



P3 NEWS
PORTION OF ROAD CAVES IN ALONG DAL LAKE

A portion of a road in the Dalgate area on the banks of Dal Lake caved in on Wednesday, affecting the traffic in the area. The portion of the road caved in about a...

P7 THINK
UNDERWHELMING TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN KASHMIR

It's a gorgeous Sunday afternoon. You are basking in the soft warmth of the sun when you hear a knock on your door. To your great pleasure, you receive an invitation from your relative to be a guest at a...



P11 SPORTS
2ND EDITION OF 'KHELO-INDIA WINTER GAMES' TO BEGIN AT GULMARG FROM 26 FEB

The second edition of 'Khelo India Winter Games' will start from February 26 and culminate on March 02...



Widom Quote!
Two wrongs don't make a right, but they make a good excuse
— Thomas Szasz

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Reports 74 New Covid Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 74 fresh COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, taking the infection tally to 1,26,093, even as no fresh death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 20 were from the Jammu division and 54 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said. **▶ More On P10**

Absconder Arrested After 31 Years: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday said it arrested two absconders, including a resident of south Kashmir's Anantnag who was on the run for over three decades after a case was filed against him. Bashir Ahmad Zagoo of Sagam Kokernag, who was evading his arrest from last 31 years, was arrested by police. **▶ More On P10**

3 Held For Making Fake Contractor Cards

JAMMU: Acting tough against a racket involved in preparing fake contractor registration cards, police on Wednesday conducted raids in Anantnag and Srinagar districts in the Valley and arrested three criminals, officials said. Four arrests had earlier been made by the Crime Branch, Jammu, in the case, they said. The gang members nabbed on **▶ More On P10**

2 'Robbers' Arrested In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have cracked a robbery case by arresting two people from south Kashmir's Kulgam district. On February 12, Gulam Mohammad Dar of Chermarag Zainapora filed a complaint with police that he withdrew a cash amount of Rs 25000 from Punjab National Bank Frisal and around 1630 hours while returning to home. **▶ More On P10**

Car Mows Down Pedestrian In Bijbehara

SRINAGAR: A pedestrian on Wednesday was crushed to death by a car near Sangam on the Srinagar-Jammu highway in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. According to reports, a car (JK03D-2523) hit a pedestrian at Sangam along the Srinagar-Jammu highway leaving him critically injured. The man, **▶ More On P10**

Two Militants Killed In Anantnag Encounter: Police



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have killed two unidentified gunmen in an encounter in a forest area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, police and army's 3RR carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Shalgul forest area of Srigufwara on Wednesday morning, a police spokesperson said. During the search

operation, he said, the militants were given an opportunity by the joint team to lay down their arms and surrender.

"However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, two unidentified militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved," the police spokesperson said.

He said that the identification and affiliation of the killed militants was being ascertained. **▶ More On P10**

IN CASE ANY FAMILY CLAIMS the killed militants to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification at PCR Kashmir."

No Heavy Rain, Snowfall In J&K For Now: Weatherman

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The weatherman on Wednesday said that there was no forecast for any major rain or snow in J&K and Ladakh even as minimum temperatures remained above sub-zero level amid overnight cloud cover across Kashmir Valley.

"Weather is most likely remain partly cloudy with possibility of light rain/snow at isolated to scattered places of J&K during next 24 hours," Sonam Lotus, Director Meteorological Department said.

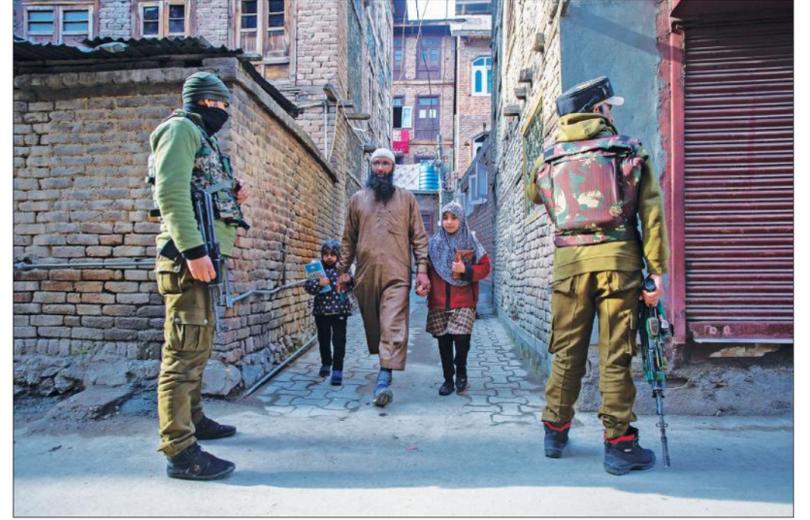
"Light to moderate rain/snow is likely at scattered places of J&K and Ladakh during 25-26th. **▶ More On P10**

Chopper Carrying Secy RDD Makes Emergency Landing

Agencies

JAMMU: A chopper with seven persons onboard including Sheetal Nanda, Secretary Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, beside two pilots, made an emergency landing at Jyotipuram area of Reasi, the official said on Wednesday.

They said that a Pawan Hans chopper was on way to Jammu to Kishtwar when it made the emergency landing at Ram Leela. **▶ More On P10**



A man holding hands of his daughters passes through a lane manned by cops during a CASO in Srinagar's Kawdara area on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Transporters Call Off Strike After '19% Fare Hike'

Agencies

Srinagar: All Jammu and Kashmir Transporters Welfare Committee – an amalgam of various transport associations—on Wednesday called off its indefinite strike in J&K.

General Secretary, Kashmir Welfare Transporters Association, Sheikh Muhammad Yusuf, said that the decision to call of the strike was taken after government decided to increase fare by

19%, reported news agency GNS.

The decision, he said, was taken at a meeting with Finance Commissioner, Finance Department, Arun Kumar Mehta, who is chairman of Fare and Freight Committee also comprising Transport commissioner.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary Transport, Hardesh Kumar besides Transport Commissioner and other officials at Civil Secretariat this afternoon. **▶ More On P10**

ED Conducts Multiple Raids In Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Department on Wednesday carried out raids at multiple locations in this capital city.

According to the reports, the ED officials raided the Tata Motors showroom belonging to Muhammad Saleem Bakshi, son of Bashir Ahmad Bakshi of Sonwar in morning hours on Wednesday. In the afternoon, the ED raided Numero UNO showroom in Rajbagh area here, reports **▶ More On P10**

Winter Tutorial Camps In Kashmir Ordered Closed

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the educational intuitions are set to reopen from March 01, the School Education Department on Wednesday ordered closure of all the winter tutorial camps in Kashmir for 8th to 12th standard students.

In an order issued by the Joint Director (Central) at Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) all Chief Education Officers (CEOs) have been directed to conclude the winter tutorial camps being functional from January-12-2021 with immediate effect from February 25.

The order further stated that the concerned CEOs shall immediately disengage all those teachers that were engaged to teach the students in the winter tutorial camps.

Earlier in December last year, the **▶ More On P10**

Leh Highway To Reopen For Traffic On Feb 28

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday announced reopening of Srinagar-Leh highway for vehicular traffic on February 28.

The vehicles will be flagged off by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Union Territory for traffic movement on February 28, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

In Srinagar, he said, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole convened a meeting of officers to review status of Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road scheduled to be thrown open for



civilian traffic from February 28. Among others, Chief Engineer, MED, SSP Traffic Rural were present in the meeting, while the Divisional Commissioner Ladakh, **▶ More On P10**

Qazigund-Banihal Tunnel To Be Thrown Open In March

The work on the four-lane Qazigund-Banihal tunnel along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, which was started around a decade ago, is going on at a full pace and is expected to be thrown open in March next month. Officials said that the tunnel has already missed around six deadlines, however, the work at the tunnel is in the final stage now. In 2011, the National Highway Authority of India (NHA) commissioned the construction of two tunnels namely Chenani-Nashri and **▶ More On P10**

Covid-19: Second Phase Of Vaccination From March 1



Centre Cautions States Against Laxity In Virus Curbs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday announced that people over 60 years and those above 45 with comorbidities can get COVID-19 vaccine from March 1 even as it cautioned states and union territories that any laxity

in implementing stringent curbs, especially in view of new virus strain observed in certain countries, could "compound the situation".

As new coronavirus cases crossed the 13,000 mark for the third time in six days on Wednesday, the Centre rushed multi-disciplinary teams to nine states and the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir most of whom are witnessing a surge to support them **▶ More On P10**

PSC To Maintain Confidential Reserve List Of CCE

Agencies

SRINAGAR: From now onwards, the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) would maintain a confidential reserve list of candidates below the last recommended candidate under each category in the combined competitive examination (CCE).

The Jammu & Kashmir government on Tuesday evening amended the rules governing combined competitive examination (CCE), which is conducted annually by the PSC to select candidates for prestigious services like Kashmir Administrative Service, Kashmir Police Service.

According to the amendments, along with the list of recommended candidates, the PSC shall also maintain a **▶ More On P10**



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* Terms & Conditions Apply.

Scientists decode how Mars may have lost its atmosphere

Press Trust Of India

Solar winds may have led to Mars losing its atmosphere, according to a computer simulation study which confirms the long held belief that planets need a protective magnetic field to block such harmful radiations in order to sustain life.

While factors like the existence of a moderately warm, moist atmosphere and liquid water determine whether a planet can host life, the study, published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, noted that the ability of planets to generate magnetic fields around them is an overlooked aspect.

According to the scientists, Arnab Basak and Dibyendu Nandi from the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata, these magnetic fields enveloping planets can act like a protective umbrella, shielding the atmosphere from the superfast plasma winds of the Sun.

On the Earth, they said a geo-dynamo mechanism generates the planet's protective magnetosphere—an invisible shield that stops the solar wind from eroding away our atmosphere.

In the current study, the scientists simulated two scenarios of the Red



In the current study, the scientists simulated two scenarios of the Red Planet—one considering a young Mars with its magnetosphere intact, and the other with the planet without this force field.

Planet—one considering a young Mars with its magnetosphere intact, and the other with the planet without this force field.

The simulations revealed that in the young Mars, the magnetosphere may have acted as a shield stopping the solar wind from coming too close to the planet's atmosphere thus protecting it.

Without an intrinsic

magnetosphere, the researchers said the solar wind magnetic field may have first draped around, and slipped past Mars, carrying bits of the planet's atmosphere away, eventually eroding it completely.

They said the findings confirm the belief that the magnetospheres around planets play a crucial role in determining their ability to sustain life.

Alternatively, planets that lose their magnetic field eventually become inhospitable with loss of their atmosphere, the scientists added.

The researchers believe the study has important implications for the search for habitable exoplanets via initiatives like NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and ISRO's ExoWorlds mission.

از نیابت چندوسه

عنوان: مضمون درخواست محمد صادق گوجر کٹاری ولد غلام الدین گوجر کٹاری ساکنہ چندوسه
 براد عطا گئی جت ST 294 SRO
 اشتہار براد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے جہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع چندوسه کا سکونت دار ہے کہہنے کی مہلت آدنی مبلغ 17000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہہنے ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد صادق گوجر کٹاری	مزدوری	50 سال
حمیدہ بیگم	گھریلو کام	40
غلام حسین	مزدوری	26
رخسانہ بانو	زیر تعلیم	25
سلو بانو	زیر تعلیم	23

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی م کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

ajj_r نائب تحصیلدار چندوسه

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کریری

عنوان: مضمون درخواست غلام محمد نجار ولد محمد نجار ساکنہ پورہ تحصیل کریری براد عطا گئی سوشل کاسٹ بچ پر بال احمد نجار و دختران زاہدہ اختر و آئینہ اختر و انشا گل ساکنہ شیش پورہ کریری

اشتہار براد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے جہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع شیش پورہ تحصیل کریری کا سکونت دار ہے کہہنے ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے کہہنے کی مہلت آدنی مبلغ 13200 روپے تک ہے۔

غلام محمد نجار	ترکان	55 سال
مصرہ بیگم زوجہ غلام محمد	گھریلو کام	49
بال احمد نجار پیر	مراد سلام	32
زاہدہ اختر دختر	زیر تعلیم	21
آئینہ اختر دختر	زیر تعلیم	18
انشا گل دختر	زیر تعلیم	17

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی م کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

ajj_r نائب تحصیلدار کریری

LOSS OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

I have lost the RC of my Vehicle Bearing Registration No JK03G-2465. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she my file his/ her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Nisar Ahmad Wani
 S/O Gh Nabi Wani
 R/O Bagwanpora Verinag Anantnag MJA

LOST OF DRIVING LICENSE

I have lost my Driving License Bearing Registration No JK0320190002707. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she my file his/ her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Mohd Jameel Bhat
 S/O Gh Rasool Bhat
 R/O Pethnambal Serigufwara Anantnag MJA

Office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer Shopian

NOTICE
 Sub: Transfer of ownership (sub section (1) of section 50) & cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement (Sub Section (3) of Section 51)
 Ref No: 189/MVD/SPN Dated: 24-02-2021

While A Joint Application Has Been Received For Transfer Of Vehicle Bearing Registration Mark Jk22 - 8587 From Bilal Ahmad Sofi S/o Mohd Younis Sofi R/o New Colony Gagren Sra (As Transferor) And Tariq Ah Dar S/o Gh Mohd Dar R/O Batapora Sriangar (Transferee) And Cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with JK Bank Kudalana Shopian Now there it is notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer of Ownership shall be filled in writing in the office of the regional transport officer Shopian within a period of seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily Newspaper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of Gassi Trp Co Namely Manzoor Ahmad Gassi SD/ Assistant Regional Transport Officer Pulwama Kmr

Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar

Email ID: xened2nd@gmail.com; Tel/Fax No. 0194-2311374

Extension Notice No. 1

Due to poor response, the last date for submission of bid in respect of this office's e-NIT No. ED-II/41 of 2020-21 Dated 11/02/21 (Short Term) issued vide this office endorsement No. ED-II/5453-57/TS; Dated: 11/02/21 (Corrigendum No. 1 issued vide no. ED-II/5631-37/TS, Dated 18/02/21) having Tender ID: 2021_PDD_116385_1 for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 125 kVA DG Set alongwith panels and cables in the Office of the Managing Director, KPDCCL and Chief Engineer (Distribution) KPDCCL at Exhibition Ground, Sub-Division Hazuribagh" is hereby now extended with the details enumerated below

Last Date for receipt of e-Bids online (Extended)	01-03-2021; 04:00 PM
Bid Opening Date (Extended)	02-03-2021; 02:30 PM

However, the rest of the terms and conditions as laid down in the e-NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 KPDCCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh
 Srinagar

No.: ED-II/5797-5801/TS
 Dated: 23/02/2021

DIPK-NB-5889/20

Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Anantnag

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

e-Tender Notice No: 07 of 2020-21 Dated 20-02-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Estimated/ Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Documents	Class of Contract	Time for Completion	Major Head
1.	C/O Tile path from H.O Mohd. Ismail Rather to Bashir Ahmad Bhat at Mirgund Bragam Block Shahabad	1.80	300.00	DEE	10 days	CD & Panchayat Sector
2.	C/O Tile Path different spots at Wagay Mohalla Hakura B Block Shahabad	1.70	300.00	DEE	10 days	
3.	C/O Tile Path at Herpora Shangran NHO Mohd. Altaf Dar Block Shahabad	1.70	300.00	DEE	10 days	

Position of A/A: Accorded vide No. SB/1681-82 Dated: 14-01-2021
 Position of T/S: Accorded vide No. REW-A/WS/2020-21/6704 Dated: 19-01-2021

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-02-2021
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	20-02-2021 from 3:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	11-03-2021 upto 04:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	12-03-2021 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Anantnag

5. Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document Fee Receipt and Bid Security Self Declaration Form shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Tender Document Fee Receipt and Bid Security Self Declaration Form is not Deposited within 2 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders who have participated online, the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.

- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Anantnag (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids
- The LI is required to deposit an EMD @ 3% of advertised value in the shape of CDR in favour of allotting authority (Executive Engineer REW Anantnag) at the time of finalization of allotment/ agreement with the Department
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No. REW-A/WS/NIT/2020-21/7778-87

Dated: 20/02/2020 DIPK-13777/20

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 Rural Engineering Wing
 Anantnag

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

e-mail:- rmbdivisonshopian@gmail.com (Phone/Fax No: 01933-260226)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No:- 146/9559-68/SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2020-21 Dated:- 23-02-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Class of Contractor	Time (In days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Position of AA/TS	Position of Funds
1	Strg./Upgrd of Hermain Reshipora Gahind Muradpora road BWO E/W in cutting, Cutting Down of Trees, P/L of RBM, WBM G-II, P/L 75 mm thick wet mix, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25mm thick Semidense and 6 mm thick seal coat, P/L RCC Pipes and const. of Protection works and Cement concrete Drain. (Hermain Reshipora Sector)	NABARD RIDF-XXII	149.95	"AA"/ HMPPO / AA/ with HMPPO	120 working Days	2600/-	Accorded	Available

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-02-2021
2.	Document downloading Start Date	24-02-2021
3.	Document Downloading End Date	05-03-2021
4.	Bid submission Start Date	24-02-2021
5.	Bid Submission End Date	05-03-2021
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-03-2021 at 4:30 P.M
7.	Submission of Hard Copy of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOI / before fixation of contract.

- Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan / Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority), (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
- All the Bidders have to upload / submit self attested Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
- "Civil Class contractors" participating in the tendering process shall have to upload the undertaking from registered Hot Mix Plant Holder, stating therein that he would supply the bituminous material, machinery / equipments to him whenever required. However the said undertaking should be duly notarized.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form-25 (Double agreement form) and detailed NIT No. 01 of 2020-21.

No.:- NIT/e-Tendering/9559-72 Dated:- 23-02-2021

DIPK-13784/20

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 PW (R&B) Division Shopian

Office Of The Executive Engineer Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Sub:- Corrigendum No. 02 to e-NIT No.42 /WSMP of 02/2021 dated 06-02-2021 for the work at S.No. 01 i.e. "CONSTRUCTION / DESIGN / COMMISSIONING OF ACTIVATED CARBON CHAMBER INCLUDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR ONE YEAR AFTER COMMISSIONING AT 4MGD WATER TREATMENT PLANT POKHRIBAL" ISSUED UNDER ENDORSEMENT No. 10022-10052 DATED 06-02-2021

DATE EXTENSION

DUE TO TECHNICAL REASONS THE BID SUBMISSION CLOSE DATE & BID OPENING DATE FOR ABOVE MENTIONED E-NIT IS HEREBY RESCHEDULED AS UNDER:-

S.No	Previous Date	Re-scheduled Date
01	Bid Submission Close Date 23-02-2021	02-03-2021 upto 16:00 Hours
02	Online Bid Opening Date 24-02-2021	03-03-2021 at 11:00 Hours

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS SHALL REMAIN SAME AS LAID DOWN IN THE ABOVE E-NIT / CORRIGENDUM AND TENDER DOCUMENT.

No:-WSMP/CC/10710-13
 Dr:- 23-02-2021

DIPK-13775/20

Sd/-
 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
 WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION
 SRINAGAR

Dir SKIMS Specifies Five S's As Cause Of Heart Attacks

SRINAGAR: Director SKIMS also a famed cardiologist Dr. AG Ahangar Wednesday pointed to five S's as reasons for growing heart attacks in the Kashmir valley.

Speaking to newsgathering agency Kashmir News Service Dr. Ahangar said, "The heart-beat or the Cardio activity is the centre of the existence of the human body. The heart pumps the blood in the body. Heartbeat varies with the age."

The reason for sudden cardiac deaths is advanced coronary artery disease wherein the blood vessel supplying blood to the heart is diseased beyond a certain level. "A person can die of sudden cardiac arrest when the circulation of a major part of heart gets affected. The heart can also have the disease of its muscle itself."

He said the other reason can be that the conduction system of the heart is not properly working. "Suddenly the heart rate of the patient either becomes very low or out of control," he said.

Responding to a question of whether stress or smoking increases the risk of heart attacks



File Pic

in Kashmir, he said, "When we talk of stress or smoking, these things can add to the problem where heart rate changes. Maybe it either goes very low or becomes very fast."

He said that there are five S's — Salt, Sugar, Sedentary Lifestyle, Smoking, Stress, that

may lead to a heart attack.

"Excessive consumption of salt leads to hypertension and hypertension leads to many diseases including heart disease. Excess of sugar leads to diabetes. The combination of diabetes and hypertension can damage blood vessels of the

heart, liver brain or any organ. The other S is Sedentary Lifestyle. When we eat and do not do any physical activity, it gets deposited in the body as fat. Lipid levels, triglycerides raise. It chokes the blood vessels, it leads to the heart attack or liver failure or kidney failure."

He said the other S is Smoking, it increases the problems of diabetes, hypertension.

The last S is stress and it is the worst one. In combination, all five Ss must be minimized."

On being asked whether SKIMS has formed a team to study the increase in sudden heart attacks in Kashmir, he said, "SKIMS is not only a tertiary care hospital but a University also. By virtue of that, we get scholars to research many subjects. All related departments work together for collaborative research. We have two dedicated departments for it."

Regarding reports of 2nd wave of coronavirus with different strains, Director SKIMS said, "I would reiterate that the social distancing, wearing face masks and frequent hand sanitising is very important to

avoid from getting exposure to the Covid19."

"There are no restrictions now, business is coming back, markets, schools, colleges are opening but we have to be vigilant, we must not lower the guard, we must maintain vigil so that the infection would not hit us again," he added.

He also said that he was probably the first person in India to get a dose of covishield covaxin after the vaccination program was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I have got another dose of the vaccine after 28 days. I followed what is routine, mandatory. I want to convey to all the people that this vaccine is safe, and everybody must take it. Government has strategised the use of the vaccine."

"My message to the people is very simple but important, we all know that how much devastation and depression this covid19 has brought in the world, if you want the human race to survive, please maintain some discipline, maintain social distancing, wear face masks, wash your hands frequently." (KNS)

SKIMS IS NOT ONLY A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL BUT A UNIVERSITY ALSO. BY VIRTUE OF THAT, WE GET scholars to research many subjects. All related departments work together for collaborative research. We have two dedicated departments for it."

SMC Conducts Anti-Encroachment Drive

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation Wednesday conducted an extensive anti-encroachment drive in several areas of the Srinagar municipal limits days after Mayor Srinagar City Junaid Azim Mattu in a meeting passed directions to launch constant and sustainable anti-encroachment drives in the city.

Mattu whole speaking to news gathering agency KNS said that the anti-encroachment wing has to rigorously conduct these drives on regular basis with police assistance so that all business establishments/shopkeepers/vendors desist from exhibiting their goods and articles outside their shops and in public spaces.

Acting promptly on the directions of the Mayor, an extensive Anti Encroachment drive was Wednesday initiated in the city.

The drive was headed Chief anti-



encroachment officer and was conducted in Eidgah, Safa Kadal, Saki Dafer, Karan Nagar, Kaksarai, and other adjoining areas.

The anti-encroachment squad cleared the encroachments done by shopkeepers and street vendors in these areas.

All the goods and displaying items outside the shops hindering the public space were seized on the spot.

Similarly, vendors / Raidiwalla's were dispersed by the officials during the drive.

"They have been directed not to occupy footpaths or any public

spaces," Mattu said.

"All those defaulters whose goods have been seized will legally follow the procedure to approach the Competent Authority in SMC for release of their goods, with a fine being imposed on them for occupying space illegally and creating obstructions in the smooth flow of traffic and pedestrian movement.

Commissioner SMC Gazanfar Ali who took a review of the anti-encroachment drive will personally monitor the entire exercise.

He passed directions to the concerned officials that these drives have to continue in every part of the city and no street vendor or shopkeeper will be allowed to encroach upon public space or create hurdles in traffic movement.

"Their goods shall be seized on the spot with a fine recovered as a penalty from the violators," Ali said.

Portion Of Road Caves In Along Dal Lake



SRINAGAR: A portion of a road in the Dalgate area on the banks of Dal Lake caved in on Wednesday, affecting the traffic in the area.

The portion of the road caved in about a few feet deep following which the stretch was closed for traffic.

Reports said during the incident, a couple of two-wheelers were parked there. As the road caved in, the two-wheelers fell into the lake. They added that a bike and a Scooty were retrieved from the lake while no loss of life was reported.

An official said that traffic has been diverted to other connecting roads. (KNT)

Covid-19 Awareness Camp Held At Khanyar 500 Conifer Saplings Planted At IE Rangreth

Srinagar: One-day awareness camp was organised by the CDPO Khanyar at Miskeen Bagh Khanyar Wednesday.

Documentary films were screened in order to raise awareness about covid-19, immunisation, Poshan Abhiyan, and Schemes and services under ICDS.

Dr Mohsin Mushtaq, the Joint Coordinator of Poshan Abhiyan, Kashmir division and CDPO, Batawara, was the chief guest on the occasion.

He appreciated the organisers for arranging the camp and asked them to continue it for the benefit of the general public.

Other dignitaries also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the importance of nutrition and the causes and effects of malnutrition.

SRINAGAR: Today a Plantation Drive was undertaken under Green J&K at Industrial Estate Rangreth (IER) Srinagar.

The main function of Plantation was conducted in the CAMPUS of National Institute of Fashion and Technology, Ministry of Textile Government of India during which 500 Conifer plants were planted in the campus.

The event was organised by the Urban Forestry Division, Srinagar.

It is pertinent to mention here that the plantation of all upcoming Industrial Estates shall be conducted during the current year under the aegis of Green J&K Drive.

Spiritual Support Needed To Address Host Of Ills Besetting Society: VC KU

SRINAGAR: A four-day training programme on mental health started at the University of Kashmir on Wednesday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad inaugurated the training programme, organised by the varsity's Department of Social Work (DoSW) for community-level health professionals from Budgam district.

In his presidential address, Prof Talat said the health professionals, psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors, and academics will have to join hands to help address the old and new mental health challenges and concerns.

He said that the mental health problems in Kashmir are not new and existed before the outbreak of Covid-19. "The ongoing pandemic only aggravated these concerns, which will have to be addressed in a serious manner with the collective efforts of one and all," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor urged greater focus of academic institutions on addressing drug abuse among youth, alongside tackling the mental health challenges.

"We will have to nip the evil of drug abuse in the bud, both in urban and rural belts, with sustained awareness at grassroots and involving academic institutions, NGOs and health professionals in a serious manner," he said.

Prof Talat said while Kashmir has faced difficulties over the years, it has had big strength in people's sense of spirituality that they inherited culturally.

"I think people need to go back to these roots of spirituality to derive the spiritual support to address a host of ills besetting society. It will be a kind of natural healing, which needs to be highlighted and propagated," he said.

Dean of Academic Affairs Prof Shabir A

Bhat called for creating a support system in academic institutions to counsel teachers and students to cruise through Covid-19 pandemic fallouts, especially related to mental health.

"We need a sustainable strategy to make this happen. It's important for academic institutions—apart from imparting regular education—to be aware of what the society is going through and provide solutions for the same," he said.

In his special address, Prof Abdul Majeed Ganai, Head, Department of Community Medicine, GMC Baramulla, referred to the perspectives and thoughts of Imam Ghazali (RA) on mental health. He said such thoughts were incorporated in the theoretical aspects of mental health but were yet to be included formally in the mental health definitions and frameworks by institutions like the World Health Organisation.

Prof Ganai said the training programmes like these help in combining academic and research studies and take the outcomes thereof to the grassroots for implementation.

In his keynote address, Prof M Maqbool, Head, Department of Psychiatry, IMHNS GMC Srinagar talked at length about various mental health concerns and challenges post-Covid19 outbreak. He said there has been a considerable increase in behavioral problems among children and substance abuse in Kashmir, apart from other deleterious fallouts of the pandemic.

Coordinator DoSW Dr Adil Bashir highlighted aims and objectives of the four-day training, which he said is part of a research activity being undertaken at the department under the sponsorship of the ICMR.

Dr Sarfaraz Ahmad from DoSW conducted proceedings of the inaugural session and also delivered a vote of thanks

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 138 - The Emperor Hadrian adopts Antoninus Pius, effectively making him his successor
- 1497 - Italians troops reconquer Taranto on France
- 1910 - Dalai Lama flees Tibet for British India to escape Chinese troops
- 1916 - Battle of Verdun: German troops conquer Fort Douaumont without firing a shot, the largest and highest fort defending the city of Verdun during World War I
- 1921 - Tbilisi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, occupied by Bolshevik Russia
- 1921 - The Living Buddha, Hutuktu, is crowned King of Mongolia as the country declares independence from China
- 1925 - Diplomatic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union established
- 1930 - Check photographing device patented
- 1932 - Austrian immigrant Adolf Hitler gets German citizenship
- 1945 - US aircraft carriers attack Tokyo
- 1954 - Abdul Nasser appointed Egyptian premier
- 1956 - Nikita Khrushchev denounces Joseph Stalin at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
- 1962 - India Congress Party wins elections
- 1964 - Muhammad Ali [Cassius Clay] TKOs Sonny Liston in 7 for his first world heavyweight championship title
- 1966 - Syrian military coup under General Hafiz al-Assad
- 1969 - Mariner 6 launched for fly-by of Mars
- 1979 - Soyuz 32 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station is launched
- 1986 - Thousands of Egyptian military police riot, destroy 2 luxury hotel
- 1988 - South Korea adopts constitution
- 1989 - 1st independent blue-collar labor union in Communist Hungary forms
- 1989 - Javed Miandad scores 271 v NZ at Eden Park
- 1990 - Australia beat Pakistan 2-0 to win cricket's World Series Cup
- 1992 - Khojaly massacre: about 613 civilians killed by Armenian armed forces during the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan
- 1994 - Israeli extremist Baruch Goldstein massacres 30 Palestinians in Hebron
- 2009 - BDR massacre in Pilkhana, Dhaka, Bangladesh. 74 People are being killed, including more than 50 Army officials, by Bangladeshi Boarder Guards inside its headquarter.
- 2012 - Syrian Army kills 100 civilians in artillery shelling of Homs and Hama
- 2012 - World Health Organization removes India from the list of polio endemic countries.



HIJRI CALENDAR

12

RAJAB-UL-MURAJJAB

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR

5: 44

ZUHR

12: 44

ASR

4:43

MAGRIB

6:25

ISHA

7:45

From KO Archives

TRUCE EXTENDED FOR THREE MONTHS

Agencies

NEW DELHI - India extended its cease-fire against mujahideen in Kashmir for three months, but warned it would take firm action against any group that con-tinued with violence.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told parliament, the ceasefire, due to expire on Monday would now be extended until the end of May. "Having exam-ined all as-pects of the question in its totality the government has decided to further extend the period up till the end of May, said Vajpayee today

Shiv Sena MPs, including three ministers, boycotted the Lok Sabha when prime min-ister Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the statement.

A bullet for a bullet should be our policy, party leader in the Lok Sabha Anant Geete, said adding the extension of the cease-fire would result in in-creased threat to country's se-curity. Our demand is that the cease-fire be immediately scrapped, he said

National Security advisor and principal secretary to Vajpayee, Brajesh Mishrasaid the exten-sion of cease-fire should not be construed as a sign of weak-ness and indecisiveness.

We look far friendship and peace with neighbours, but at no time should it be seen as weakness or indecisiveness, Mishra said during an interactive session with the media and academics of the Jawahar Lai Nehru University after releasing a book Kargil and after, challenges for India here.

Mishra said there was strong evidence that showed that Pakistan could control the level of violence in Jammu and Kashmir.What Pakistan has done is stop shelling across the border, but it has continued to support materially and otherwise the militant acts in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mishra ruled out any third party mediation on the Kashmir issue in spite of growing favourable international opinion on India's stand on Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena supreme Bal Thackeray, a known critic of unilateral cease-fire, has expressed concern over the growing violence in Jammu and Kashmir and dismissed as a foolish idea any possible talks between Vajpayee and Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf.

According to people, it is a foolish idea. What is to discuss when they have a categorical demand for Kashmir... It is not your personal property, it is not a birthday cake. My country is not a birthday cake so you can cut your piece and eat, Thackeray told CNN in an interview.

'Not under pressure'

Defence min-ister George Fernandes said the decision had not been taken under any pressure. It was taken in view of the challenges before the nation and also in consideration of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he told report-ers. Be said India ex-tended the cease-fire to provide an opportunity to militants to come forward for talks.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 25 February, 2001)



Ministry of Science and Technology Department of Science and Technology New Delhi

Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI)

Call for Proposals - 2021

Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI) is a unique program of Department of Science and Technology (DST) to revolutionise research in interdisciplinary areas of Cognitive Science like emotions, language, memory, visual perception and cognition, thinking & reasoning, social cognition, decision making, artificial intelligence, computational modelling of cognitive processes, psychology, cognitive development and other important components derived from work in neurosciences, philosophy, linguistics, anthropology, etc.

Proposals are invited under the following components of Cognitive Science Research Initiative, however preference will be given to support translational research:

1. Individual Research Proposal
2. Multi-centric Research Proposal (in prescribed thematic areas only)
3. CSRI-Post Doctoral Fellowship

Detailed advertisement may be seen at <https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/advertisement-submissions-new-proposal-under-cognitive-science-research-initiative>

Proposals submission: Only at e-PMS (onlinedst.gov.in) under KIRAN Division in prescribed format of 'CSRI-Individual Research Proposal' or 'CSRI-Multi-Centric Proposal' or 'CSRI-PDF' which is available at e-PMS (onlinedst.gov.in) and at DST website (www.dst.gov.in). **There is no need to submit hardcopies of proposal.**

Contact person: Dr. Vandana Singh, Officer-in-charge, Cognitive Science Research Initiative, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi preferably at email (vandana.singh@nic.in).

Last Date of Proposal Submission in all the Components: 15 March 2021

davp/36101/11/0015/2021

Iran And World Powers Hint At Talks Over Nuclear Deal



Agencies

TEHRAN, IRAN – Unofficial talks between Iran and world powers that signed an ailing 2015 nuclear deal appear to be the only way forward as neither side seems willing to take the first step.

Iran says the United States, which in 2018 unilaterally abandoned the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), must first return to full compliance under the accord by lifting all economic sanctions it imposed.

President Joe Biden has said former US leader Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign has failed, but nevertheless insists Iran must first reverse steps to reduce its commitments under the deal in response to the sanctions.

This week, Iran said it is considering an offer by the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to hold unofficial talks with the P4+1 – China, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and Germany minus the US – that would also include the US as a "guest".

Ali Vaez, director of the Iran Project at the International Crisis Group, said it is likely officials from Tehran and Washington would sit together at an informal meeting hosted by the EU in the coming weeks.

"There, they are likely to agree to an interim set of measures to buy more time for negotiating a timetable for a mutual return to full compliance with the JCPOA," he told Al Jazeera.

The meeting was called in light of Iran's latest move on Tuesday to stop voluntarily implementing the Additional Protocol – a document that gives the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) broad inspection authori-

ties of Iranian nuclear sites.

In a statement after Iran stopped providing the United Nations' nuclear watchdog with short-notice inspection capabilities, the three European signatories of the nuclear deal called the move "dangerous".

"It will significantly constrain the IAEA's access to sites and to safeguards-relevant information," the E3 foreign ministers said. "It will also constrain the IAEA's ability to monitor and verify Iran's nuclear programme and nuclear-related activities."

Three-month window

But an agreement Iran's government reached with the IAEA on Sunday seems to have bought more time for diplomacy.

After IAEA General Director Rafael Grossi travelled to Tehran, the two sides agreed Iran would continue monitoring activities of its nuclear sites, but would not hand over the camera tapes.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran announced that if the US fails to lift sanctions on Iran within those three months, the data would be permanently deleted, leaving a gap in the IAEA's monitoring of the country's nuclear activities.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said earlier this week the US has imposed 1,600 sanctions on Iran, all of which need to be lifted to restore the nuclear deal.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said this week Iran could boost its uranium enrichment to a purity of 60 percent from the current 20 percent if the country needs to, but stressed his nation does not seek nuclear weapons.

On Wednesday, Iran's ambassador in Geneva told the UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament it is up to the United States to make the first move.

"The onus is on the offending party to return, restart, and compensate for the damages as well as to reassure that they would not renege again," Ambassador Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh said.

Myanmar Faces More Protests As Indonesian Diplomatic Efforts Falter

Myanmar was set for more street protests on Wednesday against military rule while Indonesia's efforts steer a path out of the crisis with the help of other Southeast Asian countries appeared to falter with a proposed diplomatic visit scrapped.

This week saw huge rallies and a general strike on Monday to denounce the military's Feb. 1 coup and demand the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, despite a warning from authorities that confrontation could get people killed.

On Tuesday, gatherings were smaller overall but a rally by members of members of different ethnic minorities was taking place in the commercial hub of Yangon, with civil servants from the energy ministry joining in.

"We ethnic minority people haven't had the chance to demand our rights but now we do," said San Aung Li, 26, a member of the Kachin minority.

"So I'm supporting the protest as all ethnic people are, with one voice."

With the protest and a civil disobedience movement paralysing life in Myanmar, Indonesia has been trying to find a way out.

Sources said it proposed a plan centred on members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) sending monitors to ensure the generals stick to their promise to hold fair elections.

The military has not given a time frame for a new election but it imposed a one-year state of emergency when it seized power so it would likely be after that.

But Suu Kyi's party, which swept a Nov. 8 election that the military says was marred by fraud, and its supporters want its victory recognised.

Indonesia's foreign minister, Retno Marsudi, is in Thailand and had been expected to fly to Myanmar but that trip was



off, her ministry said.

"After taking into account current developments and the input of other ASEAN countries, this is not the ideal time to conduct a visit to Myanmar," Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman, Teuku Faizasyah, told a briefing in Jakarta.

On Tuesday, hundreds of protesters gathered outside Indonesia's embassy in Yangon to voice opposition to a new election, demanding that the votes they cast in November be recognised.

The army seized power after alleging fraud in the November elections, detaining Suu Kyi and much of the party leadership.

The electoral commission dismissed the fraud complaints.

The Future Nation Alliance, a Myanmar-based activist group, said earlier in a statement a visit by Retno would be "tantamount to recognising the military junta".

The group demanded foreign officials meet Htin Lin Aung, a member of a committee representing ousted lawmakers, who has been appointed the "sole responsible official for foreign relations".

'HELD TO ACCOUNT'
Indonesia's efforts to resolve the crisis comes as international concern is growing.

The Group of Seven (G7) rich nations on Tuesday condemned intimidation and oppression of those opposing the coup. "Anyone respond-

ing to peaceful protests with violence must be held to account," group foreign ministers said in a statement.

Western nations sought to increase pressure on the junta this week with the European Union warning it was considering sanctions that would target businesses owned by the army.

The United States imposed sanctions on two more members of the junta and warned it could take more action.

China, which has traditionally taken a softer line, said international action should contribute to stability, promote reconciliation and avoid complicating the situation, media reported.

Military chief General Min Aung Hlaing has called for state spending and imports to be cut and exports increased to revive what he called an ailing economy.

He did not link the protests to economic problems but said the authorities were following a democratic path in dealing with them and police were using minimal force, such as rubber bullets, state media reported.

Security forces have shown more restraint compared with earlier crackdowns against people who had pushed for democracy during almost half a century of direct military rule.

Even so, three protesters have been shot and killed. The army has said one policeman died of injuries sustained during the protests. Reuters

Nepal PM Oli Will Not Step Down Despite Court Defeat, Aide Says

KATHMANDU: Nepal's embattled prime minister, K.P. Sharma Oli, will not resign but let parliament decide his fate instead, an aide said on Wednesday, a day after the Supreme Court rejected his decision to dissolve the legislature and call early elections.

The Himalayan nation has been in political turmoil since December, when Oli suddenly dissolved parliament and announced the elections, citing a lack of cooperation on key policy issues by leaders of a rival faction of his ruling party.

Oli, 69, has begun meeting allies in the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to review the situation after the court held parliament's abrupt dissolution unconstitutional and ordered it to be called into session before March 8.

"The prime minister will not resign now. There is no question about that," Surya Thapa, the aide, told Reuters.

"He will face parliament," Thapa added, but did not elaborate.

Thousands of people opposing Oli waved red and white flags bearing the Communist hammer and sickle as they took to the streets in the capital, Kathmandu, for a rally to celebrate the court decision and press the prime minister to resign.

"Oli should pack up his bags and go to Balkot," said 25-year-



old Purna Khadka, a protester whose face was painted in the colours of the party flag, referring to the site of the prime minister's home.

Members of the anti-Oli faction said they rejected his autocratic style of functioning and the latest court order proved his inability to govern.

Lawmakers opposed to the prime minister are holding talks to decide their next move, said Narayan Kaji Shrestha, a senior NCP leader who organised nationwide protests against Oli in the past few months.

Analysts said a power struggle was imminent among Nepal's Communist leaders and uncertainty could last for weeks.

"The political flux will finally reach a climax with a change of prime minister," said Krishna Pokharel, a professor of political science at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan University. Reuters

China Targets Uighurs With More Prosecutions, Prison Terms: HRW



Agencies

China has dramatically increased its prosecution of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang through the formal court system, handing out long prison terms for dubious charges such as "picking quarrels" and giving gifts to overseas relatives, a rights group said on Wednesday.

These criminal convictions are in addition to the detention of an estimated one million Uighurs and other mainly Muslim minorities in internment camps in Xinjiang province.

More than 250,000 people in the northwestern region have been formally sentenced and imprisoned since 2016, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"Despite the veneer of legality, many of those in Xinjiang's prisons are ordinary people who were convicted for going about their lives and practicing their religion," HRW researcher Maya Wang said in a statement.

The US State Department has said China's actions in Xinjiang amount to genocide, while Canadian legislators on Tuesday passed a similar declaration.

Spike in criminal sentences
HRW said criminal sentences in the region had spiked between 2017 and 2019 during a crackdown on Uighurs and other

mainly Muslim minorities. Xinjiang courts sentenced nearly 100,000 people in 2017, up from less than 40,000 in 2016, the organisation said, citing government data.

The rights group said police, prosecutors and courts had been placed under pressure to "deliver swift and harsh punishment" in the name of "counter-terrorism", causing many to be imprisoned without committing any genuine offence.

Sentences were handed out for activities including "telling others 'what is haram and halal'" and bringing gifts to relatives in Turkey, HRW said, noting prison terms have also grown longer.

Prior to 2017, approximately 11 percent of the sentences carried prison terms of more than five years. In 2017, 87 percent did.

China's treatment and incarceration of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang, which includes accusations of forcibly sterilising women and imposing a regime of forced labour, has drawn a growing chorus of international condemnation.

"International pressure on the Chinese government should be escalated for an independent investigation in Xinjiang," Wang said. "That's the best hope for the release of all those unjustly detained or imprisoned."

After initially denying the existence of camps in Xinjiang, Beijing later defended them as vocational training centres or "political education" camps aimed at reducing the appeal of so-called "Islamic extremism".

Foreign minister Wang Yi on Monday said Beijing's treatment of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang was a "shining example" of China's human rights progress.

US Announces It Will Seek Seat On UN Human Rights Council

Agencies

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the United Nations Human Rights Council on Wednesday that Washington will seek a permanent seat on the panel for the 2022-2024 term.

The announcement is the latest instance of President Joe Biden's administration's pivot towards multilateralism and rejection of former leader Donald Trump's "America First" approach.

Trump withdrew from the council in 2018 accusing it of anti-Israeli bias and allowing chronic rights-abusing states as members.

Blinken also called the 47-member council "flawed", but warned in early February the US absence has created a "vacuum" of leadership that has been abused by "countries with authoritarian agendas".

The current membership of Eritrea, Venezuela, China, Russia, and Uzbekistan has been widely criticised among US legislators.

"I'm pleased to announce the United States will seek election to the Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term. We humbly ask for the support of all UN member states in our bid to return to a seat in this body,"



Blinken said in a video address to the Geneva-based body.

The elections for the three-year membership are expected to take place during the UN General Assembly in October. The US will have observer status until then.

"As the United States re-engages, we urge the Human Rights Council to look at how it conducts its business. That includes its disproportionate focus on Israel," Blinken added.

The move is the most recent step in the Biden administration's re-emphasis on the United Nations and international organisations as a whole, although it remains to be seen how much of a leadership role Washington will pursue in the body.

Last week, the US officially returned to the Paris agreement on climate, which seeks to curb global emissions and from which Trump withdrew in 2017, and pledged \$4bn towards global vaccine distribution.

Malaysia Court: Stop Deporting Remaining 114 Myanmar Nationals

Agencies

The High Court of Kuala Lumpur has issued an order to stay the deportation of 114 Myanmar migrants, the only ones left of a group of 1,200 people the Malaysian government sent back to Myanmar in defiance of an earlier ruling.

The court's decision on Wednesday was welcomed by the rights groups Amnesty International and Asylum Access Malaysia, which condemned the move by the government of Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin as a violation of the principle of international human rights.

"We believe the government owes an explanation to the people of Malaysia as to why they chose to defy the court order, and on the identity and status of all 1200 people," said Katrina Jorene Maliamau, executive director of Amnesty International Malaysia.

Kairul Dzaimae Daud, director-general of Malaysia's immigration department, said the group agreed to return "voluntarily" and were sent back on three ships belonging to Myanmar's navy.

Daud said those sent back



"These dangerous deportations have not been properly scrutinised and put individuals at grave risk."

On Tuesday, Malaysia deported 1,086 Myanmar nationals despite a court order temporarily halting the repatriation amid concerns the group could be at risk if they are returned to military-ruled Myanmar.

Despite the court order, the deportations went ahead as scheduled, prompting the court to issue the second stay order on Wednesday.

were all Myanmar nationals detained last year and did not include asylum-seekers or any refugees from the persecuted Rohingya minority. He did not explain why the 114 other Myanmar migrants were left behind.

"Endangering lives of migrants"

The move came just hours after the Kuala Lumpur High Court granted an interim stay barring the removal of the 1,200 people until 10am (02:00 GMT) on Wednesday.

The order was issued in response to a request for a judicial review from Amnesty International and Asylum Access, who said their lives would be at risk and that more than a dozen of the detainees were children with at least one parent in Malaysia.

Despite the court order, the deportations went ahead as scheduled, prompting the court to issue the second stay order on Wednesday.

NEWS MAKERS

Hillary To Co-Write Thriller On State Of Terror

NEW YORK: Former US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her long-time friend Louise Penny will come out with a novel "State of Terror" which will be published on October 12 by Pan Macmillan India.

The story follows a novice Secretary of State who has joined the administration of her rival, a president inaugurated after four years of American leadership that shrank from the world stage.

A series of terrorist attacks throws the global order into disarray, and the Secretary is tasked with assembling a team to unravel the deadly conspiracy, a scheme carefully designed to take advantage of an American government dangerously out of touch and out of power in the places where it counts the most.

This high-stakes thriller of international intrigue features behind-the-scenes global drama informed by details only an insider could know, the publishers said.

"When it was suggested my friend Hillary and I write a political thriller together, I could not say yes fast enough," says Penny.

"What an incredible experience, to get inside the State Department. Inside the White House. Inside the mind of the Secretary of State as high stake crises explode. Before we started, we talked about her time as Secretary of State. What was her worst nightmare? 'State of Terror' is the answer," she says.

Clinton adds, "Writing a thriller with Louise is a dream come true. I've relished every one of her books and their characters, as well as her friendship. Now we're joining our experiences to explore the complex world of high stakes diplomacy and treachery. All is not as it first appears." Jeremy Trevathan, Pan Macmillan publisher, says the "scope, ingenuity and ambition reflect the strength of the creative chemistry" that exists between Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny.

"It's a unique pairing of global real life experience at the highest level and brilliantly honed narrative craft. The characters, their nuanced backstories and the tense, all-too-believable plot leap off the page."

Hillary Clinton, the first woman in US history to become the presidential nominee of a major political party, served as the 67th Secretary of State after nearly four decades in public service advocating on behalf of children and families as an attorney, First Lady, and US Senator. Penny's "Chief Inspector Armand Gamache" novels have been translated into several languages. In 2017, she received the Order of Canada for her contributions to Canadian culture. — PTI

India 'Cow Science' Exam Put Off Amid 'Controversy Over Syllabus'

An nationwide examination on "cow science" in India has been postponed indefinitely after widespread criticism over the propagation of unscientific claims about the animal, which is considered sacred by the country's Hindu majority.

The Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA) or National Cow Commission, set up by the ruling Hindu nationalist government, was to organise the online exam on Thursday.

The syllabus for the exam sparked controversy, with media reporting that it contained unscientific claims such as that cow milk has traces of gold in it and earthquakes occur due to cow slaughter.

"The government's animal husbandry department, under which the commission functions, shelved the exam because of the controversy and furore over the syllabus," an official at the commission said, requesting anonymity.

"The exam was the brainchild of RKA Chairman Vallabhkhai Kathiria whose term ended on February 20. The department will supervise the commission till a new chairman is appointed," he added. The Hindu newspaper reported that the department had disowned the exam which promoted fake claims and pseudoscience.

The commission had "no mandate" to conduct such an examination and any future awareness programme would be conducted on a "scientific basis," the report said, citing department officials.

Chinese Court Orders Man To Pay Ex-Wife \$7,700 For 5 Years Of Housework

BEIJING: A Chinese court has ordered a man to pay his former wife 50,000 yuan (\$7,700) as compensation for housework she did during their five-year marriage, state media reported on Wednesday.

Under a landmark civil code that seeks to better protect the rights of individuals, spouses can seek compensation from their partners in a divorce if they have shouldered more responsibilities - including housework. The woman, who did not work outside the home during the marriage, sought compensation for housework she had done after her husband filed for divorce at a district court in Beijing last year.

The judge ruled in her favour, telling the man to pay 50,000 yuan for her labour, according to state television. He must also pay 2,000 yuan a month to support their child, with other assets such as property to be divided equally. The award of compensation for housework sparked debate on Chinese social media, with many netizens saying the amount was too little.

Locals Kill Leopard In Pulwama

SRINAGAR: A leopard was killed in mob fury after the animal attacked and injured at least two villagers in Pulwama district of south Kashmir on Wednesday. Official sources said that leopard appeared in Pathan village of Pulwama today and attacked the villagers, in which two of them were injured. Later people assembled and attacked the leopard leading to his death,

reported news agency GNS. DFO Suhail Ahmad confirmed said that the animal was killed in "mob fury." "There are reports so far that two villagers were injured by the animal. Subsequently mob assembled and the leopard was killed in mob fury," he said, adding, "An FIR will be registered while post-mortem would be done."

Leopard Cub Caught In Doora

Anantnag: Officials of the wildlife department Wednesday caught a leopard cub in Arampora village of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Locals of the area said that a leopard cub was seen roaming in the area. They said that they immediately informed the Wildlife Department after which a team of employees reached the spot and caught the leopard cub. A wildlife official confirmed the incident and said the department has asked its men to remain alert as there was a possibility that some other leopard cubs may venture out in the area—(KNO)

J&KSA Urges LG To Address Demands Of Horticulture Graduates

SRINAGAR: J&K Students Association Wednesday urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to re-advertise and reframe eligibility criteria for Horticulture Graduate Students. In a Joint Statement, Vice President Junaid Rather and General Secretary of Association Danish Lone urged LG administration to address the genuine grievances of students without any delay. "It is absurd that one-year diploma holders (BHT) are eligible for Horticulture Technician-IV posts whereas the professional degree holders (B. Sc. Horticulture graduates) are not eligible,"

the association said. "Despite holding master's and doctorate degrees in horticulture, all are jobless. Not a single post has been advertised for the degree holders," Junaid said. Lone said that not a single horticulture professional has been absorbed in the department due to faulty eligibility criteria and non referral of posts. "One-year diploma holders are declared as eligible for horticulture Technician-IV posts whereas professional degree holders (B. Sc. Horticulture Graduates) are treated ineligible for the same," he said. (KNS)

IT IS ABSURD THAT ONE-YEAR DIPLOMA holders (BHT) are eligible for Horticulture Technician-IV posts whereas the professional degree holders (B. Sc. Horticulture graduates) are not eligible."

School Edu Dept Orders Closure Of Winter Tutorial Camps

SRINAGAR: As the educational intuitions are set to reopen from March 01, the School Education Department on Wednesday ordered closure of all the winter tutorial camps in Kashmir for 8th to 12th standard students.

Earlier in December last year, the School Education Department had announced winter vacations for all schools of Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu region from December 21 till February 28.

Joint Director (Central) at Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in this regard issued an order.

Meanwhile, the School Education Department earlier this month had said that there were nearly 1500 government schools wherein it had started winter tutorials for the students during the winter vacation period.

In the order, the Joint Director has directed all Chief Education Officers (CEOs) to conclude the winter tutorial camps being functional from January-12-2021 with immediate effect from February 25.

On February 22, the government rescheduled the date for reopening of schools of Jammu and Kashmir up to elementary classes wherein the students have been asked to join the physical academic activities from March-08 instead of March-01—(KNO)

Avian Influenza Confirmed In 10 J&K Districts

SRINAGAR: The cases of Avian Influenza (H5N8), popularly known as Bird flu have been reported in 10 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, however, no case has been reported among poultry birds as of now.



Officials said that the first cases of bird flu among dead crows were reported from Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam and Budgam on 22 January. They said that on 31st January, cases of avian influenza were reported among domestic birds in Udhampur district. They further added in the last few days cases of bird flu among dead crows have been reported from Shopian, Anantnag and Kupwara while some cases were also reported among domestic geese in Bandipora.

have been reported mostly in dead crows only so far.

Officials said that avian influenza cases in crows have been confirmed in Pulwama, Anantnag, Budgam, Kulgam, Baramulla, Kupwara, Shopian and Poonch, while influenza has been confirmed among domestic birds in Udhampur and Bandipora.

He said that no case of bird flu has been reported among poultry birds and there is a need that people must follow precautions like wear masks, wash hands frequently.

Nodal officer for Avian Flu in Kashmir division, Dr Mushtaq Shah said that cases of bird flu

He said that as per government directions, rapid response teams are on the ground and surveillance is being done within one km radius from the spot where cases were reported and samples from nearby poultry farms are also being taken.

"From the spot from where cases have been reported, a radius of 10 km has been declared an alert

zone besides close vigil is being kept to check any unusual mortality," Shah said. Shah said that people can use poultry products if it is cooked well, however, there is a need to follow precautions in letter and spirit.

He also advised that people associated with slaughtering, de-feathering and eviscerating of birds must take precaution to avoid any contraction of the virus.

Pertinently, entry of poultry was banned for some time in J&K after cases of avian influenza were reported from neighbouring states, however, the order was revoked later—(KNO)

J&K Bank REWA-Jammu Holds Meeting

JAMMU: J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association, Jammu Wednesday held its first meeting since COVID-19 situation emerged across the globe. The meeting was convened to restart and bring on track various activities aimed towards the welfare of the retired employees of J&K Bank, which had to be kept on hold on account of restrictions enforced by the authorities to tackle and contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

continued its operations unhindered and ensured none of its customers or the general public had to suffer for the want of Banking facilities, even during the most difficult phases of the pandemic.

"The agenda also included to address certain issues faced by the pensioners of the Bank," a statement of the association said.

President of the association S Mohinder Singh and General Secretary R K Bhan thanked the members for the pecuniary contributions made by them towards the Prime Minister's Care Fund during the lockdown phase.

Singh lauded the role of J&K Bank's Chairman & MD R. K. Chhibber for smoothly steering the Bank through difficult times being witnessed by one and all, on account of the pandemic.

He stated that it was under the able leadership of the incumbent CMD that the Bank

Both President & General Secretary added that it was very satisfying to note that their Bank was back on track of growth and progress, with the financial results of last few quarters being very encourag-

ing. They noted that despite extremely turbulent times witnessed in the entire economy, J&K Bank was recording profits, while further strengthening its balance sheet by making ample provisions.

On behalf of the Association, Singh extended gratitude to the Chairman of the Bank for always adopting a proactive approach in resolving any issue concerning the welfare of Bank's pensioners.

The statement said that the members also acknowledged that the transparency and accountability brought about in the overall functioning of the Bank since Chhibber took over has vastly improved the general perception of the Bank amongst all its stakeholders, including the general public.

The members added that the recruitment drive initiated by the Bank under the leadership of the current CMD has rekindled immense hope amongst the local youth of our UT, as they look up towards the Bank with expectations of respectable and growth oriented employment opportunities. With new faces being inducted in the Bank, the energy that young employees bring along with them will surely get channelized into better customer services.

The meeting concluded with the members wishing the Bank all the success and prosperity in the future.

Committees Framed For FRA Implementation In Budgam

BUDGAM: A meeting to discuss modalities and provisions about the Forest Rights Act was held Wednesday attended, among others, by DDC, Chairperson Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan besides DDC and BDC members of the district.

During the meeting, DFO Budgam Mohammad Ashraf threw light on the modalities and various prospectus of this Act. He said, anyone having possession or residing on the forest land before 13th December 2005 will be a contender for ownership rights. Simultaneously, any person having occupied the forest land or presently residing beyond January 2006 has no right to claim any ownership rights. He informed that 294 such committees have been constituted/framed so far.

While speaking on the occasion, Nazir appealed the concerned authorities to ensure that every genuine person shall get his due while implementing the Act as the families concerned with this process are economically and socially under privileged. He said it shall be our prime responsibility to take all stakeholders along while framing and formulating committees responsible to identify the genuine beneficiaries.

The meeting among others was also attended by ADC, ACR Budgam and other concerned sectoral officers besides officials from the Forest Department.

Fake Job Racket Busted In Kreeri

BARAMULLA: Jammu and Kashmir Police Wednesday busted a fake job racket in Kreeri area of Pattan in north Kashmir's Baramulla district and seized fake appointment order's of the Forest Department.

tered in Police Station Kreeri and investigation initiated.

Police sources told news gathering agency CNS that Police Station Kreeri had received a written complaint from a local resident of Tilgam Pattan Ghulam Mohammad Rather that a person Tariq Asadullah Dar of Watergam Kreeri cheated him with forged appointment order of Forest Department.

During the course of investigations it surfaced that the said accused along with others are running fake job racket and have deceived many people by collecting hefty amounts for providing them job's in Government Departments in the area.

Accordingly FIR under relevant sections of the law was regis-

The accused of the "gang" is still absconding and Police is in search of him. Several fake orders also have been seized.

SHO Police Station Kreeri Athar Parvaiz told CNS that investigations into the case is going on and the main accused will be arrested soon.

بٹ خاندان کو صدمہ

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور آنسوؤں کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ڈاکٹر عاشق حسین ولد غلام محمد الدین زوار ساکنہ باغبان پورہ لاہور 22 فروری 2021ء سو ماہ اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔ ڈاکٹر عاشق حسین کی بے وقت موت ایک عظیم سانحہ ہے۔ علاقے کا ہر مرد و زن کا دل غم سے لبریز اور ہر آنکھ اشکبار ہے۔ مرحوم ایک روشن ضمیر، حق شناس اور نیک اوصاف ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ سخت اہل بیت تھے۔ اللہ تبارک و تعالیٰ مرحوم کو کریم کریم جنت الفردوس نصیب کرے اور لواحقین کو صبر جمیل عطا فرمائے۔ آمین۔ مرحوم کا چہرام 25 فروری 2021ء بروز جمعرات 7:30 بجے ان کے آبائی قبرستان باغبان پورہ لاہور میں انجام دیا جائے گا۔ اسکے بعد نوحہ جرائد حکومت خانے پر فائز خوانی جاری رہے گی۔

سوگواران
غلام محمد الدین بٹ زوار، شفاعت حسین بٹ، محمد یوسف حسینی
بانی احباب و اقرارب
فون نمبر: 9906432486, 7780961663

Info

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ESTATES DIVISION, SRINAGAR.**
B
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
FRESH NIT NO.132/XEN/EDS/2020-21 OF 02/2021

Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K invites tenders by E-tendering on item rate basis from approved and eligible Registered Approved Suppliers/Dealers/Electric Contractors with Union Territory J&K / CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (Amt In Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Supply Installation, Testing And commissioning of 15KVA 3-Phase UPS and other items in the Office Chamber of Hon'ble LG at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.	2.55lacs	200/-	20 Days	Approved Suppliers/Dealers/ Electric Contractors	4059-(ME) Plan

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of funds: Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24.02.2021 from 4.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	24.02.2021 from 4.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	02.03.2021 upto 3.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02.03.2021 at 3.05 PM.

In the office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under Major Head-0216/Revenue (Others) in favour of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

3. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of advertised cost as performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP is over.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Estates Division, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.

No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/5491-5500/2020-21/T-1
Dated: -24-02-2021

DIPK-13841/20

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
General Administration Department.
Civil Secretariat,
Srinagar/Jammu.
NOTICE INVITING DISCOUNT OFFER

Discount offers are invited from Registered Distributors/ Suppliers for supply of books (Annexure 'A') to the General Administration Department, Library at Civil Secretariat, Jammu. The date of submission of sealed offers, affixed with Revenue stamp of the value of Rs. 2.00 which was previously fixed as 10.02.2021 is hereby extended upto **28.02.2021 (4:30 pm)**. The offer shall reach the office of the undersigned through speed post/ by hand/ Courier. The offer shall be subject to following terms & conditions:-

Terms & Conditions

- The offers shall be accompanied by earnest money in the shape of a CDR from a scheduled bank for amount of Rs.3000/= (Rupees three thousand only) pledged to Director Finance, General Administration Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- The discount should be offered on latest edition books which are in good condition to be placed in Library for the purpose.
- The rates indicated in the offer should be inclusive of all taxes, freight & other charges.
- Successful Distributors/ Suppliers shall supply the books within 10 days from the date of issue of supply order.
- In case the successful Distributor/ Supplier fails to make the supplies within the specified period, the purchase Committee shall forfeit the earnest money deposited and also impose penalty as warranted under rules.
- The Purchase committee has a right to accept or reject all or any offer without assigning any reasons thereof.
- The list of books mentioned in Annexure "A" is available at www.jkgad.nic.in.

Deputy Secretary to Government
General Administration Department

DIPK-13844/20
No: Adm/Lib-12/1-09
Dated 23 - 02 - 2021

K O V I E W

Talks with Taliban

Intra-Afghan talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government have resumed in Doha, the first time after assumption of office by Joe Biden in the US. The recent weeks have witnessed an escalating graph of violence in the war-torn country. Biden administration has sought to review the agreement reached between the Trump administration and Taliban in February last year. There is an emerging consensus about the delay in withdrawal deadline. The US is also toying with the idea of leaving behind an intelligence-based force that would focus on 'counterterrorism' and the ISIS affiliate in eastern Afghanistan.

But Taliban wants the US to stick to the agreement. Last week, the Taliban in an open letter called on the US to abide by the Doha agreement and assured it of its commitment to securing US security interests in the country. The Taliban have also opposed even a brief extension of withdrawal deadline.

There are 10,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan including 2500 US troops. In the weeks ahead, it will be important to see how the US will review the Doha accord. It is, however, unlikely that the Biden administration will depart in any conspicuous way from the accord. Already, the US has retained the diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad, who negotiated the US agreement with the Taliban. At the same time, the US has also reached out to Pakistani and its Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Pakistan's participation is seen as critical to the success of the Doha accord and consequent peace in Afghanistan. As of now, the US wants a drastic reduction of violence and the Taliban agreeing to a ceasefire.

However, it will be a while before the the US-Taliban and the Taliban-Afghan government reaches its logical conclusion and peace returns to the country. Eventually the stability in Afghanistan will have to be the responsibility of the regional powers. The conflict in Afghanistan is now so much enmeshed with the regional rivalries and the issues that it appears improbable that there would be long term stability in Kabul unless steps are taken to get the regional countries cooperate to end the forty year long bloodshed in the country. The deeply challenging project of a peaceful Afghanistan, therefore, demands a broader regional cooperation, more so, between India and Pakistan. It is only hoped that New Delhi and Islamabad realizing the momentous changes sweeping through region will cooperate to not only steer the region through the fraught transition of a post-US Afghanistan but also take concrete steps to address their lingering differences which alone will be the guarantee for a sustainably peaceful South Asia and the broader region.

OTHER OPINION

Petrol@100

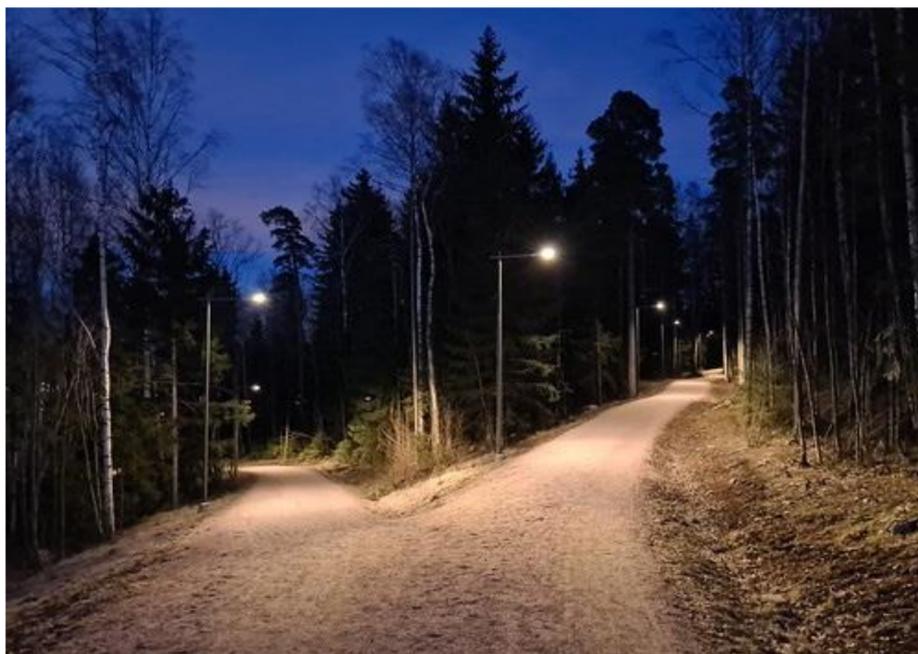
In several parts of the country, petrol prices have either touched or are nearing a record high of Rs 100 per litre. While the recent rise can be traced in part to the firming up of global crude oil prices — the Indian crude oil price basket has risen from \$40.66/bbl in October last year to \$54.79 in January — this hardening of prices is amplified by the inordinately high fuel taxes imposed by governments. With global demand firming up — a quick rollout of the COVID vaccine could provide a fillip — crude oil prices may well harden further, leading to higher retail prices, unless the high levels of indirect taxes are rolled back by central and state governments in a calibrated manner.

While numbers vary across states, a significant part of the retail fuel cost is attributable to the levy of taxes by both central and state governments. Take Delhi, for instance. According to data from the Indian Oil Corporation, the retail price on February 16 stood at Rs 89.29 per litre. Of this, the basic fuel cost is Rs 31.82, while Rs 32 is on account of excise duty and Rs 20.61 is due to the levy of a value added tax. This implies that roughly 60 per cent (37 per cent on account of excise duty and 23 per cent on account of VAT) of the total retail price of petrol is due to central and state taxes. A consequence of such high fuel taxes is that income from the petroleum sector now accounts for a significant source of revenue for both central and state governments. According to data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, the total contribution of the petroleum sector to central government coffers has risen from Rs 1.72 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 3.34 lakh crore in 2019-20, while for state governments, it has risen Rs 1.6 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 2.21 lakh crore in 2019-20.

Notwithstanding that high fuel prices reduce households' discretionary spending and are inflationary — the monetary policy committee noted that unwinding the taxes on petroleum products by both Centre and states would ease cost push pressures — the excessive reliance on higher fuel taxes to shore up revenue also underlines the limited ability of the government to raise money through other sources. According to the 15th Finance Commission, buoyancy in direct taxes fell to 1.1 during 2011-12 to 2018-19, from 1.8 in the previous decade. Collections through the goods and services tax have also been lacklustre — according to the Finance Commission, the gap between potential GST revenue and current realisations is around 2 per cent of GDP. If crude oil prices firm up further, the limits of this strategy of extracting more revenue from an already overtaxed fuel sector will be tested. A more prudent alternative would be for the government to focus on increasing revenue through better direct tax and GST compliance.

The Indian Express

Liberal democracy is on a perilous path



SAAD HAFIZ

Many Americans have lost confidence in the political leadership and democratic system. But mere populist slogans or violence won't address complex political, economic, and social problems. The best hope is a revival of the original promise of liberal democracy, where working people feel part of the system. A refreshed commitment towards a fairer society, human rights, and justice.

As matters calm down after the bloody events preceding the transfer of power in Washington, one conclusion is palpably evident. Many Americans have lost confidence in the political leadership and democratic system. Their disenchantment with liberal democracy poses a deadly threat. It has created fertile ground for populist demagogues to tap into deep-seated grievances.

A most alarming development is that a minority of extremists have resorted to mob violence to overturn the verified results of free and fair elections. Their crude attempts to subvert the rule of law have created a volatile environment. Those individuals and organizations involved in unlawful activities must face the full force of the law.

The spectacle of the ransacking of the bastion of American democracy by anti-democratic forces will linger for some time. America's claims of being a model democracy are in tatters. It is a disturbing development for pro-democratic forces throughout the world.

But mere populist slogans or violence won't address complex political, economic, and social problems. These problems need sober analysis and concrete actions.

According to a report in 2020 from the University of Cambridge Center for the Future of Democracy, 55% of Americans are dissatisfied with the system of government. The report suggests that the deep democratic malaise is due to the government's failure to manage financial crises and growing inequality.

Partisanship and gridlock in Washington add to democracy's woes. Convincing Americans who feel that democracy is a luxury that they are on the wrong path is increasingly difficult. Politics divided by left and right extremes, unable to find common ground, just isn't working. But the alternatives are authoritarianism and autocracy, a slippery slope to disaster.

It's not surprising that economic issues drive the growing disillusion-

ment with the political system. As an example, participants in focus groups organized in the US and UK by the Pew Research Center in 2019 felt "left behind". They blamed the forces of globalization for closing industries, causing people to abandon their homes and harming them economically.

Since the 1990s, the globalization of manufacturing jobs has hit some key areas and industries in the US and other western democracies. The primary reason is that multinational corporations, eyeing increased profits, moved operations to lesser developed countries.

Globalization is blamed for stagnating incomes and job losses in developed economies. It has left an insecure workforce and caused deep divisions in society between the winners and losers. They include rural and urban voters in the US spread across generations.

The losers see globalization as a big win for multinational businesses and their shareholders, the Wall Street fat cats. A large group of voters blames Washington politicians for unfair trade deals and their reduced standard of living. As income inequalities rise, these disgruntled voters support politicians who advocate a return to protectionism and imposing curbs on immigration.

Advocates pitched globalization as a win-win strategy for both rich and poorer countries. That consumers in rich countries could access inexpensive products made by workers in developing countries at a lower cost. And as trade barriers dropped, economic expansion and global political cooperation would ensue.

There's no doubt that globalization has helped lesser-developed countries to export low-cost products to new markets. The downside is the exploitation of cheap labor and abysmal working conditions in many developing countries.

But many working people in rich countries, long pampered by consumer capitalism, have lost out. They see globalization as a negative wealth transfer and fear for the future for themselves and their families. This crisis of confidence is hard to manage in a democracy as economic issues

impact voting decisions.

While it is too late to stop globalization, it is possible to mitigate its excesses through fair trade agreements and competition, and more innovation. Another way to lessen its impact is the partial reinvestment of corporate profits earned through globalization. Such investments can help in the revitalization of industries, leading to the creation of new jobs, in affected areas in the US.

At the same time, the hardening of the social and class divide is another crucial challenge to liberal democracy. It is not just less well-off Americans, losing out to globalization, who are questioning the value of democracy. Richer Americans, fearing policies that favor a redistribution of wealth, are growing increasingly impatient with democratic institutions.

There is no simple way out of the mess that liberal democracy finds itself in the US and elsewhere. Unlike dictatorships, democracies can't force unity at gunpoint to counter alienation. Visionary leadership, Democrat and Republican are needed to bring around angry voters. Americans need a powerful message of renewal in the shared purpose and common destiny in the liberal democratic system.

Most importantly, the pillars of American democracy: an independent judiciary, freedom of the press, the rule of law, and civil associations (secular and religious) need safeguards. It would be a grave mistake if America allows the erosions of these vital democratic institutions.

The best hope is a revival of the original promise of liberal democracy, where working people feel part of the system. A refreshed commitment towards a fairer society, human rights, and justice. Otherwise, liberal democracy, unable to deal with political, economic, and social challenges, faces a perilous future.

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



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Qaleen Bafi: The Wilting Art of Kashmir

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

The craft of weaving Qaleens is practiced mostly by people in rural areas. The carpets are woven on a large wooden loom having two logs fixed hori-

zontally. White threads are carefully tied on these logs which form the base of the carpet. In Kashmir, either cotton or silk threads are used as the base of the carpet. The deadline for weaving a carpet is fixed by the middleman who buys the carpets from the artisans. The price depends upon the material used in the carpets. The carpets are made of three types: silk on silk, silk on cotton and art silk on cotton. The carpet trade is Rs 650 crore strong with a majority of products worth Rs 412.45 crores exported to United States, Germany, France, United

Kingdom and Gulf countries. However these huge prices haven't changed the lives of the artisans.

Due to less returns, many artisans are switching their profession and the children of artisans are pursuing different professions. Another factor which has contributed to the decline in the art of weaving Qaleens is the decrease in the production of world renowned Kashmiri silk which has forced the dealers and government to import silk from outside. The carpet industry is not regulated by the state

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

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Underwhelming Tourism infrastructure in Kashmir

SHAKIR SHAFIQ QADRI

The magnificent beauty that nature has bestowed upon our valley and the welcoming behavior of our gracious people can only take us so far. The 21st century tourist demands more than this.

It's a gorgeous Sunday afternoon. You are basking in the soft warmth of the sun when you hear a knock on your door. To your great pleasure, you receive an invitation from your relative to be a guest at a traditional Kashmiri wedding. The thought of enjoying mouth-watering 'Wazwan' enthralls you. Come the wedding day, you put on the best dress in your closet; you wear the most expensive perfume and envelop a hefty sum of money to be given away as the wedding gift or 'Vartaav'. You almost decide in favour of taking a friend long but eventually drop the idea. You leave the comfort of your home but just as you reach your destination, you find out that there is no parking space available. You go through a lot of hassle and finally get to park your vehicle half a mile away from the wedding house. Your beautiful dress glistens in sweat and is covered in dust but still enthusiastic, you walk to the wedding house only to see a crowd of people waiting outside. It is revealed to you that the 'Shamyana' is still being put into place and that the 'Vartaav' is being collected in the mean time. Your money filled envelope is snatched out of your hands by a relative despite your best efforts to hold on to it. You stand outside in a crowd feeling unimportant and insulted but the thought of having a full course 'Wazwan' is what keeps you from throwing a hissy fit. When the time arrives and you finally get to eat, you find out that the 'Traami' doesn't include your favorite dishes; the ones that you were craving most. Feeling disappointed, you finish eating and head back to your car only to find out that it has been taken away by transport authorities for wrong parking. It's a nightmare and too much to take for a sensitive person like you. And it is then and there that you vow that you will never respond to an invitation if it comes from this relative of yours. You thank your stars that you didn't bring your friend along to experience it otherwise you wouldn't have heard the end of it. You take another vow: To never recommend anyone to visit this relative who had been the worst of hosts to you. But what drove you to take such vows?

The tourist that visits any destination is much more sensitive than a guest that visits a wedding party. She plans her trip for months, considers her budget, explores the vast array of options in the world of tourism, chooses Kashmir as her go to destination and waits with tremendous excitement



before she finally leaves the comfort of her home to give Kashmir the opportunity to host her. How appalling a dishonor to such an opportunity it is that many a time we fall short of providing a fulfilling experience to such a tourist, owing to our limitations on the basic infrastructure front. The infrastructure that is being referred to here includes good roads, appropriate parking spaces, uninterrupted telecom connectivity, robustly working public transport system, qualified human resource, measures to ensure safety and security, so on and so forth.

It has become a cliché to call Kashmir the heaven on earth. It's a brilliant piece of marketing that every time someone utters the word 'Kashmir', the same slogan of Kashmir being paradise comes to our mind. Another feature of the tourism experience that Kashmir offers is its world renowned hospitality. From a street vendor to a general manager of a five star hotel, everybody works tirelessly with smiles on their faces to be a cause of pleasure for Kashmir's guests. However, the magnificent beauty that nature has bestowed upon our valley and the welcoming behavior of our gracious people can only take us so far. The 21st century tourist demands more than this. She demands a wholesome experience where she could get away from the worries of the corporate world that she is trying to get a break from. She insists for a unique feel which could present to her something different than what she has already felt in her previous travels. In the sphere of tourism, destinations across the globe are coming up with effective strategies to

attract more number of tourists. For instance, Japan is seeing a surge in the number of its inbound tourists due to its advances in robotics. Tourism stakeholders have used Japan's scientific growth to draw hordes of people to it by organizing novel robotics fairs. However, this innovative niche market could only be thought of when Japan had already developed the basic infrastructure which could act as a foundation to any future strategies. In a similar manner, booming economies like UAE are examining the prospects of making the highly lucrative space tourism a reality for elite tourists. Could it be imagined that UAE would have conceived the idea of sending tourists to space if they didn't even have well built roads to show to the average tourist who visits the country? The very thought of it is laughable! It wouldn't be marketing but DE-MARKETING of the highest order which would in fact push tourists away.

In a world where nations are exhausting their energies in order to come up with brand new USPs for their tourism products, how long can we hold on to the 'Kashmir is paradise' slogan while calling tourists to visit us? How long should we be dependent solely upon Kashmir's natural beauty to be a pull factor for tourists without supplementing it with the required infrastructure? How long before the massive potholes on our roads make a statement louder than our 'Kashmir is paradise' slogan?

Indeed we have marketed Kashmir as a destination for nature tourism which in theory doesn't require us to necessarily build, for example, enough

parking lots, but it isn't farfetched to say that the excuse of nature tourism has made us lethargic. Or perhaps if we flip the argument, we would notice that it is due to our sluggish attitude that we don't even try to nourish this nature tourism that we boast about. Again, a problem that could be associated with an aspect of infrastructural support, that is, lack of determined human resources.

The concerned governmental bodies like J&K Tourism Development Corporation and J&K Tourism invest an unimaginable amount of public money for purposes of aggressive marketing of Kashmir as a tourist destination. The financial capital is, for instance, utilized for the purpose of arranging national and international tours for Tourism officials who aren't even tourism professionals equipped with relevant academic backgrounds. The picture which is then painted to the target market is so rosy that many a time we fall short to deliver in accordance with the expectations of the inbound tourist; the expectations which WE had raised in the first place without having put quality infrastructure in place. Wouldn't it be in our own interests that a portion of this money be used for purposes of enhancing our Tourism product before going out all guns blazing on the marketing front? For example, there is a dire need of raising the skill levels of Tourism professionals and stakeholders in the state through proper counseling and awareness programs but little attention is given to it.

The tourism industry, unlike most other industries, isn't confined by set boundaries. It draws strength from all aspects of the society, both tangible and intangible. Increasing the annual tourist footfall is no mean feat and requires us to channelize all our energies and talents to create synergy. It requires a holistic approach so that we could present a well nurtured soul of our beloved Kashmir, the allure of which would then compel a tourist to keep coming back and ask for more.

The author is a Master of tourism management and can be reached at Email ID: sqadri53@gmail.com

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

The Commuter's Paradox

There's something to gain in the space between home and work

MEG ELKINS &

ROBERT HOFFMANN

For many of us, one of the upsides of 2020 was being freed from the grind of the daily commute.

For the 40% of the workforce able to "telecommute", COVID-19 social distancing measures saved us an average of about an hour a day – and much more for those of us living in the outer suburbs of cities.

Studies show the morning commute is the least favourite part of the day, and the commute home the third-least favourite (working is the second-least favourite).

Congestion, crowding and unpredictability increase stress and dissatisfaction. The longer it takes, and the more we have to do in the company of others, the more we dislike it.

But it's also possible to miss aspects of that enforced time between work and home. For all its downsides, the daily commute does have some positives, acting as both a starter button and circuit breaker to differentiate work from home life.

As life returns to "normal" and employers ask us to return to the workplace, thinking consciously about those benefits can help make the most of your commute.

A commuting constant

Though we think of commuting as a modern phenomenon, spending time getting to and from work is as old as humanity. Hunting and gathering (going back 200,000 years), farming (about 10,000 years), and living in cities (about 5,000 years) all involved leaving and returning home. These routines seem to have ingrained in us an idea of acceptable travel times.

In 1994 an Italian physicist, Cesare Marchetti, wrote a paper, 'Anthropological Invariants in Travel Behaviour', on the "quintessential unity of travelling in-



So we shouldn't necessarily spurn the return to the daily commute. Yes, there are downsides, but being conscious of the psychological benefits enables you to maximise its benefits. Rather than thinking of it as dead time, think of it as "me" time.

stincts around the world, above culture, race and religion".

Drawing on the work of Israeli transport analyst Yacov Zahavi, Marchetti proposed humans had always been willing to spend about an hour a day travelling from and to home.

This idea of commuting time being 30 minutes each way has become known as Marchetti's Constant. In a 2001 paper, travel researchers Lothlorien Redmond

and Patricia Mokhtarian found most people's ideal commute time was, in fact, less – an average of 16 minutes – but their results also confirmed the dislike of any commute longer than 35 minutes.

A psychological buffer

The longer the commute times, the more stressed and dissatisfied we feel.

Yet without time between home and work, there's also a downside. As Mar-

chetti wrote: "Even people in prison for a life sentence, having nothing to do and nowhere to go, walk around for one hour a day, in the open."

Commuting can be a ritual that helps us psychologically separate home life and work – switching off from personal concerns in the morning, and then detaching from work worries in the evening. A huge body of research over the past four decades show this "psychological distance"

is crucial to well-being.

Research also shows that switching from our home to work "identities" carries cognitive demands. A buffer between the two can help make this transition.

It is possible to achieve this psychological distancing without a commute, of course – by going for a morning walk and changing into work clothes – but the demands of both family and work responsibilities often mean we don't make that time.

Making the most of your commute

So we shouldn't necessarily spurn the return to the daily commute. Yes, there are downsides, but being conscious of the psychological benefits enables you to maximise its benefits.

Rather than thinking of it as dead time, think of it as "me" time.

In the morning, use your commute to plan your day. Research has found this increases satisfaction at work and makes longer commutes more palatable. Maintaining small routines on the way has also been found to help.

In the evening, use the time to unwind with pleasurable activities such as reading, playing mobile games, calling a friend or family member, listening to music or a podcast. These are activities you won't necessarily have time for once you get home.

Doing nothing is good too. Many of us have little time for idle thoughts. Here's a chance to let your mind wander. Free thought time helps to solve problems and inspire creativity.

And, of course, switch to walking or cycling if you can. Along with the "alone" time it gives you, physical activity is strongly associated with higher overall happiness.

You can't necessarily control the amount of time you spend commuting, but you can control what you get out of it.

By Arrangements With The Conversation

Positive encouragement may up academic outcomes in school kids

Agencies

Offering students more positive encouragement not only reduces disruptive classroom behaviour, but can improve students' academic and social outcomes, say researchers.

The findings, published in the Journal of Educational Psychology, indicated that a behaviour management intervention helped increase student engagement and boosted the teachers' confidence in their ability to manage disruptive behaviour.

"As educators, we

often focus on communicating what we don't want our students to be doing in class, but we have found that just doesn't work," said researcher Keith Herman from the University of Missouri in the US.

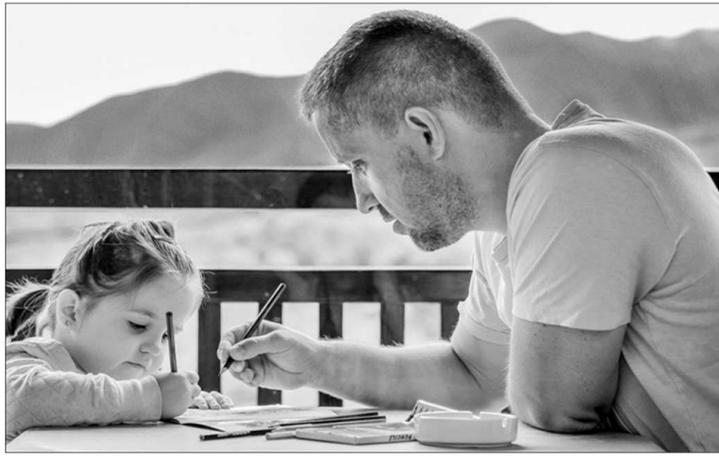
"Instead, we need to be setting clear expectations of what behaviours we do want to be seeing," Herman added.

For the study, the researchers implemented CHAMPS, a classroom behaviour management training intervention, into a school classroom over the course of five years.

The intervention not only decreased disruptive classroom be-

haviour and student concentration problems, but also improved both completed class work and standardized test scores, as well as increased the amount of time students remained on task with classroom assignments.

"The intervention is based off principles and practices research has shown to be helpful in creating successful classroom management, such as communicating clear expectations to students, giving more positive encouragement compared to negative reprimands and moving around the classroom to monitor student behaviour," Herman said.



Young drivers find music is a must as more stimulus helps their driving ability

Agencies

Driving is "absolutely impossible" without music, suggested the findings of a new study led by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) researchers.

The novel study was published in the journal Psychomusicology: Music, Mind, and Brain.

"To young drivers 18-29, music in the car isn't just entertainment, it's part of their atmosphere whether they're alone or not," said Prof. Warren Brodsky, director of the BGU Music Science Lab in the Department of the Arts.

"They are so used to constant stimulation and absorbing great amounts of information throughout the day, that they don't question how the type of tunes they play might affect concentration, induce aggressive behaviour, or cause them to miscalculate risky situations," added Brodsky.

"As the fastest growing research university in Israel, BGU provides studies that give us great insight

into the causes and effects of human behavior," said Doug Seserman, chief executive officer, American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.



"Music is an essential, universal language which we can all appreciate. Undoubtedly, though, the concerns that stem from the results of this study are worth considering," added Seserman.

According to the study published, 140 young adults responded

to a 67-item questionnaire exploring how drivers engage with music while driving. Ironically, most of the respondents (80 per cent) claimed it was not only "difficult," but sometimes "near impossible" to concentrate on traffic and road conditions without music playing.

And once they arrive, most of the respondents will stay in their car at their destination until the song ends.

Almost all drivers (97 per cent), report listening to many short songs on long trips, and 65 per cent played "fast-paced" music while driving to work. More than two-thirds (76 per cent) play more "liberating" dance songs when on vacation or a holiday outing, 90 per cent play "upbeat" dance music on the way to a party.

"These young drivers believe that more stimulus actually helps their driving abilities," Brodsky said. "This could become more of an issue in the future, when it becomes critical to disengage from music and assume control in an autonomous vehicle."

Gardening, walking preserve women's mobility during aging: Study

Agencies

Light-intensity physical activity, including gardening, shopping or a casual walk may protect mobility in older women, suggests a new study.

The study indicated that women who did not have a mobility disability at the start of the study, and who spent the most amount of time doing light-intensity activities, were 40 per cent less likely to experience loss of mobility over a six-year period.

"Older adults who want to maintain their mobility should know that all movement, not just moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, counts," said researcher Andrea LaCroix from the University of California - San Diego.

"We found that, among older women, light-intensity physical activity preserves mobility later in life," LaCroix added. According to the researchers, one in four women over age 65 is unable to walk two blocks or climb a flight of stairs. Known as a mobility disability, it is the leading type of incapacity in the US and a key contributor to a person's loss of independence.

For the study, published in the journal JAMA Network Open, the team involved 5,735 women age 63 and older. Participants wore a research-grade accelerometer for seven days to obtain accurate measures of their physical activity. The mean time spent in light physical activity was 4.8 hours per day.

Researchers found that women who spent the most time performing light-intensity physical activity had a 46 per cent lower risk of mobility loss compared to women who participated in lower levels of physical activity.

ازنیابت چندروسہ
 عنوان: مضمون درخاست نمونہ ہائے وائی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ
 برآمد مطلقاً RBA تحت SRO294
 اشعار برآمد آگاہی بر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخاست سائنس و فزکس میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے جہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائنس سائنس چندروسہ کا سکولت دار ہے کہ سائنس کی مہارت آمدنی مبلغ 10000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہندہ بڑیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 65 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 58 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 23 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 20 سال
 اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا نذر یا اعتراض سائبر ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میناڈا کرنے کے بعد کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔
 ایم کے نامب قہیدار چندروسہ

ازنیابت چندروسہ
 عنوان: مضمون درخاست نمونہ ہائے وائی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ
 برآمد مطلقاً RBA تحت SRO294
 اشعار برآمد آگاہی بر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخاست سائنس و فزکس میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے جہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائنس سائنس چندروسہ کا سکولت دار ہے کہ سائنس کی مہارت آمدنی مبلغ 12000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہندہ بڑیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 50 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 45 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 17 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 16 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 10 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 09 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 05 سال
 اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا نذر یا اعتراض سائبر ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میناڈا کرنے کے بعد کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔
 ایم کے نامب قہیدار چندروسہ

ازنیابت چندروسہ
 عنوان: مضمون درخاست نمونہ ہائے وائی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ
 برآمد مطلقاً PSC تحت SRO294
 اشعار برآمد آگاہی بر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخاست سائنس و فزکس میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پنداری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالت ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے جہاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائنس سائنس چندروسہ کا سکولت دار ہے اور پنداری پورے والے حلقہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہے کہ سائنس سائنس چندروسہ کا سکولت دار ہے کہ سائنس کی مہارت آمدنی مبلغ 10000 روپے تک ہے۔ کہندہ بڑیں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 55 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 50 سال
 آئی جی ایم سائنس چندروسہ عمر رسیدہ 20 سال
 اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا نذر یا اعتراض سائبر ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میناڈا کرنے کے بعد کوئی نذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔
 ایم کے نامب قہیدار چندروسہ

PUBLIC NOTICE
 I am applying for the issuance of Pesticides license under Name and Style "Shah Pesticides Sharatpora Shopian" If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Zahoor Ahmad Shah
 S/o Ab. Majeed Shah
 R/o Sharatpora Shopian
 ast

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
 Tel/Fax: 0194-2433590- ,2437647 (srinagar) : 0191-2479371, 2470102 (jammu) website: http://www. iakbopee.org. email: ceoiaakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:- **Admission/ Up-gradation (Second Round Physical) Counselling of BAMS/BUMS/BPT courses-2020 — extension in joining time thereof.**

Notice No. 25-BOPEE of 2021
Dated: 23- 02-2021

It is hereby notified that the time of joining of candidates selected/upgraded during the second round of physical counselling of BAMS/BUMS/BPT courses-2020, issued vide Notification No. 026-BOPEE of 2021 dated:20-02-2021, is hereby extended upto 26th instant (3.00 p.m.). The Colleges/Institutions shall submit the shortfall on 26-02-2021 at 4.00 p.m. positively.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as envisaged in e-Information Brochure/Notifications/Notices issued by the Board from time to time on the subject.

E&OE
 DPK-NB-5901/20
 No: BOPEE/EXAM-35/2020
 Dated 23-02-2021

(Dr Sunil Gupta)
 Controller Of Examinations
 J&K BOPEE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION BIJBEHARA, KPDCL
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xenstdbijbehara@yahoo.com / xenstdbijbehara@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 Re tendering of e-NITNO.STB/28 of 2020-21 ; Dated:12-02-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In one Cover System) are hereby invited from registered (A-class) Electrical Contractors registered with Inspection Agency of JKPDCL/or any other relevant Government agency enlisted with CPWD, MES, Railway, DGBRO of appropriate class for Supply of T&P material for Sub Transmission Division Bijbehara. The details are as under:

S.No	SCOPE OF WORK	Last date for Submission of e-Bid
1.	Supply of T&P material for sub Transmission Division Bijbehara	26 th Feb 2021; 2:00 PM

1. The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of down loading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	14 February , 2021; 1:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	26 February , 2021; 2:00 AM
D	Clarifications start date	14 February , 2021; 1:00 PM
E	Clarifications end date	18 February , 2021; 1:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	18 February , 2021; 1:00 PM
G	e-Bid submission (end) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	26 February , 2021; 02:00 PM
H	Online Commercial, Technical & Financial e-Bid opening date & Time	27 February , 2021; 02:00 PM
I	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division, Bijbehara
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 500 (Rupees five hundred only) (Non-refundable)
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand Only.)

2. There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No. A/24(2017)-65; Dated: 07-06-2018

3. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of cost of tender document. The cost of tender document should be paid through e- challan/ treasury challan /receipt.

4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee only, pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub-transmission Division Bijbehara. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Subtransmission Division Bijbehara through speed post, Courier or by hand.

5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.

6. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.

7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

8. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

9. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

Sd/
 Executive Engineer
 Sub Transmission Division
 Bijbehara

NO:STB/ 3780-84
 DPK-NB-5904/20
 :Dated: 12-02-2021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer
Generation Division LJHP Baramulla
 (Email: xeneljhp@gmail.com)
 No. GD/LJHP/2366-70
 Dated 24-02-2021

Corrigendum to e-NIT No. 20 of 2020-21

Please read 02 Nos for item No 06 instead of 36 meters and 36 meters for item No 07 instead of 02 Nos in BOQ of e-NIT No GD/LJHP/20 of 2020-21 dated: 08.02.2021 issued vide this office No. GD/LJHP/1998-2017 dated: 08.02.2021 (Tender ID: 2021_SPDC_115963_1).

All other terms and conditions as contemplated in the e-NIT No. 20 shall remain same and unchanged.

Executive Engineer
 Generation Division LJHP
 Baramulla

DPK-NB-5923/20

Government Has "No Business To Be In Business": PM Narendra Modi



Agencies

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today made a strong case for privatization of Public Sector Units that he said burdened the taxpayer, and stressed that the government has "no business to be in business". He also emphasized that his government was working towards the mantra of "monetize or modernise" to benefit citizens.

"When a government engages in business, it leads to losses. The government is bound by rules and the lack of courage to take bold commercial decisions," the Prime Minister said, addressing a Webinar on privatisation by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management. "It is government's duty to support enterprises and businesses. But it is not essential that it should own and run enterprises."

The PM said the centre's policy was to either monetise or modernise state-run units and added that Budget 2021 had given a clear roadmap to take India to a high growth trajectory. "Asset monetisation and privatisation decisions will help empower Indian citizens," he said.

The government has many

"underutilised and unutilised assets" and 100 such assets would be monetised to raise 2.5 lakh crore, he said, adding that the amount would be used for funding development projects.

"Fiscal support to sick PSUs puts a burden on the economy and public sector units should not be run just because of legacy," the Prime Minister said, adding that many PSUs are loss-making and supported by taxpayers' money.

PM Modi's pitch comes months after the government indicated that it would move out of non-strategic sectors and listed 18 strategic sectors, including banking, insurance, steel, fertiliser, petroleum and defence equipment, where it would retain only a limited presence.

In the recent Budget session, PM Modi's shout-out in parliament to the private sector earned praise from industrialists like Anand Mahindra and Sajjan Jindal.

"If the country needs the public sector, the role of the private sector is also important... If India is of any use to humanity today, our private sector has had a big role in it," PM Modi told the Lok Sabha, emphasising that "wealth creators are also important for the nation".

"India is proud of the role of the private sector in national progress and in enhancing India's prestige globally," the Prime Minister said.

"Welcome words of encouragement at a fragile time for private enterprise due to the pandemic. Now we have to live up to the expectations... both in performance & governance," said Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group.

PNB Scam Case: UK Judge To Rule On Nirav Modi Extradition Case On Thursday



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: Wanted diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who remains behind bars in a London prison as he contests his extradition to India on charges of fraud and money laundering in the estimated USD 2-billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam case, will find out the UK court's ruling in the nearly two-year-long legal battle on Thursday.

The 49-year-old is expected to appear via videolink from Wandsworth Prison in south-west London at Westminster Magistrates' Court, where District Judge Samuel Goozee is set to hand down his judgment on whether the jeweller has a case to answer before the Indian courts.

The magistrates' court ruling will then be sent back to UK Home Secretary Priti Patel for a sign off, with the possibility of appeals in the High Court on either side depending on the outcome. Modi was arrested on an extradition warrant on March 19, 2019, and has appeared via videolink from Wandsworth Prison for a series of court hearings in the extradition case.

His multiple attempts at seeking bail have been repeatedly turned down, both at the Magistrates' and High Court level, as he was deemed a flight risk.

He is the subject of two sets of criminal proceedings, with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case relating to a large-scale fraud upon PNB through the fraudulent obtaining of letters of undertaking (LoUs) or loan agreements, and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case relating to the laundering of the proceeds of that fraud.

He also faces two additional charges of "causing the dis-

appearance of evidence" and intimidating witnesses or "criminal intimidation to cause death", which were added on to the CBI case.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), arguing on behalf of the Indian government, has sought to establish a prima facie case against him and also to establish that there are no human rights issues blocking his extradition to India.

CPS barrister Helen Malcolm has argued that the jeweller presided over a "ponzi-like scheme where new LoUs were used to repay old ones".

A ponzi scheme typically refers to an investment scam which generates funds for earlier investors with money taken from later investors and the CPS has claimed that Modi used his firms Diamonds R Us, Solar Exports and Stellar Diamonds to make fraudulent use of PNB's LoUs in a conspiracy with banking officials.

They have also played videos in court as proof of Modi's involvement in intimidating dummy officers of his companies to remain out of the reach of Indian investigating authorities.

Modi's defence team, led by barrister Clare Montgomery, has claimed that the entire issue is a commercial dispute involving "authorised though ill-advised lending" that took place in "broad daylight".

It is also claimed that none of his actions meet the legal threshold of perverting the course of justice or amounted to fraud.

Besides, the defence has also relied on arguments around Modi's precarious mental health condition, as someone who has a family history of depression and suicide.

Kashmir Wicker Products Now Available Online



SRINAGAR: Kashmir Willow Wicker products are set to attain new heights through e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Myntra etc, under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

For the Willow Wicker Project Ganderbal, domain expert having vast experience in working with natural plant fibres -KADAM has been engaged for the development of the Cluster. The project will lead to creation of self -sustaining Producer Company (PC) of the artisans that would be directly linked to the markets.

Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah along with Assistant Director AD Handicrafts Ganderbal today visited the cluster and under took an overall assessment of the project.

He was briefed that skill assessment of at least 150 Artisans has been completed and these artisans are being further involved in product development and skill upgradation trainings.

Under the project, 10 Cooperatives of the artisans in the Cluster have been registered and it is expected that more cooperatives would be formed and would be linked with the project in future.

Director during his interaction with the artisans informed that under the guidance of Commissioner Secretary I&C Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, efforts are being made to upgrade the skills of the artisans and provide them with required financial and infrastructural support.

Further under the Willow Wicker Project self-sustainable enterprises of the artisans which would be connected with the markets at both National and International levels would be created.

Meanwhile, the Director appreciated the new products developed in the cluster and assured the artisans that marketing avenues in the upcoming events of Khelo India, Tulip Garden, Delhi Haat would be provided to them.



DIRECTOR HANDICRAFTS AND HANDLOOM KASHMIR, Mahmood Ahmad Shah along with Assistant Director AD Handicrafts Ganderbal today visited the cluster and under took an overall assessment of the project.

Government Ready To Talk With Farmers On Three Laws After Unions' Response On Its Offer: Tomar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The government is ready to resume talks with protesting farmers if they respond to its offer to put the three contentious farm laws on hold for one-and-a-half year and work out the difference during that time through a joint committee, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said Wednesday.

The government and unions representing farmers, who have been camping at Delhi's border for about three months in protest against the three laws that they see will end state procurement of crops at MSP, have held 11 rounds of talks, the last being on January 22.

Talks broke after widespread violence during a tractor rally by protesting farmers on January 26.

Speaking on the sidelines of an event here, Tomar said the government is committed towards the interest of farmers and agriculture, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is making efforts to double farmers' income and strengthen the Indian agriculture sector.

The minister was replying to a query on Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait threatening to march to the Parliament on 40 lakh tractors if laws are not repealed.

Whether the government is making any effort to resume talks with unions, Tomar said, "Bharat sarkar kisano se puri samvedana



ke saath charcha karti rahi hai. Aaj bhi jab unka koi mat aayega, toh Bharat sarkar hamesha kisano ke saath charcha karne ko taiyaar hai (The government has been holding discussions with farmers sympathetically. Even today, whenever their response comes, the government is always ready to hold talks)."

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, is protesting at Delhi borders for around three months, seeking repeal of three new laws and a legal guarantee of the MSP.

In the 11th round of talks held on January 22, the government's negotiations with 41 farmer groups hit a roadblock as the unions squarely rejected the Centre's proposal to put three contentious laws on hold and form joint committee to find solutions.

During the 10th round of talks held on January 20, the Centre had offered to suspend the laws

for 1-1.5 years and form a joint committee to find solutions, in return for protesting farmers going back to their respective homes from Delhi borders.

Farmer groups have alleged that these laws will end the mandi and MSP procurement systems and leave the farmers at the mercy of big corporates, even as the government has rejected these apprehensions as misplaced.

On January 11, the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three laws till further orders and appointed a four-member panel to resolve the impasse. Bhartiya Kisan Union President Bhopinder Singh Mann had recused himself from the committee appointed by the apex court.

Shetkari Sanghatana (Maharashtra) President Anil Ghanwat and agriculture economists Pramod Kumar Joshi and Ashok Gulati, the other three members on the panel, have started the consultation process with stakeholders.

THOUSANDS OF FARMERS, MAINLY FROM PUNJAB, HARYANA and Western Uttar Pradesh, is protesting at Delhi borders for around three months, seeking repeal of three new laws and a legal guarantee of the MSP.

NEWS MAKERS

Amazon India's Second Edition Of The 'Smbhav' Summit On April 15-18, 2021

SRINAGAR: Amazon India today announced that it will host the second edition of 'Amazon Smbhav' from April 15-18th, 2021. Smbhav 2021 will bring together important industry and thought leaders for invigorating discussions on the way ahead towards creating an AatmaNirbharBharat by unlocking possibilities for businesses and entrepreneurs through a partnership with Amazon. Amazon Smbhav will be a four-day virtual summit hosted around the theme of 'Unlocking Infinite Possibilities for India' across sectors like manufacturing, retail, logistics, IT/ITes, content creators, start-ups, brands, and entrepreneurs across India. Over 30,000 participants are expected to participate at Amazon Smbhav, learning about best practices and industry trends from over 70 speakers.



'Smbhav' - Amazon's annual flagship summit is a virtual mega summit to share how Amazon and its partners leverage digital technologies to innovate for Indian customers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. At Smbhav 2020, Amazon pledged to invest an additional \$1 billion to digitize 10 mil-

lion MSMEs, generate \$10 billion in cumulated exports from India and create an additional 1 million jobs in India by 2025.

"Smbhav 2021 is a step to showcase Amazon's commitment to being a strong partner in making the 21st century the Indian century. As we continue to work with a gamut

of Indian businesses and entrepreneurs, we are committed to bringing to them tools, technology, and innovation that empower the Indian economy help create jobs at scale and unleash entrepreneurial agility in companies of all kinds and sizes. Smbhav 2021 will therefore be a unique platform offering opportunities to unlock these possibilities towards an AatmaNirbharBharat", says Manish Tiwari, VP, Amazon India on the event.

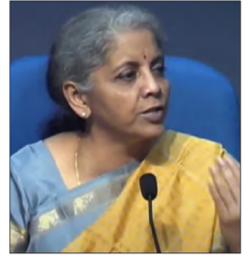
The thought leaders will virtually connect with the Smbhav 2021 audience for keynote addresses, panel discussions, and workshops. The summit will primarily focus on four key pillars - Innovation, Skilling & Job Creation, Digitization, Exports & Startup Enablement. The summit will bring together diverse perspectives from eminent business leaders, policymakers,

solution providers and Amazon leadership on areas that are most relevant for India's growth.

A key highlight of the summit will be the annual 'Amazon Smbhav Awards' that recognize business agility in companies of all kinds and sizes, and individuals who have made significant progress in their respective areas and have contributed towards building an AatmaNirbharBharat. Amazon will also host the 'Amazon Smbhav Startup Pitch Competition' that will offer rewards like cash prize, AWS credits, VC mentorship opportunities among many more to the winners. In addition, Amazon will host an 'Amazon Smbhav Hackathon' that will provide an opportunity to individuals and startups to present breakthrough ideas that have the potential to solve real-world problems in the areas of business innovation, sustainability & healthcare.

Centre Lifts Embargo On Granting Businesses To Private Banks: Nirmala Sitharaman

Agencies



The Centre has lifted the embargo on grant of government business to private banks, enabling banks to participate in all developmental activities. "Private banks can now be equal partners in development of the Indian economy, furthering the government's social sector initiatives and enhancing customer convenience," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted on Wednesday.

With the lifting of the embargo, private banks will be able to conduct government-related banking transactions such as taxes and other revenue payment facilities, pension payments and small savings schemes. The RBI could also, in due course, authorize private sector banks to undertake any other government

businesses. The Nifty Bank index surged nearly per cent to 36,493.80 on the back of the announcement by the Finance Minister as the markets resumed trading resumed post the technical snag on NSE. Private sector banks are in the limelight, with HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank have surged 4-5 per cent. The BSE Sensex soared more than 1,050 points as a result.

Airtel Enters Ad Tech Industry With Airtel Ads; Says Users Will Receive Relevant Campaigns, Not Spam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Bharti Airtel on Wednesday marked its entry into advertising business with launch of 'Airtel Ads', a move it said will enable brands to pitch consent-based and privacy-safe campaigns to over 320 million customers across its various businesses like mobile, DTH and homes.

Airtel Ads -- that underlines the company's efforts to get a foothold in the booming Indian advertising industry -- leverages the company's data science capabilities, and would enable brands to create deep engagement and high-impact campaigns for most relevant customer cohorts.

Airtel asserted that its customers would receive only the most-relevant brand offerings, and not unwanted spam.

"We are not in the quantity mode, we only want to bring it to customers who care. Therefore, volumes may be less but quality will be high," Adarsh Nair, Chief Product Officer at Bharti Airtel said.

While the company would look to make connections between customer preference and brand relevance, it would not "hit customers with ads that do not make sense" nor "profile" its user, Nair emphasised.

To start with, the video and display placement will be through apps such as Wynk, Airtel Xstream, and Thanks app, going on to DTH TV ads.

"We have millions of customers walking into our mass retail and store fronts can we actually, even there, for consumers who are not digitally-savvy press-in the idea of, say, a health coverage or video subscription. Those tests are also running right now. I believe even in our mass retail these ads units can appear, to



help our customers," Nair said.

Large brands like PepsiCo, Zomato, CRED, Tata AIG, Apollo 247, Lenskart, Cars24, Gameskraft, Harley Davidson and others have run campaigns during the beta phase, and Airtel has touched almost Rs 100 crore in annualised revenue run rate in this space. The company said as many as 180 million unique users were touched during the beta phase, itself.

"During the beta phase, Airtel Ads delivered successful campaigns for over 100 brands across multiple categories FMCg, BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance), Digital Startups," Airtel said in a statement.

Airtel Ads would enable brands of all sizes to curate consent-based and privacy-safe campaigns to one of the biggest pool of quality customers in India, Airtel said adding it has more than 320 million customers across its businesses like mobile, DTH and homes.

"Airtel's mobile customers have the highest average monthly data consumption at 16.8 GB and the highest monthly ARPU of Rs 166. Airtel's fast growing DTH and homes networks serve premium households across the country," the statement added.

Nair said that Airtel Ads "breaks new ground" in the USD 10 billion Indian advertising industry, a space that is expected to nearly double in the next 5 years. As per estimates, the digital advertising pie alone will grow to USD 8 billion by 2025, from USD 2 billion in 2020.

Gulshan Books Wins Best Book Store of the Year in Reading Olympiad 2021

Agenceis

SRINAGAR: Gulshan Books Wednesday announced its achievement of winning best book store of the year in the Indian Reading Olympiad 2021.

"We are utterly happy to announce that Gulshan Books Kashmir has won Best Book Store of the Year in India Reading Olympiad 2021. The event was organised by Food4Thought Foundation in collaboration with Hyderabad Literary Festival. We wish to extend our heartfelt felicitation to all our well wishers without their support and contribution this feat could not have been achieved" they mentioned

in their announcement," Gulshan Books announced in a statement.

The owner and the CEO of the Publishing House Sheikh Ajaz Ahmad told news agency CNS that he feels proud about it.

It is pertinent to mention that earlier Limca Book of Records had included the name of Gulshan Books Kashmir-one of the publishing house with a collection of well over 80,000 books at its Nehru Park outlet in its 2018 edition Page No: 79.

Gulshan Books is a division of Sheikh Mohammad Usman & Sons. This was for the first time that a bookstore in India had been included in the Limca Book of Records.

"Under the title "only

Bookshop Library on a Lake" the Limca book had written, a bookshop set up in May 2016, has a reading room, a cafe and over 80,000 books. This Book Shop Cum library on the Nehru Park Island of the Dal lake Srinagar can be reached by a Shikara ride. The owner, Sheikh Ajaz Ahmad willingly offers free Shikara ride keen to read books on Kashmir and its literature" Limca Book of records had written in observation in the year 2018 and now much more has changed to hook interest of readers.

One of the voracious while taking to CNS said that even a visit to Gulshan Books May Change Your Taste for Books Forever. (CNS)

GDC Dooru Students Rue Lack Of Staff, Infrastructure

Agenceis

DOORU: The lack of staff and infrastructure at Government Degree College (GDC), Dooru, Anantnag is painting a grim picture of the education sector as the students continue to suffer while the authorities concerned are acting as mute spectators as they have failed to take any action in this regard.

The students and the staff said that they are facing immense hardships due to lack of proper infrastructure and teaching staff.

"The educational institution was established in 2005 during the Congress-PDP government in Jammu and Kashmir. At least 1300 boys and girls are currently enrolled in this College," they said.

Muzamil Deva, a 3rd Semester student said that six teachers were transferred two months back but new teachers

have not yet been deputed in the college.

"The college lacks teachers for many subjects including Chemistry, Biochemistry, English and Economics. The college also lacks Physics and Psychology subjects' lecturers for the past one year," he said, adding that there is only one political science lecturer at the College, which is inadequate for a large number of students enrolled there.

Both the students and the staff rue poor infrastructure including lack of space for holding classes. "Five years after the college was established, the college infrastructure is yet to be enhanced," the employees in the college said.

They said that the construction of the Science block for the College has been approved two years ago and an allocation of Rs 8.85 Crore was made, but the construction work is still on hold due to

some issues between the contractor and the public works department.

The department has so far de-notified tenders five times for the construction of the block and the matter is currently pending in court, they added.

The IGNOU study centre was introduced in the college three years ago, but for unknown reasons, the centre has also been closed, they informed.

Javed Ahmed, President of Shahabad Citizen Forum said that the students from Dooru, Verinag, Kaparan, Qazigund and Banihal are studying at the College but are facing inconvenience due to the lack of adequate facilities.

He appealed to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to look into the matter and resolve the issues at an earliest.

Executive Engineer R&B, Qazigund Riyaz Ahmad said

that keeping in view the scarcity of space in the college, the department had invited tenders for construction of two-storey Science block for which funds were also allocated but the papers of the contractor, in whose favour the work was allotted, were not found in the Circle Office as per the rules due to which the tender had to be cancelled.

However, the contractor has now taken the matter to the court and he is expected to get a decision from the Court soon.

An official in the education department said that the government had decided to engage guest faculties in the Colleges instead of academic arrangements.

"The guest faculty will attend the colleges on a need basis. This is being done to overcome the deficiency of teaching staff in the colleges," he said—(KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Two Militants

"In case any family claims the killed militants to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification at PCR Kashmir," he added.

The police spokesperson further said that arms and ammunition including 2 AK rifles and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter and the same have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes.

"In this connection police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

No Heavy Rain,

There's no forecast of any major rain or snow in both J&K and Ladakh," he added. However, the weather department continued with the "yellow warning" for "isolated heavy rains/snow/thundershowers" in Kashmir as well as Jammu divisions on February 26 and 27.

There are four types colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched), amber—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red—action needed by the agencies.

The Met office has said that weather system may cause disruptions of flights and slippery road conditions Banihal-Ramban, Zojila, Mugal road etc during the two days.

Meanwhile, a meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 4.2 degree Celsius against 6.6 degree Celsius on the previous night.

The temperature was 3.3 degrees Celsius above the normal for this time of the year in Srinagar where 0.2mm of rainfall was recorded in the last 24 hours till 0830 hours, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius against 4.0 degrees Celsius on the previous night while the mercury settled at 0.1 degrees Celsius at Pahalgam against minus 3.2 degrees Celsius on the earlier night.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 1.5 degrees Celsius against 3.4 degrees Celsius on the previous night.

The minimum temperature settled at 3.8 degrees Celsius in Kupwara against 6.2 degrees Celsius on the previous night even as the northern Kashmir district recorded rainfall of 2.6mm during the time, he said.

Gulmarg, the world-famous skiing resort, recorded a low of 0.0 degrees Celsius, same as on the earlier night and recorded fresh rain/snow of 1.8mm during the time, the official said. (GNS)

Chopper Carrying

Ground, Jyotipuram due to some technical fault.

All the passengers are safe, they said. Those onboard including two children were later shifted to a nearby quest house, the officials said.

Transporters Call

"The government in principle agreed to all our demands. The government and our representatives agreed on a 19% increase in fare," he said, adding, "Also our two other demands—roll back of token tax and waiver of token tax during lockdown period—would be decided with the transport commissioner."

Following the successful talks, Sheikh Mohammad Yousuf said that transporters have decided to call off the indefinite strike. The official confirmation as regards 19% fare hike was awaited when this report was filed.

The Association had demanded revision of the transport fares amidst the skyrocketing of the petroleum prices during the past few years. The Association had also demanded roll back of tax for the lockdown months.

All type of commercial vehicles including buses, trucks, tankers, mini-buses, Sumos/Taxies/ Tempo-Travelers, Auto-rikshaws etc. were to remain off the road from Lakanpur (Punjab border) to Uri in Kashmir if the indefinite strike would have taken effect, the Association had said.

"Passenger fare was revised in April 2018 and then the rate of diesel was Rs 65 a litre but now the rate of Diesel is more than Rs (84), which is not bearable for transporters in J&K," the JKTWA had said in a statement.

ED Conducts

said. The showroom belongs to Harry Singh and Shami Singh, sons of Dharamveer Obroy Singh of Shivpora.

The house of Shami Obroy, who is associated with National Conference (NC) was also raided at Shivpora—(KNO)

Winter Tutorial

School Education Department had announced winter vacations for all schools of Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu region from December 21 till February 28.

Meanwhile, the School Education Department earlier this month had said that there were nearly 1500 government schools wherein it had started winter tutorials for the students during the winter vacation period.

On February 22, the government rescheduled the date for reopening of schools of Jammu and Kashmir up to elementary classes wherein the students have been asked to join the physical academic activities from March-08 instead of March-01.

Leh Highway To

Saugat Biswas, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Chief Engineer BRO, officials from NIDCL and SSPs of district Ganderbal and Kargil joined the meeting through Video Conferencing.

Chief Engineer BRO briefed the Div Com about the status of road clearance on National Highway- 1.

According to the official spokesperson, the meeting was informed that the road stands cleared for one-way traffic, however in view of weather advisory the road shall be opened for civilian traffic from February 28.

The meeting, he said, was also informed that several advisories need to be issued in view of slippery road condition and avalanche warnings including allowing plying of vehicles with chains both HMVs and LMVs and one way traffic at Zojilla pass to avoid accidents.

"The Div Com said that to prevent any exigency both of these advisories shall be put in place besides there shall be proper timing to allow movement of vehicles from Sonmarg and Minamarg. The cut off time for vehicles from Sonmarg side shall be 10 am and from Minamarg, the cut off time for vehicles has been proposed as 11 am," the official spokesperson said.

"To ensure mobile connectivity for travellers along the highway in case of any emergency, Div Com directed the BRO to provide logistic support to BSNL and Jio networks to resume the cellular connectivity," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, Pole also directed the CE, BRO to provide different kinds assistance including accommodation, food, petrol etc to the travellers during emergency along the highway.

"Besides, he directed the DC Kargil, and CE, MED to place recovery vans on road as per the past practice. The Div Com directed for close coordination among the Dy. SPs and Collectors on both sides of the pass to ensure hassle free movement of vehicles," he added.

The official spokesperson said that the Div Com, Ladakh during the meeting asked the concerned functionaries that the road clearance be conducted in coordination with telecom authorities to avoid disruption of telecommunication and internet services.

"He also instructed the concerned to allow smooth movement of service vehicles of telecoms along the highway," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the DC Ganderbal informed the chair that all facilities for tomorrow's opening of Sonmarg tourist destination for tourists have been put in place including restoration of power, water and telecommunication services besides opening of hotels etc.

'Great Improvement'

and our role is to ensure that so as to the rest of the nation can develop," Naravane said.

The Army chief was speaking at a webinar organised by Vivekananda International Foundation.

Talking about militancy in the Valley, Naravane said the winter months are always a little bit of a lull period when the passes are closed and snowfall is heavy.

He said with the waning of winter, as the passes open and the onset of summer, the Army is always prepared for a fresh influx from across the border.

"But having said all that, there is definitely a great improvement in the internal security situation in the union territory of J&K. When I say that, I don't say that just based on the emotion but on various parameters you can judge the figures," Naravane said.

He said the number of militant-initiated incidents has gone down so have the incidents of infiltration bids across the LoC. He added that

there were no instance of stone pelting, no incidents of IED attacks.

"These are facts and figures which speak for themselves that there has been an improvement on the ground in the J&K. However, that threat still remains a threat in being."

"The Pakistan angle and the militancy angle still remain a threat in being," he said.

Qazigund-Banihal Tunnel

Qazigund-Banihal along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway to reduce travel distance and make it an all season motorable road.

However, the 10.5 km Chenani-Nashri tunnel was thrown open by the end of 2018 but the 8.5 km Qazigund-Banihal is awaiting completion.

The tunnel with two parallel tubes is being constructed by Indian infrastructure major Navayuga Engineering Co (NEC) at a cost of around Rs 2000 crore.

Muneeb Tak, Chief Manager, Navayuga Engineering Company said that Qazigund-Banihal tunnel would reduce the distance between two sides by over 16 km.

He said that it is a double tube tunnel and each tube will be seven meters (23 ft) wide and will bypass the spots where there remains obstruction in vehicular movement on the highway during winters like Jawahar Tunnel and Shaitan Nallah.

Officials said that this project has been completed on the Austrian tunnelling method and over one hundred jet fans, over 200 CCTV cameras and fire fighting systems are being established in both tubes of the tunnel.

They said that Qazigund-Banihal tunnel is 8.5 km long at an elevation of 1,790 m (5,870 ft) in Pir Panjal range in J&K.

Officials said that it is a double tube tunnel consisting of two parallel tunnels—one for each direction of travel and two tunnels are interconnected by a passage every 500 m (1,600 ft) for maintenance and emergency evacuation, they said.

"The tunnel will have forced ventilation for extracting smoke and stale air and infusing fresh air and it will have state of the art monitoring and control systems for security," they said—(KNO)

Covid-19: Second

in effectively tackling the pandemic.

The nine states are Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. COVID-19 cases rose sharply in Maharashtra with the state reporting 8,807 new infections, taking its total count to 21,21,119, the state health department said. The western state had reported 6,218 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday.

A decision on the next phase of COVID-19 vaccination was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The vaccine will be offered free at government facilities and for a charge at many private hospitals, it was stated.

"The second phase of the world's largest vaccination drive will start from Monday in which anybody above 60 years, that may not be less than 10 crore people in the country, and 45 years plus with co-morbidities will be given vaccines in 10,000 government medical facilities and also over 20,000 private hospitals," Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar told a media briefing.

"Whoever goes to the government centre will be administered vaccine free of cost. Indian government will pay for the vaccine. The government will purchase the necessary doses and will send them to all the states."

Javadekar said those who want to get vaccination from private hospitals will have to pay, but the amount will be decided by the health ministry within the next three-four days as they are in discussions with manufacturers as well as hospitals.

Asked if people will have a choice of vaccine, Covishield or COVAXIN, Javadekar said India is proud to have two vaccines which are both effective with proven efficacy.

While Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield is produced by the Serum Institute, COVAXIN is produced by Bharat Biotech.

Javadekar asserted that vaccination in India has been successful, "faultless with hardly any complaints".

Asked whether ministers and the prime minister, who would be now be in the category of those who can take the vaccination, will get inoculated, Javadekar said those who want to take the jabs can take it at the place of their choosing from March 1.

The Union Health ministry said the cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccine doses

administered to healthcare and frontline workers has crossed 1.23 crore in the country. The countrywide COVID-19 vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16.

On the three member multidisciplinary teams despatched to states, it said they are headed by joint secretary-level officers in the health ministry.

"These teams will work closely with the states and UT administration and ascertain reasons for the recent surge in the number of COVID-19 cases," it said in a statement.

The ministry said the teams will also coordinate with health authorities of the states and J and K for requisite COVID-19 control measures to break the chain of transmission.

"The Centre has reminded the states and UTs that any laxity in implementing stringent measures to curb the spread, especially in view of new strain of virus observed in certain countries, could compound the situation," the statement said.

Medical experts and scientists also cautioned that the spike in cases in some states is likely due to non-adherence of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

"I would say the surge is most likely due to non-adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour, said noted virologist Shahid Jameel.

Rakesh Mishra, director of Hyderabad's CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, also agreed that the current surge in certain states is less likely due to some new variant, and more likely due to people ignoring COVID protocols.

The Centre has also written to Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir which have been witnessing a rise in daily COVID cases, along with decreasing proportion of the RT-PCR tests and rise in positivity in some districts.

In the letter, the Union Health Secretary has exhorted them to focus on undertaking aggressive measures to break the chain of transmission and ensure that RT-PCR testing is amplified to flush out hitherto undetected cases from the population.

These states and UTs have been advised to increase testing in a focussed manner in the affected districts with the appropriate split of RT-PCR and rapid antigen tests and to also ensure that all symptomatic negatives of antigen tests are compulsorily tested via RT-PCR tests, the health ministry statement said.

The positive persons must be promptly isolated/hospitalised, all their close contacts be traced and also tested without delay, it added.

As cases surged in some states, West Bengal made it mandatory for passengers travelling in flights from Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana to produce negative COVID-19 report.

The Delhi government is also likely to ask travellers from five states— Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh—to show negative COVID-19 test report before entering the national capital, officials said.

People travelling in flights, trains and buses from these states will have to produce negative test report before entering Delhi, they said.

With 13,742 new infections, India's COVID-19 count has gone up to 1,10,30,176 while recoveries are at 1,07,26,702, according to official data released on Wednesday.

There are 1,46,907 active coronavirus cases in the country, which comprises 1.33 per cent of the total caseload, the data stated.

In the past one week, 12 states have reported more than 100 average daily new cases. These are Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Telangana, Delhi and Haryana, the health ministry said.

Kerala and Maharashtra reported more than 4,000 average daily new cases in the past week, it added.

At the same time, 19 states and UTs have not reported any death due to COVID-19 in a span of 24 hours.

PSC To Maintain

consolidated reserve list of candidates which will include candidates from general and reserved category ranking in order of merit below the last recommended candidate under each category.

"The reserve list so maintained shall be treated as confidential till the process of recommendation is finalized by the Commission. The reserve list shall be operated when the Government may forward a requisition to the Commission requiring it to recommend, in from the reserve list, the same number of order of merit, candidates as requisitioned for the purpose of filling-up the vacancies in each category," reads the Rules.

According to the Rules, the reserve list shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of recommendation of the first list by the Commission.

Since 2002, the Union Public Service Commission also maintains a confidential consolidated reserve list that includes candidates from general and reserved categories ranking in order of merit below the last recommended candidate under each category in Civil Service Examination (CSE).

According to the Rules, reservation will also be made for candidates belonging to International Border (IB), Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Pahari Speaking People (PSP) in respect of vacancies as may be fixed by the government.

Already, candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, RBA/Social Castes/ALC and Physically Challenged categories are eligible for reservation.

Under the new rules, a candidate must be domicile of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory to compete for the examination, for which only permanent residents of Jammu & Kashmir were eligible before re-organisation of erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir—(KNO)

J&K Reports

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 19 cases followed by 14 in Baramulla district and 11 in Udhampur district.

While eight districts did not report any fresh case, nine districts had cases in single digits.

The number of active has risen to 771 in the Union Territory, while 1,23,367 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The death toll in the UT due to the disease is 1,955 as no fresh death was reported from Jammu and Kashmir in the past 24 hours, they added.

Absconder Arrested

from Shimla city of Himachal Pradesh on the basis of reliable information, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. Zagoo, he said, was wanted for his involvement in a case FIR number 35/1990 registered at police station Nishat under section 379 RPC.

"The accused has been presented before the Hon'ble court at Srinagar by Police Station Nishat," he added.

Similarly, the police spokesperson said, another absconder Farooq Ahmad Rajput of Chount Waliwar was arrested by Ganderbal Police after receiving a tip-off. The accused was evading his arrest from July 2019.

"He was wanted by law for his involvement in case FIR number 40/2019 U/S 420, 392, 506, 120B RPC of Police Station Kangan," he added.

3 Held For Making

Wednesday were identified as Bilal Ahmed Wani, Bilal Ahmed Dar and Mohd Amin Rather, the police said, adding Wani is the brains behind the racket.

A case was registered against the accused following a complaint against manipulations in procurement of contractor registration certificates, the police said.

Several contractors of Doda district alleged in the complaint that the accused, with the help of others, had managed fake registration cards from the office of the Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Kashmir, and the Silk Factory, Rajbagh, Srinagar, to grab government money and that a gang of criminals was involved in the process.

2 'Robbers'

two unidentified persons with covered faces threw chilli powder at him and looted an amount of Rs 35700 from him, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. On the basis of complaint, he said, a case FIR No. 08/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation was set into motion.

During the course of investigation, the police spokesperson said, a special investigation team was constituted and after strenuous efforts, the team was able to identify both the accused persons involved in the commission of crime. He identified the duo as Suhail Salam Dhobi and Nasir Ahmad Dar, both residents of Frisal Kulgam.

"The looted cash of Rs 35700 has also been recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody," he added.

Car Mows Down

whose identity is yet to be ascertained, the reports said, succumbed to his injuries before he could be taken to hospital for treatment.

His body was shifted by police to a hospital for legal medical formalities officials said.

Felicitations By President And HM Of India, Teammates' Guard Of Honour Mark Ishant Sharma's 100th Test



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: India's veteran fast bowler Ishant Sharma was on Wednesday accorded a guard of honour by his teammates after being felicitated by President Ram Nath Kovind and Home Minister Amit Shah ahead of his landmark 100th Test match here.

The 32-year-old Ishant is only the second Indian fast bowler after former captain Kapil Dev to play 100 Test matches.

Before the start of the day-night third Test against England, the pacer received a memento from President Kovind while Shah handed him a commemorative 100th Test cap at the Narendra Modi Stadium here.

As he made his way into the ground after England opted to bat, captain Virat Kohli's men lined up to honour his longevity and service to Indian cricket.

"Ishant was felicitated by the Honourable President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind & Honourable Home Minister of India Shri Amit Shah before the start of play here in Ahmedabad," the BCCI tweeted.

Besides the President and home minister, also present

during the inauguration of the world's largest cricket stadium were sports minister Kiren Rijju and BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

In his landmark game, Ishant provided the home team a perfect start as he removed Dominic Sibley in the third over.

Though he has had many memorable moments in his career so far that has nearly spanned a decade and a half, Ishant struggled to name one while speaking to reporters ahead of the game.

"If your career is 14 years long and you are still playing, you cannot name just one highlight. It is difficult to pinpoint just one highlight, every sportsperson has the graph going up and down," Ishant said.

During the first Test against England earlier this month in Chennai, Ishant became the sixth Indian and third pacer from the country to take 300 wickets in Test cricket, joining legendary former captains Kapil and Anil Kumble.

Ishant, who has 11 five-wicket hauls and picked up 10 wickets in a match once, made his Test debut back in 2007 against Bangladesh.

Prior to the start of the match, Ishant was hailed by the likes of Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag and Ashish Nehra.

Afridi Expresses Displeasure Over ICC COVID Rules After Umpire Refuses To Take Cap

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan's flamboyant all-rounder Shahid Afridi is not pleased with the International Cricket Council (ICC) rule that bars umpires from taking caps from players during a match due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The former Pakistan captain, who is playing for Multan Sultans in the ongoing Pakistan Super League here, was not happy on Tuesday night when, during their match against Peshawar

Zalmi, the umpires refused to take his cap when he came on to bowl.

"Dear ICC wondering why the umpires are not allowed to hold the bowler's cap even though they are in the same bubble as the players and management and even shake hands at the end of the game?" he tweeted on Wednesday.

Some other players in the PSL have also expressed surprise over the ICC rule which is being enforced because of the pandemic.

2nd Edition Of 'Khelo-India Winter Games' To Begin At Gulmarg From 26 Feb

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The second edition of 'Khelo India Winter Games' will start from February 26 and culminate on March 02 in J&K's winter destination of Gulmarg.

Around 1200 athletes and guests from across the country are scheduled to participate in the event.

The mega sports event is one of the many efforts aimed at engaging the youth in positive and constructive activities. Athletes from 27 states and Union Territories (UTs) will converge on the snow-bound slopes of Gulmarg during the event to compete in different categories of sports.

The prominent sports activities, which will be the hallmark of the winter games, include snow shoe race, ice skating, ice hockey, skiing, Nordic ski, snowboarding, ski mountaineering and ice stock etc.

Athletes from the Indian Army and the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports will also participate in the



event, besides the athletes from different states and UTs.

On the occasion, a number of cultural programmes shall also be organized, besides setting up of stalls of ethnic food and local crafts.

The event is being organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the

Winter Games Association of J&K.

The J&K administration has made all arrangements and put in place all facilities in advance. A special team of doctors and ambulances have been directed to be kept available round the clock. A special team of the State Disaster Response Fund shall remain deployed for relief and rescue operations.

DC Baramulla Takes Stock Of Khelo-India Winter Games In Gulmarg

Agencies

BARAMULLA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Mohammad Aijaz Asad accompanied by various concerned officers today paid visit to the famous tourist destination Gulmarg, to take stock of arrangements put in place for smooth conduct of winter games under Khelo-India sports initiative.

The event shall commence from 26th of February during which an array of sports activities in different categories shall be organized.

On the occasion, DC conducted on-spot inspection of several locations where he took the first hand appraisal of various necessities required for conducting the event smoothly.

He also reviewed several other related aspects wherein he deliberated upon various officers for adopting a coordinated approach for making the event a grand success. He emphasized making all necessary arrangements including accommodation, lodging and other facilities well in advance and in a hassle free manner.

The DC directed the PDD and PHE departments to provide uninterrupted power and water supply respectively



so that the concerned stakeholders may not face any inconvenience. He also directed the Mechanical Division to keep men and machinery ready so as to avert any kind of exigency that may arise due to snowfall. Moreover, Municipal authorities were directed to maintain hygiene in the surrounding. It was informed that sufficient ac-

commodation for the dignitaries as well for the athletes had been facilitated in different hotels and in other resting places.

Among others, Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gul, SSP Baramulla Abdul Qayoom, SDM Gulmarg, CEO GDA besides other concerned functionaries were present on the occasion.

Gujarat's Sardar Patel Stadium Renamed After PM Narendra Modi

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday inaugurated the world's largest cricket arena -- the refurbished Sardar Patel Stadium in Motera -- a state-of-the-art facility which can accommodate an awe-inspiring 1.32 lakh spectators.

The President inaugurated the stadium in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah and Sports Minister Kiren Rijju among a host of other dignitaries. It opens with the third Test between India and England, a day-night game on Wednesday, and will also host the fourth and final game of the series from March 4.

The stadium, which was earlier named after India's first deputy prime minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, has been renamed after current prime minister Narendra Modi and will henceforth be known as the Narendra Modi Stadium. Spread over 63 acres, the stadium has been built at an estimated cost of 800 crore and

with a seating capacity for 1,32,000 spectators, it has surpassed the hal- lowed Melbourne Cricket Ground which can accommodate 90,000.

"The total area is equivalent to 32 Olympic size soccer fields put together," stated a note from the Press Information Bureau giving specifics of the enormous structure.

The facility, which was closed for renovation in 2015, was witness to some major milestones in Indian cricket in its previous avatar.

These included Sunil Gavaskar reaching the 10,000 runs mark in Test cricket against Pakistan in 1987 and Kapil Dev claiming his 432nd Test wicket to become the highest wicket-taker in the world in 1994, surpassing Sir Richard Hadlee.

Australian architect firm Populous, which designed the Melbourne Cricket Stadium among others, is the architect of the new stadium.

It has 11 pitches made of both red and black soil and is the only stadium in the world to have same soil sur-

faces for the main and practice pitches.

"As children, we used to dream about the world's largest stadium in India. And now as sports minister, my happiness knows no bounds that this has finally happened," said Rijju at the inauguration.

"It is one of the most modern sports facilities in the world," he added.

Players from both the India and England teams, who have been training here for the past few days, have expressed their admiration for what they have experienced at the arena.

The ground claims to have a drainage system which will take just 30 minutes from the time it stops raining to drain out the water.

Instead of high mast floodlights, the field of play has LED lights fixed along the perimeter of the roof providing shadow-less light -- a first of its kind arrangement in India. This is the only cricket stadium in the world to have four dressing rooms for the players so that back-to-back games can be played on the same day.

Ahmedabad Will Emerge As India's Sports City, Says Home Minister Amit Shah

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said Ahmedabad in Gujarat would be known as the country's sports city with world-class facilities for all kinds of games being set up.

Shah made the statement after President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, which will now be known as Narendra Modi stadium - renamed after the country's Prime Minister.

The president also performed the groundbreaking ceremony of a sports complex in the stadium, to be named Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, for disciplines like football, hockey, basketball, kabaddi, boxing, and lawn tennis among others. Shah said, "Such sports facilities are not available in a single city in India at present. Ahmedabad, which Modiji transformed into India's heritage city, is now ready to become the country's sports city. Ahmedabad will be considered as India's sports city."

The Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium, the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave and a sports complex coming up in the city Naranpura area will offer entire facility to international players to play in a single city.

Shah said the sports enclave will be available to play all the games played in Olympics, and it will have stadiums for football, hockey and an indoor stadium.

He said all this became possible due to PM Modi's vision and farsightedness as the Gujarat chief minister.

On the occasion, Kovind said that the sports enclave will give a new identity to Ahmedabad globally.

"I am sure that in the coming time, the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave will give a new identity to Ahmedabad in the world," the president added.

Golf Great Tiger Woods Survives Car Crash But Multiple Leg Fractures Might End His Career

Agencies

LOS ANGELES: The sheared-off front of the wrecked SUV told part of the story, and the officers on the scene filled in the rest. Tiger Woods was lucky to be alive, they said, thanks to modern safety technology and a big dose of good luck.

Alive and well, no. But alive nonetheless. The good news -- no, make that the best news -- is that Woods seems on track to survive after being pried on Tuesday from the SUV he wrecked in Los Angeles.

That's despite injuries that are so severe -- including multiple open fractures of his leg -- that he will be convalescing a long, long time.

The other piece of good news was that there was no immediate sign that Woods was impaired at the time of the crash -- a significant bit of information, of course, because of his past.

The bad news is that the career of the world's

greatest golfer -- at least on the game's biggest stages -- is probably over. Coming back from his recent back surgery to play again at the age of 45 was always going to be a problem.

Woods himself said previously that Father Time remains undefeated and that his return to top level play wasn't guaranteed.

Combine that with the gruesome injuries from his crash, and now it borders on impossible.

This isn't Ben Hogan, coming back from a near fatal car accident in 1949 to win the US Open next year.

Hogan was nine years younger, hadn't been through multiple back and knee surgeries, and didn't have to try to swing his driver hard enough to hit it 350 yards to keep up with the other players.

Woods was fragile enough to begin with and there were already questions about whether he could return to play at a high level.

He might share Hogan's determination to overcome everything in front of him, but in the end

there's only so much he can do to mend his broken body.

That means Woods will never break the record of 18 major championship wins held by Jack Nicklaus. It means his fans will never be able to will him on to another win like they did at the 2019 Masters.

And it means golf will be a lot quieter for a long time to come.

The wreck on a downhill stretch of road in Tony Rancho Palos Verdes was stunning, though it shouldn't have come as a shock.

It marked the third time in a dozen years that Woods has been taken from vehicles in various stages of distress, a disturbing pattern that began with his infamous Thanksgiving weekend 2009 encounter with his now ex-wife outside his Florida mansion.

Four years ago he was found passed out in his car on a Florida highway with the engine running and charged with a DUI that was later plea bargained down. And now the questions are just be-

ginning about how he managed to crash a brand-new Genesis SUV on a clear morning on the California coast -- a wreck that sheriff deputies say he was lucky to escape alive.

Suddenly, the 2019 Masters seems like it was an awful long time ago.

Woods has done things over the years we couldn't imagine on the golf course. I've been along for many of them, covering Woods from his first PGA Tour win in Las Vegas in 1996 as well as the Masters comeback win two years ago that was one of the great sports stories of our times.



IND VS ENG 3RD TEST

England All Out For 112 As Axar Patel Takes 6 Wickets

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Indian spinners shot England out for just 112 inside two sessions with Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel sharing the spoils after pacer Ishant Sharma opened the floodgates in his milestone 100th match on the opening day of the day-night third Test in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

England were all out for 112 in 48.4 overs in the second session on a spin-friendly Motera pitch with Patel (21.4-6-38-6) grabbing his second five-for in his second Test while Ashwin (16-6-26-3) took three.

Openers Rohit Sharma (5 batting) and Shubman Gill (0 batting) negotiated five overs to take India to five for no loss at the dinner break.

Gill, however, survived after TV umpire ruled him not out in the third over after England claimed for a catch.

Ishant, only the second Indian fast bowler after Kapil Dev to play in 100 Tests, fittingly took India's first wicket in the third over as he dismissed opener Dominic Sibley for nought.

Thereafter, it was all Ashwin and Patel show as the duo bamboozled the England batsmen to complete the submission, except for the other opener Zak Crawley, who hit an eminently delectable half-century. Six English wickets fell in the second session.

England did not have any substantial partnership with the 47-run stand for the third wicket being the highest. They lost their last seven wickets for just 38 runs.

Crawley's brilliance was, however, neutralised by the Indian spinners as England were left reeling at 81 for 4 going into tea after an exciting opening session in the pink ball Test.

Two wickets fell in as many overs after the resumption of the second session, with Ashwin and

Patel taking one each, to reduce England to 81 for 6.

Ashwin sent Ollie Pope's (1) off-stump cart-wheeling with a beauty of a delivery, bowling round the wicket, before Patel trapped Ben Stokes (6) LBW in the next over with a ball that spun in.

Jofra Archer (11) did a tad better as he hit a four in the second ball he faced and another boundary off Ashwin. But, Patel had him soon, cleaning up his off-stump to send England innings into a mess.

England's rapid slide continued with Jack Leach edging one to the gully where Cheteshwar Pujara took a low catch off Ashwin, though the TV umpire took time to confirm the decision.

Crawley's effort was the only silver lining for England. Having missed the first two Tests due to a freak wrist injury, the stylish right-hander's driving was elegance personified as he hit 10 boundaries during his 84-ball 53.

Earlier, playing his landmark 100th Test, Ishant couldn't have hoped for a better start when he got a delivery to hold its line and bounce a shade extra, which Sibley edged to Rohit Sharma at second slip.

Axar, brought in as early as in the seventh over, struck with a delivery that came in with the arm and Jonny Bairstow (0) was adjudged leg before, leaving England at 27 for 2.

However, Crawley was in no mood to play the defensive game and made most of what always is the best time for batting in a pink ball Test. His half-century had 10 boundaries and came off 68 balls.

Captain Joe Root was the second highest scorer with a 58-ball 17 before Ashwin got his crucial wicket with a delivery that turned a shade.

Crawley, who had tried the reverse sweep without much success, was accounted for by Axar when he played for the away turn.



Hillary To Co-Write Thriller On State Of Terror



Press Trust of India

NEW YORK: Former US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her long-time friend Louise Penny will come out with a novel "State of Terror" which will be published on October 12 by Pan Macmillan India.

The story follows a novice Secretary of State who has joined the administration of her rival, a president inaugurated after four years of American leadership that shrank from the world stage.

A series of terrorist attacks throws the global order into disarray, and the Secretary is tasked with assembling a team to unravel the deadly conspiracy, a scheme carefully designed to take advantage of an American government dangerously out of touch and out of power in the places where it counts the most.

This high-stakes thriller of international intrigue features behind-the-scenes global drama informed by details only an insider could know, the publishers said.

"When it was suggested my friend Hillary and I write a political thriller together, I could not say yes fast enough," says Penny.

"What an incredible experience, to get inside the State Department. Inside the White House. Inside the mind of the Secretary of State as high stake crises explode. Before we start-

ed, we talked about her time as Secretary of State. What was her worst nightmare? 'State of Terror' is the answer," she says.

Clinton adds, "Writing a thriller with Louise is a dream come true. I've relished every one of her books and their characters, as well as her friendship. Now we're joining our experiences to explore the complex world of high stakes diplomacy and treachery. All is not as it first appears."

Jeremy Trevathan, Pan Macmillan publisher, says the "scope, ingenuity and ambition reflect the strength of the creative chemistry" that exists between Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny. "It's a unique pairing of global real life experience at the highest level and brilliantly honed narrative craft. The characters, their nuanced backstories and the tense, all-too-believable plot leap off the page."

Hillary Clinton, the first woman in US history to become the presidential nominee of a major political party, served as the 67th Secretary of State after nearly four decades in public service advocating on behalf of children and families as an attorney, First Lady, and US Senator.

Penny's "Chief Inspector Armand Gamache" novels have been translated into several languages. In 2017, she received the Order of Canada for her contributions to Canadian culture.

Mumbai Woman Spends Night Besides Son's Body, Tends To His Wounds Thinking Him To Be Alive

Press Trust of India

A 70-year-old woman spent an entire night besides her son's body and attended to his wounds, believing he is alive after he got injured fatally during a fall at home in Mumbai, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in the wee hours of Monday when the 42-year-old victim, who was in an inebriated state, fell in the bathroom at their home in Kalina area.

The man, who hailed from Meghalaya, received fatal head injuries, a police official said.

After some time, when the woman saw him lying there motionless, she dragged him out of the bathroom and laid him next to her elder son, who is bed-ridden, he said.

Believing him to be alive, she applied turmeric powder on the victim's injuries.

Next morning, when he did



not wake up, the woman informed her relatives who rushed to her house.

The family members alerted the police who reached the spot and took the victim to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead, the official said.

The victim had been out of work following the coronavirus-induced lockdown and the family was facing a monetary crunch, he added.

"On the basis of primary information, we have registered an accidental death report and an investigation is underway into the case," assistant commissioner of police, Vakola Division, Avinash Dharmadhikari said.

More Indians Turn Entrepreneurs As Job Market Still Bleak

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: While the job market still looks bleak in India after a pandemic-hit 2020, the world's professional network LinkedIn said on Wednesday it has seen a 10 per cent growth in members with the title 'founders' or 'co-founder' on their profiles on the platform.

Entrepreneurship looked up for Indian professionals last year.

"This uptick in new entrepreneurs was particularly strong in the fields of mental healthcare, e-learning and online media," according to the latest LinkedIn 'Workforce Confidence Index'.

"Skills are expected to become the new professional 'currency' this year as workers from different generations rely on learning new skills to future-proof their careers, at a time when industries continue to strengthen their remote operations," said Ashutosh Gupta, India Country Manager, LinkedIn.

"Reimagining employee skills and roles to welcome the post-pandemic ways of working will be crucial to building resilience for companies across sectors," Gupta added.

Based on the survey responses of 1,752 professionals, findings from January 1-29 revealed that professionals in India are confident about career progress despite growing uncertainties about the



job market and financial future in the current environment.

Nearly 80 per cent of professionals are confident about skilling opportunities, while 79 per cent are confident about the strength of their CVs.

However, the survey showed a dip in India's overall confidence.

The survey attributes this dip in optimism to the workforce's growing concerns about the status of the pandemic, surmounting expenses, and job availability in the present economic climate.

This professional uncertainty comes right after the year-end holiday season, when India's hiring rate dropped to 17 per cent year-over-year in December 2020,

according to the latest edition of LinkedIn's Labour Market update.

The survey showed that while India remains resilient, professionals from different generations have contrasting reasons to stay confident in these testing times.

While 92 per cent of Gen X and 98 per cent of Baby Boomers say the strength of their work experience and academic qualifications makes them more confident, 86 per cent of millennials state they are more inspired by opportunities to grow their skills and climb the ladder.

Further, 80 per cent of Gen Z professionals said that the likelihood of progressing their careers makes them more confident today, said the survey.

At least 62 Killed In Ecuadorean Prison Gang Riots

Agenceis

QUITO: At least 62 people have died in simultaneous violent riots in three Ecuadorean prisons on Tuesday that the government described as a concerted action by criminal organizations.

President Lenin Moreno has sought to control prison violence in the Andean country, declaring the prison system in a temporary state of emergency, because of the frequent confrontations between criminal gangs.

"These were two groups vying for criminal leadership within the detention centers," said Edmundo Moncayo, director of Ecuador's prison agency.

The toll had risen to 62 confirmed deaths, Moncayo said.

With the help of an additional 800 police officers, Moncayo

said, authorities have been able "to control and restore order within the detention centers."

The violence erupted in prisons in Guayas, Azuay and Cotopaxi provinces, which hold about 70% of Ecuador's total prison population according to official statistics.

The government said there were wounded police officers, without giving further details. Prison officials managed to evacuate during the riots.

Moreno said on his Twitter account that he ordered the Armed Forces to "strictly control" arms, ammunition and explosives in the outer perimeters of Ecuador's prisons.

Ecuador has about 53 detention centers, including those for juvenile offenders, with a prison population of some 37,500 people, according to official data.

19 Arrested, 25 Firs Lodged For R-Day Violence, Centre Tells Delhi High Court



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: As many as 19 people have been arrested and 25 FIRs lodged in connection with the Republic Day violence in the national capital during the farmers' tractor rally in protest against the three new agri laws, the Centre informed the Delhi High Court on Wednesday.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma and central government standing counsel Ajay Dignpal further told the high court that as many as 50 people have been detained and an investigation was going on into the incident.

They also submitted that adequate security personnel have been deployed at the Red Fort for its safety and security.

Taking note of the government submissions, a bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jasmeet Singh sought to know whether any similar matter has been already filed in or was pending before or disposed of by the Supreme Court.

It asked the central government to give it details of any similar matter in the apex court and listed the petition by a Delhi resident, Dhananjai Jain.

The petition has sought the removal of people squatting under the garb of farmers' agitation and clear all the roads and public places.

It has also sought a direction to remove the Delhi Police Commissioner from his position with immediate effect and punish all the police officers who allegedly

failed in discharging their duties relating to the Red Fort incident on Republic Day.

The tractor rally on January 26 that was to highlight the demands of farmer unions to repeal three new agri laws dissolved into anarchy on the streets of the national capital as thousands of protesters broke through barriers, fought with the police, overturned vehicles and hoisted a religious flag from the ramparts of the iconic Red Fort.

The petition has also sought a direction to the Centre to put adequate paramilitary forces to protect important monuments and to ensure the safety of life and property of citizens of Delhi and restore the feeling of confidence and security amongst them.

On January 12, the Supreme Court had stayed the implementation of the contentious new farm laws till further orders and constituted a four-member committee to make recommendations to resolve the impasse over them between the Centre and farmers' unions protesting at Delhi borders.

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, are protesting at various border points of Delhi for over two months now against the three laws—the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act.

Disengagement A Win-Win Situation For Both Sides: Army Chief

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The disengagement of armies of India and China from north and south banks of Pangong Tso is a "very good end result" and a win-win situation for both the sides, Army Chief Gen M.M. Naravane said on Wednesday, stressing that there are strategies in place to address other pending issues in eastern Ladakh.

He said there were no signs of an "overt collusion" between China and Pakistan during the Ladakh standoff but India also caters to a long term strategy for not a two, but a two-and-half front war. With the half front, he was referring to the internal security.

He said right from the beginning of the standoff, all sides on the Indian side worked together.

Be it at the political level, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to their Chinese counterparts, he said.

"We were all in it together. We had our plan chalked out which we had discussed on what should be the way forward. Whatever has panned out, has happened as a result of that. What we have achieved so far is very good," Naravane said



at a webinar organised by Vivekananda International Foundation.

The advice which was given by National Security Adviser also came in extremely handy and his insight into strategic level affairs definitely helped us chalking out the response, the Army chief said.

"As a result of this whole approach, this disengagement has taken place. I think it is a very good end result. It is a win-win situation. For any agreement to last, both sides should feel that they have achieved something. I think a good outcome that has resulted out of the 10 rounds of talks which have taken place so far," he said.

Last week, armies of the two countries concluded withdrawal of troops and weapons from north and south banks of Pangong Tso in the high-altitude region.

Naravane said there are some issues which remain in the area of Depsang, in the area of eastern Ladakh and in other areas along northern border.

"...But we have our strategies in place for that. Do we have anything to negotiate in future? Yes, definitely we have. But I would not, of course, for obvious reasons, what those strategies would be to further and progress our negotiations and come out with a favourable outcome."

Slightly High Fare Of Short Distance Trains To Discourage Unnecessary Travel: Railways

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: After concerns were raised over a rise in the ticket fares of short-distance passenger trains, the railways on Wednesday said the "slightly high fares" are only to discourage unnecessary travel.

Since the coronavirus-triggered lockdown was eased, the railways is running only special trains. It started with long-distance trains and now, even short-distance passenger trains are being run as special trains.

As a special provision in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fares of these trains have been fixed at par with the price of unreserved tickets of mail and express trains for the same distance, a statement from the Railway Ministry said.

The railways, which has now started operating passenger or local train services, has come under fire from daily commuters, who are feeling the pinch of the rise in the fares.

For example, a ticket from Amritsar to Pathankot costs Rs 55 now. Earlier, it was priced at Rs 25. Similarly, a ticket of a passenger DMU between the Jalandhar City railway station and Ferozpur costs Rs 60 now, while it used to cost Rs 30 earlier.

"Railways would like to inform that these slightly higher fares for passenger and other short distance trains had been introduced to discourage people from avoidable travels and those which are not most necessary.

"Covid is still around and in fact, worsening in some states. Visitors from many states are being subjected to screening in other areas and discouraged to travel. Little higher price is to be seen as a pro-active measure of Railways to prevent crowding in trains and stop Covid from spreading," the statement said.

It may be recalled that the Indian Railways stopped regular train operations on March 22, 2020 as a measure to curb the spread of the coronavirus and a nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24, which came into force from the next day.

The railways is constantly increasing the number of passenger-carrying trains in a graded manner. Full restoration of the regular services of passenger trains to the pre-COVID times is to be considered keeping in view a range of factors and operational circumstances.

Currently, the railways has operationalised almost 65 per cent of the mail and express trains and over 90 per cent of the suburban services as compared to the pre-lockdown times.

On an average, 1,250 mail and express trains, 5,350 suburban services and more than 326 passenger trains are presently in operation on a daily basis.

The statement from the ministry said the short-distance passenger trains account for less than three per cent of the total number of trains being operated.

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