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Covid Might Not Go Away But No Major Outbreak Likely In India: Director SKIMS

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: It is unlikely that Covid will be completely eliminated but there seems little chance of a significant outbreak of the disease in India in the next two months, a top infectious diseases expert said on Friday.

The remarks of, director of the SKIMS Hospital in Kashmir, came in the backdrop of the highly

Press Trust Of India

said on Friday.

Srinagar: The prolonged dry

spell in Kashmir was broken as

the valley received overnight

light to moderate snowfall

which brought slight relief from

the intense cold conditions,

even as the flight operations at

the Srinagar airport were affected early morning, officials

season's first in the plains of

While the plains of

snowfall, the higher reach-

es experienced moderate snow. The snowfall not only broke

the prolonged dry spell in the

Kashmir valley, it also brought

Sonmarg tourist resort in cen-

tral Kashmir's Ganderbal district

recorded about 20 inches of

fresh snowfall, while the famous

skiing destination of Gulmarg

in north Kashmir's Baramulla

district received about seven

Srinagar received about 1.5

Srinagar: School Education

Department has decided to

implement Student Assessment

and Evaluation Scheme (SASE)

from the upcoming aca-

demic year in sync with New

The Central Joint Director for SCERT has said, "The Council has

notified Student Assessment

and Evaluation Scheme regard-

ing assessment of students en-

rolled in all government and

government recognized Private

Schools upto class 8th of JKUT

"This scheme shall be

as a part of NEP-2020."

Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

inches, the officials said.

Agencies

Kashmir received light

cheers to the tourists.

the valley, however

led to the closure

of the Srinagar-Leh national highway,

the officials said.

The snowfall, which was the

transmissible Omicron strains, mostly BF.7, causing a spike in coronavirus cases in many countries, including China.

"It is uncertain when or if Covid will become an endemic, but it is unlikely that it will be completely eliminated. We may see occasional outbreaks, if new mutations

inches of snowfall, Qazigund

six inches, Pahalgam five inch-

es, Kupwara eight inches, and

Kokernag two inches, they

Bandipora recorded 2-5 inches,

while its upper areas 5-8 inches.

The frontier Gurez sector re-

ceived about 12 inches, while

the Razdan Pass about 18 inches.

Srinagar-Leh highway also re-

The Zojilla Pass on the

ceived about 20 inch-

with

was also closed for traffic due

However, the Srinagar-

Jammu national highway was

A thick layer of fog engulfed

through for traffic, they added.

many parts of the valley which

led to decrease in the visibility

at the Srinagar airport here, af-

fecting air traffic early in the

They said several flights were

applicable from next academic session 2023-24," the joint di-

It also said that the scheme

contents needs to be dis-

seminated to all Heads of

Institutions, Teachers and

Students for general awareness,

by enabling them to understand

and prepare themselves accord-

ingly for better implementation

directed to request the con-

cerned stakeholders to circulate

the Student Assessment and

Evaluation Scheme document

to all Schools, Clusters and

Complexes to More on P6

"In this connection, I am

morning, the officials said.

delayed in the More on P6

is likely to occur above 2500 metres over

Bandipora, Baramulla, Doda, Ganderbal,

Kupwara, Ramban and Kargil in next 24 hours.

Student Assessment and Evaluation Scheme (SASE)

J&K To Implement SASE From Next Session

rector said.

at School level.

to accumulation of snow.

the officials said. They said the Mughal Road

es of snowfall, leading to the closure

of the high-

way connect-

Kashmir

Ladakh,

The officials said the plains in

emerge, like in

Snowfall Brings Cheer To Tourists; Relief From Intense Cold

added.

China. In India, it seems unlikely that there will significant new outbreak in the next two-three months,

IT IS UNCERTAIN WHEN OR IF COVID WILL BECOME AN **ENDEMIC**, but it is unlikely that it will be completely eliminated. We may see occasional outbreaks, if new mutations emerge, like in China. In India, it seems unlikely that there will be a significant new outbreak in the next two-three months."

> Koul, a leading pulmon

researcher on infectious diseases, said. Taking to Twitter, Koul said India had an advantage in dealing with Covid due to widespread hybrid immunity but suggested that the high-risk group might have to go for a booster dose.

There is an "advantage due to widespread hybrid immunity, although those at high risk might require an booster if significant time has elapsed from the last dose", he said.

"Those who haven't

taken the precaution-ary (booster) dose, must. Watch for government guidelines," Koul said.

Earlier this week, Koul had said modelling data from credible agencies do not foresee any major Covid wave in Jammu and

"Modelling data from credible agencies (such as from the University of Washington) predict a low circulation of More on P6

PM Modi **Bereaved, Mother Passes Away**

Press Trust Of India

Ahmedabad: Prime Narendra Modi's mother Hiraben passed away at a hospital in Ahmedabad on Friday at the age of 99.

A bulletin from the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, where she was admitted on Wednesday after her health deteriorated, shared the news of her demise.

"Hiraben Modi passed away on 30/12/2022 at 3.30 am during the treatment at U N Mehta Heart Hospital", the medical bulletin said.

She is survived by five sons - PM Modi and his brothers Somabhai, Prahladbhai Amrutbhai. Pankajbhai-and daughter Vasantiben. Her last rites were performed at a crematorium More on P6

LG, Omar; Mehbooba **Express Grief**

ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and several politicians in the Union Territory expressed grief over the demise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Hiraben on Friday. Hiraben, 99, passed away at 3.30 am during the More on P6

No Plan To **Return To Congress: Azad**

Press Trust Of India

New Senior politician and chief of the newly-formed Democratic Progressive Azad Ghulam Nabi

Party Azad on Friday said there was no move to return to Congress with which he had snapped his 52-year-

old association earlier this year. Talking to PTI, the veteran politician who has been former Union

minister and More on P6



area of the Harwan hills in Srinagar on Friday: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: For the first time the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is mulling to train and deploy women personnel during anti-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir from March next, Hindustan Times reported on Friday.

The report quoted CRPF inspector general (Srinagar sector) Charu Sinha as saying that the idea was being discussed as they felt women often feel uncomfortable during the cordon and search operations by male-dominated security forces.

"Earlier somebody may not have thought about this but every day when we are out involved for [counter-insurgency operations, we enter houses and there are Kashmiri women there... I realise that



AN ELDERLY MAN WALKS CAUTIOUSLY with the support of a wooden stick in snow covered Fakeer Gujri

we cannot send [male personnel]. We do not want to offend their sensibilities. So, we thought what better way to handle it than bringing the women component.'

Besides assisting police in law and order maintenance, CRPF is also actively taking part in cordon and search operations.

Sinha, as per the report said

S

the CRPF's operations have become more fine-tuned and technically sounder. "We have focused a lot on training...we are now stressing on

She also maintained that the force wants women to be comfortable during searches amid allegations of harassment during counter-insurgency operations, More on P6

AVALANCHE WITH LOW DANGER LEVEL People are advised to avoid visiting higher reaches."



our women component...'

Govt Orders Probe Into Secretariat Fire

he Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday ordered a probe into the recent fire incident at the Civil Secretariat Jammu, and appointed Principal Secretary, Alok Kumar as the Inquiry Officer.

The order in this regard was issued by Piyush Singla, Secretary General Administration Department (GAD). As per the order issued by the general administration department, Mr. Alok Kumar, IRS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Estates Department is hereby appointed as Inquiry Officer to enquire into the fire incident on 28.12.2022, in Civil Secretariat, Jammu. It said that More on P6

Jammu Logs One New Covid Case

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ammu and Kashmir reported on Friday a single new case of coronavirus while one more person recovered and was discharged from the hospital during the last 24 hours. According to officials, one fresh case of novel coronavirus was detected in Jammu region on Friday, taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in the Union Territory to 479417. So far, 4785 people have died of the infection in J&K-

2352 in Jammu division and 2433

in Kashmir division.

Fire Damages Six Houses, Buildings

Α

everal buildings, including six residential houses, were damaged in a fire incident in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday, officials said. A fire broke out in Mehmam Mohalla, Anantnag, in south Kashmir, in the early hours of Friday, they said. They said several buildings, including six residential houses, were damaged in the blaze, the cause of which was not known yet. The flames were brought under control by the Fire and **Emergency Services personnel with the** help of police and locals, the officials said. The district administration has approved and disbursed an immediate relief of Rs 25,000 each to the six residential households.

Tourist Killed In Anantnag Accident

tourist died while six others were injured when their were injured when the web vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday,



officials said. The accident occurred near Zig post in Oazigund area of the south Kashmir

district, they said. The deceased has been identified as Sheeb, from Uttar Pradesh, the officials said. The injured others have been admitted to a hospital where their condition is stated to be stable.

CASO Launched Along LoC After Intruders Cross In



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Army on Friday launched a search operation in a forward area, a day after it noted suspicious movement along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said the troops guarding the LoC in Khari Karmara area opened fire on

picking up the movement of two-three suspected intruders around 7 pm on Thursday.

Troops also fired dozens of illuminating bombs to keep a close watch on the area to ensure there is no movement of terrorists from across the border, the officials said.

A massive search operation was launched with More on P6

MHA Promotes 38 IPS Officers, 20 To DIG Rank

Imtiaz Ismail Among Newly Promoted DIGs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on Friday ordered promotion of 35 Indian Police Officers Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.

As per an order, the Ministry ordered promotion of 20 IPS to the DIGP rank (Level 13-A in the pay matrix), which includes Imtiaz Ismail Parray of AGMUT of 2009 batch, with effect from January 1, 2023.

Among the others promoted are; Monika Bhardwaj (AGMUT:2009), Dr. A Koan (AGMUT:2009), Gaurav Sharma (AGMUT:2009), R.

Sathiyasundram (AGMUT: 2009), Dr. Ashok Malik (AGMUT: 2009), Md. Ali (AGMUT:2 009), Singh Kushwah Pramod (AGMUT: 2009), Ami Roy (AGMUT: 2009), Mangesh Kashyap (AGMUT: 2009), Shivendra Kant (AGMUT:2009), Umesh Kumar (AGMUT:2009) and H. Ramthlengliana (AGMUT:2009).

The Ministry has also granted Proforma Promotion in the DIGP Grade (Level 13-A in the pay matrix) to seven other IPS officers presently posted on Central Deputation.

Accordingly, the Ministry in a separate order promoted 18 IPS officers More on P6



Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER[™] Srinagar | Saturday | 31-12-2022

'Smartwatch Data Shows Covid Booster Vaccine Is Safe'

Press Trust Of India

he booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine is safe, according to a study published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine that monitored heart measures through smartwatches.

Researchers at Tel Aviv University equipped close to 5,000 Israelis with smartwatches and monitored their physiological parameters over two years.

Of those monitored, 2,038 received the booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, allowing the researchers to objectively compare measures before and after the participants took the vaccine, and confirm the safety of the vaccine.

The team also examined the safety of the booster by analysing the medical files of 250,000 members of Maccabi Health

Services anonymously.

They were able to evaluate the safety of the vaccines from three perspectives: subjectively -- what the participant reports, objectively -- what the watch detects, and clinically -- what the doctor diagnoses.

"The smartwatches were used to monitor a number of parameters such as heart rate, variation in heart activity, quality of sleep, number of daily steps taken, and more," said Professor Dan Yamin from Tel Aviv University.

"We saw clear and significant changes after administration of the vaccine, such as an increase in heart rate compared to the pulse rate measured before vaccination, and then we saw a return to the participant's baseline, i.e., the pulse levels after vaccination returned to their previous levels after six days. Hence, our study confirms the safety of the vaccine," Yamin said.



The researchers said the most surprising finding was that the watches were more sensitive than the people they were monitoring. Many participants reported fatigue, headache, etc. after receiving

the vaccine, and after two or three days reported that they felt normal and well, they said.

"In contrast, from examining their watches, we saw distinct changes in heart rate that continued for several more days," Yamin said.

"There were also vaccinated participants who did not report any side effects at all and yet definitely experienced physiological changes, based on data from their smartwatches. In other words, we learned that the smartwatches were more sensitive to changes in general feeling than the participants themselves," he added.

In the medical literature, 25 unusual side effects attributed to the COVID vaccine were reported, and the researchers paid special attention to look for rare cases of inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis) and pericarditis.

The researchers checked the frequency of these unusual side effects among a quarter of a million Maccabi members and found no increase in serious incidents of any kind associated with vaccination.

'New Wearable Device May Enhance **PTSD Treatment Experience'**

Press Trust Of India

esearchers have developed a wristwatch-like wearable device to enhance the effects of prolonged exposure therapy, a common, evidence-based treatment for patients with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

As a wearable device, called Bio Ware, the Bio Ware system includes a discreet button-shaped camera attached to the patient's clothing, a watch-sized tool around their wrist and a Bluetooth headphone in their ear, so their therapists can virtually be with them in the experience or situation that causes them stress, the study said.

The clinician can see immediate recordings of the patient's heart rate, breathing and emotional distress, and they can guide them through the experience by either pushing them to do more or pulling them back to do less, to optimize the in vivo exposure, the study said.

The team of researchers at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health worked with a medical device company

Zeriscope to test the device. The results have been published in the Journal of Psychiatric Research.

Sights, smells and sounds of everyday life can supply the triggers that take someone with PTSD right back to the scarring scene they're trying to forget.

With PTSD, a honking horn, a crowded coffeehouse or a sharp scent can bring back traumatic memories that can raise the heart rate, increase muscle tension and lead to anxiety and depression. These reactions occur even without the presence of danger, but they pose their own threat by causing strains on relationships at home and work, igniting the need to avoid certain situations and contributing to mood changes.

PTSD can happen to anyone at any age, according to the National Institutes of Health, US, and treatment options include medications as well as therapy.

And with between 11 and 30 per cent of veterans experiencing symptoms of PTSD, the research team looked at using Bio Ware with service members at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center, US Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA), US, specifically.

With in vivo exposures, which are a key component of prolonged exposure therapy, patients are tasked with putting themselves in safe but uncomfortable or triggering situations outside of their therapy sessions, as a form of homework.

If they have a fear of crowded spaces, for example, their therapist may ask them to go to the grocery store at a busy time and then share their reaction at the next therapy session. If the service member is stressed by loud spaces and avoids them, their therapist may send them to a loud sporting event, for example, in an effort to help them learn to feel more comfortable in those situations and not have to avoid them in the future.

When done properly, in vivo exposures have proven successful and helpful to patients, but with so much relying on the patient and their interpretation of their own stressors, Sudie Back, a professor in the department of psychiatry at MUSC Health and principal investigator for the NIMHfunded study, sees room for error.

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE FOR TERMINATION OF SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARMY ACT SECTION 19 READ WITH ARMY RULE 14: MR-08189X CAPTAIN SURESH BABU VELINENI. EX REGIMENTAL **MEDICAL OFFICER. 6 BIHAR**

1 WHEREAS, you were granted Commission in the Army Medical Corps on 21 February 2005 and post-

- AND WHEREAS, while being posted at 6 BIHAR as Regimental Medical Officer, you reported sick on 21 August 2007 at 419 Field Ambulance due to severe back pain and were referred to 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar, for further evaluation and treatment, On 25 August 2007, you were advised to get admitted to 92 Base Hospital and further transfer to Command Hospital, Northern Command. (Udhampur) for MRI Scan by the Surgical Specialist at 92 Base Hospital. However, you failed to report to Command Hospital, Northern Command (Udhampur) on 26 August 2007 and continued to be absent since then from duty.
- AND WHEREAS, an Apprehension Roll was issued to the Civil authorities oh 07 September 2006 for your apprehension and handing you over to Military authorities. However, you have neither been apprehended nor voluntarily reported for duty till date.
- AND WHEREAS, a Court of Inquiry in terms of Section 106 of the Army Act, 1950, was convened on 26 September 2007 to inquire into the circumstances under which you absented yourself without leave. The said Court of Inquiry declared you deserter with effect from 26 August
- 5. AND WHEREAS, the facts of the case were placed before the Chief of the Army Staff who is of the opinion that due to your continued illegal absence from duty in field for about 15 years now, your trial by Court Martial is inexpedient and impracticable, but your further retention in service is undesirable.
- 6. NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the directions of the Chief of the Army Staff, you are hereby called upon to submit your defence in writing as to why your services should not be terminated by way of dismissal by the Central Government under the provisions of Army Act Section 19 read with
- 7. In case no reply is submitted by you within 30 days of receipt of the Show Cause Notice, it will be presumed that you have nothing to state in your defence and action as deemed appropriate will be taken ex parte.

CBC-10622/11/0094/2223

PUBLIC NOTICE

Syed Nazakat Hussain, has purchased residential House No: 12A Lane No:1, Hamdaan Housing Colony, Narbal Crossing, Budgam, J&K 193401 from Ms. Shaista Lone and now intend to transfer electricity connection in my name. If anyone has any objection he/she may file that with the Electricity Department, Sub Division Narbal, within seven days from the date of publication if this notice.

Syed Nazakat Hussain

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K), Ph.0194-2477949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types

of Cartridges, Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.



Office Of The Block Medical Officer Rajpora

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders having two rupees revenue stamps pasted, are invited from eligible /reputed firms/agencies for outsourcing of driver at NTPHC Abhama Block Rajpora for a period of one year or till further arrangement is made by the department

The tender document containing all the details, and can be obtained from the office of the block medical officer Rajpora on any working day from 11:00 am to 3:00 Pm on payment of Rs 200 by cash against the proper receipt (Non Refundable) at our registration section and the same shall be attached with the tender document Sealed Envelope Super-scribed, tender along with CDR of Rs 5000 pleaded to Block Medical Officer Rajpora for providing out source driver at NTPHC Abhama Block Rajpora Should be attached with the tender document.

The tenders should reach this office within 10 days from the date of publication of this tender notice in the newspaper.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any tender/all tenders or part of tender without assigning any reason thereof.

SS

No: - BMO/Raj/EST/2550-53 DIPK-15801/22 Date: 30-12-2022

> **Block Medical** Officer Rajpora

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **ANANTNAG PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL**

FRESH NIT 200(3rdCallof NIT NO 151)OF R&B/Khanabal/2022-23 /E-TENDERING/21802-10 DATED 27-12-2022

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&Ke-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Bidders/Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways, other State/Central Governments and registered suppliers/ manufacturers for each of the following works:-

				•				•
S. No	Name of Work		T/Doc.	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Position Of AA	Class of Contractor
1.	Establishment of Quality Control /Material Testing Laboratory in District Anantnag.	28.92	(in Rs) 1100	57840	30 Days	State Sector		Registered Sup- plier/ Manufacturer

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of

Contract	and other details can be seen/downloaded from	i tile departilleli	tat website www.jktender	s.gov.iii as pei scriedole of dates given below.		
S. No.	Particulars	Dated				
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		27-12-2022			
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	28-12-2022	(09:00AM)		
		То	03-01-2023	(04:30PM)		
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	28-12-2022	(09:00AM)		
4	Bid Submission End Date	То	03-01-2023	(04:30PM)		
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)		04-01-2023	(11:00AM)		
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal				

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Khanabal [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).

All the Bidders have to submit Export Measure 1915.

All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money.

Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

4. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) B The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Engineer R&B Division Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

Security @3% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after receiving Performance of the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site ways like address and the same of the shape of the work. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Perform The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders autore-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division KI The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

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

in to acquaint bid submission process. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital

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

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

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

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. **1**0. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khanabal (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Khanabalmust be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

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

All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25. (ErQaziJaveed Amin) Executive Engineer, DATED: 30-12-2022 R&B Division Khanabal

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DIPK-15765/22

Youth Starts Online Food App To Deliver Food At Doorsteps

Agencies

Srinagar: A youth from Srinagar has launched an online food app so that people can get their favorite food at the comfort of their homes.

Shoaib Ahmad Wani, a resident of Habba Kadal area of Srinagar after pursuing B. Com has started an online food app "Ur meals" that is enabling all to order food from 250 favorite eating joints on the click of a button.

Shoaib said that outside J&K one could easily have got food at his doorsteps by simply ordering it online but such facilities are very rare in Kashmir.

"When I saw such facilities outside Kashmir, I decided to start such a facility in Srinagar and launched the app "Ur Meal" and currently 10-15 boys are associated with me who have delivered orders," he said.

He said that we have a type with all restaurants and whatsoever restaurants are chosen by the customers on the app, accordingly, it is being delivered.

Wani said one will have to download the app from Play Store, view the eating places of his choice and place the order.

"With Kashmir's' favorite eating joints – restaurants, sweet shops, confectioners' outlets, fast food joints, coffee shops – on board with Ur meals, we promise customers quick and reliable delivery so that they can enjoy their favorite food at the comfort of their homes," he said, adding that as of now it has received good positive feedback in last few months and is getting around 20 orders on daily basis which is expected to increase.

The customer gets updates while the order is readied and he is able to track real-time as it gets delivered to destination, he said, adding payment is being through PayTM wallet or cash on delivery.

"Since the government can't provide jobs to everyone. Therefore I came up with my own venture, where I don't need to run after government jobs but rather can provide jobs to many," he said.

He said currently our services are available in Srinagar district only but we are planning to expand it to other towns as well.

Shoaib said that Kashmiri youth have got much talent but the need of the hour is to channelise that. He said that the youth instead of moving after government jobs should start their own ventures—(KNO)



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A day-long awareness programme on traffic rules and regulations was held in the vicinity of the University of Kashmir.

The programme was organised by the KU's Office of Programme Coordinator, National Service Scheme in collaboration with Traffic Police (Srinagar City) at three different locations outside the University's main campus at Hazratbal.

Policemen from City Traffic and NSS volunteers stopped private cars, commercial cabs/ vehicles and two-wheelers and counseled them to follow traffic rules and regulations for their safety, as well as the safety of pedestrians and fellow commuters.

Special emphasis was laid on urging drivers to wear seat belts while driving and avoid rash/negligent driving. Riders of two-wheelers were strictly advised to wear crash helmets and set an example for others to follow.

Programme Coordinator NSS KU, Dr Mussavir Ahmad highlighted the essence of obeying traffic rules and encouraged the NSS volunteers to continue participating in such activities that benefit the society at large. He thanked Mr Muzaffar Ahmed Shah, SSP Traffic, City Srinagar, for collaborating with the NSS for the awareness programme.

Spiritual Music Track 'Qarar Rouvum' Released

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmiri song Qarar Rouvum written by Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Muhstaq Ahmad Rather was released at a function in Srinagar.

Sung by famed Bollywood singer Sniti Mishra and Jaan Nissar Lone and produced by Rani Hazarika was released in Srinagar where dozens of artists, broadcasters and other dignitaries were present.

"Qarar Rouvum" is an agony of longing- a spiritual track written by Dr Mushtaq Rather Pathan.

This song expresses the grief of a devotee forfeited by his beloved.

With an outburst of emotions, it reflects how the world that was like paradise before turned out into a deserted land after the beloved parted ways. This melody narrates how the seeds of love sown with the blood of devotion have declined shad-

ow after unfolding into a tree.
Noted broadcaster and former Director CBS Srinagar,
Shamshad Kralyari, singer Waheed Jeelani and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

"Qarrar Rouvum is not merely a song written in grief by a lover, it's intense. Each word of this composition has been put down for the Supreme Being convincing Him that our existence will hold no grounds should he abandon us. Our lives will lose their spirit and we shall go astray if the Almighty deserts us for no matter how thriving we stand, without him everything is in vain."

"We need the Almighty and His divine providence to guide us in all spheres of life. Without him, life is directionless so let's promise ourselves that no matter where we are today we shall remember Almighty for if we remember Him, He shall remember us."

Notorious Drug Peddler Arrested From City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Friday arrested a notorious drug peddler from Noorbagh area of the city. The drug peddler has been identified as Amir Ashraf Bolaki S/o Mohd Ashraf Bolaki, a resi-

dent of Nawakadal.
"During naka checking at

Noorbagh Cement Bridge, one notorious drug peddler namely Amir Ashraf Bolaki @Mataan S/o Mohd Ashraf Bolaki R/o Nawakadal arrested. On his personal search 07 grams of heroin was recovered. FIR No. 244/2022 U/S 8/21 of NDPS act registered at safakadal PS." Srinagar Police Tweeted.



Unregistered Courier Agencies Will Not Be Allowed To Operate: DC

Raids conducted at multiple locations by Teams of Drug Control Organisation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to seek cooperation of Courier Services to curb the menace of Psychotropic substances a District Level Committee of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr Syed Haneef Balkhi, Deputy Drug Controller, Shah Nighat, SDM East, Murtaza Ahmad, SDM West, Primroze Bashir, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Arshid Qadir, Tehsildar Headquarter, Imtiyaz Amin Naik, besides representatives of various Courier Services providers operating in Srinagar were present in the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner took a first-hand appraisal of the mode of operation of courier service agencies operating in Srinagar District and their SOPs for delivery of shipments.

The DC was apprised by Deputy Drug Controller, Kashmir, Shah Night that recently various instances have been brought into the notice of their Department with regard to trafficking of psychotropic substances through various Courier agencies for delivery to different parts of the Kashmir Division. She also mentioned that in the recent past on receiving credible inputs various raids have been conducted during which huge quantities of psychotropic and narcotic substances were seized. She said that in the month of October, during a surprise raid at Airport cargo logistic space of the Srinagar Airport about 7500 capsules of Spasmo-proxyvon were seized.

"It is the shared responsibility of one and all to contribute to the eradication of drug menace from society. Courier service operators should keep proper vigil on every consignment and scan each suspicious parcel and also ask for the identity of the sender along with proof, besides taking precaution of using fake addresses." Ajiaz said.

"While delivering the Medical Drugs to individuals proper address verification of recipients must be made before handing over the consignment." he added.

Aijaz Asad also impressed upon to maintain the records of all the deliverables and consignments properly as per the prescribed norms regarding consignment booking, delivery, identification proof of sender/receiver

He said that efforts with Cooper tion, Coordination and Collaboration are vital to contain the drepeddling and break the supprescribed to contain the drepeddling and break the supprescribed norms regarding consistency.

along with all particulars.

He also discussed the issue with Director Airport Authority, Srinagar and emphasized further intensifying the surveillance mechanism at Srinagar Airport.

Aijaz asked the Deputy Drug Controller to deploy expert officials from the Drug Control Department at Srinagar Airport to further strengthen surveillance mechanisms and contain any efforts by the illegally operating syndicates in delivery of psychotropic substances.

He asked the ALC, Srinagar to conduct a survey regarding unauthorized/unregistered Courier Service providers operating in Srinagar District so that they are registered to continue their business under law.

On the occasion, the Aijaz stressed upon the Officers of all the line Departments including Enforcement agencies to ensure better coordination in enforcing greater deterrence to combat dangerous trade of drug-trafficking. He said that efforts with Cooperation, Coordination and Collaboration are vital to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain, besides taking stringent action against the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs.



TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081 Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

· SR · AN · BA · BI.

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132

PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



PRAYERS

FAJR 6:07

ZUHR 12:33

ASR 3:52

Magrib 5:34

ISHA 6:59

This Day In History

535 - Byzantine General Belisarius completes the conquest of Sicily, defeating Ostrogothic garrison of Syracuse, and ending his consulship for the year

1600 - British East India Company chartered 1669 - France & Brandenburg sign secret treaty

1670 - France & England sign Boyne-treaty 1744 - English astronomer James Bradley announces discovery of Earth's nutation motion (wobble)

1756 - Russia joins the Alliance of Versailles 1758 - British expeditionary army occupies Goree

(Dakar) Senegal 1775 - Battle of Quebec in American Revolutionary War; Americans defeated trying to take British

stronghold 1783 - Import of African slaves banned by all of the Northern US states

1805 - End of French Republican calendar; France returns to Gregorianism

 1861 - 22,990mm of rain falls in Cherrapunji Assam in India in 1861, a world record

1862 - 1864 - 1865 - 186

1862 - Battle of Stone's River (Battle of Murfreesboro), Tennesse in American Civil War 1901 - In the first election under their new constitution, Cuba elects a Congress and their first

president, Tomas Estrada Palma
1924 - Italian Fascist Mussolini orders the suppression

of opposition newspapers 1942 - Battle of the Barents Sea between British Navy

and German Kriegsmarine off North Cape, Norway 1944 - Japanese army evacuates harbor city Akyab 1944 - World War II: Hungary declares war on

Germany.
 1946 - US President Harry Truman officially proclaims end of WW II

1951 - 1st battery to convert radioactive energy to electricity appounced

electricity announced 1952 - Danny Nardico stops former world middleweight champion Jake LaMotta in 7 rounds in a light heavyweight non-title bout in Coral Gables, Florida; LaMotta is knocked down for the only time

in his career, his corner stopping fight after the round 1955 - The General Motors Corporation becomes the first U.S. corporation to make over \$1 billion USD in a year.

From KO Archives

4 Kids Among 6 Killed In JK

Observer News Service

RINAGAR: Six people, including four children, were killed and two others injured in separate incidents across Jammu region since yesterday.

According to reports, unidentified gunmen barged into the house of a village defence committee (VDC) member, Gyan Singh, after hurling a grenade towards it and resorted to indiscriminate firing on the inmates killing four of his minor children and injuring two others at Sharjao village in Mahore area of Udhampur district last night.

Official sources said today that about 10 suspected militants first threw grenades on Singh's house at Jailanmarh-Sharjao village at around 2245 hours and then barged into it. The victims were sleeping at the time.

The victims were identified as Hoshiar Singh (15), Bika Devi (12), Anju (3) and Darshana Devi (12). Singh and another member of his family, who were injured in the attack had been admitted to hospital, the sources said.

However, a NAFA report said Singh's house was adjacent to an army camp. Security forces cordoned off the entire area this morning. However, no arrests were made.

In an encounter between the security forces and militants, two militants were killed at Gudesa in Banihal area of Doda district yesterday. The deceased were identified as Muhammad Hasil alias Usman r/o Banihal and Muhammad Raliq alias Bambar s/o Ghulam Tarqal.

Unidentified gunmen intruded into the compound of the house of Abdul Rasheed Peer at Churan in Kellar area of Shopian last night. The inmates raised an alarm at which some neighbours came to their rescue. However, while fleeing from the place, the intruders fired some shots without any harm. Official sources said they intended to kill Mst Malla, wife of Peer who they accused was an 'Informer'

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 31 DECEMBER, 2000)



Administrative Apathy

A heart-rending incident in consideration is the death of elderly person, waiting in a queue at Bandipora to fill his pension form

Amir Suhail Wani



It is nothing new that somebody has died in the process of meeting official requirements, complying with protocols, waiting for his work to get done or whatever category you bracket it under. The largest maternity hospital in the valley - LD hospital has turned into a spectre of death for a long time now, quoting just two reports to unveil the gravity of the situation

'hat differentiates humans from animals in general is perhaps an emotion defined as "empathy" or what has been so recurrently celebrated in Urdu poetry as "dard-e-dil". The feelings of kinship and filial ties rooted in biology are found in animal kingdoms too, but there it doesn't attain the status of an ethical binding or a moral normative but remains tied to the basic necessities of survival instinct. But the bruising and irking happenings in our social sphere go on to erase this notion of empathy, humanity and care for others like a misspelt writing on the wall and therefore shake the very notion of humanity and humans as species of empathy and cooperation. A heart-rending incident in consideration is the death of elderly person, waiting in a queue at Bandipora to fill his pension form. "A 62-year-old man died on Tuesday while waiting for verification of his credentials to get an old age pension at the social welfare office in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir", a report said. The incident must serve the purpose of an eye opener and an emphatic reminder of the mishaps which we bear as a society on a daily basis. It must not be let down as another addition to the saddening saga of innumerable events which happen now and then, here and there, raising serious questions about the administrative efficacy and moral sensitivity of the people. An attempt shall be made here to look both into the ethical and administrative fallouts of the

It is nothing new that somebody has died in the process of meeting official requirements, complying with protocols, waiting for his work to get done or whatever category you bracket it under. The largest maternity hospital in the valley - LD hospital has turned into a spectre of death for a long time now, quoting just two reports to unveil the gravity of the situation. Search engines are filled with such news items and the goriness of the situation is lost to nobody but the tragic fact remains that these episodes go down as news items and are forgotten within a week's time. Humans, human dignity, care for human lives ought to be paramount and if there is anything which all administrative machinery ought to safeguard and promote, it is human well being and the elimination of human sufferings. But what shall be thought of a state where people are made to run from



The change in ethical outlook and moral attitude isn't enough when speaking about changes in administrative workings and when a systemic change is aimed at. This invariably directs our attention to the administrative reforms themselves and the presence of self-correcting mechanisms within the system itself

pillar to post for trifling issues and the administrative indifference reaches such heights that the issues remain unattended for days, weeks and months. The humanitarian aspect and a sympathetic approach is an urgent requirement in administrative affairs and officials need to step out of administrative red-tapism to feel the sufferings and issues of people, to address them on emergency basis and to seek ways and means to create convenience and comfort for people instead of multiplying their worries and adding to their woes. The need to tilt the attention of administrator's towards this facet arises not only in the backdrop of the recent Bandipora incident, but in the larger landscape of operation of our administrative set-up.

The change in ethical outlook and moral attitude isn't enough when speaking about changes in administrative workings and when a systemic change is aimed at. This invariably directs our attention to the administrative reforms themselves and the presence of self-correcting mechanisms within the system itself. Accountability has improved

during the present dispensation, but the scope for improvement always remains and there is both the need and necessity to improve accountability of officials, to train them to be people centric and place public convenience and the redressal of public issues ahead of everything. Officials need to realise that they exist for the public service and all the perks and privileges they enjoy are subjected and dependent upon their readiness to address public issues, to create convenience for the masses and not to misuse their power, position and privilege. It is high time that this tragic episode awakens the administrators and officials to their roles and responsibilities and doesn't leave open any spot of error wherefrom tragedies of this sort may creep in into the fabric again.

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

> The author is a Srinagar based columnist

INDIA AND CHINA

A 2023 Tale Of Two Markets

Andy Mukherjee

Bloomberg

ompared with a year-and-a-half ago, when its economy had just begun to reopen after a devastating surge of the delta variant, India's stock market is unchanged in dollar terms. And yet, its weight in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index has zoomed past Taiwan and South Korea to second place, with almost the entire gain coming at the expense of the gauge's biggest constituent: China.

The world's second-largest economy has seen equities slump by two-fifths since June 2021, thanks to Beijing's isolationist Covid-19 policies, turmoil in the real-estate industry and a punishing antitrust campaign against the country's valuable tech firms. If China has been mired in a surfeit of pessimism, the opposite is true of India. Thanks to pent-up urban demand after the pandemic, stocks have held up reasonably well despite the US Federal Reserve's aggressive monetary tightening.

As a result, while China's share of MSCI EM has slid to 28%, from 35% in May 2021, India's has risen to 15%, from 10%.

risen to 15%, from 10%.

If other countries' experiences are any guide, the pivot away from zero infections toward letting the virus rip through communities will be chaotic, and possibly deadly for China's elderly of whom only 40% have booster shots. However, a decisive transition may help pull consumer and business sentiment away from near-record lows, shake the property market out of its slumber and accelerate auto sales. That may also prompt analysts to bump up their forecast of 4% earnings growth over the next 12 months. Before the pandemic, those expectations were at 17%.

Different Expectations

In India, the pain of Covid-19 — and the gains from reopening — are both in the rearview mirror. The economy is now losing momentum, although the market continues to be frothy. Even with some caution getting baked into estimates because of high inflation (hurting margins of local consumer firms) and a global slowdown (affecting software exporters), the consensus expectation is for earnings to rise by 18% over the next 12 months. Optimism is the highest with banks. They're benefiting from higher business volumes as well as superior pricing: Elevated commodity prices have boosted demand for working-capital loans even as rising rates have shored up interest margins.

The case for some rotation away from Indian to Chinese stocks is already firming up. BNP Paribas recently downgraded India to "neutral" from "overweight" by removing the country's consumer-staples stocks from its model portfolio and pruning exposure to software exporters. "Our tactical caution on India arises from the market's sky-high relative valuations and the possibility of fund reallocations to North Asia with China's reopening," says Manishi Raychaudhuri, BNP's head of Asia research. The consensus opinion on India's consumption-oriented stocks is probably too optimistic, while the federal government's budget the last before the 2024 elections — could introduce additional volatility, he adds. Time for change?

In the longer term, India is seeking to buttress its investment appeal by emerging as an alternative to China. With President Xi Jinping's policies aggravating a rift with the West, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pitching his country as a destination for multinationals to reduce their overexposure to Chinese supply chains.

There's no guarantee that the gamble, backed

by \$24 billion in subsidies for manufacturers, will work. As Arvind Subramanian, an economic adviser to the Modi administration until 2018, and Josh Felman, a former International Monetary Fund official in New Delhi, noted in a recent Foreign Affairs article: "India faces three major obstacles in its quest to become 'the next China;' investment risks are too big, policy inwardness is too strong, and macroeconomic imbalances are too large."

China's loss, India's gain

Other countries may also have a claim. Vietnam, more open to trade than India, is on track to edge Britain out of this year's list of the US's seven largest goods trading partners. The Southeast Asian manufacturing powerhouse didn't even figure among the top 15 until 2019. Besides, regardless of how inviting New Delhi's policies are on paper, it's not at all certain they will be implemented impartially and not tweaked to benefit national champions — "the giant Indian conglomerates that the government has favored," according to Subramanian and Felman.

Just the firms controlled by Gautam Adani, the richest Indian businessman, have accounted for a third of the 33% jump, in local currency terms, since 2021 in the BSE 500, a broad index of the nation's largest companies. Throw in rival Mukesh Ambani's telecoms-to-petrochemicals empire, and half of the gains are spoken for by the two wealthiest tycoons.

So far, however, a rising concentration of wealth seems to have worked well for local investors — they are neither too skeptical of their country's destiny, nor too critical of its direction. That's because their prosperity is also hitched to the same bandwagon of pro-capitalist policies. Four years ago, India's largest firms earned a combined pretax income of 7 trillion rupees (\$85 billion), out of which the exchequer took almost a third. Now, the pre-tax profit has risen to 13 trillion rupees, but the

government's share has fallen to about a quarter. The relative importance of indirect taxes — including on petroleum products — has grown.

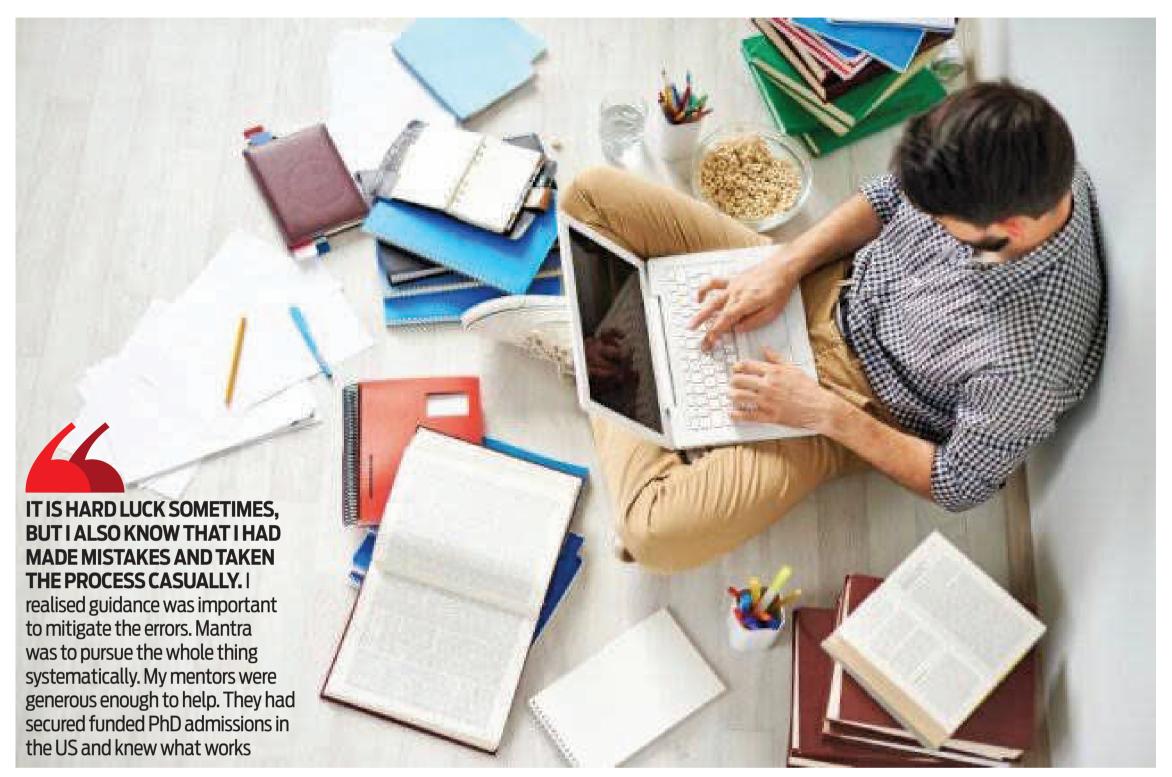
Profits grown faster than tax

It isn't a great outcome for India's poor, who are hurt more than the rich by levies on consumption, particularly in an inflationary environment. But to the extent the burden of taxation is light on companies, the stock market is unlikely to question the absence of meaningful purchasing power beyond a tiny affluent class. India's wage-led economy has become a profit-driven enterprise, and domestic investors seem fine with it. In five years, India's managed investments — life insurance, mutual funds, retirement accounts, hedge funds and portfolio services — has grown to 57% of gross domestic product from 41%, according to Crisil, an affiliate of S&P Global Inc. As the hunt for yield reaches more of the smaller cities and towns, the \$1.6 trillion industry may not take long to catch up with \$2 trillion in bank fixed deposits.

With net outflows in excess of \$187 billion, global investors' exit from China this year has been far more brutal than the \$17 billion they have pulled out of India. As China reopens, they're bound to put more money at work in the People's Republic. Even if some of those funds come at India's expense, it's important to remember that a rapidly swelling pool of local institutional liquidity is eroding the sway of overseas fund managers. As long as India Inc. delivers reasonable earnings growth, foreigners won't be able to ignore a country where an increasingly muscular domestic investment class has come to worship profit.

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

NAVIGATING THE PATH TO STUDYINGABROAD



Muhammad Tahir

n 2012 I received confirmation of my admission from International University of Japan. My response: restrained excitement with a bout of anxiety. Why? Because I had received such confirma tions previously, and I had come to realise that they don't mean much without a scholarship. Of course, unless you want to self-finance your foreign degree. A lot of students take a loan and enrol in expensive programs abroad. They work part-time jobs to compensate for the lack of stipend. But not everyone can afford. Scholarship is freedom, while self-financing international students are 'cash cows' for many European universities.

In February 2012 I received an email from University of London: "We are delighted that you have chosen to study at SOAS and very pleased to make you an offer of admissions to a Taught Masters programme." I was tempted to take a loan and study one year MSc State, Society and Development at this prestigious British university. But I decided against that after weighing pros and cons of such a move. I received a similar offer of admission from University of Edinburgh for MSc Nationalism Studies. I applied for Principal India Scholarship and Edinburgh Global Masters Scholarship in October 2011 to make it possible for me to study in Edinburgh. However, in June 2012, I received any email from them: "Competition for the awards was intense and I am afraid that I have to inform you that your scholarship application has not been successful." Earlier in April 2012, Central European University informed me that they will be unable to offer a place of study to me. adding that "Admission to Central European University is highly competitive, with over 5,000 individuals applying for approximately 600 student places for the academic year 2012/2013. As a result, the university is simply unable to offer admission to every qualified applicant."

It is hard luck sometimes, but I also know that I had made mistakes and taken the process casually. I realised guidance was important to mitigate the errors. Mantra was to pursue the whole thing systematically. My mentors were generous enough to help. They had secured funded PhD admissions in the US and knew what works. I drafted my Research Proposal and Statement of Purpose, emailed these documents to my mentors for their feedback and suggestions. I reworked the weaker areas in my application. In July 2012, I was selected for Konosuke Mastushita Memorial Founda-

tion (KMMF) fellowship to study master's in international peace studies at Japan. Later, in 2014, I got the prestigious Daniel O'Hare Fellowship to pursue my PhD

I recounted my story because some aspirants out there might relate with it. It is to show to those who may embark on this journey soon that failure is part of the game but perseverance pays, that road to scholarship is paved with some hiccups but with right approach and proper guidance you shall reach your destination.

THE FIRST STEPS

Many undergrad students toy with the idea of studying abroad but most hesitate or feel dread when it comes to starting the process. Unfortunately, colleges in Kashmir do not prepare them for the task and they rely on information available online. Very few are able to find a mentor who can guide them properly. When I began my journey more than a decade ago there were not many resources, but today there are Kashmiri-led initiatives that help and guide aspiring students to apply for scholarships and funded admissions.

I along with my colleagues at Pend Online have conducted workshops about this. We have collaborated with Wath, an educational platform started by Adeeba Tak (University of Pennsylvania) and Moin Khan (Princeton University). Adeeba and Moin have provided many students structured guidance to get admissions in the US colleges. Similarly, KG-Kashmir Guidance, a Facebook group, have similarly mentored dozens of students since last six years. All these initiatives work pro bono.

Before you approach anyone for guidance, you must have basic documentation ready. Also bear in mind that the process will cost money, somewhere between 15000-40000 rupees depending on where you are applying.

First, apply for a passport. If your passport expires in a year, apply for renewal. Second, take English language test, such as IELTS or TOEFL. Third, scan your passport, IELTS/TOEFL certificate, marks cards and degree certificates along with any work experience related documents.

You should prepare well ahead of time. Give yourself at least a year of preparation. Remember securing admission and securing funding are two separate processes (I will come to the latter in a while) and it will consume your energies. If you want to apply for an M.A programme in International University of Japan, the course begins in September (fall-term) and you need to start apply-

ing around December a year ahead. The application deadline is January, February and March and the admission results will be announced in March and April 2023. The good thing about IUJ is that Kashmiri students are exempt from IELTS/ TOFFL requirement. That will save you at least 15000 rupees. Secondly, there is no interview for international students, except for PhD admissions. However, there is a non-refundable application fee of 5000 yen (roughly 3000 rupees). If you want to study in Europe or the US, most universities will ask for IELTS or TOEFL score as proof of English language proficiency. American universities will require Graduate Record Examination (GRE) which costs \$228 (roughly 19000 rupees). You will need to travel outside Kashmir to take this test, nearest centre is in Chandigarh or Delhi. For undergraduate admission in the US you will need to sit for Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) which costs around 10000 rupees. But the good news is that in August 2020, Delhi Public School Srinagar was allotted an SAT centre.

PREPARING CRUCIAL DOCUMENTS

Statement of Purpose and Research Proposal are two most crucial documents that largely determine the application outcome at graduate level. Your CV, grades and work experience is important but these two are read first by the selection committee.

Much material is available online on how to write a good research proposal, but surfeit of information creates an overwhelming situation for many students. So, let me briefly summarize the key points. When you write your RP, the first paragraph should clearly state what you want to explore. In this paragraph your research question should come out explicitly. Write in simple and formal English. You should tell your reader why your topic is important and what new significant contribution your research will make to the existing literature on the topic. For this you must know what has been already written about the topic and what areas have not been sufficiently covered. Next you should explain which theoretical framework informs your research. You also need to clearly state the methodology you will be employing in your study. For example, semi-structured interviews, surveys or archival research? In other words, how and where you are going to get your data from and how your proposed methodology will enable you to address your research questions. In the final section, you must outline a rough

schedule of your research: what will you do in each year of your PhD. Divide years into quarters and fill each quarter with concise description of what you will do. For example, 'Jan-Apr 2023: Presentation of preliminary research findings at Annual Political Studies Association In ternational Conference'. Be realistic with milestone and deliverables (note: this applies for PhD research proposals).

You can find sample PhD proposals online but remember template for each institution may differ. So be diligent. Choose wisely when searching online. You should be able to separate wheat from the chaff. I would recommend university websites like this one (https:// www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe-writing-centre/planyour-assignment/write-a-research-proposal) or this (https://fass.open.ac.uk/ sites/fass.open.ac.uk/files/files/research/ sample-research-proposal.pdf)

It is always better to visit the website of your target university, because they usually put guideline documents on how to write a good research proposal. Each university has different word limit requirements. You must strictly follow it. If they ask for 2000 word RP, don't overwrite. They will see your discipline. You must tailor your RP according to the requirements of your target university.

BACKGROUND CHECK

There are two ways to write your RP. Either you chose your own topic which you really want to do or you develop a topic which matches the research interest of the faculty member at your target department or university. If you decide the former, find a professor with research interest closer to your topic. After all, most professors take those prospective students under their wings who they think would contribute to their own re-

Once you identified your prospective supervisor, read his/her profile carefully (you will find the details in the 'People' or 'Faculty' section of their department's website). Go through a couple of his/her recent articles to see what kind of scholarship he or she has produced and what he or she has been researching lately.

Once you have done the background checking, compose a clear and professional email and send it to that professor (I will get to email etiquettes later). If the professor replies and shows interest in your topic, then you have accomplished an important milestone.

It is always advisable to apply to at least five to six universities, because you will be competing at the international level where far many prospective students apply to the same department. That is why you should keep your options and cast your net wide. For this you will need to spend a great deal on internet looking for the right match in each target university.

SEEKING FEEDBACK

Once you have a draft of RP, show it to an experienced person like your professor or your friend or acquaintance who you think can help. Don't feel shy asking for the feedback. Shyness and inhibition is a big handicap and must be overcome to get things done. There is no harm asking for help, either you get a response or you are ignored. But at least you tried. It is also not inappropriate to remind the person whom you have sent your proposal. Sometimes people forget. Revise your RP by incorporating suggestions. Sometimes not all suggestions can be accepted, that is fine. Include what you think is useful to improve the proposal. Proofread it a couple of times. A polished document reflects well on you.

PREPARING YOUR CV

Some professors may ask for the CV or curriculum vitae (Greek for 'course of one's life'). Don't rush. Send only a latest and polished CV. Understand the difference between an academic CV and a regular job hunting resume (French for 'a summary'). Academic CV may be two to three pages long where you list all your academic achievements and highlight any work experience relevant to the proposed research. If you have any publications, put them in your CV. But remember only the relevant publications. If you have already accomplished something, such as articles in respected newspapers and magazines and work experience with a reputed organisation, put it there. Overall, your CV should complement and connect with your SOP and RP. It should help you market your candidacy by showing required skills for the position. Be attentive to fonts and alignment. Your CV should look neat and clear. Latest MS Word has ready-made templates but I will recommend this link for you to see how you can frame your academic CV (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/sites/careers/files/phd-applications.pdf) or this one (https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/careers/CVGuideforPhDandPostdoctoralResearchers.pdf)

(to be continued...)

Muhammad Tahir is an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at Dublin City University, Ireland

No Compromise On Nat'l Security For Good Relations With Neighbours: DM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

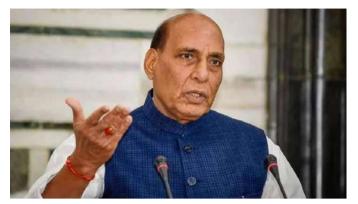
Thiruvananthapuram: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India wants to have and maintain friendly relations with its neighbours, but it will not be done at the cost of national security.

Speaking at the 90th annual pilgrimage of Sivagiri Mutt here, Singh recalled former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's remark that we can change friends but not our neighbours.

"Therefore, we need good and friendly relations with our neighbours. However, we will not compromise on national security to maintain good relations. We do not want good relations with anyone at the cost of our national security," the Defence Minister said.

Singh also spoke about Kerala-based social reformer Sree Narayana Guru's teachings, like 'prosperity through industry' which is the basis of the Indian's government's 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' policy.

As a result of the same, the country is considered as one of the top five economies in the world and our military is seen as a force to be reckoned with, he contended.



"His preaching of prosperity through industry is the basis of the Government of India's resolution of 'Self-reliant India'. Today, India is one of the largest economies of the world because of its hard work and enterprise. Today, India has become one of the top five economies of the world."

"The world today recognises India as military power to be reckoned with, due to the government's pitching for 'Self-reliant India' which is based on 'Prosperity through industry' preaching of Sree Narayana Guru," the Defence Minister said.

Singh said that self-reliance has been an intrinsic part of India's culture and Sree Narayana Guru spread this message in the public through his teachings, and Sivagiri Mutt was also working to take it forward continuously.

He further said that while he was working to protect the "body" -- boundaries -- of India with the help of the armed forces and under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the saints of the math were working to protect the soul of the country.

"I appreciate the work you are doing. We can survive as a nation only when both the body and soul are safe," Singh said and expressed confidence that this year's annual pilgrimage would also be a success.

In January 1928,

Vallabhasserry Govindan Vaidyar and T K Kittan jointly requested Guru to have a Sivagiri pilgrimage as all the higher classes and others had their own pilgrim centres, but 'avarnas' had nowhere to go, according to the math website.

Guru gave his consent to the proposal and fixed a date of first of January of every year for the pilgrimage, prior to which pilgrims have to maintain a 10-day long austere life and wear only yellow clothes, the website said.

The Defence Minister, at the event, also condoled the death of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother -- Hiraben.

Singh said that when he learned about the tragic news he was contemplating returning to Delhi, but the Prime Minister told everyone that all should fulfill their official commitments before coming back.

"So on behalf of everyone here, the Sivagiri Mutt and myself, I would like to pay tribute to Ma Hiraben," he said.

Thereafter, a one-minute silence was observed by everyone present there.

Earlier, in his speech, he said many allege liberty, equality and fraternity are not part of Indian tradition and ideologies and that it reached us through the French Revolution.

"However, that is incorrect. Sources of liberty, equality, fraternity and world peace can be seen in Indian culture. In fact, the concept of human equality can be seen in our ancient texts and the preaching and literary works of saints, philosophers and poets of the 'Bhakti' period.

"Rather, they took it a step forward by talking of universal equality, equality between all living things or the whole world being one family," he claimed.

Singh also said that it was the far-sightedness of Sree Narayana Guru that he ordered Sivagiri Mutt to spread consciousness among the common people on subjects like education, cleanliness, etc. "With the grace of Guruji and

the blessings of revered saints, our government has also focused its special attention on these subjects," he said.

Sivariri Muttie a famous tour-

Sivagiri Mutt is a famous tourist pilgrimage place in Varkala town of Thiruvananthapuram district in Kerala.

The math is also headquarters of Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham, an organisation of Sree Narayan Guru's disciples and followers.

26 Bodies Found As Search Ends At Cambodian Hotel Fire Site

Poipet: The search for bodies in the wreckage of a burned-out casino hotel complex in western Cambodia has concluded with 26 people confirmed dead, a senior official said late Friday.

Banteay Meanchey province Governor Um Reatrey told The Associated Press by phone that after 39 hours of rescue and search operations, there were also 57 injured survivors from the Wednesday night fire at the Grand Diamond City casino and hotel in the town of Poipet.

Seventeen of the dead were from Thailand, one each from Nepal, Malaysia and China, and six bodies were yet to be identified, he said.

The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office of Thailand's Sa Kaeo province, just across the border from Poipet, said there had been 27 deaths 26 in Cambodia and one in a Thai hospital. It said of the 112 people injured, 27 remained in hospitals and 85 had returned to their homes.

Thailand, which provided firefighting and rescue assistance, was where many of the injured were taken for treatment. Thais made up a large proportion of the guests and employees at the casino

complex

Searchers failed to find new bodies Friday afternoon at the disaster site, although more dead had been expected to be found.

The blaze at the Grand Diamond City complex started late Wednesday night and was extinguished more than 12 hours later on Thursday afternoon.

The Grand Diamond City casino complex has 500 employees, and it had 1,000 customers Wednesday, according to a report from Soth Kimkolmony, a spokesperson for Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management. It was unclear how many were present when the fire broke out, and how many managed to flee to safety.

Many of the injured had been rushed across the border for treatment in neighbouring Thailand. That, along with the chaotic rescue efforts, made it difficult to get an accurate toll of the casualties.

Thai and Cambodian rescue teams worked side by side in searching the two-building complex. Governor Um Reatrey said 1,009 Cambodian personnel and 221 from Thailand aided in the search efforts.

SC Directs States To Form Special Units In Police Stations To Facilitate Motor Accident Claims

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has directed the states to constitute a special unit in police stations within three months to investigate and facilitate motor accident claim cases.

Issuing a slew of directions, the top court said on receiving intimation about a road accident by a motor vehicle at a public place, the SHO concerned shall take steps as per Section 159 of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act under which an Accident Information Report is to be filed to the Claims Tribunal within

three months by the police.

"In our view, the head of the Home Department of the State and the Director General of Police in all States/Union Territories shall ensure the compliance of the Rules by constituting a special unit in the police stations or at least at town level to investigate and facilitate the motor accident claim cases. The said action must be ensured within a period of three months," a bench of Justices S A

Nazeer and J K Maheshwari said. The top court said after registering the FIR, the Investigating Officer shall act as specified in the Motor Vehicles Amendment Rules, 2022 and submit the First Accident Report within 48 hours to the Claims Tribunal.

"The registering officer is duty bound to verify the registration of the vehicle, driving licence, fitness of vehicle, permit and other ancillary issues and submit the report in coordination to the police officer before the Claims Tribunal.

"The flow chart and all other

documents, as specified in the rules, shall either be in vernacular language or in English language, as the case may be and shall be supplied as per Rules,"

the bench said in a recent order.
Observing that the role of the IO is very important, it said the officer shall inform the victim or the legal representative, driver, owner, insurance companies and other stakeholders with respect to the action taken while following the Motor Vehicles Amendment Rules.

"In case the claimant or legal

representative of the deceased have filed separate claim petition in the territorial jurisdiction of different High Courts, the first claim petition filed by the claimant/legal representative(s) shall be maintained and the subsequent claim petition shall stand transferred to the Claims Tribunal where the first claim petition was filed and (is) pending.

"It is made clear here that the claimant are not required to apply before this Court seeking transfer of other claim petition though filed in the territorial jurisdiction of different High Courts," the bench said.

The apex court also directed the state authorities to take appropriate steps to develop a joint web portal/platform to coordinate with and facilitate the stakeholders for carrying out the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act and the Rules in coordination with any technical agency and be notified to public.

The top court's order came on a plea challenging an order passed by the Allahabad High Court which dismissed the

appeal filed against the award passed by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT).

The MACT had allowed the claim petition and awarded a compensation of Rs 31,90,000 in favour of legal representatives of a 24-year-old man who died in a road accident.

The victim's car was hit by a bus on the bypass road near Sanhwali village in Uttar Pradesh when he was returning home from factory. The deceased sustained severe injuries and died on the way to hospital.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Covid Might Not Go

the virus for coming weeks in J&K (Jammu and Kashmir), but models can go horribly wrong," he had said.

"So stay calm, observe routine precautions and vaccinate if you haven't, as per the advisories. Safety saves. Better safe than sorry," the SKIMS Hospital's director had said.

PM Modi

in Gandhinagar around 9.30 am in the presence of PM Modi, his brothers and other family members.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, former chief ministers Vijay Rupani and Shankersinh Vaghela, business tycoon Gautam Adani, writer and religious leader Swami Sachchidanand, Assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhari, Rajya Sabha member Jugalji Thakor, former speaker Ramanlal Vora and Gujarat BJP president C R Paatil were present for the cremation ceremony.

Following her death in the early hours, the prime minister landed in Ahmedabad from Delhi in the morning and went to the residence of his brother Pankaj Modi at Raysan village on the outskirts of Gandhinagar, where the mortal remains of their mother were kept.

He offered floral tributes to his mother there and bowed down at her feet. Later, PM Modi and his brothers shouldered her mortal remains for some distance before placing them in a mortuary van. He also boarded the mortuary van, which reached a crematorium in Sector 30 in Gandhinagar city to perform the last rites of his mother.

PM Modi and his brothers performed the last rites and lit the funeral pyre of their mother.

A family member told reporters that a condolence meet would be organised a few days later at Modi's native place Vadnagar.

Notably, PM Modi was scheduled to visit West Bengal on Friday to launch various developmental projects, including a stretch of Kolkata metro and also to flag off the Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express.

Since he could not remain present in West Bengal, the PM attended those programmes in West Bengal via video conferencing from Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister tweeted that "a great journey of 100 years" has ended with his mother's demise.

"A great journey of 100 years has come to an end. I have witnessed three qualities in mother, a journey like that of a tapasvi (saint), a selfless worker and life dedicated to values," Modi tweeted.

"When I met her on her 100th birthday she told one thing which I always remember. "Kam karo buddhi thi, jivan jivo suddhi thi" (work using your brain and live life with purity," he said in the tweet.

PM Modi had visited the hospital to inquire about his mother on Wednesday after learning about her health condition.

After spending over an hour at the medical facility that day, the PM had left for Delhi after

doctors informed him that her health was stable. He had also spoken to doctors at the hospital, a government-funded autonomous medical facility.

The prime minister regularly visited Raysan and spent time with his mother Hiraben, also called Hiraba, during most of his Gujarat visits.

LG, Omar;

treatment at U N Mehta Heart Hospital, in Ahmedabad.

"The passing away of Hiraba, mother of honble PM is very sad. A mother is the universe of affection, the nursery of values and manners, expansion of existence and completeness of life. My heartfelt tributes to the revered mother. My deepest condolences with the PM and his family. Om Shanti," Sinha said

in a tweet in Hindi.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson Altaf
Thakur said he equally shares the PM's grief.

Thakur said he equally shares the PM's grief.

"Respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. I am deeply pained over the demise of your mother and equally share the grief. No one can replace the mother. I pray to almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and give you and other family members patience to bear this irreparable loss," Thakur said.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah also expressed grief over the demise of the PM's mother.

"I join my father & @JKNC_ colleagues in sending our heartfelt condolences to PM @narendramodi ji on the sad demise of his mother. May the almighty grant her soul eternal rest & may the family find strength during this difficult time," Omar Abdullah, also the NC vice president, wrote on Twitter.

"Saddened to know of the passing away of Modi ji's mother. My deepest condolences to him & his family in this hour of grief," Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said in a tweet.

"Heartfelt condolences to @narendramodi ji on the demise of his mother, Smt Heeraben Modi. May she rest in eternal peace," Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone said on

Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said his thoughts and prayers were with the bereaved family.

"Deeply saddened to hear about the demise of Heeraben Modi, mother of Prime Minister @narendramodi Ji. I pay my deepest condolences. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family members during this hour of grief," Bukhari said.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad said in a tweet: "Saddened to hear the demise of Smt. Heeraben, mother of PM Shri @narendramodi ji. I know that words are of little solace at such times. However, my heartfelt condolences to Hon'ble Prime Minister. I also pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul".

No Plan To Return

chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said

reports suggesting his return to the grand old party were planted by some vested leaders in the Congress and there was no truth in them.

"I have never spoken to any Congress leader and neither has anyone called me. So I wonder why these kinds of stories are planted in the media," Azad said.

Azad said these attempts were made by the Congress leaders to create a sense of uncertainty within his party cadres and to demoralise them.

"Come whatever may, we will emerge stronger," he said.

Azad, who has served as leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha, said "I have not indulged in any mudslinging with anyone. Whatever I had to say, I made it clear in my resignation letter. After this I am on my own path to serve the people who have given me their trust."

Asked whether he would be joining the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra when it enters Jammu and Kashmir next month, Azad said "I have no such plan. My hands are full with my own work."

Snowfall Brings

morning due to low visibility.

However, the visibility improved at around 11:30 am and the flight operations were started, the officials added.

The snowfall led to the improvement in the

minimum temperature across the valley ex-

cept in Gulmarg and Pahalgam, and brought cheers to the tourists in the valley. "It feels so good to finally experience the snowfall. We had seen the forecast and were hoping to see some snow. God heard us and

we are enjoying," a tourist from Maharashtra said.

Another tourist from Madhya Pradesh said experiencing snowfall was a dream come true.

An official of the MeT department here said the minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 0.3 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam, which also serves as a base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a low of minus

4.9 degrees Celsius.

The minimum in Gulmarg was minus 5.5 degrees Celsius.

degrees Celsius.

In the frontier Kupwara district, the minimum temperature settled at minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund, the gateway town to the Valley, recorded minus 2 degrees Celsius, he said.

Kokernag also recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of

Chilla-i-Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when the chances of snowfall are maximum and most frequent.

The MeT Office has said the weather will remain cloudy on Friday with a possibility of

From Saturday till January 8, the weather is likely to remain mainly dry, it said.

Expect further fall in the minimum temper-

light snowfall at scattered places over higher

Expect further fall in the minimum temperature across J-K and the days will be warmer and the nights colder, the MeT Office added. Meanwhile, authorities have issued an Avalanche alert in Bandipora, Baramulla, Doda, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Ramban districts of J&K and have advised people not to venture into the higher reaches.

"Avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 2500 metres over Bandipora, Baramulla, Doda, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Ramban and Kargil in next 24 hours. People are advised to avoid visiting higher reaches," officials said

J&K To Implement

enable them to implement the scheme in letter and spirit at school level," the Joint Director said.

Earlier, the authorities had decided to prepare results of 5th and 8th standard mainly on the basis of academic performance of the student throughout the year from next academic session 2023-24.

Besides, the governing authority has further decided that the uniform question papers will be prescribed by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) for year-end assessment for Classes 5th and 8th.

SCERT has said this in a notification pertaining to 'Student Assessment and Evaluation Scheme' upto Class 8th for government and government recognized Schools of Jammu and Kashmir.

Stating the framework and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) of the scheme, JKSCERT said that the Head of Schools or complex heads has to ensure that the result of classes 5th and 8th shall be prepared mainly on the basis of academic performance of the

student throughout the year.
"Uniform question papers to be prescribed by SCERT for Year End Assessment for Classes 5th and 8th." it said.

SCERT also said that the students (Potential Learners) shall be identified on the basis of performance and competency in assessment.

"They shall be promoted to next class on provisional basis with arrangement for special teaching of 2-3 months during vacations or beginning of next session followed by reassessment for grade appropriate competencies and in case of inability to meet the qualification criteria in such re-assessment tool, the student shall be detained," it reads.

It also states that the 'Student Assessment and Evaluation Scheme' shall be implemented from next academic session 2023-24 across the Union Territory—(KNO)

CRPF To Deploy

"We respect the sentiments of the locals... when we are dealing with the women population, we would like them to be comfortable." Sinha said

She said it was being done on an experimentation basis. "...we have to see how they get trained," she said, adding, their women personnel are very good, have a younger age profile, and are very enthusiastic and keen.

The senior CRPF personal said as part of an experiment, they brought in a team that worked for about six months. "We trained it,

put them in the field, and tested the level of interest and competence. We found they were very good and sincere and very hard-working. Now, based on that, we have decided to take

By March, women personnel should be on the field after four to six-week additional training. "We will introduce them into different operations and then we will see how it works out. They will get additional training here because this is a separate theatre."

Sinha said the women component will be doing everything that their male colleagues do. "Their training is the same as men; so is their weaponry," she told the HT.

CASO Launched

this forward.'

the first light of the day to look for any traces of the suspicious movement on the ground, the officials said.

The search operation is underway and further details are awaited.

MHA Promotes

of AGMUT 2010 batch to Selection Grade (LEVEL-13 in the pay-scale matrix) with effect from January 1, 2023, which includes incum-

bent SSP Baramulla Rayees Mohammad Bhat.
Bhat has been promoted alongside names of Benita Mary Jaiker (AGMUT:2010), Shweta Chauhan (AGMUT:2010), Amit Sharma (AGMUT:2010), Sagar Singh Kalsi (AGMUT:2010), Rajendra Prasad Meena (AGMUT:2010), Patil Shridhar Daulu (AGMUT:2010), Esha Pandey (AGMUT:2010), Brijendra Kumar Yadav (AGMUT:2010), Chandan Chowdhary (AGMUT:2010), Rajiv Ranjan Singh (AGMUT:2010), Sanjay Bhatia (AGMUT:2010), Dinesh Kumar Gupta (AGMUT:2010), Varsha Sharma (AGMUT:2010) and Rakesh Kumar (AGMUT:2010).

"Further, Dr. Esha Singhal, IPS (AGMUT:2010), Rajiv Omprakash Pandey, IPS (AGMUT:2010) and Santosh Kumar Meena, IPS (AGMUT:2010), presently posted on central deputation are hereby granted proforma promotion in the selection grade (LEVEL-13 in the pay-scale matrix) with effect from 01-01-2023 and on actual basis with effect from the date of assumption of charge of their immediate junior in the cadre", reads the order.

Govt Orders Probe

the Inquiry Officer shall submit a report to the General Administration Department within a period of seven (07) days clearly establishing the cause of occurrence of the fire incident. "Cause of delay in controlling/extinguishing the fire. Whether the fire safety audit of the building had been carried out, as ordered in terms of Government Order No. 592-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 21.05.2022, or otherwise," it added

"Whether the fire extinguishing equipment available on the premises was in working condition. The Inquiry Officer shall fix the responsibility for failure in activating response at various levels to control the fire in a timely manner," it added.

JAMMU AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT

PCC Conducts Public Hearing For Environmental Clearance

JAMMU: J&K Pollution Control Committee, Jammu-South conducted a public hearing on Friday here as a part of the Environmental Clearance process under EIA for Expansion of Civil Enclave at Jammu Airport, with an area of 40,000 Sq.Mtrs.

The Public Hearing was conducted at Govt Cattle Breeding Farm, Animal Husbandry Department, Belicharan, Jammu.

The panel for the said Public Hearing comprised Harvinder Singh, Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, Sat Paul, Regional Director J&K Pollution Con-

Enviro Net.), Environmental Consultant of the Airport Authority of India.

The Project proponent proposed to adopt various measures during and after the construction of the project, such as Air Pollution Control Measures, dust suppression measures, Rain Water harvesting, Installation of Sewage Treatment Plant, Fire Fighting Equipments etc. and it was followed by an introductory speeches by the Regional Director, JK-PCC Jammu and then by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, which was followed by a detailed public discussions



trol Committee, Jammu, and Arshad Nazir Malik, Divisional Officer, J&K Pollution Control Committee, Jammu-South.

The Public Hearing was attended by a large number of people including, representatives of the Animal Husbandry Department, prominent citizens and residents of village Belicharan, Basheer Gujjar Basti, Doda Basti, Poonch Basti, Official of the Airport Authority, representatives of the Cantonment Board, Officers of the Revenue department etc.

The Environmental Management plan prepared for the Expansion of Civil Enclave at Jammu Airport was explained to the General Public by the concerned Environmental Consultant Bhupinder Singh (Vardan Committee, Jammu-South.

and expression of opinions on various aspects of the plan and other general issues concerning the public living around the proposed expansion site. A large number of queries were answered on the spot by the Concerned Officers, Project contractor and its representatives. All the issues raised were patiently heard by the panel members and recorded in detail. The entire proceedings were also video graphed for onward submission to the appropriate Authority i.e J&K Environmental impact Assessment Authority (JKEIAA).

The public hearing concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Arshad Nazir Malik, Divisional Officer, J&K Pollution Control

R-Day Arrangements Reviewed In Pulwama



Observer News Service

PULWAMA: The Deputy Comeer-Ul-Haq Choudhary Friday chaired a meeting of District Officers and representatives of security agencies to review the arrangements for Republic Day 2023, here.

The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at District Police Lines whereas similar functions would be held at all Tehsil headquarters.

It was given out that contingents of JKP, CRPF, students of government and private schools will participate in the march past parade.

The DC directed the officials to ensure adequate security arrangements, parking facilities and proper seating arrangements at the venue, besides ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply. He also directed the Health Department to set-up an adequate number of medical camps with proper staff, ambulance and Medicare facilities at the respective venues where the Republic Day function will be held in the district.

He directed the officials of the Municipal Committee to maintain cleanliness in and around District Police roads, and streets in the town. He further called for close coordination among the concerned departments for smooth and peaceful conduct of the Repubic Day.

In case of inclement weather, Mechanical Division was directed to ensure availability of snow clearance machines Whereas District Mineral Officer was directed to keep availability of dust and sand for smooth pacing of parades.

DC directed officers to ensure cent percent attendance of employees on the Republic day.

SSP Pulwama Ghulam Jeelani, ADDC Pulwama Dr Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama/ Awantipora/ Tral, General Manager DIC. Assistant Commissioner Revenue, ACD, ACP, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, Tehsildars, CO-44 RR, CO-183 Bn CRPF, Senior civil, Army and Police officers and other concerned officers were present at the meeting.



High Level Committee Reviews Functioning Of Juvenile Justice Boards

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice (Acting) High of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman J&K LSA on Friday chaired a High Level Committee meeting under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to ensure effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act besides reviewing the pendency of cases before the Juvenile Justice Boards across the UT of J&K and ascertaining the reasons for delay in disposal of these cases.

The meeting had threadbare discussion on issues confronting proper implementation of the Act. It was impressed upon all the stakeholders to ensure constitution of Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees, Special Juvenile Police Units and appointment of Child Welfare Officers in tune with the Juvenile Justice Act.

It was resolved that the



Protection Units, Special Juvenile Police Units and nomination of Child Welfare Police Officers and Child Welfare Of ficers should be reflected on the website of the concerned departments for the information of general public.

It was further impressed upon the concerned that regular TV/Radio programmes should be conducted through the officers of Legal Services, Police and Social Welfare Department on the Juvenile Justice Act, so as to educate the public about the scheme of the Act and steps being taken by the Government for care and protection of children.

The meeting was attended by R. K. Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary Home; Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; M. K. Sharma, Member Secretary, J&K LSA and Amit Kumar Gupta, Former Officio Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee.

The participants gave their valuable suggestions for proper implementation of the Act.

COVID-19 RESURGENCE

Govt Mulls To Extend Contract Of Staff Hired For Covid Care Services

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government is mulling to extend the contract of staff hired for Covid care services presently working in associated hospitals of GMC Srinagar and Jammu.

An unnamed health official told a local news agency KNO that during peak second wave of Covid-19, in order to make two 500 bedded Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) Covid-19 Hospitals functional in Jammu and Srinagar the government on had sanctioned the creation of

1366 posts for 3 years. He said that the posts were created for a period of three years, however, authorities directed concerned officials that the posts shall be filled up, initially for a period of one year which was later extended by six more months and their contract is coming to an end on 31 December 2022.

He said that even GMC Jammu has written to Administrative Secretary health and

Medical education that the con- and New Emergency GMCH tractual staff already engaged and presently working in GMC & Associated Hospitals, Jammu are highly trained to manage the COVID- 19 cases and they have already successfully dealt with the effective management of the COVID-19 during the 2 wave of COVID-19 pandemic and this staff is urgently required to given extension for another period of one and half year(as their present contract is ending on 31-12-2022) in view of the emerging scenario of CO-VID-19 in the UT of J&K.

"Since the existing staff in the Govt. Medical College and its Associated Hospitals, Jammu is not as per IPHS norms. So, there is already a scarcity of staff in Govt. Medical College and its Associated Hospitals, Jammu." another official said.

"It would not be out of place to mention here that services of the staff which were recruited for DRDO Hospital during the year 2021-22, are presently being utilized in Maternity Hospital, Gandhi Nagar

Jammu for better management of patient care," he said.

"It is further submitted that patient load has increased manifold in Govt. Medical College and its Associated Hospitals, Jammu and new posts have not been created proportionately," he said. The staff hired for DRDO Sri-

nagar who are presently working in different GMC associated hospitals have also demanded extension in their contract. Meanwhile, a top health of-

ficial informed that the Government is actively considering this issue in view of the surge in Covid-19 cases in different countries.

"Government is actively on it and it is likely that their contract will be extended, however, the final decision is to be taken by higher ups," he said.

Whatever decision will be it will be for both GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu and Government is actively monitoring the Covid-19 and call on the issue is expected in next few days, he said—(KNO)

SIA Files Charges Against Four 'Terrorists' In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) has filed a chargesheet against four Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists, including selfstyled commander Talib Hussain Shah who had recruited many youths to revive terror ecosystem in different districts of the Jammu region, officials said on Friday.

The chargesheet was filed against Shah and his three associates in a special court for their involvement in terror activities at the behest of their Pakistan-based handlers, the anti-terror agency said in a statement here.

Shah, a resident of Rajouri, and his Kashmiri associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of Pulwama were overpowered by the villagers of remote Tukson Dhok in Reasi district in July and later handed over to police. Two AK assault rifles, one pistol, seven grenades and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered from them.

The case was initially registered in Police Station Mahore of Reasi, but later on transferred to SIA Jammu. The investigation



has established that Mohd Qasim and Zia-Ul-Rehman, who after joining terrorist ranks exfiltrated to Pakistan, were using drones for supplying weapons and explosives which were collected by Shah and his associates," the statement said.

It said the investigation has also established that on the directions of Pakistan-based handlers, Shah had recruited many youths of Jammu and Kashmir and had revived the terror ecosystem in Chenab Valley and Peer Panjal areas of the Jammu region.

"Investigation also proved that the accused persons are also involved in minority killings and creating fear psychosis among the general masses. They have been directed to carry out attacks on security forces and vital installations to meet the objective of secession of J-K from the Union of India," the statement said.

Presence Of Gray Langur Triggers Panic In Sopore

Wildlife Department Issues Advisory

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a rare case, Grey Langur also called as Hanuman langur or Hanuman monkey have been spotted in Batapora locality of Sopore town in North Kashmir, which triggered panic among the locals, while as the wildlife department finds it difficult to capture the animal.

Amid concerns of safety of their kids, residents have appealed to the authorities to rehabilitate the rowdy animal in the nearby forests.

Sensing trouble for the locals, the wildlife department issued an advisory asking people to cooperate with the department.

An official from the wildlife department told a local news agency KNO that they received calls from the locals about Langur roaming in the area, after which the teams rushed to the spot.

He said that though Langur

is a leaf eater and won't harm the humans, it should not be attacked. "The teams are on job to capture the animal, however, the arboreal behaviour of the animal makes it a bit difficult to capture it," he said.

Meanwhile, amid rising incidents of entry of wild animals into the human spaces, Wildlife Warden North Kashmir, M M Baba said that due the fragmentation of habitat of wild animals, the cases are increasing and at the same time interference into the habitat of animals is another reason that pushes wild animals towards residential areas.

The department issued an advisory asking people not to move alone early morning and evening hours. The advisory also stressed that movement of children and women should be restricted during evening and morning hours and people must move out of homes in groups.

DC Anantnag Reviews Status Of KPDCL Works



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Basharat Qayoom Friday reviewed the status of works being executed by KPDCL Anantnag as part of various schemes.

The meeting was informed that in Bijbehara division, 96 works under execution have been completed and the remaining ones will be completed within the stipulated timeline. Similarly, in Anantnag 162 works have been completed while others are under execution.

Dr Basharat appreciated the efforts of the department in order to achieve physical and financial progress in completion of works. He said that augmentation of electric infrastructure will be instrumental in ensuring quality and reliable supply of electricity to the end consumer.

The DC also highlighted the need to maintain strict vigil against power thefts and emphasized enforcement against theft and misuse. He said curtailment schedules must be publicly circulated and directed the department to ensure replacement of transformers and other infrastructure affected during winters as per stimulated timeline.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Anantnag, SE KPDCL, and Ex. Engineers of the Department among others.

Dr Sehrish Reviews Snow Clearance, Restoration Of Essential Services

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In view of the recent snowfall in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Friday convened a meeting of Sub Divisional Officers to take stock of Snow clearance measures and restoration of essential services in the district.

During the meeting, DC took a comprehensive review of various related matters during which she directed for mobilisation of additional men and machinery so that all major and link roads are cleared on war footing basis and people may not face any in-



convenience in this regard. The DC further asked the Rural Development Department to coordinate with all the volunteers of Swach Grahis in order to get Snow cleared on link

roads at Village level. She directed the officers of all line departments to Submit Snow Clearance Action Plan besides exhorted upon

all the sub divisional heads to visit all the grey areas for smooth and hassle free services.

The DC also had a detailed review of various essential services including water, health and medicare and other services wherein she emphasized for restoring it within the shortest possible time. She asked the PHE department for water tank services to Gulmarg and While reviewing the

status of the power supply scenario in the district, the DC directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to take all required measures to ensure that power supply is restored within 48 hours in rural areas and 24 hours in urban areas.

Meanwhile, the DC also directed the Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority to gear up men and machinery for evacuation of skidded vehicles in and around Gulmarg and also asked him to issue necessarv advisory for tourists visiting the famous tourist destination, Gulmarg.

Furthermore, it was also given out in the meeting that an emergency Control Room has been established in the District Baramulla for the convenience of people in case of any exigency. Among others, the

meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Com-Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Parvaiz Sajad, Superintending Engineers of PMGSY, PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD, all SDMs besides functionaries of all concerned departments.

NC Will Continue To Shoulder Responsibility Of Protecting Interests Of People

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and MP from Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Friday said that the party will continue to shoulder the onerous responsibility of protecting the vital interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

This he said while interacting with party functionaries and workers at the party's headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar. Dr Farooq said the birth of the NC was a significant landmark in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "We are the visible symbol of

political unity of varied sections of J&K," he added.

He further added, "National Conference has long been synonymous with the aspirations of the people of J&K and that it exhibits the cultural, linguistic and religious

diversity of J&K.' Later Dr. Farooq offered Friday congregational prayers at Asar-e-Sharief Dargah Hazratbal, Srinagar, where he prayed for increased prospects of peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Party President also prayed for other bountiful provisions for the unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

1955 Km Road Length Cleared Of Snow In Kupwara Observer News Service

KUPWARA: In a first, about 1955 km road length was cleared in Kupwara district in a single day and almost all roads were cleared of Snow. Out of these 1955 kms, 804km

were cleared by R&B, 707 km by Mechanical Engineering, 250 km by BEACON and 194 km by PMGSY. This information was given by the Nodal Officers / Executive

Engineers of respective Executive

Agencies. They said that Kupwara district received the season's first snowfall and the administration put all possible efforts to clear the roads including border roads in a single

day to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.



Abid Mushtaq Takes 8 In J&K's Miraculous Ranji Win

Press Trust of India

NAGPUR: Left-arm spinner Abid Mushtaq bowled Jammu & Kashmir to a 39-run win over former champions Vidarbha, returning with an eight-wicket haul in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D match here on Thursday.

Chasing 141 to win, the home team was shot out for 101, with Mushtaq mowing down Vidarbha's batting line-up as they collapsed from 40/2 in the 16th over to be all out in 34 overs.

Vidarbha were cruising to victory at 95/3 at tea. However, Abid had other plans as he took 6 wickets in 3 overs to snatch victory for J&K. This was Vidarbha's first loss at home turf since the 2013/14 Ranji Trophy

Earlier, skipper Shubham Khajuria's 109 (177) lifted J&K to 221 in their second innings, posting a target of 145 for Vidarbha to chase down. Abid Mushtag also chipped in with 22 runs at the No. 9 position.

Rishabh Pant 'Stable' After **Car Accident In Roorkee**

Press Trust of India

DEHRADUN: India's star cricketer Rishabh Pant suffered multiple injuries when his car collided with a road divider on the Delhi-Dehradun highway, early on Friday.

The 25-year-old, who was going to his home in Roorkee, was taken to a local hospital. He suffered iniuries on his head, back and feet but is in a stable condition.

"Pant met with an accident in Manglaur in Haridwar district when his car hit a divider at 5.30 am on Friday," Haridwar SSP Ajai Singh said.

"He was rushed to Saksham hospital in nearby Rookee from where he was referred later to Max Hospital, Dehradun," he added.

The accident happened at Mohammadpur Jat in Manglaur.



Dr. Sushil Nagar, who treated Pant in emergency, said the cricketer didn't suffer any fracture but there was a ligament injury on his knee which would require further investigations.

The reports of CT scan of his brain and spinal cord have returned "normal" as per BCCI officials who are in constant touch with Max Dehradun.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said his government will bear the entire expense of Pant's treatment.

'Rest In Peace, King Pelé.' - Football World **Mourns Brazilian Legend**



Agencies

Deactions poured in from Naround the world to the death of Brazilian football legend Pele. He died of cancer in Brazil at age 82. His grace, athleticism and mesmerizing moves transfixed players and fans.

"A simple goodbye to the eternal King Pelé will never be enough to express the pain that hits the entire world of football at this moment. An inspiration for so many millions, a reference of yesterday, today, always. Rest in peace, King Pelé." - Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Before Pelé, '10' was just a number. I read that somewhere at some point in my life. But that line, beautiful, is incomplete. I would say that before Pelé football was just a sport. Pelé changed everything. He transformed foot-

"The king of football has left us but his legacy will never be forgotten. RIP KING." French player Kylian

ball into art, entertainment."

- Neymar

Mbappé. "Today football says goodbye to its most beautiful chapter. The man who charmed the world and changed the history of the game forever." Richarlison.

"Football lost the greatest in its history today - and I a

unique friend." - Franz Beckenbauer.

"Pelé had a magnetic presence and, when you were with him, the rest of the world stopped." - Gianni Infantino.

"Pele has died. The most divine of footballers and joyous of men. He played a game only a few chosen ones have come close to." - Gary Linker.

"Pele was a truly magical footballer and a wonderful human being. It was an honour to have shared a pitch with him and I send my sincerest condolences to his family, friends and the Brazilian people." - Sir Bobby Charlton. (AP)

BCCI To Review T20 WC Performance In New Year

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI brass will review India's underwhelming performance in the T20 World Cup with skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid on January 1, according to BCCI sources.

NCA chief VVS Laxman, who has been with the Indian team in Dravid's absence, is also expected to be part of the meeting.

The meeting Mumbai is scheduled ahead of limited overs against Sri Lanka beginning on January 3.

England had hammered India by 10 wickets in the World semi-finals, extending their barren run in ICC events since 2013 when they won the Champions Trophy under M S Dhoni's leadership. The last world title came at home in 2011. "Head coach Rahul Dravid and NCA head VVS Laxman are expected to analyse India's performance with BCCI bosses. The roadmap going into 2023 World Cup is also expected to

be discussed," said the source. The selection panel led by Chetan Sharma were shown the door post the World Cup but a new panel is yet to be formed. The committee was sacked in November but it

continues to track the ongoing

Ranji Trophy and also picked the team for three T20s and ODIs against Sri Lanka. The Cricket Advisory Committee, which was formed earlier this month, met in Mumbai on Friday to shortlist the list of candidates for the selectors'

The panel comprises Ashok Malhotra, Jatin Paranjpe and Sulakshana Naik.

Chetan Sharma and Harvinder Singh have reapplied for the job while the others who have applied include former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad and former India wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia.

Pakistan Draws 1st NZ Test After Daring Declaration

Agencies

KARACHI: Poor visibility ended a thrilling final session of cricket in the drawn first Test Friday after New Zealand had threatened to snatch victory following Pakistan's daring declaration.

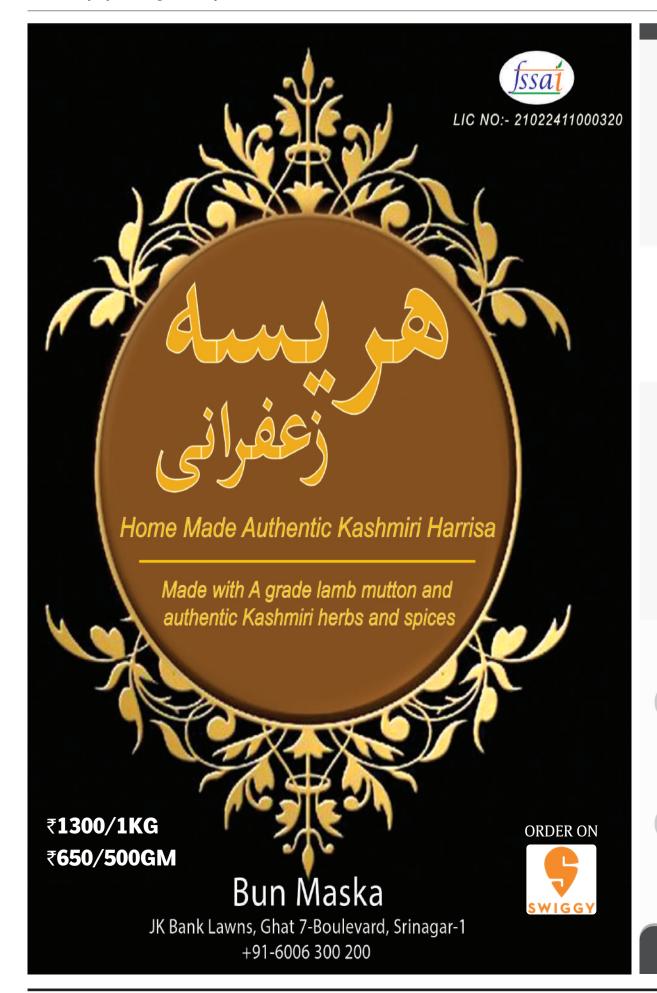
Chasing 138 to win in 15 overs, New Zealand was at 61-1 in only the eighth over of the second innings when the Test finished early because of bad light.

Pakistan resumed after tea at 249-7 in its second innings — a lead of 75 - and Kiwi legspinner Ish Sodhi (6-86) threatened to set up his team for victory. Lefthanded Saud Shakeel made an unbeaten 55 and got plenty of support from the two tailenders, Mohammad Wasim (43) and Mir Hamza (3 not out). They did



so well that Pakistan captain Babar Azam caught the visitors by surprise and declared at 311-8 late in the final session.

It set New Zealand, which scored 612-9 declared in the first innings, a tempting target and the visitors went for it. Tom Latham was unbeaten on 35 and Devon Conway was not out on 18 when the light intervened to potentially save Pakistan from its fifth straight test defeat at home.





State Election Commission

Nirvachan Bhavan Jammu Jammu and Kashmir



REGISTER TO VOTE!

Turning 18 on 1st January, 2023 or before

- > Not registered as Voter in Panchayat Electoral Roll even though you turned 18 on or before 1st January, 2023
- > If your name is missing or if you want to enrol for the first time or if you need to change/modify your details, Contact Panchayat Election Booth Official (Panchayat Secretary)

HOW TO APPLY



All forms are available with the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Panchayat **Election Booth Official (PEBO)**



Forms may also be downloaded from website of State Election Commission (secjk) at secjk.nic.in



Submit filled-in application forms along with necessary documents to concerned **PEBO (Panchayat Secretary)**

WHICH FORM TO BE USED

For New enrolment

For correction of

For Deletion of existing

For transposition/shifting

to other panchayat halqa

Roll with 1st January 2023 as qualifying date

REVISION SCHEDULE

Revision of Panchayat Electoral

Publication of Draft Panchayat Electoral Roll in Form PER-1 21.12.2022

Period of filling of claims and objections for addition/ deletion/corrections/transposition

18.01.2023 to

Special Camps at the polling Booth Location. (The Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBO i.e. VLW/MPW/GRS) along with the assembly BLOs; shall remain available at the polling Booth locations with the requisite Forms and Draft Electoral Roll for the guidance of the electors.

31.12.2022 08.01.2023 01.01.2023 14.01.2023

07.01.2023 15.01.2023

Disposal of Claims and Objections by ERO 30.01.2023

Final Panchayat **Electoral Roll**

Publication of

10.02.2023

Visit Website of State Election Commission, Jammu and Kashmir for other details