote a song within 15 minutes and Vinod Rathore sang it.

It was the time when the Doordarshan era was over and private channels were dominating the scene. During the same time, celebrities like Sonu Nigam and Sunidhi Chauhan were struggling. I introduced them to a couple of places.

Back then, I wrote Pankaj Udhas's album *Janeman*, Falguni Pathak's *Meri Chunar Udh Jaaye*, among others. I worked with every music director and being an "A" grade writer of the industry, all singers except Lata Mangeshkar sang my songs.

But after that early brush of success, you suddenly disappeared from the scene. What happened?

Yes, because I decided to do something different. I went to Dubai, and started to work with the newspaper Urdu Express and magazine *Mustakbil*. Then I got an offer from an English magazine and came back to Mumbai as its bureau chief. But I eventually left the job on health grounds and returned to Allahabad.

Back home, I started managing our educational institutes. My father was the one who introduced computers to Allahabad. But after my brother Tanveer Zaidi got a brain hemorrhage, I had to entirely focus on my family affairs and got an honorary PhD.

And recently, Amazon Prime released my film.

But amid all this, how did the idea of Kashmir come?

Well, I used to think a lot about Kashmir. I reckon it's not fine to look into paradise from a hellish perspective. I used to see Kashmiri people as beautiful and hospitable. But when the situation got bad, they became victims of circumstances. So, I wanted to show the true face of Kashmiris.

Troops Ready

visited headquarters Northern Command at Udhampur, where he was briefed on the security and operational situation, a defence spokesman

said.

He interacted with senior officers and deliberated on various defence related issues.

Bhatt also flagged off the 'Shaurya diwas (Infantry day) motorcycle rally' in presence of Northern Command chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi.

The Bike Rally has been organised to commemorate 75 years of historic landings at Srinagar in the 1947-48 War. The rally will culminate at National War Memorial here on October 27.

The minister later interacted with NCC girl cadets.

Hands Over

on Saturday. It is a well-known fact that Indian railways is not only the largest employer in India but also one of the best employers in the country, offering its employees all that they can aspire for or desire, the officials said.

A job in the Indian railways not only receives social respect, but it also comes with many perks and benefits, they said.

The "Rozgar Mela" showcases continuous commitment of the government towards providing job opportunities for the youth and ensuring citizen welfare, they said.

Prime Minister Modi launched the "Rozgar Mela" the recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel – via video conferencing. During the ceremony, appointment letters were handed over to 75,000 newly inducted appointees, they said.

As part of the drive, more than 50 Union ministers handed over appointment letters to thousands of youngsters at different locations across the country.

The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 ministries or departments of the Government of India. They will join the government at various levels in Group A and B (gazetted), Group B (non-gazetted) and Group C.

The posts on which the appointments are being made include those of the central armed forces personnel, sub-inspectors, constables, LDCs, stenographers, PAs, income tax inspectors and MTS, according to a statement issued by the government.

J&K Utilizes

It also states that the data entry on PM POSHAN-MIS Web portal: PM POSHAN-MIS portal captures information on critical indicators of PM-POSHAN.

"The Annual data entry module captures master data on availability of Kitchen-cum-Stores, Kitchen Devices,

number of Cook-cum-Helpers engaged, mode of cooking etc," reads the document.

JK authorities have said that the monthly data entry module captures data on number of days meal was served; number of meals served, honorarium paid to Cook-cum-Helpers engaged, and number of children received IFA tablets, number of children screened under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) etc.

"The UT has completed annual data entry for 87 percent schools and monthly data entry for 70 percent schools in the MIS portal," it adds—(KNO)

What's The Big

Mehbooba also said that seizing of passport, questioning by the Enforcement Directorate or eviction notices do not surprise her. "If anything surprises me, it is the priorities of (the visual) media," she said.

"A teenager was killed while he was in police custody. He was just an accused and nothing had been proved against him. Instead of holding prime time debates on the circumstances in which this 19-year-old life was snuffed out, media is holding debate on eviction notice to Mehbooba Mufti," the PDP leader said.

"The discussion should have centred on how this youth could be killed while he was in police custody," she added.

On if she would vacate the Fair View bungalow, Mehbooba said if the government has no concern for security, "I will vacate the house". "What is the big deal?" she asked.

Several political parties, including the PDP and the National Conference (NC), on Wednesday had called for a probe into the killing of an arrested "hybrid" Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist during an anti-militancy operation in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Imran Bashir Ganaie was arrested for his alleged involvement in the killing of two labourers at Harmain in district in the early hours of Tuesday. He was killed early on Wednesday in firing by militants when police launched an anti-terror operation in Shopian's Naugam area, according to the Kashmiri Zone police.

In 2020, NC leader and former chief minister Omar Abdullah vacated the official bungalow which was allotted to him on security grounds in 2002 when he was a Lok Sabha member. His son Omar Abdullah had vacated the bungalow as the administration did away with the entitlement of former chief ministers to official accommodation.

T20WC Super 12: Confident India Hoping To Turn Tables On Pakistan

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Its unblemished record of success against the arch-rivals at the marquee ICC events a thing of the past, a hurt Indian team will be desperate for "revenge" against a high-quality Pakistan side in a sell-out Super 12 clash of the T20 World Cup, here on Sunday.

While rain is threatening to play spoilsport, it's unlikely to be a complete washout according to people who understand weather conditions here.

Thousands of fans from both countries have crisscrossed the globe to watch their team in action and trust rival captains Rohit Sharma and Babar Azam to tell you this is another 'match' for them but all the 22 players and the reserves know that this is 'The Match'.

But a lot has changed in the past one year since Shaheen Shah Afridi in an intimidating opening spell gave Pakistan team its first victory in a World Cup across formats.

It wasn't just a match won or a voodoo broken but that 3/31 by Shaheen was also successful in bruising the egos of some of con-



temporary cricket world's biggest batting stalwarts.

While Rohit, Virat Kohli or KL Rahul aren't the ones to forget last year's humiliation in Dubai easily, the fact remains that India as a team has looked slightly under-

cooked in recent times.

And at least on Sunday, the 'Men In Blue' wouldn't start as favourites in the 'mother of all clashes'.

BCCI's statement that India will not travel to Pakistan to play the Asia Cup and the subsequent PCB

threat of pulling out of 50 over World Cup in India has only made the atmosphere more politically charged and vicious.

India wouldn't mind going into a match as underdogs and it will be Pakistan, who will have to live up to

the high expectations.

The sameness in the batting lineup is a bit worrying as it would let Shaheen, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf bowl one line in absence of Pant, who also has been a touch out of form.

How India's top three handle Shaheen in the Powerplay would dictate how the match will pan out.

But with three left-handers - Shan Masood/Fakhar Zaman, Mohammed Nawaz and Khushdil Shah, a bowler who can turn it away is always going to be in the mix. Hence Ravichandran Ashwin can never be completely out of equation.

On Sunday, the only factor that puts Pakistan slightly ahead is Shaheen, who is slowly reaching close to his best.

It is after nearly 37-and-a-half years that an India versus Pakistan clash has been scheduled at the MCG. First since the 1985 Benson & Hedges World Championship of cricket final took place.

That was Sunil Gavaskar's last match as India captain and back home in India, fans watched Ravi Shastri take a gleaming Audi for a spin around MCG.

There were barely 30,000 fans

that day and an offensive poster in the stands by the locals on that day, read "World Cup final: Tram Conductors vs Bus Drivers," basically demeaning the social status of the two South Asian neighbours.

No one at that time would have envisaged that an India versus Pakistan matches would become a major commercial vehicle at multi-team events. It's not just another match, it is 'The Match'.

SQUADS:

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravichandran Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel and Deepak Hooda.

Pakistan: Babar Azam (captain), Mohammed Rizwan (wk), Fakhar Zaman, Shan Masood, Mohammed Nawaz, Khushdil Shah, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Mohammed Wasim, Shadab Khan, Mohammed Nainain.

Match Starts: 1:30pm IST.

Senior National Wushu C'ship

3 World Champions To Compete In Srinagar

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Three world champions and four Arjun awardees are among the 1,500 players who will take part in the Senior National Wushu Championship from October 29 to November 2 in Srinagar - the summer capital city, an official said.

The Wushu Association of Jammu and Kashmir has been allotted the 31st Senior National Wushu Championship for Srinagar in Kashmir divisions, they said. "Approximately 1,500 players

from 45 units of Wushu Association of India are taking part in the event starting from October 29," Organising secretary, Wushu association of Jammu and Kashmir, Kuldeep Handoo on Friday said.

Handoo, who is a Dronacharya awardee, said that three world champions, Asian games medalists, and four Arjun awardees

will be seen in action during the six-day-long championship event. J & K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will inaugurate the championship on October 29.



10th Senior National Pencak Silat C'ship Begins



Adil Khan

SRINAGAR: The 10th National Pencak Silat Championship for Senior and Master (Men and Women) was inaugurated on Saturday amid enthusiasm and fervour at Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Stadium, Srinagar here.

The event is being organised by Pencak Silat Association of J&K under the Banner of Indian Pencak Silat Association and sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

The Joint Secretary J&K Sports Council, Bashir Ahmad Bhat was the Chief Guest on the occasion while as Shiekh Riyaz Ahmad (Administrative Officer Sports Council) was the Guest of Honour. The three day event hosting

teams from 34 States and UT's besides teams from Indian Police and Paramilitary shall conclude on 24th October 2022.

Around 1200 participants from different states of India are participating in this event.

During the championship events in different weight categories of Tanding besides competitions in Tunggal, Ganda Solo and Regu are scheduled to be held.

President Indian Pencak Silat Federation Kishore Kumar Yawley and Secretary General Indian Pencak Silat Federation Mufti Hamid Yaseen, Maqsood Ahmad Khan manager Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Stadium besides officials from Sports Council and other departments also attended the inaugural function.

JD YSS Takes Stock Of Activities In Sports Zones

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Joint Director (Kashmir), Department of Youth Services and Sports,

Bashir Ahmed visited many sports blocks of district Baramulla on Saturday and took stock of the sports activities being organised by the YSS under the Jan Abhiyan initiative. He appreciated Zonal Physical Education Officers of the district and their subordinate staff for ensuring mass participation of youth and students in the activities of play.

The JD added that the campaigns like Jan Abhiyan and Back to Village are aimed at reaching out to the people and making

them part of the developmental process.

The YSS official gave a lucid account of facilities being provided by the department for the



promotion of sports and urged youth and students to reap the benefit of the schemes. While expressing satisfaction over the huge participation of students and non-students in YSS Cup 21, he urged upon the PRIs to play their role in getting maximum number of youth registered for YSS Cup 22 in their respective panchayat halqas.

T20 WORLD CUP

New Zealand Stun Australia In Super 12 Opening Match



Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Wicketkeeper-batter Devon Conway smashed an unbeaten 92 as New Zealand began the T20 World Cup Super 12 stage in emphatic fashion, thrashing defending champions Australia by 89 runs here on Saturday.

The 31-year-old left-handed opener played some sublime shots as he held the New Zealand innings together in a 58-ball knock, which was studied

with seven fours and two sixes and took them to an imposing 200 for three after they were

sent in. Also, not to forget the explosive start given by rising T20 star Finn Allen as he hammered a sensational 16-ball 42.

In reply, Kiwi pacer Tim Southee (2.1-0-6-3) set the tone early on before left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (4-0-31-3) foxed the Aussies with his clever variation to make it a lopsided contest.

The New Zealanders were relentless in attack as Australia folded for 111 in 17.1 overs to suffer their second heaviest T20I defeat in terms of runs.

This was also Australia's first

defeat to New Zealand in Australia in any format since 2011.

The Aussies lost half of their side in 10.2 overs after the talented Tim David (11) became Santner's third victim.

Australia, without their star batter Steve Smith, looked out of depth.

Earlier, Conway did not go ballistic but his runs came at a good rate and he completed his fifty in 36 balls, with a six off Adam Zampa in the 13th over.

In the process, he became the second fastest player in T20I history after Dawid Malan to score 1,000 runs.

Led By Curran's Fifer, England Beat Afghanistan By 5 wickets

Press Trust of India

PERTH: Sam Curran's five-for dismantled Afghanistan as England notched a five-wicket win in their opening T20 World Cup match here on Saturday.

Curran sizzled with a five-wicket haul, giving away only 10 runs, while Ben Stokes (2/19) and Mark Wood (2/23) picked two wickets apiece to bundle out Afghanistan for 112.

Defending a modest total, the Afghans made a game out of it but England eventually completed the task in 18.1 overs.

Earlier, Ibrahim Zadran top-scored for Afghanistan with a run-a-ball 32 while Usman Ghani contributed to the total score with a 30.

The Afghanistan batters were unable to stitch any substantial partnership as England bowlers bossed the proceedings.

CURRAN THRIVING WITH EXTRA RESPONSIBILITY OF BOWLING AT DEATH: BUTTLER

England skipper Jos Buttler feels Sam Curran has the "character" for bowling at the death and the all-rounder is "thriving with the extra responsibility" of bowling in pressure situations.



"(Curran at the death) I think he's got great character for that role. He's thriving with the extra responsibility," Buttler said at the post-match presentation. "He demands the ball in those situations which is a great attitude to have. He always wants to bowl."

BRIEF SCORES:

Afghanistan: 112 all out in 19.4 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 32; Sam Curran 5/10, Ben Stokes 2/19, Mark Wood 2/23).

England 113 for 5 in 18.1 overs (Liam Livingstone 29 not out; Rashid Khan 1/17)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Nottingham Forest Shocks Liverpool In 1-0 Win

Agencies

NOTTINGHAM: Nottingham Forest produced a shock to beat Liverpool 1-0 in the Premier League on Saturday.

The last-place team at the start of the day secured only its second win of the season in the game at the City Ground.

Taiwo Awoniyi struck in the 55th-minute to end Liverpool's mini-revival, which saw it beat Rangers, Manchester City and West Ham in its previous three games.



Awoniyi was on the books at Anfield for six years without ever playing for the first team, but he produced the decisive moment to lift Forest off the foot of the table.

The win eases the pressure on Forest manager Steve Cooper, who also used to coach at Liverpool. Forest took the lead 10 minutes into the second half when

a free-kick found Steve Cook on the right-hand side. His cross was struck against the post by Ryan Yates, but Awoniyi was on hand to turn the rebound into an empty net.

Liverpool's fight back saw Forest goalkeeper Dean Henderson palm away a Trent Alexander-Arnold header in the final 10 minutes.

In return, Alisson denied Yates late on before Henderson stopped a powerful header from Virgil van Dijk to secure the famous win.

Haaland Scores Again As Man City Beats Brighton

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland took his goal total to 22 this season as Manchester City moved to within a point of Premier League leader Arsenal on Saturday.

The Norway international struck twice in a 3-1 win against Brighton at the Etihad Stadium to continue his remarkable scoring streak.

Kevin De Bruyne added a third after Leandro Trossard had briefly put the result in doubt.

Haaland looked set to register his fourth hat trick of the season, with both goals coming in the first half.

He didn't manage that but his latest double moved him up to 17 league goals, which is just six fewer than Mo Salah and Son Heung-min required to share the Golden Boot last season as joint leading scorers.

Haaland, who failed to find the back of the net in City's 1-0 loss at Liverpool last week, opened the scoring after 22 minutes.

Ederson's long clearance reached the run of the striker and, with Brighton goalkeeper Robert Sanchez stranded outside



of his goal, Haaland overpowered Adam Webster and rolled the ball into an empty net.

Haaland got his and City's second two minutes before half-time after referee Craig Pawson reviewed a challenge from Lewis Dunk on Bernardo Silva and awarded a penalty.

Haaland stepped up and powered a low shot past Sanchez, which was the club's 600th league goal under Pep Guardiola.

Just as City fans might have been wondering how many goals their team would rack up in a latest rout, Brighton reduced the deficit.

Join Asaduddin Owaisi, Get Biryani, Says Party Leader In Madhya Pradesh

Agenceis

Bhopal: A leader of the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has been offering biryani and breakfast to new entrants in the outfit in Narela Assembly constituency of Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal as part of a drive to increase the party's base in the region.

The party led by Asaduddin Owaisi had for the first time contested the recently held urban bodies' polls in the state and secured seven seats of corporators.

"We are welcoming people who did not get due respect in their parties, whether it was the BJP or Congress. When they come to our office to join the

outfit, as a mark of respect, we offer them biryani or breakfast such as samosas and tea, like we do to guests in our homes," AIMIM leader Peerzada Tauqeer Nizami told PTI.

Mr Nizami said new entrants are garlanded and offered food in keeping with their respective religious practices, he said.

"They should feel that they have come to the right place. I listen to their problems and make efforts to sort them out," he said.

More than 20,000 people have joined the party so far during the ongoing drive, the AIMIM leader claimed, adding that the move will be replicated by the party in other Assembly segments of Bhopal after Diwali.

No Fine For Breaking Traffic Rules During Diwali, Says Gujarat Government

Agenceis

Surat, Gujarat: The Gujarat government has announced that people will not be fined for violation of traffic rules during the Diwali festival this year.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi made this announcement in Surat on Friday.

Addressing a gathering, he said that in view of the Diwali festival, traffic police in Gujarat will not collect any fine from the violators till October 27.

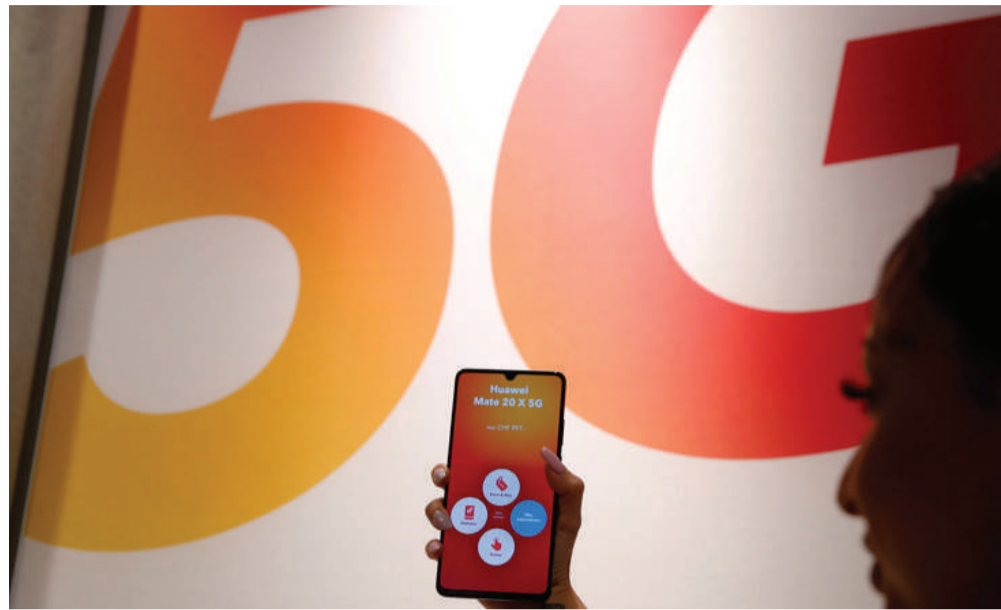
Mr Sanghavi said the decision to

give relief to people during Diwali has been taken by the state home department as per the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

"From October 21 to October 27, the traffic police in Gujarat will not collect any fine from people. If anyone is caught without a helmet or driving licence or found violating any other traffic rule during this period, our police will give them a flower," the minister added.

Assembly elections in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Gujarat are due by December end.

Reliance Jio Starts Rolling Out 5G-Enabled Public Wi-fi



Agenceis

Reliance Jio has launched 5G-enabled wi-fi service at temple town of Nathdwara in Rajasthan and it will be expanded to other public places with high footfalls like railway stations and educational institutions, the company said on Saturday.

Jio has also started rolling out 5G services in Chennai. The company has extended the Jio Welcome offer to the city. Under the offer, customers with invitation only will get access to 5G service during the beta trial and

they will be able to access unlimited 5G data at up to 1 gigabit per second.

"Today, we have powered the first True5G-enabled wi-fi service at the holy town of Nathdwara and the temple of Lord Sri-nath Ji. With this, we will power many more such locations and allow them to trial our services. In addition, we welcome Chennai as our latest city to be added to the Jio True5G Welcome Offer," Reliance Jio Chairman Akash M Ambani said in a statement.

The company said it is introducing "JioTrue5G-powered wi-fi services" in high footfall areas

such as educational institutions, religious places, railway stations, bus stands, commercial hubs and other places.

Reliance Jio has plans to cover the entire country with 5G services by December 2023 and it has simultaneously started out 5G-enabled wi-fi services.

"As stated earlier, 5G cannot remain an exclusive service to the privileged few or those in our largest cities. It must be available to every citizen, every home, and every business across India. This is a step in that direction to enable every Indian with JioTrue5G," Ambani said.

YouTube Ends Its Premium Paywall Experiment For 4K Videos

Agenceis

YouTube has ended a test that required Premium subscription for 4K resolution videos.

In the experiment, the Google-owned streaming platform asked some users to pay for a Premium account in order to view videos in 4K resolution. Because of users' outrage, it has now stopped this test, reports TechCrunch.

"We have fully turned off this experiment. Viewers should now be able to access 4K quality resolutions without Premium membership," YouTube said in a tweet.

The streaming platform conducted the experiment to know how users would respond if a certain function was moved to the Premium tier.

"It is a part of our experiment to know better the feature pref-

erences of Premium and non-Premium viewers," it had said in a now-deleted tweet.

The company claims to have more than 50 million paid subscribers of YouTube Music and Premium offerings globally.

The Premium subscription include features like ad-free viewing, video downloads for offline consumption, and background play, the report said.

Recently, the company had introduced handles, a way for people to easily find and engage with creators and each other on the streaming platform.

Handles will appear on channel pages and Shorts so that they will be instantly and consistently recognisable.

It will soon be simpler and faster to mention each other in comments, community posts, video descriptions, and more.



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