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NEWS IN BRIEF

3 critically injured ITBP men admitted at AIIMS

Srinagar, August 19: Three Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force personnel who were critically injured in a road accident while being de-inducted from the Amarnath Yatra duty were flown into Delhi on Friday for specialized treatment.

They have been admitted to the trauma center of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after being airlifted from Srinagar onboard an air ambulance service, a senior officer of the paramilitary force said. The three jawans were critically injured and required specialized treatment, he said.

Seven ITBP personnel were killed while 32 others, including two Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, were injured when their bus fell into a gorge near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on August 16. They were returning to their base after completing the Amarnath Yatra duty.

The border force, primarily tasked to guard the 3,488 km stretch of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, was part of the comprehensive security deployment for the annual 43-day-long Amarnath Yatra that ended on August 11.

Massive blaze damage several shops in Sultanpora, Baramulla

Baramulla, August 19: A massive fire broke out in the Sultanpora Kandi area in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. Several shops were reportedly gutted in the inferno. Fire tenders reached the spot to douse off the fire. There are no reports of any casualties due to the blaze.

After receiving the information, senior officials have also reached the spot. Firefighting operations were underway when reports last came in. A thick envelope of smoke engulfed the area. The reason for the blaze is still not known. More details are still awaited.

Last month also, a massive fire had broken out in the Kishtwar district of the union territory. Eight shops were gutted in the blaze. At the time, when the fire broke out, the market area was empty. In a couple of hours, the fire was brought under control.

Meanwhile, in June this year, least seven seized cars and over a dozen two-wheelers were burnt when a fire broke out on the Satwari police station in Jammu. The fire broke out in an open area where the seized vehicles were kept. After a few hours, the blaze was brought under control.

LG releases anthology of Satish Vimal

Srinagar, August 19: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released the Hindi Ghazal anthology of noted litterateur and poet Satish Vimal at Raj bhavan here.

The book titled 'Nritya Maun Kaa' (The Dance of Silence) is Vimal's sixth hindi poetry collection. Vimal has nine poetry anthologies in Hindi, Urdu & Kashmiri to his credit.

The Lt Governor appreciated the work done by Satish Vimal in the field of literature.

"Satish Vimal is one of the most celebrated authors of the country. His masterly works are enjoyed and appreciated equally by the literary connoisseurs and readers. I wish him success for many more such literary endeavors in future too", said the Lt Governor.

This ghazal anthology, published by Aakriti Prakashan, New Delhi comprises fifty seven hindi ghazals of Satish Vimal. Extracts from the articles of famous writers of India Ganga Prasad Vimal and Gopal Dass Neeraj are included in the anthology. The book has been decorated by the sketches of famous artist of India Kavita Mahajan.

Missing retd teacher found dead in Shopian

Srinagar, August 19: A retired teacher, who was missing since yesterday from his home, was found dead on Friday in Feeripora area of Shopian district in south Kashmir.

An official said Abdul Gani Rather (66) of Pudsoo village of Shopian was missing since Thursday. He said some locals spotted a body in Nallah Vaishav in Feeripora this morning, following which a police party reached to the spot and took the body into its possession.

The deceased was mentally unsound and was missing since yesterday, the official said, adding the

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Mirwaiz Neither Arrested nor Detained, He is Free to decide What he wants to do: LG Manoj Sinha



HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 19: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha Friday claimed that Kashmiri separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has not been placed under house arrest.

"He (Umar Farooq) is not under house arrest... His father was killed in an unfortunate incident. Police are placed around him (Mirwaiz) for his protection," Sinha said.

"He (Mirwaiz) is neither arrested nor detained. He must decide what he wants to do," Sinha added.

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The Lt Governor said that even in 2019 Mirwaiz Farooq was not detained under the Public Safety Act.

Mirwaiz Farooq was among the several separatist and mainstream leaders who were detained a day before the Centre ended Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 4, 2019.

Those detained ahead of the 370 scrapping included former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti and People's Conference leader Sajad Lone.

Sinha's statement on Mirwaiz came under criticism from National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah and the Peoples Conference Chairman.

"The same way my colleagues were locked in their homes 'for their own safety' for months on August 4, 2019 and the same way we get trucks parked outside our gates every once in a while because 'inputs' suggest an attack on Gupkar road is imminent," Omar Abdullah tweeted.

Lone said the tradition of locking up leaders and then denying was a worn out tradition.

"I think LG sahib needs to verify facts. His statements don't reflect reality. May I humbly state that the tradition of locking up leaders and then denying is an old worn out tradition. It has been happening for the last three decades," he tweeted.

LG announces re-examination of JKSI posts in October

Srinagar, August 19: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday said the administration is going to conduct the re-examination of Jammu and Kashmir sub-inspector posts in October this year.

In an interview to a BBC Hindi, Sinha said that worthy aspirants need not to worry and would qualify again.

The sub-inspector recruitment process was earlier scrapped by the Manoj Sinha-led administration after mass bungling was found in the written test conducted in April this year. The case of mass bungling was later handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for in-depth investigation. Last month as part of the investigation CBI conducted raids at over two dozen locations in Jammu and Kashmir. "We cancelled the exams after receiving complaints and handed over the case to the CBI. Some facts were found in the complaints after the investigation," Sinha said. "The deserving

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Coronation of Vikar as PCC chief widen fissures in J&K Congress

HT NEWS NETWORK

Jammu, August 19: The coronation of Vikar Rasool Wani as Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief seems to have not gone well within the Ghulam Nabi Azad group, as former Minister Ghulam Muhammad Saroori refused to assume the post of Convenor of the Campaign Committee of the party's J&K unit. Saroori, the senior leader who is also considered a loyalist of Ghulam Nabi Azad like newly appointed President Vikar Rasool Wani, refused to be part of any panel announced by All India Congress leadership.

However, both Rasool and Saroori belong to erstwhile Doda districts and remained to MLA for consecutive three terms from 2002 to 2018. Earlier both the Congress men fight to unseat the incumbent chief G A Mir and revolted in favour of Azad.

Sources told KNO that Saroori, who was appointed as Convenor of the Campaign Committee with former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad as head got annoyed with the recent appointment. Sources close to Saroori said that the former minister was unhappy with high command over appointment of 'junior' as head of state unit.

Moreover, Saroori, Rasool, former Minister Prezada Syed and Tariq Hameed Karra were short-listed for the converted post but Vikar remain the fortunate.

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Hawala operator involved in funding LeT, Al-Badr held in Delhi



HT NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, August 19: A 48-year-old Delhi based garment trader allegedly working as an agent in routing hawala money to militant outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Al Badr has been arrested from Delhi, police said on Friday.

Mohammad Yaseen, a resident of Turkman Gate here, was arrested in a joint operation by police from Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir and

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NC, PDP Must Stop day dreaming about Return of Article 370 : Sunil Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar August 19 : Accusing regional parties of Kashmir for being responsible for bloodshed in Kashmir, BJP's General Secretary Sunil Sharma on Friday said the leaders of National Conference and PDP should "stop dreaming" about return of Article 370.

"There were some politicians who showed dreams to Kashmiris about Azaadi. Now there are some parties like National Conference and PDP who are dreaming about the return of Article 370 thereby fooling Kashmiri's. Article 370 is gone and J&K is now on path of progress and prosperity," Sharma, who is also BJP's Incharge Kashmir Affairs, said in an interview.

"NC and PDP leaders will seek votes over restoration of Arti-

cle 370 which in reality is not achievable. Only BJP has a proper agenda. We do what is in our manifesto," he said.

National Conference and PDP are part of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), which has been seeking the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was revoked on August 5, 2019.

On demand of political parties for early assembly elections in J&K, he said, "Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous body which has to take decisions on polls. BJP is ready for the polls. We are moving towards elections as the delimitation exercise has been completed. Elections are likely to be held in March, April, next year then statehood would be returned to J&K."

Sharma claimed that Farooq

Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were responsible for the killing of Kashmiris.

"How many youth were killed and blinded during Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti's tenure as chief minister. After abrogation of Article 370, the BJP imposed restrictions in Kashmir and all were meant to save the lives of civilians. Pakistan is hell bent to create disturbance in the valley for which some mainstream politicians also support. By 2023, militancy will be over and then we have to deal only with people from across the border," he said.

On targeted killings, he said, "Pakistan is frustrated to see support of Kashmiri's for the BJP. Recently Har Ghar Tiranga rallies were held in every corner of J&K. New militants are

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07



erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake areas.

"I think if India and China have to come together, there are many reasons to do so, not necessarily only Sri Lanka," he said, adding that it is in India and China's own interest to join hands.

"We very much hope that wisdom dawns on the Chinese side," he said while replying to another question from the audience.

Jaishankar said India has done the best of its abilities to assist Sri Lanka. This year alone India has extended \$3.8 billion of support to Sri Lanka, including line of credits and swap arrangements, he said.

Sri Lanka, a nation of 22 million, is in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis that has led to severe shortages of fuel and other essentials. The Sri Lankan government is negotiating with the IMF for a bailout package.

"Any help we can give to Sri Lanka at the IMF that we will naturally do," Jaishankar said.

On the issue of Rohingya refugees, he said the issue has been discussed with Bangladesh. "What matters for them is repatriation. We have been supportive of Bangladesh."

Currently, Bangladesh is hosting more than 1 million Rohingya refugees, who fled Myanmar following a military operation against them a few years ago. Responding to another question, Jaishankar dismissed criticism for

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Waqf ban on collection of donations at Shrines sparks anger

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Aug 19 (UNI) Muttawali's or caretakers of Shrines in Kashmir were barred from sitting and collecting offerings in some shrines of Kashmir on Thursday which they would otherwise do by sitting near the windows and doors of the shrines.

"We have put the ban into action...It was the demand of people. There were grievances by people. The ban is being enforced in every shrine," chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Darakhshan Andrabi had said.

Andrabi, who is a national executive member of the BJP, also visited the shrine of Hazrat Nooruddin Noorani at Chrarri Sharief in Budgam district to supervise the drive of removing 'illegal donation spots'.

It has been an old practice in Kashmir that peers, priests and 'sajada nasheens'

people about purported corruption.

Priests and 'peers' (faith healers) were not allowed to sit and collect offerings in some shrines of Kashmir on Thursday which they would otherwise do by sitting near the windows and doors of the shrines.

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Police arrests three hybrid militants in Handwara

Dr Abdul Qayoom

Srinagar, August 19: Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have arrested three hybrid militants in Handwara area of Kupwara district and also recovered arms and ammunition from them.

A police spokesman in a statement said on August 04, joint parties of Police, Army 21 RR and 92 Bn CRPF had arrested 03 hybrid militants in Handwara and recovered arms and ammunition from them.

The statement reads that FIR No. 213/2022 u/s 13 UAPA and 7/25 Arms Act had been registered at Police Station Handwara and investigation was initiated. It reads that based on leads developed during investigation, the role of two more individuals emerged in the conspiracy to carry out militant acts namely Aijaz Ahmad Bhat @ Hilal, son of Khazir Mohammad Bhat of Humpora and Naseer

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 07

Suspected militant involved in weapon dropping case dies in Kotbalwal jail

Jammu, August 19: A suspected member of a militant module involved in collection and ferrying of weapons and explosives dropped via drones along the International Border in Jammu frontier died after suffering a heart attack in the Kotbalwal jail here, officials said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the module involved in the May 29 explosive dropping case in Kathua, had arrested the accused earlier this month. "Undertial Muni Mohammad was offering 'namaz' along with rest of the prisoners when he suddenly collapsed. He was shifted to a hospital where he was declared as brought

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COVID-19: J&K records 315 new cases, no death

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 19: Jammu and Kashmir reported 315 positive cases of COVID-19 including 41 from Jammu and 274 from Kashmir divisions, pushing the number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 475424.

Moreover, 480 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 70 from Jammu division and 410 from Kashmir division.

According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel Corona virus (Covid-19), out of 475424 positive cases, 3162 are Active Positive (483 in Jammu Division and 2679 in Kashmir Division), 467483 have recovered and 4779 have died; 2347 in Jam

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KPs take out Shoba Yatra on Janmashtami in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, August 19: Leaving behind fear psychosis, Kashmiri pandits today took out a Shobha Yatra in the heart of Srinagar to celebrate 'Janmashtami'.

Kashmiri Pandits prayed for Hindu-Muslim brotherhood and the return of the 'pre-90 atmosphere' in the Valley.

Though a lesser number of people were seen during the traditional 'Shobha Yatra', however the spirits were very high.

"We prayed for a peaceful atmosphere and brotherhood, just like the pre-90



atmosphere when Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians used to celebrate festivals together," said Sanjay Saraf, who took part in the 'Shobha Yatra'.

He congratulated the members of the majority community who were present on the occasion.

"Lesser number of devotees attended the Shobha Yatra this year as compared to previous years and I want to congratulate the majority community (Muslim) members that are here with us," said Saraf.

Another devotee, who attended the Janmashtami Shobha Yatra, said:

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34 percent elementary, 16 percent primary level students leaves studies midway' in J&K

Srinagar, August 19: At least 34 percent of students' at elementary level and 16 percent of students at primary level respectively leaves their studies mid-way in Jammu and Kashmir, official documents revealed.

The official documents revealed that only 84 percent students up to Grade-V and 66 percent goes to next level.

"The retention rate at primary level up to Grade-V is 84 percent and elementary level up to Grade-VIII is 66 percent only," it reads.

The documents read that the retention rate at both the levels was below the national average.

According to the official figures, "The retention rate at secondary level has increased by 7 percent from the previous years."

Meanwhile the Ministry of Education (MoE) has asked the government of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to take initiatives for 100 percent retention of the children in the education system.

"The continued efforts and need based strategies are required to improve retention," MoE said. The documents further reveal that the analysis has suggested that there were a large number of repeaters and dropouts at the upper primary level as compared to primary level.

A day before KNO reported the dropout rate of students in several districts, particularly among Schedule Tribe (ST) communities, is very high at all school levels across Jammu and Kashmir.

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DDC Chairperson Ganderbal visits Faaq; listens to Public Grievances/ Demands, assures redressal

Launches blacktopping work on Shuhama road

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 19: The District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson, Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq today visited several villages of Faaq area to listen to public grievances and inspect the ongoing developmental projects.

In Shuhama village, DDC Chairperson, kick-started the blacktopping work of the road.

Meanwhile, DDC chairperson met the locals who apprised her of various issues of public importance in their area and sought immediate redressal of the same. They put forth their issues and grievances which include macadamization of roads, sanction of Nayabat, Fire Service station, improvement in

drinking water supply and desilting/ dredging of Canals.



Among other demands, the people sought intervention of DDC with regard to upgradation of health care facilities at

PHC Shuhama and also highlighted the need of sufficient medical staff in

the hospital. The DDC Chairperson gave a patient hearing to all the grievance and demands that were put forth

by the PRIs and locals and assured them that all issues shall be taken into consideration for their timely redressal. She said that 4 crore has been sanctioned this year to remove bottlenecks from the Canals of the area.

Addressing the gathering, Nuzhat said that she will lead a delegation of PRIs and Civil Society members and will meet Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha for redressal of the issues and demands of people of Ganderbal district.

DDC Ganderbal C, Moulvi Mohd Yousuf, other PRIs, besides Ex MLA Ganderbal Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar and prominent citizens of the area were also present on the occasion.

Director Agriculture takes stock of progress on implementation of PM KISSAN in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal today

crop health and appropriate yields. Director asked the concerned officers to organize awareness pro-

Kisan Samman Nidhi PM-KISAN in north Kashmir.

Addressing a meeting of officers of north Kashmir (Kupwara, Bandipora and Baramulla), the Director impressed upon the concerned officers to ensure that all the set targets under the scheme are achieved by the end of August 2022.

Iqbal reiterated departments commitment to work for the welfare and wellbeing of farming community. He said the scheme is aimed to provide income support to all the eligible farmers and to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in providing various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields.

Director asked the concerned officers to organize awareness programmes for the farmers so that they could get proper benefit of the centrally sponsored schemes and flagship programs being implemented by the Department. He highlighted the importance of achieving the set targets under different centrally sponsored schemes for the development of farming sector.

Later, the Director visited Hachmarg Tomato village and interacted with the concerned Tomato farmers and field officers of the department. He also visited different zones of district. Later, the Director visited Hachmarg Tomato village and interacted with the concerned Tomato farmers and field officers of the department. He also visited different zones of district.



reviewed the status of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi PM-KISAN in north Kashmir.

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Kashmiri pandits taking out a Janmashtami procession at Lal Chowk, in Srinagar on Friday. UNI

Illegal extraction and transportation of minerals

Police arrests 02 persons and seizes 03 vehicles in Sopore

August 19: Acting tough against the elements involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Police in Sopore have arrested 02 persons and seized 03 vehicles involved in the commission of crime.

Acting on specific information about illegally extracting Sand and Bajri from river Vij Dachanpara Rafiabadd. A Police party led by SHO

Police Station Panzla raided the specific spot and intercepted 3 vehicles (Tractors) loaded with illegally extracting material from river who tried to flee from the spot, but were apprehended tactfully. The accused drivers were arrested and the vehicles used in the commission of crime has also been seized. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 52/2022 under

relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Panzla and investigation set into motion.

Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units.

Police solves theft case in Anantnag, accused arrested: Stolen cash recovered

August 19: Police in Anantnag have solved a theft case by arresting an accused person involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen cash from his possession.

Police Post Janglatmandi received a written complaint from Haji Mailk Gh Nabi son of Mailk Mohd Abdullah resident of Nowgam Verinag, owner of Al-Hayat Hospital Mominabad Anantnag stating therein that some unknown person/persons have stolen an amount of 10 to 11 Lakhs from his Drug Counter. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 267/2022 under relevant sections was registered at police station and investigation was taken up.

On receipt of this information, a police team of Sub-Division Anantnag led by In-charge Police Post Janglatmandi initiated the process of investigation. During the course of investigation, officers investigating the case, after utilising and analysing all available means, zeroed on one suspected person identified as Ahmad Malla son of Mohd Yaseen Malla resident of Batpora Khanbal. During questioning, the accused per-

son confessed his involvement in the commission of crime. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

On his disclosure, the investigating team along with Executive Magistrate concerned recovered the stolen cash amount of 11,32,200/- from his house. Further investigation is going on.

Community members have applauded the efforts made by the Police in cracking/solving the case. Our consistent actions against the anti-social elements shall re-assure community members that Police has resolved to act tough against individuals involved in any criminal activities. Anantnag have solved a theft case by arresting an accused person involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen cash from his possession.

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Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contract card from R&B Office. if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer (R&B) Circle Baramulla / Kupwara within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: Nazir Ahmad Mir
S/O: Habibullah Mir
R/O: Kalandra Payeen
Tehsil: Kreeri, Baramulla

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari greets people on Janmashtami

Srinagar: On the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Friday extended greetings to the people across the country, especially Hindu brethren. In his felicitation message, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I extend my hearty greetings to people, especially Hindu brethren on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami. This festival marks the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, who was the torchbearer of hope and happiness." Apni Party President prayed for peace and the well-being of the people. He said, "May this pious festival bring peace, happiness, and well-being to the people in J&K and the rest of the country."

Public Notice

I have applied for registration of my residential house located at Village Dandmooha under Home Stay/Paying Guest House Scheme to facilitate tourist trade, vide order no 89-JK(TSM) of 2022 of Department of Tourism JK. if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in department of tourism or Assistant Director Tourism Office Gulmarg within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Ashraf Khanday
S/O Mohammad Assadullah Khanday
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla

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Bashir Ahmad Reshi
S/O Ghulam Ahmad Reshi
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla

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Ghulam Hassan Reshi
S/O Ghulam Ahmad Reshi
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla

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Name: Irshad Ahmad Najar
S/O: Mohammad Ramzan Najar
R/O: Dandmooha

*** Vehicle Ownership Transfer.**

*** Duplicate RC Apply.**

*** Vehicle Fitness.**

*** RC Renewal Services.**

*** Driving Licence Application.**

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Khazir Mohd Malik
S/O Mohd Subhan Malik
R/O Dandmooha Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla

Public Notice

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Nazir Ahmad Mir
S/O Habibullah Mir
R/O Kalandra Payeen Tehsil Kreeri Distt. Baramulla

Public Notice

I Nabeela Naseer Daughter of Naseer Ahmed Gazi Resident of Gazriyal of 8th Class want to make it known to one and all that my School Leaving Certificate has been misplaced/ lost somewhere. I need to apply for the duplicate certificate of the Same.

Anybody having any objection in this matter can approach the concerned authorities within seven days of the publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained or accepted after the above said time period

Nabeela Naseer
D/O - Naseer Ahmad Gazi
R/O - village Gazriyal District Kupwara

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भारत का No.1

पहले इस्तेमाल करें, फिर विश्वास करें

पहले इस्तेमाल करें, फिर विश्वास करें

पहले इस्तेमाल करें, फिर विश्वास करें

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Dr Sheema
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Dheeraj Gupta chairs 86th Board Meeting of JDA

Decisions regarding Satellite Township, housing colonies, commercial projects approved

Funds approved for development, upgradation in existing JDA colonies

JAMMU, AUGUST 19: In a major initiative for expansion of Jammu city, the Jammu Development Authority is going to develop an Integrated Smart Satellite Township for a population of about 50 thousand along ring road at Bhalwal. The decision to develop the satellite township was taken in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the JDA under the chairmanship of Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department on Thursday, August 18, 2022. It may be recalled a similar township has been decided to be developed by the J&K Housing Board.

The proposed township will be a completely self-sufficient state-of-the-art satellite town with all modern infrastructure and amenities, including for commercial and institutional usage, and will also provide livelihood opportunities for its residents within the township. It will be for the first time in last three decades that the JDA will take up development of a housing colony of this scale in Jammu. The proposed township will fully take care of the expansion needs of Jammu city. The Board further approved the revamping of drainage, road, water supply and power distribution infrastructure in under developed housing colonies of JDA viz Udheywala, Gole Gural, Birpur, Kot Bhalwal and Roop Nagar sector 6 with an estimated expenditure of Rs 66 crores which will touch the lives of population of more than ten

thousand residents in these colonies. Grant of alternate plots



to the allottees of Roop Nagar housing colony sector 6 (new) in other sectors of the same colony, who could not be handed over possession because of long legal disputes, was also approved by

the Board. Vice Chairman JDA, Pankaj

Magotra presented a detailed agenda including the action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting before the Board for discussion covering several issues pertaining to the

functioning of the JDA and new initiatives for the development of the urban infrastructure in Jammu city. The Board was apprised by VC JDA that top real estates consultants of the country like KPMG, Knight Franks Ernst and Young, CBRE, JLL have been empanelled as Transaction Advisors by JDA for the upcoming major infrastructure development project to be taken up in PPP mode which include Mass Flatted Housing Projects in Birpur, Samba for the construction of nearly 1200 housing units, development of prime commercial space in Rail head Complex, Development of Eco-resort and city forest at Sidhra, Redevelopment of Kalka colony near Bahu fort, Redevelopment of old Bus Stand Jammu, IT Tower near Fourth Tawi Bridge, Jammu. The Board considered and approved various proposals for

allotment of JDA land to Govt departments, paramilitary forces and other non-government entities as per the approved policy. This also included allotment of nearly 150 kanals land in Bhalwal to J&K Housing Board for the development of flatted accommodation for Economical Weaker Section (EWS) and construction of Demonstration Housing Project in association with the Central Govt Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWFO). The Board constituted a committee headed by DC Jammu for evaluating the online applications received for more than 200 EWS flats proposed to develop by JDA so that only the rightful beneficiaries avail the benefits of this housing project. The Board also directed VC JDA to identify land for the development of a housing colonies for different sections of the society.

Government fails to remove encroachment in Ningli Tarzua

Encroachment to be removed within days : Tehsildar Khoie

Sopore, Aug 19 (KNS) : Although the Union Territory government has launched a massive drive to evict encroachers from forest land in Jammu and Kashmir, however administration has yet to receive forest land at Ningli area of Tarzua in North Kashmir's Sopore Patron Central Auqaf Tarzoo, Aijaz Ahmed Dar while talking to the news agency - Kashmir News Service (KNS) said, that the forest land located at Ningli Tarzua has been permanently grabbed by

some locals while the officials of the concerned department have shut their eyes to the criminal act for reasons best known to them. "Permanent constructions of houses on the forest land have been deliberately ignored as the officials of the department seem in league with the encroachers," alleged Central Auqaf Tarzoo. They said that despite their repeated pleas, the concerned department has failed to take any appropriate action against the

land grabbers. Earlier, this month locals of Tarzoo and Darnambal had approached the concerned Deputy Commissioner Baramulla's office in this regard of which, the Tehsildar Khoie was asked to take appropriate necessary action after perusal of revenue record by the deputy commissioners office in a letter DCB/SQ/1956, Dated: 08/08/2022. However, according to the Central Auqaf - representational body of Tarzoo

and Darnambal, said that no action has been witnessed on the ground level so far. When KNS contacted Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Shabir Ahmed, he said, "encroachment is decades old." The official however said land belongs to the Irrigation and Flood Control department. Meanwhile, Tehsildar Khoie when contacted told the news agency - KNS, that the land has been encroached and within days it will be removed.(KNS)

DDC Rajouri takes comprehensive review of Agriculture Department's working

RAJOURI, AUGUST 19: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today reviewed the performance of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department here at a meeting of the concerned officers held in the Agriculture Office Complex. The meeting was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Sohan Singh and other concerned officers. During the meeting, the DDC took a comprehensive review of the implementation and achievements registered under

Farming sector schemes by the department.

benefited under PM Kisan Sanman Nidhi.



The meeting reviewed the achievements recorded under the Capex Budget, PMDP, MIDH, Apiculture Development Scheme, besides issuance of Kissan Credit Card (KCC), Soil Health Card and number of farmers

The DDC issued instructions to the field staff to complete the e-KYC, NPCI of PM Kissan Sanman Nidhi beneficiaries in a time bound manner. Asking to meet the targets under different schemes in a time bound

manner, he laid stress on reaching out to the last man in queue. Spreading mass awareness among the farmers about different welfare schemes being implemented by the Department in the district was also stressed upon. He asked the officers to educate the farmers about the benefits of such schemes and motivate them to avail the benefits of the same. He also emphasized upon the concerned officers to conduct field visits to get real time feedback from farmers.

CEO statement on non local voters created chaos in J&K: Baig

Srinagar, Aug 19 (UNI) Former deputy chief minister Muzaffar Baig on Friday hit out at J&K Chief Electoral Officer on the addition to non local voters and said his statement has created chaos in the entire union territory. Baig who was awarded the Padma Bhushan last year for public affairs said the Government of India should come clear over the issue. Senior politician and a legal luminary Baig said the statement made by the CEO was irresponsible and illegal. "If he gave this statement and was ill-informed, then it is pardonable. But, if he has given it on someone's, some party's or some authority's behalf, then not only has he hurt the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, but he has also torn

the constitution of India," Baig said while addressing a press conference in Srinagar. "I think he has made the statement about new voters in J&K out of his hat and has ripped apart the constitution. He spoke without authority, without legal jurisdiction. I appeal to the GoI to take a very serious note of his dereliction of his duty," he said. Baig said the union government showed its intentions by repealing Articles 370 and 35-A in August 2019. "But, rubbing salt on that wound by such statements will not do any good to the country or to J&K. This is a dangerous statement," he said. He said the statement made by the CEO was illegal. "The basis of statement he made is SRO 167 in exercise of powers conferred by Article 309 of constitution

of India. Article 309 deals with services, employment and not elections or voting," he said. "When he says 25 lakh more people will become voters, first it is wrong legally. Also, who are these 25 lakh? By issuing such unreasonable, irresponsible statement he has created ripples and chaos in people," Baig said. Senior politician Baig appealed to the Prime Minister, Home Minister and National Security Advisor to take to task such people who create fear and division among people. "I appeal to the PM, MHA, call all political parties of J&K, civil society, thinkers, writers, journalists, who are all stakeholders, all former cabinet ministers, MPs, call them to Delhi one by one and talk to them without any hatred, any fear,"

Dr.Sagar Dattatray assumes charge as DC Kupwara

DR.AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, Aug,19 : Dr Doifode Sagar Dattatray, today assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, relieving Khalid Jahangir who has been transferred as Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization. Doifode Sagar Dattatray, a 2014-batch IAS officer, has been previously serving as OSD in the J&K Socially and Educationally Backward Class-



es Commission. Prior to this, he had also served on various prime positions including Deputy

Commissioner Reasi and Doda.He was received by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Ghu-

lam Nabi Bhat and other senior officers and officials of DC Office.Soon after assuming charge as Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara,sagar interacted with officers and received feedback of office business. He sought co-operation from officers to make administration more delivering to general public of district Kupwara at large. He also appealed officers to be accessible to public at all times.

Teachers Forum Baramulla organises grand function in honor of its outgoing Chairman and Veteran Trade Union Leader Mr Mohd Rafique Rather



Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum Baramulla organized a grand farewell function in honor of its Chairman & renowned trade union leader Mr Mohd Rafique Rather in the auditorium of Govt Degree College Baramulla. The function was attended by central, provincial leaders and all district presidents of Kashmir valley besides a large number of teachers. Renowned educationists, civil society members, Journalists, social activists and religious scholars graced the occasion with their presence. The speakers highlighted the rich contribution of Mr Mohd Rafique Rather and termed his role as an exemplary and unparalleled who devoted his 25 years for the service of others. They also recalled that the outgoing Chairman has proved his mettle and capabilities which would cherish memories for a long time. District President Baramulla Ishfaq Shaha while addressing the gathering said that

Mohd Rafique Rather was an advocate of egalitarianism and integrity in the employees fraternity, rising from the ground, became the President EJAC/Chairman JKTF. Even after passing two years in the pandemic, his tenure will be remembered for many important achievements and role in safeguarding the honor,dignity and rights of employees. He however congratulated the outgoing Chairman for his long and successful career. Speaking in the occasion Karamat Qayoom Senior Journalist said that the outgoing Chairman has always remained at the forefront in highlighting the issues & concerns of the employees of J&K. Mohd Amin Khan Vice Chairman JKTF while speaking recalled the services of the outgoing chairman applauded the diligence, commitment and exemplary devotion towards his duties and responsibilities throughout his entire career as a teacher and trade union leader. On the occasion Rafique Rather in his eloquent address stirred the head, heart and emotions of the audience. He recalled the time when he first joined Trade Union and said that he will always consider himself as part of Teachers Forum family but the leaders of this organization should find their unique drum beats and not to lose their identity in this era of herd mentality. Rather also thanked his functionaries for organising such a function in his honor and love. Rather said, I am leaving behind a team that is future-ready and I am sure there will be more success stories from this organization in the coming months and years. He urged young employees to come forward, take lead & fight for the cause in safeguarding their honor and rights. Others prominent who spoke during the function were Mr Mohd Ashraf Mir VC JKTF, Mr Showkat Ah Baigh Prov President JKTF, Mr Sheikh Mushtaq, Mr Javid Ah Rather Principal HSSBla, Mr Saleem Sagar Chairman TJAC, DP Shopian, DP Budgam & others Mushtaq Bhat

People suffer due to worst condition of Tulwari road in Langate.

DR.AB QAYOOM

Langate,Aug,19:The people living in different villages of Tehsil Langate are suffering due to worst condition of the road.The residents of Tulwari Shanoo, Haril,and other villages of same area in Langate Tehsil suffering due to bad condition of the R&B road from Tehsil Headquarter Langate to Shanoo especially. The inhabitants said that the road is in worst condition since long and no one from the administration is taking steps to repair the road.They told day after tomorrow Official teams from different departments along with elected PRI members (DDC BDC) visits hear for photo shows only.Locals said,From past 5years we saw only circulation of orders,but till date nothing to implement on ground level about the development of this road. "Muddy patches and potholes on the road are putting the lives of the people at great risk", the residents said, adding that during rainfall or snowfall, it becomes almost



impossible to commute on this road", said residents namely Nasser Ahmad, Bilal Ahmad,Mohd Ashrif,Manzoor Ahmad,Gh Ahmad and Javid Ahmad. They said that people are being forced to commute on the rough road which causes inconvenience to them. "We will come on road if the road is not repaired in the shortest possible time before winter", the residents warned

Shaheen castigates Waqf Board for putting an end to the institution of Sajdah Nashins

Srinagar. Aug 19, KNT: Janata Dal United President for Jammu and Kashmir, GM Shaheen has criticized Waqaf Board's diktat not to collect donations in shrines. Shaheen said that the present members of Waqf Board barely know ABC of religion and yet are coming up with diktats that are against the traditions and culture of Kashmir. He said it is a hasty decision while removing the caretakers from the shrines and imposing a ban on donation collection in J&K shrines will hit thousands of people. Shaheen said Waqf Board has attacked the traditional system and it is virtually a slap on the face of Kashmiri culture. "What Waqf Board will get by putting an end to the institution of Sajjada Nashin in these revered places,"

Committed mistake by staying in village in turbulent '90s, say KPs in Shopian village

Hail Muslim neighbours but they too are helpless in the face of

Srinagar, Aug 19 (KNO): Kashmiri pandits living in Chotigam Shopian are in shock and awe after the recent targeted killing attack of a Kashmiri Pandit. On Tuesday, Sunil Kumar was killed while his cousin brother was injured after they were attacked by militants in their orchard in Chotigam Shopian. Pandits living at Chotigam told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that their biggest mistake was that they decided to stay here during '90s.They said that though they had very good relations with Muslims living

here, they too are helpless when such attacks or any such incidents happen. "Just few people of the pandit community are here and from cleaning house to helping in household chores, everything is being managed by Muslims and they are taking every possible step to console us but whenever at the time of attack, like us they too are helpless," they said."No security guards were here since 2016 to give us protection and we were never harassed by anyone but the situation is different as we were attacked twice in a span of less than 5

months," they said."We also made mistake that we decided to stay here after one attack and if we decided to stay here again after back to back attacks it will be a suicide," they said. They said that guards are deployed in the village but how can they save as "we can't restrict our movement to our residence only as we have to go to our land, orchards or to do any work to earn livelihood otherwise we will die of starvation"."It is better for us to beg and live in a tent at a safer place than to live here," they said—(KNO)

VOICE TO THE VOICELESS HEADLINES TODAY

EDITORIAL

Have pity on educated youth ‘at rest’

The negative influence of the joblessness among the learned young generation has taken a toll on their persona, which seemingly influences the society on the whole. Mental or personality disorders are two sides of the same coin which are not too difficult to put in plain words as far as the main problem involving hundreds of thousands educated youth are concerned. Drug addiction, alcoholism and thievery or getting involved in serious other crimes is a result of redundancy which is practically an impossible issue to be addressed for decades to come. Majority of youth including boys and girls are addicted to drugs or substance use disorder. The reason for this slippery slope may involve declining mental health as the unemployed individual finds no other way than to take drugs to unwind/relax their distressed mind. On several occasions, researchers have studied the correlation between drugs and unemployment. It's obvious that responsibility coupled with pressure would lead to distress and distress leads to substance misuse. Rising incidents of theft involving educated youth since the outbreak of Corona-Virus has been a challenge for the society to embark upon. Let's correlate some serious happening that took place from 2019 till date, the August 5, 2019 move had a serious impact on overall economy of the region as precautionary measures imposed to avoid law and order, confined everyone be it a government employee, a businessman, a street vendor or a student within four walls of their homes for months altogether, as normalcy resumes another ghost called COVID-19 greet people in November 2019 almost a month before 40 days harsh period of Chillai-Kalan began. The outbreak of contagion left almost everyone jobless as lockdown was the only available weapon to combat the synthetic bug. The contagion not only leaves people jobless but also takes a heavy toll on their physical and mental health. Burglaries in religious places remained a challenge during the lockdown period as those living from hand to mouth resorted to thefts to feed their families while substance use disorder prevailed among youth being out of work. It's only youth who becomes a soft target of anything untoward happening in the society and the situation may go out of control in case the issues confronting educated and unemployed youth are not addressed at the earliest.

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No let-up in targeted killings in Kashmir

GULZAR BHAT

Meandering through thick apple orchards, a narrow stretch branching off from Shopian-Wanpoh road leads to the quaint Chotigam village, some 62 km south of Srinagar. Just three doors down the village street sits a two-story house fenced with corrugated metal sheets. The house has been witnessing a stream of visitors since its owner Sunil Kumar, who lived there with his family and two brothers, was shot dead by militants on the morning of August 16.

Sunil (44) and his brother Pitambar were in their apple orchard, located a short walk away from their house, when militants emerged out of the blue and opened fire on them.

While a few slugs tore through the body of Sunil, a bullet whizzed past Pitambar, grazing his abdomen.

They were shifted to the Shopian District Hospital, some 12.5 km away, where doctors declared Sunil as brought dead while sending his brother to Srinagar for further treatment.

Only two Kashmiri Pandit families, one being the Kumars and another of Janki Nath Bhat's, are residing in the village, comprising around 150 households. The families stayed put in the area after well-nigh the entire Kashmiri Pandit community migrated to Jammu and other parts of the country following the outbreak

of armed insurgency in the region in the early 1990s.

Everything was going like clockwork for these well-heeled families of apple orchardists till April 2022, when militants walked into the pharmacy of Bhat's son and opened fire on him. He, however, survived the attack, but it unleashed fear in these families. The Jammu and Kashmir police stationed some cops at their houses located next to each other for their security, which instilled a sense of security in them.

However, on Tuesday, the militants succeeded in targeting the Kumars when they were grazing their cows on their apple farm, sprawling over 30 kanals.

Grief and anger in the village

Following the incident, an air of melancholy enveloped the entire village. The whole Muslim neighbourhood sank in grief. While some accompanied the injured Pitambar, locally known as Pintu, to the hospital, others tried to offer solace to the family of the victim, who left behind four minor daughters and a wife.

"Kumar was a simple man. He was known for his innocence and naivety in the entire village. The incident has sent a ripple of shock across the area", said a Muslim friend of the deceased Kumar, who declined to be quoted by his name in this report. Members of the majority Muslim community not only participated in

the last rites of Kumar but also held a peaceful protest against the targeted attack. The village reverberated with slogans like Qatal-e-nahaq naman-zoor (Killings of innocents are not palatable) for quite some time. A few kilometres away in Shopian town, a knot of social activists held a candle-light protest against the killing.

"Hindus and Muslims are brothers. We have been living in harmony for ages. Such despicable attacks needs to be deplored and denounced", said Magray Mansoor, standing near a clock tower with a sign, which reads: "we are one, we believe in brotherhood".

Mansoor said that they wanted such targeted killings to be stopped right away.

Meanwhile, the J&K police chief Dilbagh Singh said that Kumar's killers had been identified and would be given an exemplary punishment. The police also said that it had begun the process of attaching the property of a local militant Adil Wani, who was allegedly involved in the killing.

The attacks

There has been no let-up in the targeted killings of non-locals and members of the Kashmiri Pandit community since the Union Government put paid to the special constitutional provisions of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019. Barely two months later, militants had targeted non-local truckers in Anantnag

and Shopian areas, killing at least four of them. The Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Rajya Sabha last month that a total of 118 civilians, including 21 non-Muslims were killed in terror-related incidents in the union territory since August 5, 2019.

The militancy in Kashmir has entered a dangerous phase after 2019. The emergence of hybrid militants – militants who keep their militant identity under wraps and masquerade as civilians – has posed a new challenge to the security establishment. It marks a shift from the pre-abrogation phase of militancy – re-animated by slain Hizbul Mujahidin militant commander Burhan Wani – when militants would announce they are joining using different social media platforms and proudly wear their militant identity on their sleeve.

"Now there is a thin line between militants and civilians", said a Valley-based political analyst.

He said that the sweeping constitutional and structural changes made by the government over the past three years may have provoked the militants to carry out such targeted killings.

"Such killings also lay bare the normalcy narrative of the government", he said.

The significant delay in the restoration of democracy by deferring the Assembly elections is seen as

another reason for the spurt in militant attacks.

"There is much frustration among the youth who feel more alienated than before. An elected government behaves differently. It directly connects with the people and creates a sense of belonging", said the analyst.

Apprehensions

There are many apprehensions that the attacks may help in spurring a fresh wave of migration. The continuous protests by Kashmiri Pandit public sector employees, who got their jobs under the Prime Minister's special rehabilitation package, have been demanding the relocation of their postings from the Valley.

At least 3,000 youth, who got jobs under the package, had moved back to the Valley along with their families since the United Progressive Alliance-led Union Government rolled out the package in 2008.

"Life is more important than jobs. If the government does not transfer us out of the Valley, we will resign from our jobs and leave the place", said Ajay Kumar, a Kashmiri Pandit employee.

If the government fails to contain the ongoing targeted killings, all the good work done under the PM's package over the last many years is bound to go down the drain.

- Gulzar Bhat is an independent Kashmir-based journalist. COURTESY: LEAFLET

Constituent Assembly's vision of national flag

PARIMAL MAYA SUDHAKAR

The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign provided an opportunity for We the People of Bharat, that is India, to relive the association of the tricolour with the glorious history of our anti-colonial struggle. The compassionate discussion in the Constituent Assembly on the national flag is testimony to the importance that the leading lights of the freedom movement gave to the tricolour.

How the national flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly

On July 22, 1947, the day of adoption of national flag of India by the Constituent Assembly, the members of the august body expressed their feelings, thoughts, and aspirations in the most unambiguous manner. A sense of unity and pride prevailed all over the Assembly while unanimously adopting the resolution on national flag.

It was an ad-hoc committee set-up by the Constituent Assembly under the chairpersonship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad that had finalized the design of the flag and recommended its adoption. The inclusion of Maulana Azad, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, K.M. Munshi, C. Rajagopalachari, and Sarojini Naidu as members of the committee showed the high sensitivity attached to the issue.

Out of these stalwarts, only Naidu spoke at the end of the discussion due to insistence from many members of the Assembly, who referred to her as "the old mother" and "Bul-bule Hind". She poignantly pointed out the void in the nationhood due to the absence of the national flag, recalling the international occasions wherein she represented India but without its flag.

The most telling story was the historic Asian Relations Conference of March and April of 1947 in New Delhi, which was convened by the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. While all the participating countries – Iran, Afghanistan,

and Siam, among others – proudly displayed their national flag, India had no flag of its own. It was, therefore, befitting for Nehru to introduce the resolution and express his views on the national flag.

The Assembly was so impressed by Nehru's profound perspectives that H.V. Kamath and Dr. P.S. Deshmukh humbly withdrew their respective amendments to the resolution. While Kamath wanted to inscribe a Swastika within the Ashoka Chakra, Dr. Deshmukh was against replacing Gandhi's Charkha from the flag.

What some of the Assembly members said about the tricolour

The members also prevailed upon the Chair not to put the resolution to the vote without giving them a chance to speak. Dr. Prasad willingly relented! As the members opened up their minds and hearts, the Constituent Assembly experienced its finest moments.

Seth Govind Das, representing the Central Provinces and Berar, revealed before the Assembly:

"Today, I am reminded of the day when in 1922, Pandit Motilal Nehru came to Jubbulpore for the first time. I am a resident of Jubbulpore. That was the first time when this flag was displayed in India. At that time, it had three colours-red, white and green. It was a tricolour no doubt. At that time, this flag was hoisted over the Town Hall of Jubbulpore for the first time in India. Who is not reminded of Pandit Motilal on seeing Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru? At that time a question was raised in the House of Commons as to how this flag was hoisted over a public hall and the Prime Minister of Great Britain assured the house that no event of the sort would be repeated in India in future. But I am pleased to find today that the flag which was hoisted for the first time twenty-five years ago in Jubbulpore, my home town, will now be unfurled over every public building there."

Each speaker pledged support to

the flag on behalf of the community and the province they represented in the Assembly. The representatives of the Princely States, Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta of Udaipur and Mohamed Sheriff of Mysore, were at the forefront to accept the supremacy of the tricolour, notwithstanding the age-old traditions of their kingdoms. As Dr. Mehta unhesitatingly put it, "...this Flag whether it is flying over a building in India or on the high seas in foreign waters, this Flag would represent the combined sentiments of the Union of India, irrespective of what places of worship we go to, irrespective of the difference in our names and nomenclatures; we are all Indians and this is our Flag."

The discussion also reflected upon the agony of Partition and the communal discord in society. Mohammed Saadulla of Assam pointed towards a discourse in a section of the press for debarring Muslim members from participating in the proceedings of India's Constituent Assembly. Pledging support to the flag, Saadulla said, "It the injunction of Islam, emphasized by instructions from League High Command and leaders, that wherever we be we must be good and loyal to the government which functions there. Acting on the principle I salute the Flag."

Dr. H.C. Mookherjee was at pains to clarify the misconceptions about Indian Christians for maintaining contacts with foreign missions. He counted the names of Christians who were instrumental in fomenting Indian nationalism, such as Kaka Baptist of Bombay, K.C. Bannerjee of Bengal, Bishop Chidambaram of the United Provinces, and Dr. S.K. Dutta of Punjab.

Jaipal Singh, speaking for the 30 million tribal of India, proclaimed freedom for them under tricolour. He said, "This National Flag will give a new message to the Adibasis of India that their struggle for freedom for the last six thousand years is at last over, that they will now be as free as any other in this country.

I have great pleasure, Sir, in accepting and acknowledging on behalf of the Adibasis of India the Flag that has been presented to us by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru."

Lakshminarayan Sahu of Odisha spelled the meagre expectations of the depressed classes from the national flag in simple words, but in an incisive manner. He said, "There is the temple of Jagnnath in Orissa over which for over a thousand years the Eternal Wheel called the Neela Chakra has been standing; and with it is associated the Flag called "Patita Pavan Vana", that is, the flag which represents the poor people, the untouchables. I wish that on this occasion all our leaders would make an effort to throw open the temple of Jagannath to the so-called untouchables who are denied admission into it today."

Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar from Punjab reassured the nation that his people would be at the forefront to defend freedom as they were the torchbearers of the struggle against the British Raj. In his own words, "We have reached the position today that we can install our flag wherever we like. Now, it is equally incumbent upon us to maintain the dignity of this fluttering Flag. Perhaps at times we may have to make the same sacrifices to keep it aloft as we have had to achieve it. Therefore, I promise on behalf of my Sikh community that they shall continue to make sacrifices for upholding the honour and dignity of the flag with the same vigour, daring and fearlessness, as they have shown in the cause of the country's freedom."

The philosopher and statesman, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan concluded his speech with the appeal, "We must build our Paradise here on this green earth. If we are to succeed in this enterprise, we must be guided, by truth (white), practise virtue (wheel), adopt the method of self-control and renunciation (saffron). This Flag tells us 'Be ever alert, be ever on the move, go forward, work for a free, flexible

compassionate, decent, democratic, society in which Christians, Sikhs, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists will all find a safe shelter."

As Indian citizens hoist the national flag to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, let the spirit of discussion in the Constituent Assembly be imbibed by them. Our national flag is a symbol of freedom, inclusiveness, and openness of our minds.

Naidu emphatically mentioned in the concluding speech, "Have not all the cultures of the world contributed to the ocean of her (India's) culture? Has Islam not brought to India the ideals of democratic brotherhood, the Zoroastrian his steadfast courage, who fled from Iran with a blazing log from their fire temple, whose flame has not perished these thousand years? Have not the Christians brought to us the lesson of service to the humblest of the land? Has not the immemorial Hindu creed taught us universal love of mankind and has it not taught us that we shall not judge merely by our own narrow standard but that we should judge by the universal standard of humanity?"

Let us not forget these words of the nightingale as we confidently move towards the centenary of our freedom. If the circumstances of narrow interests overshadow our vision, the sight of the tricolour will help us not to deviate from our path.

As Rev. Jerome D'Souza, representing the Madras province, had profoundly said, "Above all, in every case of fratricidal warfare, of strife among ourselves, when injustice is done, when tempers rise, when communal peace is broken up, may the sight of this Flag help to soften the harsh and discordant voices, and help us to stand together, as we have gathered today in unanimity, in happiness in brotherly feeling to salute this, our National Flag."

Parimal Maya Sudhakar is associated with School of Government, MIT World Peace University, Pune.

Saroop Sharma the proponent of Organic Farming

Saroop Chand Sharma S/o Mangat Ram Sharma is a 74 years old farmer from a remote and far-flung hilly Village Dadpeth of Tehsil Mugal Maidan, District Kishtwar. A strict proponent of organic farming, he has been involved in the cultivation of organic kalazeera, rajmash, mustard, cherry horsegram and vegetables. At his farm, he cultivates all kinds of crops and fruits and always remain eager to adopt new and scientific agricultural practices. He possess 12.5 acre of land of which about 2 acre of land is irrigated and rest of land is rainfed . Through his approaches, he has experienced 118.80 percent increase in the net income from farming in the last 3 years. He makes his own formulations and uses wild plant extracts for management of diseases in plants and crops. Inspired by his parents especially mother, he started farming at the age of 19. He shows his indebtedness towards his parents for involving him in the noble profession of farming.

Educated upto secondary level, he always attempts to adopt innovative practices at his farm and educates others also to go for inno-



vative techniques. He is recipient of many state and national level awards and recognitions and is fellow of prestigious Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New

Delhi since 2012. For his remarkable contribution in the agriculture sector he has been conferred with various awards and recognitions. He received Indian Agriculture

Research Institute(IARI) Fellow Award during PUSA Kissan Mela during the year 2012 and IARI, New Delhi's innovative Farmer Award during the year 2018. He also received innovative Farmer Award at Annual Kissan Mela from N.N. Vohra earstwhile Governor of Jammu & Kashmir during SKUAST Jammu Kissan Mela during the year 2012-13. Several certificates of involvement in promotion of scientific agriculture, kalazeera and saffron cultivation has also been conferred upon him from the Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers's Welfare Jammu & Kashmir, Division of vegetables Sciences and Division of Agro-forestry SKUAST Jammu. and different departments at district and state levels.

He narrates that disappointed with the low yields from traditional agriculture and cultivation of maize and pulses with unscientific farming, he started looking for innovative agriculture technologies by which he could increase his farm income and make farming more remunerative. He came in contact with the extension specialists of department of agriculture and scientists of SKUAST Jammu. He is

cultivating and promoting organic vegetable and crop production in the Chenab Valley for over the last 40 years and have personally mobilized more than 15000 farmers through trainings through his own efforts. He also started contract farming in Samba Jammu and Ramban Districts

He used to get quite less annual income from Maize and pulses. He faced problems like low income from the existing farming system, low production from maize, pulses and vegetable etc. With interventions like restricting of farming system with more emphasis on horticulture and vegetables, adoption of recommended package of practices and organic farming practices, he has reportedly increased his farm income by 110 percent. This year he has cultivated red okra in an area of 2 kanal. He is very active and supportive in various train programmes conducted by KVK Kishtwar in mobilizing the farmers for undertaking organic farming

(Contact details of Saroop Sharma Mobile No. 6005238655 e-mail ID saroopsharma@gmail.com)

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“People Who Don’t Care About The Nation...”: PM Modi’s Jibe At Opposition

PM Modi said it is easy to form a government, but the BJP has “chosen the path of building the nation...which takes hard work.”

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, in a veiled attack on the Opposition parties in the country, said that “people who do not care about the country, stay indifferent to the problems faced by the nation”. Praising the efforts by the NDA government in the last eight years, he said that it is easy to form a government, but the BJP has “chosen the path of building the nation...which takes hard work.”

“It doesn’t take that much effort to form a government, but to form a country, hard work is essential,” PM Modi said while addressing the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ event.

“We (the BJP government) have chosen the path of building the nation. Hence, we are continuously working towards addressing and solving the challenges of both - the present and the future,” the Prime Minister said.

Taking a dig at the Opposition parties, he continued, “People who do not care about the nation don’t show any concern or interest towards these problems. They can make big promises for the provision of water, but will never work towards it with a vision.” The Prime Minister had last month

warned against the culture of freebies, which certain political parties indulged in.



On Monday, the Supreme Court adjourned hearing of a plea against promises by political parties to distribute freebies from public funds during election campaigns. Asking the parties to file their suggestion by Saturday, the Supreme Court said the concern was about spending the public’s money in the correct way.

The Prime Minister today addressed the Har Ghar Jal Utsav under Jal Jeevan Mission via a video message. The event took place at Panaji Goa. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union Min-

ister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat were among those present on the occasion. The Prime Minister also

greeted Krishna devotees on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami.

At the outset, PM Modi shared every Indian’s pride in three important milestones related to the huge goals that India is working on in Amrit Kaal, that were accomplished today.

He said, “Firstly, today 10 crore rural households of the country have been connected to piped clean water facility. This is a big success of the government’s campaign to deliver water to every household. This is a great example of ‘Sabka

Prayas””.Secondly, he congratulated Goa for becoming the first Har Ghar Jal certified state where every household is connected to piped water. He also acknowledged Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as the first Union Territories to achieve the feat.

The Prime Minister praised the people, government and local self-government institutions for their efforts. He informed that many states are going to join the list very soon.

The third achievement, the Prime Minister informed, is that one lakh villages in different states of the country have turned ODF plus. After the country was declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) a few years ago, the next resolution was to achieve ODF plus status for villages, which means they should have community toilets, plastic waste management, grey water management and Gobardhan projects. The Prime Minister praised the people, government and local self-government institutions for their efforts. He informed that many states are going to join the list very soon.

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India needs long time to move away from Russia: US

WASHINGTON: The United States does not see the world “in zero sum terms” and understands that countries like India will need a long time to reorient their policies towards Russia, says the US State Department.

The department’s spokesperson Ned Price made these remarks at a Wednesday afternoon news briefing in Washington when reminded that India has recently increased its imports of Russian oil and fertilisers and is holding joint military exercises with Moscow. They’re also buying Russian air defence systems.

“It is not that we see the world in zero sum terms, all or nothing, all in with the United States or not at all,” Mr Price said. “We recognise that ... every country around the world is going to make its own sovereign decisions based on its own assessment of its interests and its values.”

The United States, he said, should make it “clear how our shared interests and our shared values often do align, and the dividends that countries around the world could reap from partnership”.Mr Price was responding to an American journalist who interpreted India’s refusal to back the US position on Russia as a failure of Washington’s policymakers.

“We have seen countries around the world speak clearly, including with their votes in the UN General Assembly, against Russia’s aggression in Ukraine. But we also recognize...that this is not flipping a light switch,” Mr. Price said while answering a question on Russian oil imports by India.”This is something that especially for countries that have historical relationships with Russia, relationships that, as is the case with India, extend back decades, it is going to be a long-term



proposition to reorient foreign policy away from Russia,” he added. The United States, he said, should make it “clear how our shared interests and our shared values often do align, and the dividends that countries around the world could reap from partnership”.Mr Price was responding to an American journalist who interpreted India’s refusal to back the US position on Russia as a failure of Washington’s policymakers.

“We have seen countries around the world speak clearly, including with their votes in the UN General Assembly, against Russia’s aggression in Ukraine. But we also recognize...that this is not flipping a light switch,” Mr. Price said while answering a question on Russian oil imports by India.”This is something that especially for countries that have historical relationships with Russia, relationships that, as is the case with India, extend back decades, it is going to be a long-term proposition to reorient foreign policy away from Russia,” he added.

Israeli forces raid offices of Palestinian rights groups

RAMALLAH: Israeli security forces on Thursday raided the offices of multiple Palestinian human rights groups in the occupied West Bank, which the state has branded “terrorist organisations”.

The military said soldiers and police officers “closed seven institutions and confiscated property” in the overnight raids.

At the Ramallah offices of human rights group Al Haq, the front door had been welded shut and a Hebrew statement left saying it would remain closed for “security reasons”.

“Any activity in this place jeopardises the security of the area, of the security forces and of public order,” said a statement.

Tel Aviv says struck ‘third country’ during recent Gaza fighting; Palestinian youth shot by troops in West Bank dies of wounds

A priest said an Anglican church on the building’s ground floor was damaged as troops sought to access the Al Haq offices. “The soldiers came into the premises around 3:00am and we started hearing shots and banging on the doors,” Father Fadi Diab of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church said.

Al Haq is one of six Palestinian groups branded terrorist organisations by Israel in October for their alleged links to a leftist group — Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Israel has not publicly shared any evidence of the alleged ties to the PFLP.

Chinese Government Orders Dimming Lights Amidst Heatwave Power Crunch

Beijing: A provincial capital in south-west China has dimmed outdoor advertisements, subway lighting and building signs to save energy, official announcements said, as the area battles a power crunch triggered by record-high temperatures.

The mercury has soared beyond 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in Sichuan province this week, fuelling massive demand for air conditioning and drying up reservoirs in a region reliant on dams for most of its electricity.

Factories including a joint venture with Japanese car giant Toyota in provincial capital Chengdu have been forced to halt work, while millions in another city Dazhou grappled with rolling power cuts.

“Hot and muggy weather has caused the city’s electricity supply for production and daily life to be pushed to its limit,” Chengdu’s urban management authorities said in a notice on social media Thursday. Faced with a “most severe situation”, the city -- home to over 20 million people -- ordered landscape illumination and outdoor advertising lights to be switched off in notices issued Tuesday, the statement said.

Building name signs will also be darkened.

The Chengdu metro said in a video on China’s Twitter-like platform Weibo that it would also turn off advertisement lights and “optimise” the temperature in stations to save energy.

Photos circulating on Weibo showed dimmed lights on metro platforms, walkways and in malls, with commuters walking in partial darkness.

The searing heat is also drying up the critical Yangtze River, with water flow on its main trunk about 50 percent lower than the average over the last five years, state media outlet China News Service reported Thursday.

Sichuan’s power woes could have ripple effects on the wider Chinese economy -- the province is a key supplier of energy generated by hydropower to eastern industrial powerhouses including Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

Manish Sisodia No. 1 Of 16 Accused In CBI Case On Delhi Liquor Policy

New Delhi: Manish Sisodia has been named as No. 1 of 16 accused in the Central Bureau of Investigation’s first information report, or FIR, filed into the Delhi liquor policy case linked to the Deputy Chief Minister. CBI officers have been searching Mr Sisodia’s home since 8 am today. The CBI carried out searches at Manish Sisodia’s home in Delhi and 20 other locations across seven states. The mandatory sanction for registering a corruption case was given by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena.Sources said the agency officials seized confidential official files relating to the new excise policy from the home of a public servant. The location of the seizure is yet to be revealed. No cash recovery has been made so far. The searches are expected

Kim Jong Un’s Sister Slams South Korea’s Nuclear Deal, Calls It “Stupid”

The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rejected a disarmament-for-aid deal offered by South Korea’s president, calling it a “stupid” plan and dismissing the idea of engaging with Seoul.

Kim Yo Jong told South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to “stop dreaming in vain,” the state’s official Korean Central News Agency reported Friday. The comments added to the heated rhetoric she has fired off toward Yoon’s government this month, which has set the stage for Pyongyang to resume tests of weapons related to its nuclear program that have been

put on hold as it battled a Covid outbreak.

Yoon’s proposal was “as stupid as trying to dry the dark blue ocean and turn it into a mulberry field,” Kim Yo Jong said, adding North Korea had no intention of getting rid of its nuclear arsenal and the weapons were not a subject for political bargaining.

“We just don’t like Yoon Suk Yeol as a human being,” Kim Yo Jong said of the conservative South Korean leader who took office in May and pledged to take a hard line toward Pyongyang.

Yoon this week offered an “audacious initiative” of food, energy, and infrastructure aid for Pyong-


yang if it decides to give up its atomic weapons. He offered an opening for North Korea to get back to stalled talks by saying at a news conference aid could start even before the end of the state’s nuclear program, as long as Pyongyang shows a “firm will” that puts it on a path for denuclearization.



Erdogan warns of ‘another Chernobyl’ after talks in Ukraine

LVIV: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged Russia and Ukraine on Thursday to show a “spirit of compromise” to ensure the continued success of a UN brokered deal, even as Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned of an impending nuclear disaster in Ukraine during his first face-to-face talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky since the invasion began.“We are worried. We don’t want another Chernobyl,” Erdogan said during a press conference in the eastern city of Lviv, during which he also assured the Ukrainian leader that Ankara was a firm ally.“While continuing our efforts to find a solution, we remain on the side of our Ukraine friends,” Erdogan said.Guterres said he was “gravely concerned” about the situation at the plant and said it had to be demilitarised, adding: “We must tell it like it is — any potential damage to Zaporizhzhia is suicide”.UN chief, Turkish president meet Zelensky; Ukrainian leader ‘surprised’ to hear of Russian peace overtures

Erdogan, who has major geopolitical rivalries with the Kremlin but maintains a close



working relationship with President Vladimir Putin, met with the Russian leader less than two weeks ago in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The Turkish leader along with Guterres were key brokers of a deal inked in Istanbul last month allowing the resumption of grain exports from Ukraine after Russia’s invasion blocked essential global

supplies.

Ahead of the press conference with Zelensky, Ukraine’s port

authority announced that the 25th cargo ship under the deal had departed for Egypt carrying 33,000 tonnes of grain.

Guterres said after talks in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv that 21 ships had departed from Ukrainian ports under the deal in less than a month, and 15 vessels had left Istanbul for Ukraine to load up with grain and other food supplies.

“Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I have been clear: There is no solution to the global food crisis without ensuring full global access to Ukraines food products and Russian food and fertilisers,” he told reporters in Lviv.

“But it is only the beginning. I urge all parties to ensure continued success.” He said the signatories to the agreement had worked professionally and in good faith to keep the food flowing. Ahead of the press conference with Zelensky, Ukraine’s port authority announced that the 25th cargo ship under the deal had departed for Egypt carrying 33,000 tonnes of grain.Guterres said after talks in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv that 21 ships had departed from Ukrainian ports under the deal in less than a month, and 15 vessels had left Istanbul for Ukraine to load up with grain and other food supplies.

“Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I have been clear: There is no solution to the global food crisis without ensuring full global access.

Russian ship carried ‘stolen’ grain to Syria, alleges Ukraine

BEIRUT: A Russian cargo ship allegedly carrying stolen Ukrainian grain has reached Syria, Kyiv’s embassy in Beirut said on Thursday, the latest in a series of contested shipments arriving in the war-torn country.“According to our information, SV KONSTANTIN has docked in Syria,” the embassy said in a statement. It said the ship was carrying “grains that were plundered and illegally transported by the Russian occupation authorities”, adding that the vessel was initially destined for the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

Ukraine has repeatedly accused Russian forces of ransacking its grain warehouses since they invaded the country in late February.The embassy’s statement came as another cargo ship carrying the first shipment of grain allowed to leave Ukraine under a UN-backed deal reportedly unload-

ed its cargo at the Syrian port of Tartus, which is managed by a Russian firm.The Sierra Leone-flagged vessel Razoni was expected to arrive in Lebanon, but the shipment’s five-month delay prompted the Lebanese buyer to cancel the deal once the ship was already at sea, Ukrainian officials had said. According to Samir Madani, co-founder of oil shipping monitoring website TankerTrackers.com, the vessel docked in Tartus earlier this week.

Satellite imagery appeared to show that the ship — which was carrying 26,000 tonnes of corn — was unloading its cargo, Madani tweeted on Thursday.Earlier this month, a Syrian-flagged ship was briefly seized by Lebanese authorities following similar claims by the Ukrainian embassy that it was laden with stolen cargo.Lebanon later released the Laodicea vessel after investigations.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

MIR WAIZ

Earlier, the Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir and senior leader of Muttahidah Majlis-e-Ulema Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam demanded the immediate release of Mirwaiz Farooq.

SUB INSPECTOR

candidates need not to worry, they will qualify again. But gone are the days when people will be selected by running a racket.”

The recruitment process was conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board.

HANDWARA

Ahmad Mir, son fo Mohammad Ramzan of Sagipora “They have been arrested and based on their disclosure, a cache of arms and ammunition has been recovered by a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army 21RR and 92 Bn CRPF. The recovery includes 02 Pistols, 04 pistol magazines and 58 pistol rounds, and 06 grenades,” it added. As per the statement further investigation into the matter is underway.

MILITANT

dead”, an official said, adding he suffered a heart attack. The 36-year old Muni, who belonged to Rampura village of Kathua district, was slapped with charges 121 (Waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war against the Government of India), 121a (conspiracy) /122 (collecting arms with intention of waging war against the Government of India) of IPC, Explosive Substance Act, 16 (recruits any person or persons for commission of a terrorist act), 18 (hatching conspiracy) and 20 (being member of terrorist organisation) of UAPA and sent to Kotbalwal jail on August 10.

The case was initially registered at the Rajbagh police station in Kathua on May 29 and was re-registered by the NIA on July 30.

The NIA on Thursday carried out searches in five districts of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with its investigation into the dropping of weapons by Pakistani drones along the International Border, an official said. According to police, the module was in operation for over two years and was involved in collection and ferrying of weapons and explosives dropped via drones from the Pakistani side along the International Border.

CHINA

importing discounted Russian oil, saying India is not the only oil importing country.

The US and European nations have imposed heavy sanctions on Russia since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine on February 24.

India has raised oil imports from Russia after the Ukraine war despite criticism from the West and continues to engage with Moscow for business.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Bangkok on Tuesday, co-chaired the 9th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting with his Thai counterpart and Deputy Prime Minister Don Pramudwinai on Wednesday during which they discussed advancing bilateral contacts in political, economic, security and defence, connectivity and health domains.

COVID

mu division and 2432 in Kashmir division. The Bulletin also informs that 17,287 doses of COVID Vaccine have been administered in the last 24 hours across Jammu and Kashmir bringing the cumulative number of doses administered to 2,40,42,435 till date.

The Bulletin further said that out of 26347378 test results available, 475424 samples have tested positive and 25871954 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides, 11,196 COVID tests have been conducted in last 24 hours. Till date 6699563 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 149 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 3162in isolation and 352in home surveillance. Besides, 6691121 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Providing district-wise breakup for positive cases for today, the Bulletin informs that in Kashmir division, Srinagar reported 103 cases, Baramulla reported 55 cases, Budgam 28 cases, Pulwama reported 14 cases, Kupwara reported 17 cases, Anantnag reported13 cases, Bandipora reported 07 cases, Ganderbal reported 07 cases, Kulgam reported 28 case while as Shopian reported 02 fresh cases for today.

Similarly in Jammu division, Jammu reported 27 cases, Udhampur 00, Rajouri 01, Doda 03, Kathua 02, Samba 00, Kishtwar 00, Poonch 04, Ramban 04 while as Reasi reported no fresh case for today.

PCC

“When the seniors are ignored and juniors are given responsibility, such things are bound to happen,” sources close to Saroori said.

Earlier, Azad did not agree to take charge as the Campaign Committee chairman. Moreover, three other loyalists of the former J&K CM also resigned from the committees to which they were appointed.

While former MLAs Gulzar Ahmed Wani and Choudhary Mohd Akram resigned from the Pradesh Election Committee, another ex-legislator Haji Abdul Rashid Dar quit as the primary member of the party.

Meanwhile, newly appointed JKPCC president Vikar Rasool said that he will try to unite all miffed leadership be establishing one to one contact.

“The developments in the party are result of our healthy inner democracy. There are many who might not happy but my priority is to meet everyone and unite them to make Congress party strong,” said Vikar Rasool.

On being considered as junior by some leaders Vikar said that he is third generation Congress leaders, who won three elections in row and also served in organization from district to national level.

“My father was an MLC, my uncle was Congress leader I am third generation Congress men with 24 years of organizational experience from district level to national level,” he said.

On resentment among Azad and other leaders, Vikar said “I am not reasons for Azad’s refusals take charge as Head of Election Campaign Committee”.

“Azad is Congress party’s senior leader and he took decision on his own, I am not reason behind it,” Vikar said.

Earlier, former JKPCC president Mir had resigned from his post in June. The party had held a series of meetings with the senior leaders in New Delhi to finalise the new team for J&K. Congress sources said that Mir, who remained the president of the J&K Congress since 2015, was asked to quit to pave way for the new organisational set-up.

Wani, 46, was considered close and loyal to Azad, who holds sway in both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir. Wani had also served as the minister of state.

Recently, the Congress had appointed senior leader Raman Bhalla from Jammu as its working president to keep a balance of power between the two regions of the UT.

HAWALA

central agencies on Thursday, they said. During interrogation, Yaseen revealed to the police that hawala money was being routed to India through South

Africa and collected in Surat and Mumbai.

He ran a garment business in Meena Bazaar and was the Delhi link to send this money to militant operatives in Jammu and Kashmir through couriers, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) HGS Dhaliwal said.

The officer said recently, Rs 24 lakh hawala money was sent from South Africa to support militant activities in India. Out of this, Yaseen transferred Rs 17 lakh through two couriers to an operative named Abdul Hamid Mir in Jammu and Kashmir.

The police, however, arrested Mir from Jammu bus stand on Wednesday and recovered Rs 10 lakh cash from him. The remaining Rs 7 lakh were recovered from his house, Dhaliwal said.

BJP

targeting civilians in the valley to terrorize the people,” he said.

He added, “People were not forced to hoist tricolor on Independence Day. BJP believes in nation first and party second.”

WAQF

take care of the shrines and people go to them for prayer, blessings and even healing. They give tabaruks (food or amulet blessed with special prayers) to the people and get offerings locally known as “Niyaz” in return.

Bukhari has expressed his concern over the Waqf Board’s decision to remove the caretakers from the shrines and impose a ban on donation collection in J&K shrines.

Bukhari said, “I am surprised over the Waqf Board’s decision to impose a ban on the traditional system of donation collections at the shrines and put an end to the institution of Sajjada Nashin in these revered places.”

Bukhari urged the Waqf Board to hold its decision to pave a way for extensive consultation on it. He said, “No one must have any objection if reforms are needed. But, given the religious and cultural sensitivity of the issue, initiatives must be taken after deliberations and consultations with the concerned stakeholders.”

JANMASHTAMI

“All religions have conveyed the same message but certain forces do not want us to live in peace and harmony. Today, our Shobha Yatra has been made possible due to locals in Kashmiri. We all – Hindus, Sikhs, and Muslims have to be united and make the country strong.”

Chanting ‘Hare Krishna’ amid the blowing of conch shells and chants of Vedic hymns, Janmashtami processions were taken out in other parts of Kashmir as well including Mattan in Anantnag district and Handwara in Kupwara district.

Temples across the Valley saw a decent rush of devotees including the revered Kheer Bhawani shrine at Tulmulla in the Ganderbal district.

Mohan Lal Bindroo, who celebrated the festival at Tulmulla, too prayed for peace that prevailed ‘before 1990’.

“We stay at Jawahar Nagar and today we came to Tulmulla especially to pray to Mata that the same peace prevails that was here before 1990. We prayed for the betterment of the situation so the same brotherhood prevails as we would see before 1990,” he said.

The priest at the Kheer Bhawani temple also said they prayed for peace and communal harmony.

“We prayed that peace and harmony should prevail in the country and all – whether Hindu or Muslims live together,” he said.

SHOPIAN

body will be handed over to his legal heirs after medico-legal formalities.

Meanwhile, investigation in this regard has been set into motion.

Police arrest 4 drug peddlers in Tral

Srinagar, Aug 19: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday claimed to have arrested four drug peddlers and recovered 433 kg of grinded poppy straw from their possession in Awantipora.

Police Station Tral received specific information that one Showkat Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Nadar Tral in south Kashmir, was involved in drug peddling having hoarded huge quantity of narcotic substances at his residential house.

A police party with the concerned Executive Magistrate raided the specific spot and recovered 433 Kgs of grinded Poppy Straw from his house, police said.

The accused along with other three associates were arrested. They have been identified as Tawseef Ahmad Rather, Muzafar Ahmad Lone and Mohammmd Saleem Khan.

A case has been registered at Police Station Tral and further investigation has been initiated.

Hydrogen Startup funding helps India to make hub of green hydrogen: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Aug 19 (UNI) Minister of State in Prime Minister Office, Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Hydrogen Start-up funding is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of National Hydrogen Mission (NHM), with an aim to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub.

The Minister stated this during the announcement of financial aid of Rs 3.29 crore to a Hydrogen StartUp from Maharashtra for indigenous development of Hydrogen Sensing & Analysis Technology on Friday.

“This will help in meeting the target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030 and the related development of renewable energy capacity, ‘ the Minister said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India’s 75th Independence Day, last year from ramparts of the Red Fort to make India a hub of “Green Hydrogen”.

Dr Jitendra Singh presided over the signing of an MoU between Technology Development Board under DST and M/s Multi Nano Sense Technologies Private Limited, Maharashtra to support the manufacturing of Hydrogen sensors indigenously.

The Minister said the company is developing an indigenous cutting edge hydrogen analysis sensor for new age applications. The development is also related to the universal miniaturised core sensor designs for leak detection and/ or analysis of hydrogen.

According to the official statement, the patented hydrogen gas sensor and analyser is based on a core sensor; which has been conceptualised, developed, manufactured and serviced entirely in India.

The Minister informed that at present, it is heavily dependent on importing sensors, as all core sensor elements are imported from China, USA, UK, Japan and Germany.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, the demand for energy is growing and with the limitation of existing resources, there is a need for an alternative fuel.

He said, ‘Hydrogen’ envisages being the future fuel to replace fossil fuel and therefore production of Hydrogen fuel by using power from renewable energy, termed as green hydrogen is one of the major requirements towards environmentally sustainable energy security of the nation.

The Minister added that as per NITI Aayog’s report titled ‘Harnessing Green Hydrogen: Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India’ Hydrogen will provide a pathway to accelerate the emergence of a green hydrogen economy, which is critical for India to achieve its net-zero ambitions.

EDUCATION: With single classroom, this Bandipora School has 2 teachers for 100 students

Bandipora, Aug 19 (KNO): Government primary school in upper-Kudara, a remote area in Bandipora district has just one classroom for about 100 students.

Locals told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the smooth functioning of the primary school has been affected over the years as the school has just one room to accommodate 100 students while there are only two teachers which creates more problems for students.

The residents said they approached higher authorities several times, but nothing was done for the school.

“Seeing the condition of the school, one gets disappointed. The administration should think about it. Don’t the students of this remote area deserve a good education?” asked Fayaz Ahmad.

“We have no drinking water here, no electricity, no playground nor a proper washroom. Besides, we do not feel safe in this building,” Majid Khan, a student said. “We should have a good building in which we will feel comfortable to study,” he added.

“We appeal to the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad to look into the matter and direct the concerned authorities to get the issue redressed at the earliest,” the students said—(KNO)

Govt warns agencies offering Pvt security services ‘Home Dept directs owners to verify employees’ character, antecedents’

Srinagar, Aug 19 (KNO): The J&K government has directed the agencies offering private security to verify the character and antecedents of the employees, warning stern action against the violators.

As per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the move comes after the government has observed that some private security agencies have engaged or employed persons as security guards and supervisors without verification of character and antecedents.

Already, the government has notified the Jammu & Kashmir Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Rules, 2022, in May this year, with an aim to regulate the functioning of Private Security Agencies (PSA) operating within the J&K UT.

“Amongst other stipulations, Rule 7 of the Rules, provides that before any person is employed or engaged as a Security Guard or Supervisor, the agency shall satisfy itself with the Character and Antecedents of such person in the manner as prescribed in the said Rule,” an official document of the J&K Home Department reads.

It states that the Rule 4(7) provides that the Licensee shall immediately intimate the controlling authority about any Criminal ‘Charges framed against the persons forming the agency or against a private security guard or supervisor engaged or employed by the agency in the course of performance of duties as PSA.

“A copy of such communication shall also be sent to the Officer in-charge of the Police Station where the person charged against resides,” the document reads.

The directions have been issued at a time when many agencies in Kashmir are also offering domestic helps and maids.

These rules according to officials are also applicable to them as well.

In the past, several instances of domestic helps fleeing from homes and indulging in criminal activities have come to the fore in the Valley.

Meanwhile the official document reads that the Rule 4(12) of the regulation Act provides that after commencement of its business, the security agencies shall provide monthly list of its management and those engaged by it to the controlling authority.

“They should also share such a list to the officer in-charge of the Police Station where the registered office is situated,” the document reads.

Notably the, J&K Home Department has appointed the controlling authority for issuance of licenses under the PSA Regulation Act, 2005 and the rules made there under. “However, it has come to the notice of the Controlling Authority that some private security agencies have engaged or employed persons as security guards and supervisors without verification of character and antecedents,” the document reads.

The government has observed that intimation regarding the framing of criminal charges against the persons forming the agency or against private security guards or supervisors engaged or employed by the Agencies in the course of performance of duties was not brought to the notice of the controlling authority.

“The security agencies are not providing monthly lists as envisaged under Rules 4(12), which makes such agencies liable for action,” the document reads.

The government has enjoined upon all the private security agencies to get the verification of character and antecedents of security guards or supervisors done before employing them as stipulated in the Rules.

“Any criminal charges framed against any persons forming the agency or against private security guards or supervisors engaged or employed by the agency should be bringing to the notice of the controlling authority,” the document reads.

The government has also directed the agencies to provide monthly list of management and those engaged by the security agencies to the officer in-charge of the concerned Police Station.

Perpetrators of Shopian killing want to derail, development, trust and peace in J&K initiated by PM Modi: Tarun Chugh

Srinagar, August 16 (KNS): BJP national general secretary, Kashmir incharge Tarun Chugh today condemned the attack on Kashmiri pandit brothers in Shopian.

Speaking to KNS, BJP leader said, “ I strongly condemn terror attack on the pandit brothers in Shopian. My thoughts are with the family of Sunil Kumar.The barbaric act of killing innocent people is against humanity & perpetrators of this cowardly act shall be brought to justice. All those part of terrorist ecosystem which led to the killing of the innocent civilian who were working in their fields won’t be spared.”

He added that security forces wont leave the perpetrators to survive for a long time.

“ They will meet their end soon.” he said.

He also said , “Terrorrists actually want to derail development, trust of people of J&K and peace in J&K which was made possible due to various initiatives under the directions of prime Minister of Narendra Modi.(KNS)

Tangdar J&K Bank Branch Operates in Tin-shed

Karnah, Aug 19 (KNS): Jammu and Kashmir Bank unit located at Tangdar area of North kashmir’s Kupwara district is functioning from a tin shed which is causing inconvenience to the staff as well as customers.

Customers including women, senior citizens and Specialy abled people can be seen waiting outside the bank in rain and sun.

Meanwhile construction work of a new building of J&K Bank is going on at a snails pace for the last three years. Residents demanded early completion of the work so that people can avail banking facilities in a hassle free manner. Residents also said ATM remained out of order for most of the time during last month.(KNS).

NEWS

HEADLINES TODAY

Burglars Loot 3 shops, house in Surankote Poonch

M S Nazki

Poonch, Aug 19 Burglars targeted three shops and a house in Surankote area of Poonch last night and allegedly decamped with goods worth lakhs of rupees.

Locals told HT that theft occurred in three shops and a house near BDO office Surankote.

The shops, they said, include that of Abdul Ghani (sold and silver shop), Rohil Dutta (Mobile Shop)and Mohammad Latief (provisional store). A rented house belonging to Prevaiz Ahmad was also looted, they said.

The locals expressed resentment over alleged lack of action on part of the Police and urged the law enforcing agency to acted more “promptly then they do.”

SHO Surankote Rajveer Singh told HT a team of police is on job. “FSL teams were also called to the spot and all technological aids are being utilized along with regular measures,” he added.

Director SKIMS discusses establishment of Cadaver Organ Transplant Program with MOHFW team

Srinagar August 19 (KNS): Director SKIMS Prof. Parvaiz A. Koul today had a detailed discussion with visiting team from MOHFW Govt of India about establishment of Cadaver Organ Transplant Program at SKIMS.

In a statement issued to Kashmir News Service (KNS), Prof. Parvaiz A Koul apprised the team about the functioning of Kidney Transplant Program at SKIMS and desired the urgent need for establishing the Cadaver organ retrieval Centre at SKIMS.

Later the meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of HOD Urology & Kidney Transplant Unit Dr. M Saleem Wani with the visiting team on National Organ Transplant Program and starting of Cadaver Transplant Program at SKIMS. The meeting was attended by Dr. Shazia Wafai senior Regional Director Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt. Of India and Mr Irfan Ahmad Lone transplant coordinator SOTTO J& K. During the meeting threadbare discussion was held regarding Cadaver Transplant program and it’s awareness amongst the medical professionals and the general public.

Prof. Saleem Wani briefed the participants about the ongoing Kidney Transplant Program at SKIMS and said SKIMS has a well established Kidney Transplant Centre and is successfully conducting kidney transplants since 1999 and emphasised for Cadaver retrieval Centre at SKIMS and underlined need for liberal financial assistance for the same. The team decided to have sustained campaign for the deceased donor program and establishment of green corridors for organ transport. Prof. saleem wani informed the visiting team about the cadaver transplant awareness program conducted by the department in SKIMS 8 years back in March 2014 and the organ pledge done first time in J & K during that program .

The visiting team from MOHFW expressed satisfaction for successful Kidney Transplant Program at SKIMS and appreciated Transplant Team headed by Prof. Saleem Wani for successful management of the program. (KNS)

Mahatma Gandhi statue in New York smashed amid wave of continued attacks



New York, Aug 19: A statue of Mahatma Gandhi in front of a temple in New York has been toppled and smashed in the second attack on the memorial this month and a local volunteer watch group has sprung into action to protect it.The incident in the early hours of Tuesday was the latest in a series of attacks on Gandhi statues in the US . Six men destroyed the statue at the Sri Tulsi Mandir with a sledgehammer and painted hate-filled words, around it and on the road, according to media reports quoting police.The statue had been vandalised earlier on August 3 and knocked over, according to the Queens Daily Eagle. Police released a surveillance video of the men between 25-30 years who are suspected of involvement in the attack.They fled the scene in a white Mercedes Benz and in a dark-coloured car that may be a Toyota Camry used as a for-hire vehicle, according to police.Assembly Member Jennifer Rajkumar, the first Hindu elected to the New York State legislature, told CBS New York TV on Thursday: “When the Gandhi statue was vandalised, that really flew in the face of all of our beliefs and it’s very disturbing for the community.””To know that Gandhi represents peace and somebody would come and just target the statue and vandalize it, it’s very sad,” temple founder Pandit Maharaj told the New York Post.Meanwhile, volunteer watch group, the Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol, tweeted on Thursday that its members increased their presence around the temple.“We increased our presence at Tulsi Mandir and were happy to see (police from) the 106 Precinct there as well. A big thank you to our four volunteers who were out for 7 hours overnight,” it said in a tweet.After the first attack, Rajkumar had brought together several elected officials, including House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee Gregory Meeks, to condemn the attack and demand police action.“Acts of hate have no place in our community and nation and the perpetrators need to be held accountable.” Meeks was quoted by the Daily Eagle.The temple is located in South Richmond Park, an area with many people of Indian descent.A combination of leftists and Khalistanis have targeted Gandhi statues across the US, sometimes by circulating petitions for removing them, as in the case of another statue in New York City that was also vandalised by placing a shroud over it, and at other times by damaging them.During the protests against police excesses in February 2020, a statue in Washington had vile personal attacks on Gandhi and anti-India slogans painted on it. It was vandalised again in December that year by pro-Khalistani elements during a protest in support of the farmers’ agitation in India.In another incident, a statue of Gandhi was cut at its leg and toppled over and its head was cut in half in Davis, California, in January last year. The same statue had also been vandalised with slogans in June 2020.Speaking to New York Post, Rajkumar noted that “Hindu hate is on the rise”.A recent report by the Network Contagion Lab at Rutgers University said that it found evidence of a sharp rise in hate speech directed toward the Hindu community and blamed White supremacists for it.However, the appearance of the suspects in the video released by police does appear to be White.Moreover, Maharaj told the local news outlet QNS: “The first time it happened the person was speaking Spanish. This time, they were speaking in Hindi.”Rajkumar told QNS: “I have spoken with government leaders across the country. All are committed to re-doubling our efforts to combat anti-Hindu hate.”-(IANS)

