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P3 NEWS

DAL LAKE FIGURES AMONG 12 SWACHH ICONIC PLACES

Dal Lake has figured among 12 Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) launched by the Department of Drinking...

THINK P7

ONLINE JOB PORTALS AND JOB SEEKERS

Soon after COVID19 emerged all over the world, people faced various losses whether in business, life or jobs. Everyone was preoccupied with just staying alive and protecting their families from this deadly...



P11 SPORTS

'MODERN DAY LEGEND' ASHWIN BECOMES 4TH INDIAN TO TAKE 400 TEST WICKETS

Ravichandran Ashwin on Thursday became only the fourth Indian and sixth spinner in the world to take...



Quote!

The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook
— William James

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Logs 108 New Covid-19 Cases

SRINAGAR: Thirty-seven travellers were 108 new covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the pestilence in the last 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday. They said that 31 of the fresh cases were reported from Jammu and 77 from Kashmir Valley, taking the total case tally to 126201. Giving the district wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 47 cases, Baramulla 7, >> More On P10

Minor Dies Of 'Convulsion' In Handwara

SRINAGAR: A minor on Thursday died of 'convulsion' in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Four-year-old Ahraan Rizwan, son of Muhammed Rizwan Wani, a resident of Kuttoora village of Langate Handwara was suffering from cough and fever, his family said. Hospital sources told news agency KNT that the child was brought dead to the hospital. They said prima facie the >> More On P10

'Militant' Warns Sarpanch, Police Files Case

SRINAGAR: Police have filed a case against an unknown 'militant' after he allegedly threatened a Sarpanch in central Kashmir's Budgam district and asked him to resign from his post. Ghulam Hasan Rasray, a Sarpanch from Chewa Beerwah registered a complaint with police claiming that an unknown militant threatened him over telephone and asked him to resign from his post or else face the consequences, news agency KNT reported Thursday. >> More On P10

ACB Charges Tehsildar After 7 Years

SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau on Thursday produced a charge sheet against Fayaz Ahmad, the then Naib Tehsildar, Sopore, in a "successful trap" case registered almost seven years ago. The ACB had lodged the case (FIR No. 01/2019) under section 5(1) (d) r/w 5(2) JK PC Act, Svt. 2006, 4 (A) Amendment Act 2014 following a written complaint. The charge sheet was filed before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption >> More On P10

ED Conducts Raids For Second Day

SRINAGAR: Enforcement Directorate (ED), on Thursday resumed its raid for the second consecutive day at the residential house of a National Conference leader's son in Shivpora area of the city. ED sleuths accompanied by local Police raided the house of National Conference leader's son Shami Singh Oberoi located in Batwara area of Srinagar, news >> More On P10

LG Picks Top IRTS Officer For Industrial Outreach

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has picked top Indian Railway Traffic Service officer Ranjan Prakash Thakur to help him in the Union Territory's industrial outreach. Thakur has been appointed as "Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department," an order issued by the J-K government said on Thursday. Some weeks

Armistice At LoC: 'All Eyes On Backchannel Diplomacy Now'

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Unlike last fall when the frontier flare-up badly bled his clan on the cutting edge known to explode every now and then, Abdul Rehman, 68, felt relieved on February 25, 2021, when he took a walk around his hamlet in Uri's Sultan Deki. The elder's sense of relief came after armistice was announced by the two warring armies on the Line of Control

(LoC)—the bloodline dividing Kashmir into two halves. "I hope we won't be running for our lives again after this announcement," Rehman said. "We want peace to prevail, as we have paid through our bodies and body parties to populate this hostile zone."

At least, now, said Irshad, a villager from Uri's Kamalkote area, his people won't be living under the constant shadow of shell pounding. "It's painful to lose your



File Photo

loved ones in this madness," he said. "Let's hope this be a new dawn in our lives."

The same sense of relief was felt at the "godforsaken" heights of Teetwal, where Indo-Pak troops stand guard with war-stores.

"Today's announcement revived our memories of the 2003 ceasefire," said Mushtaq Bhat, a social worker of Teetwal. "If only these guns disappear from our lives, we would thrive just like the olden times."

Revival of 2003 Ceasefire?

After LoC became a popular route to armed movement in Kashmir during 1990s, the Indo-Pak armies made it a new fire front. "Before 2003," said Lt. Gen. (ret.) DS Hooda, "the situation along the LoC was terrible."

Following years of bloody confrontations, the NDA-I led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee entered into the 2003 LoC ceasefire with Islamabad. >> More On P10

India, Pak Agree To 'Strictly Observe' All Ceasefire Pacts

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Thursday announced that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors, even as Indian Army officials asserted there would be no let-up in its fight against militancy or in its troop deployment along the borders.

A joint statement issued in Islamabad and New Delhi said the Director Generals of Military Operations of the two countries held discussions over the established mechanism of hotline contact and reviewed the situation along the LoC and all other sectors in a "free, frank and



File Photo

cordial" atmosphere.

"In the interest of achieving mutually beneficial and sustainable peace along the borders, the two DGMOs agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns which

have propensity to disturb peace and lead to violence.

"Both sides agreed for strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the Line of Control and all >> More On P10

Mainstream Camp Welcomes Move

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) and the PDP on Thursday welcomed the agreement between armies of India and Pakistan on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors. "We welcome it and hope >> More On P10

Hurriyat Hails Truce Agreement

The Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Thursday welcomed the agreement between armies of India and Pakistan on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, >> More On P10

Govt Tightens Rules For Social Media

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Weeks after a spat with Twitter, the government on Thursday announced the tightening of rules governing social media and streaming companies, requiring them to take down contentious content quicker, appoint grievance redressal officers and assist investigations.

The Inter-Media Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code, that IT and Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said are designed to curb misuse of social media platforms, requires WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and other social media firms as well

as streaming services such as Netflix, YouTube and Amazon Prime Video to appoint executives to coordinate with law enforcement, disclose the first originator of the mischievous information and remove, within 24 hours, content depicting nudity or morphed pictures of women.

Any contentious content flagged by the government or legal order has to be taken down quickly.

The guidelines require social media intermediaries to appoint a resident grievance officer, who shall register complaints in 24 hours, and file monthly compliance reports. User grievances have to be resolved within 15 days. >> More On P10

...WAHEED PARA CASE

Police To Take Into Custody Davinder Singh

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police will soon take into custody suspended Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh and Hizbul Mujahideen militant Naveed Babu for their custodial interrogation in a case in which PDP youth wing president Waheed-ur-Rehman Para has been arrested, officials said on Thursday.

According to documents submitted in a court, the Central Investigation Kashmir (CIK), a branch of CID mandated to probe cases under the Unlawful Activities and Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), has



informed the judge that it would be soon taking over their custody to tie up loose ends in the case.

The CIK filed the case under various sections of the UAPA last year based on "reliable and confidential sources" who said some political functionaries were misusing >> More On P10

Kashmir's Higher Reaches To Receive More Snow: MeT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Places like Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Zojila and Banihal may receive "half foot" of snow even as light rains or snow has been predicted across Jammu and Kashmir till the end of this month.

Sonam Lotus, Director Meteorological Department here, said that there was possibility of light rain/snow on higher reaches at scattered places of J&K. Widespread light to moderate rain with thunderstorm (hail in Jammu region) and snow on higher reaches has been forecast on

February 26.

"On February 27, there is possibility of light rain/snow on higher reaches at scattered places of J&K while there is possibility of isolated light rain or snow on February 28," he said, adding, "Places like Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Zojila, Banihal Top may receive half foot of snow." The predictability is more than 70%, he said.

Meanwhile, a meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.4 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature >> More On P10

No Traffic On Highway Today

The Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir with the outside world, shall remain shut on Friday for maintenance and repair work, authorities said on Thursday. In a communiqué, traffic department said that no traffic shall be allowed from either direction on the highway between Nashree and Jawahar Tunnel in view of the repair work. However traffic from Jammu towards Patnitop, >> More On P10

Delimitation Panel Set To Get Extension

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India is set to give extension to the tenure of delimitation commission constituted by it last year for fixing boundaries of Assembly and parliamentary segments of Jammu & Kashmir, sources disclosed.

Highly placed sources said that the panel set-up on March 6, last year is expected to get an extension of six months or one year to carry out its work. "The Commission's work was severely hampered last year due to an outbreak of coronavirus. It couldn't even

convene its meetings. Its tenure is coming to end on March 5, 2020. So it is likely to get an extension of six months to one year," an official said.

He said the panel's work was also affected by holding of the district development council polls in J&K Union Territory in November- December last year. "The State Election Commissioner KK Sharma couldn't take part in proceedings of the panel due to his poll-related engagements," he said, adding that before the appointment of Sharma, Hirdesh Kumar was part of the Commission >> More On P10

LG Orders Withholding Salary Of Director SWD

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed with withholding the salary of the social welfare department's director in Kashmir for delaying the release of salary of teachers working in a special school. Expressing his dismay over the >> More On P10

Diet high in poor quality carbohydrates linked to heart attacks, death risk

Agencies

A new study has found that consuming a diet high in poor quality carbohydrates has many ill effects ranging from a higher risk of heart attacks to strokes, and even death. The findings of the study were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The global study focused on people living in five continents and concluded that a diet high in poor quality carbohydrates leads to a higher risk of heart attacks, strokes, and death.

The higher risks of a diet high in poor quality carbohydrates, called a high glycemic diet, were similar to whether people had previous cardiovascular disease or not. A total of 137,851 people aged 35 to 70 years old were followed for a median of 9.5 years through the Population Urban and

Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study run by the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences.

The research team used food questionnaires to measure the long-term dietary intake of participants and estimate the glycemic index (the ranking of food based on their effect on blood sugar levels) and glycemic load (the amount of carbohydrates in food times its glycemic index) of diets. There were 8,780 deaths and 8,252 major cardiovascular events recorded among the participants during the follow-up period.

The investigators categorised dietary intake of carbohydrates depending on whether specific types of carbohydrates increased blood sugars more than others (high glycemic index) and compared this

index to the occurrence of cardiovascular disease or death.

Those people consuming a diet in the highest 20 per cent of the glycemic index were 50 per cent more likely to have a cardiovascular attack, stroke, or death if they had a pre-existing heart condition, or 20 per cent more likely to have an event if they did not have a pre-existing condition.

These risks were also higher among those people who were obese.

"I have been studying the impact of high glycemic diets for many decades, and this study ratifies that the consumption of high amounts of poor quality carbohydrates is an issue worldwide," said first author David Jenkins, professor of nutritional sciences and medicine at the University of Toronto's Temerty Faculty

of Medicine, who is also a scientist in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto.

"PURE study papers have already indicated that not all carbohydrate foods are the same. Diets high in poor quality carbohydrates are associated with reduced longevity, while diets rich in high-quality carbohydrates such as fruit, vegetables, and legumes have beneficial effects," he said.

PHRI research investigator Mahshid Dehghan added, "This study also makes it clear that among a diverse population, a diet low in both its glycemic index and load has a lower risk of cardiovascular disease and death."

Most fruits, vegetables, beans, and intact whole grains have a low glycemic index, while white bread, rice, and potatoes have a high glycemic index.

NOTICE

A female namely Mrs. Alka Sharma D/o J.C. Sharma Age 56 yrs, Height. 5 feet approximately, R/o 502 Dhutagiri Khushambi Gazi Abad U.P. is in the district hospital kargil from last many days and she is not able to speak about her relatives Any relative of the said female may contact
PCR kargil Mob. No- 8491938293
Ph. No 01985232275.
Police post Bazar - 01985232210, 9419878731 Tehsildar kargil -9469270558 District hospital kargil- 9419612644



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Muzaffar Ahmad Shah S/o: Murtaz Shah R/o: Mujpathri Khansahib Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C-6446 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra B/U Srinagar.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2711
Dated 24-02-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Ghulam Mustaf Dar S/o: Gh Hussain Dar R/o: Lahori Check owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D-0785 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra B/U Srinagar .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2722
Dated 25-02-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir



PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the death certificate of my father, Late Haji Nazir Ahmad Saboon somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the office of the Executive Officer Municipal Council Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mohammad Iqbal Saboon
S/o Late Haji Nazir Ahmad Saboon
R/o New Colony Sopore

ams

LOSS OF DRIVING LICENSE

I have lost my Driving License Bearing Registration No. JK03/LL/26780/2015. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may 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:-Gulzar Ahmad Dar
S/O Late Mohd Ramzan Dar
R/O Sirhama Srigufwara 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 Shopian (As Transferor) And Tariq Ah Dar S/o Gh. Mohd Dar R/o Batapora Shopian (Transferee) And Cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with JK Bank Kundalan Shopian



Now there it is notified for general information that objection if any to the proposed transfer of Ownership shall be filed 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

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, HMT, Srinagar TENDER DOCUMENT Short Term

e-N.I.T. No: -PHE/QC&PD/40/e-Tender Dated.23-02-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders are invited on item rate basis in two covers (details recorded in tender document) from Registered Original Manufacturers, their sole authorized distributor/dealer or reputed registered workshop holders/ SSI Units dealing with fabrication of water tankers as per specifications / details annexed to the e-NIT for the Supply & Delivery of Water Tankers of 6000 ltr GKL capacity mounted on suitable reliable carrier vehicle suitable for operation in hilly terrain with pump and hose pipe etc. complete as per specifications / details annexed to the NIT.

Name of Work	Estimated Cost Rs. In Lacs	Cost of Tender Document	EMD Fee	Validity of Bids
Supply & Delivery of Water Tankers, 6000 ltr capacity mounted on suitable carrier vehicle with pump and hose pipe etc. complete.	Rs. 34.00/-	Rs 1500/-	Shall Be Relaxed as per D.O. No: 9/4/2020-PPD dated: 12-11-2020 of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance Govt. of India, circulated vide circular of Govt. of J&K Finance department, Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar vide No: A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dated: 22-12-2020	180 days from opening of price bid

Schedule of Critical Dates/Information.

General	
Client Name	Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jal Shakti Deptt. Srinagar.
Circle	Superintending Engineer, PHE Mechanical, Jal Shakti Department, Circle South, Srinagar.
Division	Quality Control & Procurement Division PHE Jal Shakti Department, HMT Srinagar.
Bidding Type	Open
Amount Details	
Estimated Cost	Rs 34.00 Lakhs Approx.
Bid Document Fee (Non-Refundable)	Rs 1500.00 In the shape of treasury Challan/ e-transfer to J&K Bank A/c No: 0005010100005110 IFSC: JAKA0CHINAR
Bid document fee payable in the shape of treasury Challan/ e-transfer under major Head MH-0215-Rev-Misc to:	Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar. e-mail: xenmandp@gmail.com
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Shall Be Relaxed as per D.O. No: 9/4/2020-PPD dated: 12-11-2020 of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance Govt. of India, circulated vide circular of Govt. of J&K Finance department, Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar vide No: A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dated: 22-12-2020
Tender Dates	
Bid Document Downloading Start Date.	24-02-2021 2:00 PM
Bid Document Downloading End Date.	03-03-2021 4:00PM
Clarification Start Date	25-02-2021 10:00AM
Clarification End Date	02-03-2021 4:00AM
On Line Bid Submission Start Date	24-02-2021 3:00AM
Bid Submission End Date	03-03-2021 6:00PM
Date of opening of Cover Ist.	04-03-2021 2:00PM
Bid Validity Period	180 days from opening of the Price Bid.
Officer Inviting Bid	Executive Engineer QC&PD PHE Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar payable at Srinagar.
Bid opening Authority	Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt. Srinagar.
Address	Engineering Complex, Near Silk Factory, Raj Bagh Srinagar Kashmir -190001. (e-mail: kmpred@gmail.com)

The tenders of qualifying/eligibility criteria, consisting of general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time, will be opened on the time and date (given in the critical date schedule), in the office of the Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt. Srinagar in presence of the bidders who wish to be present. In case of any holiday, or any other reason/s, on the schedule date of opening - the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue or on any day convenient/feasible to the tender opening committee/authority of the Department.

THE COMPLETE BIDDING SHALL BE ONLINE IN TWO COVER SYSTEM:
The Cover 1st of bids shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt. Srinagar on the time and date given in the broad-band information of tender or any other date and time convenient to Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir PHE Deptt. Srinagar.
The date and time of opening of 2nd cover i.e. Financial Bids shall be notified separately. The Financial bids of qualified bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Chief Engineer, Kashmir PHE, Jal Shakti Deptt. Srinagar.
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from opening of the Price Bid
Position of Funds: - The Funds are available.

No: -PHE/QCPD/6809-14
Dated: 23-02-2021
DIPK-13880/20

SD/
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) QC&PD
HMT Srinagar.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla.
e- NIT NO: - 03 OF 2020-21 DATED: - 28-02-2021

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

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document. (Rs.)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/Opening Committee
1	construction of tile path repairing of main gate and renovation of office building, DFO's residential quarter of Social Forestry Division Baramulla under capex 2020-2021	3.30	"D"	200/=	15 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee

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

Publishing Date:-	23-02-2021
Download Start Date:	23-02-2021 from 06:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	24-02-2021 from 06:00 AM
Bid submission End Date:	01-03-2021 Up to 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	02-03-2021 at 11.00AM in the Office of Social Forestry Division (Zangli Kupwara)
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	02-03-2021 at 2.00PM in the Office of Social Forestry Division (Zangli Kupwara)

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2020-21, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan (cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.

NO:- 425-29 /A/5F/BLA
Dated:-23/02/2021

SD/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Division,
Baramulla

DIPK-13899/20

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS J&K
JKPCC Building Ground Floor Panama Chowk,
Jammu
Email ID: tribalaffairsjk.nic@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Extension of Date

The last date of Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students is extended from 20th of February, 2021 to 5th of March, 2021 on National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

DIPK-13873/20 **DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS J&K**

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT HOSPITAL GANDERBAL
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT DISTRICT HOSPITAL GANDERBAL
TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL GASES IN DISTRICT HOSPITAL GANDERBAL FOR THE YEAR 2021-22

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT Sealed tenders are invited from the Registered manufacture / dealers for the supply of Medical Gases for DH Ganderbal for the year 2021-22 and tender documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of undersigned against nonrefundable cash payment of Rs. 500 W.e.From 28/02/2020 to 2/03/2020pm written application on letter head.

The tender must be submitted properly sealed in double water proof envelop duly super scribed as "Tender for supply of Medical Gases" addressed to Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal " and Should reach to the same office by or before 4/03/2021 up to 2 pm . The tenders will be opened on next day by the tender opening committee in the office chamber or Medical Superintendent Ganderbal.

The intending tenders shall have to deposit an amount of Rs. 50000 (Fifty thousand)/= in the shape of CDR form the Jk bank Ltd. pledged to the undersigned having validity not less than 12 months.

Medical Superintendent
DH Ganderbal

No:MS/DH /GBL/1985-88 Dated: -24/02/2021
DIPK-13862/20

Dal Lake Figures Among 12 Swachh Iconic Places



Ramdevra, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, Golconda Fort, Hyderabad, Telangana, Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha, Rock Garden, Chandigarh, Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Banke Bihari Temple, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, Agra Fort, Agra, Uttar Pradesh and Kalighat Temple, West Bengal.

NEW DELHI: Dal Lake has figured among 12 Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grammen (SBM-G) launched by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The objective of SIP is to achieve a distinctly higher level of Sanitation/Cleanliness at these places, especially on the peripheries and in approach areas. This project is being co-ordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti in association with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and the concerned State/UT Governments, it said.

"The initiative aims at enhancing the experience of both domestic and foreign visitors by improving the sanitation and cleanliness standards at and around the sites," the statement said.

A communique on Thursday informed that taking forward the vision of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for transforming iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in the country as 'Swachh Tourist

Destinations' under Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grammen (SBM-G), the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti has announced the selection of the following Twelve (12) iconic sites under Phase IV of SIP.

They include Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra, Sanchi Stupa, Madhya Pradesh, Kumbhalgarh Fort, Rajasthan, Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan,

THE INITIATIVE AIMS AT ENHANCING THE EXPERIENCE of both domestic and foreign visitors by improving the sanitation and cleanliness standards at and around the sites,"

Kumar For Transforming Srinagar Into Modern, Sustainable City

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Nitishwar Kumar on Thursday chaired a meeting with the concerned officers of Srinagar Smart City projects to review its progress here at the Raj Bhavan.

At the outset, the Principal Secretary sought the latest status of the progress in the implementation of projects under the Srinagar Smart City programme. He said that the vision of the Srinagar Smart City project is transforming Srinagar city into a modern, sustainable, and economically advanced city.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary passed specific directions for completion of the ambitious projects within stipulated timelines. He asked the concerned to give focused attention on improving infrastructural development and public services.

He impressed upon the concerned officers to apply the learning gained from the experience of the officers of other smart cities in the country during the implementation of various projects.

He called for proper inter-departmental coordination and directed the officers to get a better understanding of the implementation of Smart City projects.

He further called for exploring every possibility to make Srinagar City a world-class tourist destination by using the latest technological advancements in projects of infra-development and delivery of various public services.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K.Pole; Chief Executive Officer (CEO) SSCL and Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Vice-Chairmen of J&K LDA & SDA; Chief Engineer R&B; Chief Town Planner Kashmir; S.E KPDCI and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Mayor SMC Reviews Preparedness For Opening Of Schools

SRINAGAR: Mayor Srinagar City Junaid Azim Mattu Thursday chaired a meeting with the Heads of prominent educational institutions of Srinagar City along with representatives of the School Education Department to review the initiatives taken ahead of the opening of schools in the capital city from March 1, 2021.

During the course of the meeting the heads of the schools were conveyed to follow SOPs, Social Distancing, Installation of Wash points within schools, wearing of masks, conduction of thermal checks, Sanitization / Fumigation with use of safe chemicals, the establishment of isolation rooms and designating of protocol officer in each institution to liaison with SMC & other health institutions.

The Mayor said the School Education Department shall supervise the process of opening of schools and ensure proper safety measures prior to re-opening of the schools.

He added that all the educational institutions shall maintain Health & Sanitation standards and it shall be ensured that the teaching /non-teaching staff get tested for COVID-19 before the opening of schools.

Directions were also passed on to the Chief Medical Officer Srinagar to constitute a dedicated team of officers to supervise the functioning of schools as per COVID-19 protocol.

از نیابت چندوسه نائب تحصیلدار ایکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول

عنوان: مضمون مشتاق احمد ولد سید حسن خان ساکن شہر
برآمد عطاگی SRO 279 PSC برآمد عطاگی
اشتمار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل فخر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع پھاری بولے والے طبقہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور شہر کا سکونت دار ہے کہہ سکتا ہے۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

مزدوری	45 سال
گھریلو کام	40
زیر تعلیم	22
گھریلو کام	14
زیر تعلیم	12
باتوان	16
گھریلو کام	15
زیر تعلیم	10
زیر تعلیم	06
گھریلو کام	

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی مدد یا اعتراف ہو تو وہ اپنا مدد یا اعتراف ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار چندوسه

از نیابت ماگام با اجلاس جناب نائب تحصیلدار صاحب ماگام

عنوان: مضمون درخواست محمد یونس گوبڑ مہلو ولد ستار محمد گوبڑ مہلو ساکن موضع ماگام برآمد عطاگی ST برآمد عطاگی تحت SRO294

اشتمار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں سائل نے ایک درخواست برآمد بیکوارہ ایریا سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فخر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلوب ہے کہہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

مزدوری	55 سال
گھریلو کام	50
زیر تعلیم	35
زیر تعلیم	16
زیر تعلیم	15

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی مدد یا اعتراف ہو تو وہ اپنا مدد یا اعتراف ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار ماگام

از نیابت واگورہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست حنیبا بانو و محمد یوسف ڈار اولادان ریاض احمد ڈار ساکن ویدر
برآمد عطاگی SRO294 تحت RBA بحق خود
اشتمار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل فخر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع ویدر کا سکونت دار ہے کہہ سکتا ہے۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

ریاض احمد ڈار زمینداری	41 سال
شریفہ بیگم گھریلو کام	39
ناصر احمد زیر تعلیم	25
مینا بانو زیر تعلیم	22
محمد یوسف ڈار زیر تعلیم	21
مدثر احمد ڈار زیر تعلیم	19
حمید ریاض زیر تعلیم	15

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی مدد یا اعتراف ہو تو وہ اپنا مدد یا اعتراف ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسه

عنوان: مضمون درخواست محمد اقبال خان و الد محمد شریف خان ساکن شہر برآمد عطاگی تحت SRO294

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل فخر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع آدنی مبلغ 10000 روپے تک ہے۔

محمد اقبال خان ولد عطاء محمد	25 سال
مزدوری	50

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی مدد یا اعتراف ہو تو وہ اپنا مدد یا اعتراف ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار چندوسه

عنوان: مضمون درخواست حسن الدین گوبڑ کھانہ ولد حافظ دین گوبڑ کھانہ ساکن چندوسه ر برآمد عطاگی تحت SRO294

اشتمار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل فخر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع آدنی مبلغ 17000 روپے تک ہے۔

حسن الدین گوبڑ کھانہ	30 سال
روقیہ بیگم	28
سید احمد	08
عمیرہ بانو	05
عمیرہ بانو	03
عابد بانو	02
حافظ احمد	01

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی مدد یا اعتراف ہو تو وہ اپنا مدد یا اعتراف ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت واگورہ

عنوان: مضمون درخواست رفیقہ بیگم زید سیف الدین گوبڑ کھانہ ساکن چندوسه
برآمد عطاگی تحت SRO294 بحق خود
اشتمار برآمد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں درخواست سائل فخر بڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہد ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ موضع ویدر کا سکونت دار ہے کہہ سکتا ہے۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

سیف الدین گوبڑ کھانہ	60 سال
رفیقہ بیگم	52
جاوید احمد	28
ارشاد احمد	25
زمرہ بانو	30

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہہ نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا انھیں کو کوئی مدد یا اعتراف ہو تو وہ اپنا مدد یا اعتراف ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ معائنہ ڈیل فرم پر مشتمل ہے۔

نائب تحصیلدار

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

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 - (Closed)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

This Day in History

- 1921 - The USSR signs treaties respecting the integrity of Persia and of Afghanistan
- 1923 - Italian nationalist & fascists merge (blue-shirts & black-shirts)
- 1925 - Jihad against Turkish government
- 1938 - 1st passenger ship equipped with radar
- 1952 - Netherlands-Indonesian Unity conference
- 1955 - 1st aviator to bail out at supersonic speed-GF Smith
- 1977 - 1st flight of Space Shuttle (atop a Boeing 747)
- 1980 - Egypt & Israel exchange ambassadors for 1st time
- 1987 - NASA launches GEOS-H
- 1987 - Tower Commission probes Iran-Contra affair
- 1987 - USSR resumes nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1990 - USSR agrees to withdraw all 73,500 troops from Czech by July, 1991
- 1991 - Kuwaiti resistance leaders declare they have control of their capital
- 1993 - "World Trade Center bombing of 1993": truck bomb explodes in parking garage of NYC World Trade Center at 12:18pm, killing 6 and injuring over 1,000 in what was the deadliest act of terrorism perpetrated on US soil at the time
- 2001 - The Taliban destroy two giant Buddha statues in Bamyán, Afghanistan.
- 2004 - The United States lifts a ban on travel to Libya, ending travel restrictions to the nation that had lasted for 23 years.
- 2005 - Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt, orders the constitution changed to allow multi-candidate presidential elections, asking Egyptian parliament to amend Article 76
- 2013 - A rocket launched from the Gaza strip into Israel ends the ceasefire since November 2012
- 2013 - A hot air balloon crashes in Luxor, Egypt, killing 19 tourists
- 2016 - Iranian elections: reformers and moderates win control of parliament

From KO Archives

VALLEY'S TOKEN POWER SUPPLY DIPS TO L 1/2 HR A DAY
Tower Restoration Yet To Pick Up
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Despite official claims to the contrary, there was no perceptible improvement in valley's power supply. Even after making, three units of the Pampore gas turbine operational since yesterday, the net availability of electricity to the consumers averaged a little over one and a half hour in 21 hours. Something unprecedented, indeed.

Official sources told Kashmir Observer the valley had been divided into 18 groups to whom electricity was being provided for one hour in every 18 hours by rotation. Following the availability of another 60 mw of power from the three units of gas turbine, a 'generous' relief of two hours in given five days. This works out to a total of 8.30 hours power supply in 120 hours.

With the power minister, S S Slathia's claim of "suspected militants" having blasted three transmission towers in Banihal area emphatically blasted even by official circles, people have blamed the government of engineering the total breakdown to deprive the valley of even the bare minimum of power during winter months to the advantage of warmer Jammu.

According to reports, even the divisional commissioner, Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, did not rule out the involvement of some contractors and power development department (PDD) officials in the blasting of the transmission towers. Nothing could be more damning for the power minister who has allegedly been employing circumlocution and subterfuge to the hilt to escape the blame for the valley's worst ever power crisis.

Meanwhile, according to CNS, the work on restoration of the transmission towers at Sher Bibi and Bonakat had not picked up yet. A group of officials from the power grid corporation of India (PGCI) and the power development department (PDD) besides some labourers are reported to be camping at the two sites without taking up any actual work. The official claims of the work going on 'war footing' have proved to be a hoax, the report said.

Rajinder Singh reports from Jammu: Even the government promised improvement by Saturday with the temporary restoration of 220-KV tower, the power minister, S S Slathia told Kashmir Observer the valley would have to face power crisis for another week. He said resto-1 ration work was going on 'war footing' but it would take about two month. However, temporary restoration will be completed by February 27. He said 370 mw of power not being supplied to the valley at present was being saved with effect from February 17.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 February, 2001)

rahiajaz786@gmail.com

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Dangerpora Srinagar, KMR. 193501
+91-7006034174

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG
NO.101/4293/MVD/ANG
Date: 23/12/2020
NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr.Tariq Ahmad Shah S/O Ab Aziz Shah R/O Anantnag (Party No.1st) as Transferor, (Seller) Owner of the Vehicle Bearing Regd. No.JK03E-7147 (Commercial/ Non-Commercial) covering under R/P No.N/A. and Mr.Rouf Ahmad Dar S/O Ab Majeed Dar R/O Goriee Bijbehara (Party No.2nd) as Transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted Vehicle from party No 1st and 2nd. And Cancellation of hire purchase agreement with N/A. Before the case is disposed off on its merit, anybody have any objection regarding the proposed transfer Amy file his objection within (7) days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned. No any representation / objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

OFFICE OF SENIOR MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (PURCHASE I)
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
SOURA, SRINAGAR - 190011 EXTENSION: 2275
EMAIL: ammopurchase@skims.ac.in TELE/FAX No.: 0194-2403929

Subject: Amendment.

The tentative quantity/ specifications (including BOQ) Of Haemodialysis Fluids Etc attached as Annexure "C" to e-NIT No SIMS 325 (PI) Tender 03 of 2021 Dated: 16-02-2021 is Modified and shall now be as per following instead of existing

S.No	Description	Unit/Size	Tentative 2 year requirement
01	Inj. Haemodialysis Fluid with Potassium	10 Litre Cans	4000 Cans
02	Inj. Haemodialysis Fluid without Potassium	10 Litre Cans	360 Cans
03	Inj. Haemodialysis fluid "Ca" free (Calcium free or without calcium)	10 Litre Cans	40 Cans
04	Inj. Haemodialysis fluid with low calcium	10 Litre Cans	40 Cans
05	Inj. Haemodialysis fluid with Dextrose	10 Litre Cans	200 Cans
06	Inj. Peritoneal Dialysis Fluid with Potassium	1000 ml Bottle	1200 Bottles
07	Inj. Peritoneal Dialysis Fluid without Potassium	1000 ml Bottle	1000 Bottles

Rest of the NIT shall remain unchanged

NO: SIMS 325 P (I)-e-Tender 03 of 2021-/1135-40-6101-04
Dated: 25/02/2021

Sd/- SENIOR MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OFFICER (PURCHASE I)

Biden Overturns Trump Ban On Many Green Card Applicants



Agencies

US President Joe Biden has revoked a proclamation issued under the Trump administration that blocked many green card applicants from entering the United States.

The order by former President Donald Trump, known as Presidential Proclamation 100014, cited a need to protect US jobs amid high unemployment rates caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

In a statement on Wednesday, the White House announced that Biden overturned the measure through an executive order, saying Trump's ban separated families and "does not advance the interests of the United States".

"To the contrary, it harms the United States, including by preventing certain family members of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents from joining their families here," the statement reads.

Human rights advocates have been calling on the Biden administration to overturn the

measure, which was set to expire on March 31.

"I'm thrilled that Biden has cancelled this proclamation," Curtis Morrison, an immigration lawyer based in California, told Al Jazeera.

"But I'm also worried," said Morrison, explaining that the US is currently facing a backlog of hundreds of thousands of visa applicants.

"That backlog may take [Biden's] entire first term to clear out, unless he is ambitious to doing something to solve that problem."

Since taking office on January 20, Biden has overturned several of Trump's anti-immigration policies, including the so-called Muslim ban and a policy that forced asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their US asylum applications are processed.

But his efforts – including a bill unveiled this month that would create an eight-year pathway to citizenship for 11 million undocumented people who live in the US – are expected to be met with stiff resistance by Republicans in Congress.

Pro-Military Marchers In Myanmar Attack Anti-Coup Protesters

Agencies

YANGON: Members of a group supporting Myanmar's military junta attacked and injured people protesting Thursday against the army's Feb. 1 seizure of power that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. At least several people were injured in the attacks in Myanmar's largest city.

The chaos complicates an already intractable standoff between the military and a protest movement that has been staging large-scale demonstrations daily to have Suu Kyi's government restored to power.

Fellow members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are urging Myanmar's military to make some concessions to help ease tensions. The 10-country regional grouping views dialogue with the generals as a more effective method of achieving compromises than more confrontational methods, such as the sanctions often advocated by Western nations.

Photos and videos on social media showed the attacks and injured people in downtown Yangon as police stood by without intervening. The attackers fired slingshots and carried iron rods, knives and other sharp implements.

A widely-circulated video showed one man stabbed in front of an office building near a major downtown intersection on the road to Sule Pagoda, a major venue for anti-coup protests. The number of injured people and their condition could not immediately be learned.

According to accounts and photos posted on social media, the situation began with a march of hundreds



of people in support of the coup. They carried banners in English with the slogans "We Stand With Our Defense Services" and "We Stand With State Administration Council," which is the official name of the new junta.

English has been widely used for signs and posters and online memes by the anti-coup demonstrators in an evident effort to win international support.

Reports said the pro-military marchers were jeered by bystanders near the city's Central Railway station and responded by firing slingshots, throwing stones at them and then chasing them down. Video shows pro- and anti-coup crowds at that location.

Supporters of the military have gathered in the streets before, especially in the days immediately before and after the coup, but had not used violence so openly. Critics of the military charge it pays people to engage in violence, allegations that are hard to verify. But they were raised during earlier spells of unrest, including a failed anti-military uprising in 1988 and an ambush of Suu Kyi's motorcade in a remote rural area in 2003, when she was seeking to rally her supporters against the military regime then in power.

Such confrontations jeopardize outside diplomatic efforts to help resolve Myanmar's crisis through dialogue.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi visited the Thai capital, Bangkok, on Wednesday and held three-way talks with her Thai counterpart Don Pramudwinai and Myanmar's new foreign minister, retired army colonel Wunna Maung Lwin, who also traveled to Thailand. The meeting was part of Marsudi's efforts to coordinate a regional response to the situation in Myanmar.

"We asked all parties to exercise restraint and not use violence... to avoid casualties and bloodshed," Marsudi said in a virtual news conference after her return to Indonesia, emphasizing the need for dialogue, reconciliation and trust-building.

Marsudi said she had conveyed the same message to a group of elected members of Myanmar's Parliament who have formed a self-styled alternative government after being barred by the military coup from taking their seats. The lawmakers are from Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which won a landslide victory in elections last November that would have given it a second five-year term in office.

WE ASKED ALL PARTIES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND not use violence... to avoid casualties and bloodshed," Marsudi said in a virtual news conference after her return to Indonesia, emphasizing the need for dialogue, reconciliation and trust-building.

Facebook Bans Myanmar Junta From Its Platforms Weeks After Coup



Agencies

WASHINGTON: Facebook on Thursday announced its decision to ban the Myanmar military and military-controlled state media from using its platforms following the coup to dislodge the civilian government.

"Today, we are banning the remaining Myanmar military

("Tatmadaw") and military-controlled state and media entities from Facebook and Instagram, as well as ads from military-linked commercial entities... Events since the February 1 coup, including deadly violence, have precipitated a need for this ban," the statement said.

On February 1, Myanmar's

military overthrew the government and declared a year-long state of emergency hours before the newly-elected parliament was due to convene.

READ | Pro-military marchers in Myanmar attack anti-coup protesters

State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, along with other top officials accused of election fraud, have been placed under house arrest.

The coup triggered mass protests across Myanmar. According to Sputnik, at least two protesters have died since the junta seized power in Myanmar. Tens of thousands have rallied across the country to demand the release of the elected leaders, prompting a military crackdown.

US Report On Khashoggi Murder Critical For Justice: UN Expert

Agencies

The pending release of an unclassified United States intelligence report on the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi will be a critical step in the ongoing search for justice, a leading United Nations expert has said.

Agnes Callamard, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, said the report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) is expected to provide information on who was responsible for the October 2018 killing.

"Once we have further evidence, it will be really impossible for the rest of the world to ignore whatever information will be provided," Callamard said late on Wednesday during a panel discussion hosted by the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University.

Khashoggi, a Washington Post newspaper columnist and prominent critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, where he had gone to retrieve documents for his upcoming marriage. His murder sent shockwaves around the world and spurred demands from human rights advocates, press freedom organisations, UN experts and legislators for the perpetrators to be held accountable.

"For the sake of accountability and for the sake of American democracy, the DNI report must be released," Callamard said.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Wednesday the Biden administration remains committed to releasing the DNI report. She did not give a specific timeframe for its release, saying only it would be "soon".

Biden told reporters he has read the report and expected to speak by phone soon with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. The



US president he did not say when the call would take place, the White House press pool reported.

Earlier this week, news outlet Axios said the report – which is widely believed to provide more details on the alleged role of bin Salman, also known as MBS, in Khashoggi's murder – could be out as early as Thursday.

Citing four unidentified US officials familiar with the matter, the Reuters news agency said the report "assessed that the crown prince approved and likely ordered the murder of Khashoggi".

Al Jazeera could not independently verify that information. "Absolutely not" Saudi officials have repeatedly rejected accusations MBS was involved in Khashoggi's killing, instead blaming the murder on a group of rogue operatives.

In an interview with broadcaster CBS's programme 60 Minutes in 2019, the crown prince was asked if he ordered Khashoggi's murder. "Absolutely not," he answered, adding however that he said he took "full responsibility" as a Saudi leader for the "heinous crime".

Amid global calls for a thorough and transparent investigation into what happened, the US Congress passed a defence bill in December 2019 that included a provision requiring the DNI to release within 30 days an unclassified report on the murder.

Specifically, it asked the intelligence chief to list anyone they believe with "high confidence" was responsible or complicit in Khashoggi's murder, knew of or assisted in the killing, or impeded the investigation.

Malaysian Wins Challenge Against Islamic Law Banning Gay Sex



Agencies

KUALA LUMPUR: A Malaysian man Thursday won the country's first legal challenge against Islamic laws banning gay sex, a victory hailed as "monumental progress" in combating persecution of the LGBT community.

He was charged in an Islamic court in 2019 with attempting to have "intercourse against the order of nature", and several others in the same case have already pleaded guilty and were caned as a punishment.

Critics say the climate is worsening for the gay community in Muslim-majority Malaysia, with government officials often speaking out against LGBT people.

In Thursday's landmark case, the legislation banning gay sex was enacted in Selangor state, outside Kuala Lumpur.

Multi-ethnic Malaysia has a dual-track legal system, with Islamic courts handling some matters for Muslim citizens, and sharia laws set by individual states.

But local laws cannot conflict with legislation at the federal level, and sodomy is already a crime under the national penal code – although the statute is rarely enforced.

In its ruling, Malaysia's top court sided with the man who brought the case, who was not identified, saying Selangor state was not empowered to make such a law.

The ruling means that the law is overturned and the man's case should be dropped, according to his lawyer Surendra Ananth.

Gay rights activist Numan Afifi welcomed the "historic development".

"It marks monumental progress for LGBT rights in Malaysia," he said. "We have worked hard for so many years to live in dignity without fear of prosecution."

Despite the victory, Islamic laws banning gay sex still exist in some other states.

NEWS MAKERS

President Xi Jinping Declares Complete Victory In Eradicating Poverty In China

BEIJING: President Xi Jinping on Thursday declared that China has scored a "complete victory" in its fight against poverty by lifting over 770 million people out of it in the last four decades, calling it another "miracle" created by the country that will go down in history.

Absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world's most populous country, Xi announced while addressing a gathering held here to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honour its model poverty fighters.

China has a population of around 1.4 billion. Xi said that all poor people in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty. With this, China has achieved the UN goal of poverty eradication 10 years ahead of the 2030 deadline, he said.

Over the past eight years, the



final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty.

All the 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 impoverished villages have been removed from the poverty list, he said.

Since the launch of the reform and opening up in the late 1970s, 770 million impoverished rural residents have

shaken off poverty when calculated according to China's current poverty line, he said.

China has contributed to more than 70 per cent of global poverty reduction over the same period, Xi, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), said.

With such achievements, China has created another "miracle" that will "go down in history," he said.

Xi said since he assumed power, China has invested accumulative fiscal funds of nearly 1.6 trillion yuan (about USD 246 billion) into poverty alleviation over the past eight years.

He said according to the World Bank's international poverty line, the number of Chinese people lifted out of poverty over the past 40 years accounts for more than 70 per cent of the global total.

Complete eradication of poverty in China was the main goal announced by Xi when he came to power towards the end of 2012. At that time, China had about 100 million poor people, mostly living in remote areas.

In his address on Thursday, Xi said that shaking off poverty is not the finish line, but the starting point of a new life and new endeavour. PTI

British Law Professor Under Fire Over 'Islamophobic' Statements

London, United Kingdom – A British university professor has come under mounting criticism over what students described as his "Islamophobic" remarks and taught content.

In a statement last week, the University of Bristol's Islamic Society (BRISOC) said it was "alarmed by multiple complaints against Professor Steven Greer of the Law School for his reported use of discriminatory remarks and Islamophobic rhetoric".

Law students have claimed Greer "frequently expressed views in class that can be deemed Islamophobic, bigoted and divisive", said the statement, which was signed by several other student societies.

Although Greer's accusers have gone public, he has been



barred by the university from making any comment on the allegations because they are subject to an ongoing investigation and he is bound by a duty of confidentiality.

He did however tell Al Jazeera he rejects the allegations.

BRISOC's president, Aamir Mohamed, told Al Jazeera the first complaints came last September and the society lodged a formal complaint with the university in November.

A law student at the university told Al Jazeera he filed an independent complaint about Greer last year.

BRISOC is demanding an official apology from Greer and the removal of content it considers to be problematic, in a human rights module.

The society also seeks an apology from the university for "funding, supporting and promoting" Greer's work and for its "delayed updates" since the complaint was made, said the statement.

The university told Al Jazeera it has launched a process to address the issue.

'Islamophobic' content The principle complaint against Greer relates to a human rights module he teaches, titled Human Rights in Law, Politics and Society.

K O V I E W

Khan's talks offer

In one more indication of Pakistan seeking to mend ties with India, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday that India and Pakistan can resolve Kashmir through dialogue. Khan said Kashmir was the only dispute between the two countries and "the way forward for the subcontinent is to resolve our differences through dialogue". Khan reiterated how soon after taking over as the Prime Minister, he had approached India for dialogue but hadn't succeeded. "I am optimistic that eventually sense will prevail," he said while addressing the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Trade and Investment Conference.

Earlier last month, Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa had called for resolving the Kashmir issue in a "dignified and peaceful manner" between India and Pakistan, saying it was "time to extend a hand of peace in all directions". He had said that Pakistan stands "firmly committed to the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. Significantly, General Bajwa didn't talk about a third party mediation but about a bilateral resolution of Kashmir issue.

Now Khan has made a similar statement in a third country. These statements are coming at a time when the relations between the neighbours have plunged to their lowest low in the wake of the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. It has now been years since there has been no formal dialogue between the two countries. And there's little hope of such a dialogue in near future. Earlier, Khan has said that there will be no dialogue between the two nations as long as India doesn't reverse the withdrawal of Kashmir's autonomy. But first General Bajwa's and Khan's statement reveals a certain change of heart in Pakistan on engagement with India.

Whether, it's only a one-off statement will be known in the weeks and months ahead. In India, there has been no indication over the past two years that the government wants to reach out to Pakistan. Nor has Pakistan made any such effort. The reason for this is that the repeal of Article 370 has irrevocably altered the paradigm under which the two countries engaged. By integrating Kashmir, New Delhi has signalled that it no longer considers this side of Kashmir as disputed. Pakistan sees India's withdrawal of Kashmir's special status enshrined in Article 370 as a dilution of what it sees as the disputed status of the region. But New Delhi sees the changes to the constitutional position of J&K as its internal matter. Two positions look all but irreconcilable. But for a durable peace in the region, the two countries have to find a way to get together. This requires statesmanship on both sides. And this will only be possible if there's willingness on the part of the neighbors to resolve their issues. Earlier this month, India said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence. Here's hoping that the two countries find some common ground to get back to dialogue.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

Law and liberty

The Bombay High Court decision to grant conditional bail to Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, is welcome, even if it seems belated. The 82-year-old poet-activist has been in judicial custody awaiting trial since August 2018. He has been hospitalised for various ailments — he also contracted COVID-19 while in jail in July — and his family had pleaded for bail citing his ill health. An NIA court earlier denied interim bail but the HC has accepted Rao's submission that invoked Article 21 of the Constitution to press his right to health. As the Supreme Court has said several times, bail must be the norm and jail the exception. Dishearteningly, this principle is not being faithfully or consistently upheld.

In Rao's case, the HC pointed out that the NIA court was yet to frame the charges and nobody was in a position to tell within how much time the trial would be completed. The court observed: "The question is as to whether they (under trials) can be forced to live a subhuman existence behind bars only because they stand accused of serious offences." The HC has insisted on stringent bail conditions, including prohibiting Rao, a resident of Hyderabad, from leaving Mumbai: "We feel that although the material on record does show that the health condition of the undertrial is precarious, sending the undertrial back to where he belongs, is fraught with the risk of his presence being used by those allegedly associated with him to seek to revive the nefarious activities." The disquieting fact is that cases such as this one seem to confirm a pattern, wherein the courts are seen to be weighing excessively in favour of the state, especially when draconian legal provisions are invoked against the individual, who may be protesting or expressing dissent. In recent times, all too often, the courts have been seen to take the government's claims at face value, when charges are pressed under exceptional laws such as UAPA and sedition, where the judicial bar must be set especially high.

The courts need to ask tougher questions to agencies that seek to keep the accused in custody for extended periods of time pending trial. Justice D Y Chandrachud's soaring defence of bail in the Arnab Goswami case in November last year could serve as a guide: "Our courts must ensure that they continue to remain the first line of defence against deprivation of the liberty of citizens. Deprivation of liberty even for a single day is one day too many." *The Indian Express*



While travelling around Maharashtra last year in January I saw concrete roads being constructed around Vidarbha region particularly in the districts of Nagpur, Bhandara and Gondia. I remember around 1999 when I was a college student and happened to go to Mumbai, I saw cement concrete being used in road construction. Initially, I could not believe that the construction workers were using cement for road construction but after visualizing it myself on famous Cadell Road, it made me believe that cement concrete can be used for laying roads. For more than 20 years, a question would always come to my mind as to why the Jammu & Kashmir Government was not using cement concrete for road construction as the traditional Bitumen roads get damaged every year during winter snowfall with the sub-zero temperature?

Cement Concrete roads in J&K

DR RAJA MUZAFFAR BHAT

PMGSY Road in Budgam

Last year, a 9 1/2 km road stretch from Bonyar to Gogjee Pathri via Bonen Kutbal in Surasyar block of district Budgam was constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna (PMGSY). Locals told me it was a Rs 14 crore project. I could not cross check this as PMGSY J&K has no official website nor are there Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) of roads available on the respective district websites in J&K. I had already taken up the issue with Lt Governor during my January 18th meeting with him and the Government has subsequently constituted a committee under Secretary IT to ensure continuous updating of websites. I had written a detailed piece on this issue last week.

Residents of Bonyar, Bonen, Kutbal and other villages around Surasyar Budgam were overwhelmed when they saw Bitumen layers being spread on this PMGSY road stretch. Blacktopping of a road surface was happening for the first time on this link road. When the work was completed, people enjoyed the ride on the road surface for several months. This was only a short-lived joy as the January snowfall damaged the road surface. The use of Bull-Dozer (JCB) to clear the snow from the road, further damaged it as it created fissures and cracks on the road surface. Had the Government invested Rs 30 crore or more on this project, that would have ensured better durability of the road. With bitumen roads, there occurs a lot of water logging, while with cement concrete roads, the management of water logging is much better. The Bitumen roads are to be laid

and repaired again and again almost every year after the winter season or post monsoon season across India owing to the damages incurred during the season, but cement concrete roads last longer than upto 30 to 40 years.

Scarifying the road surface

It has now become a trend to black-top road surfaces without even scarifying the surface. This has destroyed the road landscape in almost all the areas of Srinagar and major towns. The boundary walls around residential houses located on main roads look short and shabby now as continuous bitumen layers have elevated most of the road surfaces. Scarifying is breaking up hard or compacted materials to create enough space for material

landscape if concrete road projects are taken up. On pilot basis two stretches have been constructed in Srinagar from Iqbal park area to Rambagh bridge and around Pir Bagh area near Police Headquarters. I would suggest the Government take up more such projects next financial year.

Other advantages

Cement concrete roads have a long service life which can last between 35 to 40 years, whereas, roads made up of Bitumen last for around 10 years in areas with no snowfall, but in a place like Kashmir or Ladakh where the temperature drops down to sub-zero and there is heavy snowfall as well the roads get damaged within 2 to 3 years only. During the service life concrete roads do

to this concrete (cement) is produced from abundantly available limestone. Cement factories also lead to air pollution, but in comparison researchers say that concrete material is still better than bitumen.

Taking on board Hot mix Plant owners

On the basis of initial cost of pavement the Concrete Roads are reported to be around 15 to 16% costlier than the Bituminous Roads. However, on life cycle cost basis, the cement concrete roads due to their long life of 35 to 40 years and better durability are estimated to be around 25-30% cheaper when compared with Bitumen roads. On the long term basis, cement concrete roads are actually more economical. To compensate the hot-mix plant owners who have invested a lot in setting up of these plants in J&K, the Government must involve them in construction of cement concrete roads so that their economic interests are also safeguarded.

Gadkari on concrete roads

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in 2017 said all the roads in the country would be converted into cement-concrete to ensure their stability and durability. During a function he had said that cement concrete roads built 20 years ago in Mumbai are still in good shape but some political leaders, bureaucrats and contractors were against concrete roads. Gadkari said that cement concrete roads would last for 200 years. The minister was speaking while inaugurating 'Prawaas 2017'—India International Bus and Car Travel Show in Mumbai on July 29th 2017. In-fact Gadkari has ensured construction of concrete roads in nook and corner of Nagpur as he seems to be the biggest proponent of these roads.

Conclusion

This harsh winter has taught us many lessons. Most of our road surfaces are in shambles now. Even roads blacktopped last summer have been damaged. There is huge waterlogging and potholes can be seen everywhere. Most parts of the Srinagar city is messed up due to bad roads. The Government without wasting any time must start construction of cement concrete roads in J&K so that taxpayer's money is not wasted every year on the bitumen roads.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is Founder & Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He is an Acumen Fellow as well. Feedback: bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com

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to settle down. Just placing Bitumen filling material on a damaged road surface to fill the ruts and potholes is a temporary fix. The bitumen material does not bind in the ruts and potholes. This only increases the height of the road and makes the surrounding landscape shabby. The proper way to reshape the damaged road is to scarify the surface to the depth of the depressions. This breaks up all the compacted surrounding surface materials. After scarifying the material, the Bitumen can settle down properly. Cement concrete roads cannot be built at all unless the road surface is not scarified 2 to 3 feet deep. Thus, concrete roads have this advantage. In J&K we can restore the lost glory of roads and surrounding

not require frequent repairs or patching work like macadamized roads. The vehicles that run over a concrete road, consume 15-20 per cent less fuel as compared to roads made of asphalt-bitumen. This is because of the fact that a concrete road does not get deflected under the wheels of loaded heavy vehicles. During the processing of bitumen lots of toxic gases are emitted from these plants and subsequent less fuel consumption by the vehicle operating on a concrete road leads to little pollution as well. Bitumen is made from imported petroleum products which is the non-renewable source of energy. If we constantly use these products a day will come when these natural resources will be finished. On contrary



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Shrinking of Wular Lake

Wular lake, the second largest natural freshwater lake in Asia, is situated in Bandipora district of Kashmir. The size of the lake is 16 km long and 10 km wide, but varies according to season due to varying water levels. The area of the lake has reduced from 157 sq. km to 86 sq km in three decades. Wular lake is located 50 km from the main Srinagar city. The lake lies at an altitude of 1,580 m. Its maximum depth is 14 metres.

The lake basin was formed as a result of tectonic activity and the main source of water is Jhelum river.

It plays a significant role in the hydrographic system of the Kashmir Valley by

acting as a huge absorption basin for annual floodwater. The lake with its associated wetlands is an important habitat for migratory water birds and supports rich biodiversity. Livelihoods of lakeshore communities are primarily dependent on lake resources, including fish and aquat-

ic vegetation.

According to the action plan of Wular lake (2007), the area of the lake was 217 sq km in 1911 which includes 58 sq km of associated marshes. Lake has shrunk to nearly half of its original area. The lake area has reduced mainly due to conversion for agriculture, plantation and encroachment on its shores. One fifth of the water holding capacity has been lost over the last three decades due to siltation.

Lack of understanding of the values and functions of Wular Lake, wetlands

have led to conversion of its large area. Agriculture settlements, willow plantations and government sponsored programmes have led to shrinkage of the lake area. There is a need to adopt new guidelines of management and planning. Conservation measures should be taken as the lake is fast losing its aesthetic beauty.

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Suhaib Baba
He can be reached at
suhaibbaba343@gmail.com

Online Job Portals and Job Seekers

Dilemmas, Challenges and Trends



KHALID MUSTAFA

Unemployment rate in J&K is surging. Yet, youth here is trying to find employment in companies across the globe especially in the Gulf countries. Sometimes, they even drop by the office or leave emails even if the jobs aren't advertised. This should be an eye opener for websites that style themselves as job seeker's paradise.

Soon after COVID19 emerged all over the world, people faced various losses whether in business, life or jobs. Everyone was preoccupied with just staying alive and protecting their families from this deadly virus. Apart from the COVID19 infections and death rates, the depleting job rate was also a challenge that the young faced. Lay-offs were common around the world and earning livelihood was getting difficult by the day. Many had different ways to deal with the pandemic which were not always good but there were some who showed the way!

While companies and industries across the globe switched to WFH, there were many layoffs which accounted for worsening living, health and even mental health conditions. The same was true of Kashmir as well especially because it did not have access to high speed internet for over one year. Many people lost their jobs and ended in a deep hole of despair.

The greatest challenge now is to seek new job opportunities as things are slowly coming back to track. As both recruiters and job seekers have to pay heed to covid-19 SOPs, most of recruitments are happening online. Many job portals exist which are a one stop destination for job seekers. We are all aware of various job portals like LinkedIn, shine, Freshers world, Times Jobs, Gulf Jobs, Jooble, Taleo etc. Evensocial media sites have introduced spaces for recruiters and seekers to apply for jobs online.

However, an underbelly seems to be operating here too. As HRs are basically virtual, it leaves open space for scams. Job seekers often risk sensitive information about their identity, salary, CV, address and even bank details while applying or while being pursued into this make believe opportunity for a job.

This has led to job seekers getting discouraged as they do not get instant feedback or reviews but auto generated responses which do not seem enough. Applications are very lengthy and often ask for details that a job seeker might wish to disclose at the initial level of the application process.

Many recruitment websites and apps also ask one to subscribe to a better plan or earn premium membership for better access. This is not too democratic considering that not all job seekers would have the resources to upgrade. Such adver-



tisements and information of upgrades are more annoying to us as the OEM of portals are earning in any other modes like payment from recruiters, advertisements, SEOs and still remain in queue to grab handsome amount from the job seekers especially freshers.

The skies don't have limits. We have witnessed that many of us have been recruited in top most companies by online job portals using LinkedIn but that could also have been done through authentic career websites of the parent company. Even this makes job seekers more vulnerable as they often respond to various job consultants thinking they are applying to parent recruiter and they in other means grab their pockets.

Online job portals should be developed in a more precise and executable manner and should provide support to job seekers in a number of

ways. They should inform job seekers about every process by recruiter so that they will not be kept in the dark for long.

Unemployment rate in J&K is surging. Yet, youth here is trying to find employment in companies across the globe especially in the Gulf countries. Sometimes, they even drop by the office or leave emails even if the jobs aren't advertised. This should be an eye opener for websites that style themselves as job seeker's paradise. Job seekers should be treated as job seekers by portals not as money providers to tall up their respective businesses.

The author is IT & Management Expert, BSc IT-MBA IT. Presently Manager IT-Ops @HK Group and can be reached at er.khalidmustafashah@gmail.com

Don't Glorify All Work and No Rest

TEENA J CLOUSTON

As a culture, we've come to value growth and productivity, making paid work not only a necessity, but a central concern in peoples' lives. Yet this attitude towards work is harming us more than it's helping, with research showing that workaholism (also known as work addiction) is a growing problem in the industrialised world. And according to the findings of a recent study, work addiction is linked with poorer mental health.

Work addiction is a clinical condition characterised by an obsessive and compulsive interest in work. People usually work more than they're required to, either by the workplace or because of financial need. Other characteristics include being concerned about their performance at work, rigid thinking and perfectionism, which is often projected onto others.

People with work addiction are driven to work excessively, despite the detrimental impacts this has on their personal health and wellbeing, and relationships. People at risk of developing work addiction often have low self esteem, experience doubt about their performance at work, or have obsessive compulsive personality traits.

Numerous studies have shown the negative impact of work addiction on mental health. But a recent study on workers in France investigated why work addiction happens to better understand the impact it has on mental and physical health.

The researchers looked at a total of 187 workers from a range of different occupations and demographics, who were asked to answer four different questionnaires. They found that high work demands and people who worked in high pressure roles – for example managers with greater responsibilities – were the most significant factors contributing to the risk of work addiction.

Where this was accompanied by working longer hours than required and having an obsessive approach to work, there was an even greater risk of developing work addiction. Women were also shown to be more predisposed to developing work addiction than men. Although it's not entirely clear why women were



more likely to develop work addiction, other research has had similar findings.

Workers with depression were twice as likely to develop work addiction compared to those without a mental health issue. Poor quality of sleep, high levels of stress and low levels of overall wellbeing were also identified as high risk factors.

Although this study's sample size was small, previous research has also shown that work addiction is associated with depression, stress, sleep disorders and lower mental health. Burnout and exhaustion were also reported.

Mental health

Work addiction is more common in industrialised countries where work performance is a measure of success. This suggests that neoliberal ideas about work are influential in increasing the risk of work addiction. These ideas place pressure on intensifying

Given the harms of work addiction, radical changes in both workplaces and society will be necessary. This would require society to stop viewing work as a pivotal tool of performance and growth, and instead place greater value and importance on the health and wellbeing of the worker, both individually and collectively.

workloads and performance at work in order to promote economic growth. They also focus on increasing a person's responsibilities at work.

Given the harms of work addiction, radical changes in both workplaces and society will be necessary. As I have argued before, this would require society to stop viewing work as a pivotal tool of performance and growth, and instead place greater value and importance on the health and wellbeing of the worker, both individually and collectively.

Support and change can actually happen in the workplace itself, which is why it's important for employers to recognise and address work demands in a positive way. For example, one study has found that increasing job security and opportunities for development lowered the risk of work addiction.

Other studies have suggested that work-life balance interventions could

reduce the risk of work addiction. For example, if workplaces actively reduce working hours in order to give employees a chance to spend more time with their family, it can actually result in better work performance. And, fewer working hours may also reduce family conflict for workers, as employees are able to engage in family time more meaningfully.

Promoting work-life balance has also been shown to increase both physical and psychological health, and personal resilience for workers. Balancing time and energy used on work and personal life helps people feel better – subsequently both improving mental and physical health.

All this suggests that workplaces should develop work-life balance initiatives, provide opportunities for career development and increase job security to prevent work addiction from happening. These changes may also lower stress and absenteeism while improving performance.

But not all workplaces have these kind of strategies in place – and they can be hard to implement because of our culture's focus on performance and economic growth. If you're concerned you have or are developing work addiction, address the problem now if possible.

Seek support at work by talking to managers and peers if you can, ask for performance feedback, or even see if there is a way you can work to reduce some of your working hours. Speaking to mental health and wellbeing services can also help. If you don't have support in your workplace, try talking with friends and family, and ask for their help in refocusing your time – such as having them remind you to take breaks from work.

Of course, better work-life balance will help, but this can be a very hard thing to do as it requires adjusting daily patterns and changing how you think and feel. But if you're able to balance work with other activities – such as seeing family and friends, exercising, or enjoying hobbies – your mental health and wellbeing will improve.

...
By Arrangements With
The Conversation

Study suggests changes in writing style provide clues to group identity

Agencies

Small changes to people's writing style can reveal which social group they "belong to" at a given moment, new research showed.

Groups are central to human identity, and most people are part of multiple groups based on shared interests or characteristics - ranging from local clubs to national identity.

When one of these group memberships becomes relevant in a particular situation, behaviour tends to follow the norms of this group so that people behave "appropriately".

The new study - by the University of Exeter, Imperial College London, University College London, and Lancaster University - demonstrated that group normative behaviour is reflected in a person's writing style.

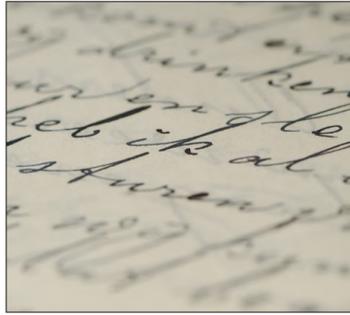
It also showed that assessing writing

style can reveal - with an accuracy of about 70 per cent - which of two groups affected a person while they were writing a particular piece of text.

To demonstrate their method, researchers studied how people who are parents and feminists change their writing style when they move from one identity to another on anonymous online forums such as Reddit, Mumsnet, and Netmums.

"People are not just one thing - we change who we are, our identity, from situation to situation," said Dr Miriam Koschate-Reis, of the Department of Psychology and the Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, both at the University of Exeter.

"In the current situation, many people will need to switch between being a parent and being an employee as they are trying to manage homeschooling, childcare, and work commitments," added Dr Koschate-Reis.



Dr Koschate-Reis further said, "Switches between identities influence behaviour in multiple ways, and in our study we tracked which identity was active by focussing on language."

"We found that people not only change their writing style to impress their audience - they change it based on the group identity that is influencing them at the time. So, when we asked people in an experiment to think about themselves as a parent, their language patterns reflected this," Dr Koschate-Reis said.

The study avoided "content" words (a parent might mention "childcare" for example) and focussed on stylistic patterns including the use of pronouns, "intellectual" words, and words expressing emotions.

Commenting on the possible uses of the new method, Dr Koschate-Reis said, "We are currently focussing on mental health. It is the first method that lets us study how people access different group identities outside the laboratory on a large scale, in a quantified way."

Dr Koschate-Reis added, "For example, it gives us the opportunity to understand

how people acquire new identities, such as becoming a first-time parent, and whether difficulties 'getting into' this identity may be linked to postnatal depression and anxiety."

"Our method could help to inform policies and interventions in this area, and in many others," Dr Koschate-Reis noted.

Group identities have been found to affect thoughts, emotions, and behaviour in many settings - from work contexts to education to political activism. Research is ongoing to understand how much control we have over switches between different identities - most of which are thought to be triggered by the social context.

Dr Koschate-Reis said it might be possible to manipulate the cues that trigger an identity switch by going to a location associated with the identity. For example, students might find it easier to write in an "academic style" when they are in the library rather than the local coffee shop.

Researchers reveal 'good bacteria' in breast milk changes over time

Agencies

The cocktail of beneficial bacteria passed from mother to infant through breast milk changes significantly over time and could act as a daily booster shot for infant immunity and metabolism, according to the findings of new research.

The research, conducted by scientists from Montreal and Guatemala and published in *Frontiers in Microbiology*, has important implications for infant development and health.

Researchers discovered a range of microbiome species never before identified in human milk. Until now, relatively little was known about the role microbiome bacteria play in breast milk. These bacteria are thought to protect the infant gastrointestinal tract and improve aspects of long-term health, such as allergy prevention.

"Some bacterial species we observed in our sample breast milk had a common function in destroying foreign substances or xenobiotics and could play a role in protection against toxins and pollutants," says co-author Emmanuel Gonzalez, a bioinformatics specialist at McGill University. The discovery sheds light on how mothers help lay the foundation for infant immunity.

To learn more about the human milk microbiome, the scientists analysed breast milk samples using



high-resolution imaging technology, originally pioneered by McGill University and the University of Montreal to detect bacteria on the International Space Station.

They analysed breast milk samples of Mam-Mayan mothers living in eight remote rural communities in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. This gave them a unique window to observe the human milk microbiome over time, specifically between early and late lactation (6-46 days versus 109-184 days).

Unlike most mothers in North America, nearly all Mam-Mayan mothers breastfeed for the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended period of six months. In North America, only 26 per cent of mothers do so. "This longer feeding time allowed us to observe important

changes in the bacteria provided to infants over time, which could impact long-term health," says Gonzalez.

The genomic technology used by the scientists revealed a range of microbiome species shared among Mam-Mayan mothers, providing a glimpse of a diverse community of bacteria being passed on to infants.

"Studying microbiomes of diverse communities is important in order to understand the variation present in humans," says co-author Kristine Koski, an Associate Professor in the School of Human Nutrition at McGill. "Most human milk microbiome studies have been conducted with mothers from high-income countries, generating an incomplete picture of the important bacteria passed to infants during early development."



Government of Jammu and Kashmir

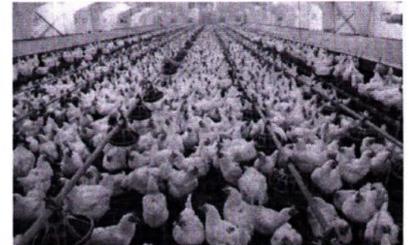
J&K Pollution Control Board Jammu

winter office: November-April
Parvash Bhawan, Gladni Transport
Nagar, Narwal, Jammu (J&K) 180006
Ph Fax 0191-2476925

Summer Office: May - Oct
Sheikh Ul Alam Campus Behind Govt
Silk Factory Rajbagh Srinagar (J&K)
190008 Ph fax 0194-2311165

Email: membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE



Attention: Poultry Farm Operators

Implementation of directions issued by Hon'ble NGT in O.A No. 681/2017 for seeking Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate for Poultry Farms

It is hereby notified for all the operators / owners of Poultry farms in J&K that as per Hon'ble NGT directions regarding waste management in Poultry farms, following mandatory compliance are required to be made by each concerned:

- All operators and owners of Poultry Farms shall obtain Consent to Establish (CTE) / Consent to Operate (CTO) under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981.
- All hatcheries / feed mills of any capacity and commercial Poultry Farms handling more than 5,000 birds at any given time in a single location, need to be registered with Animal Husbandry Department.
- All operators and owners of Poultry Farms shall ensure scientific and safe disposal of poultry waste, viz., dead birds, manure, fecal matter, bedding and waste water strictly as per CPCB guidelines.

In light of above directions, all operators and owners of Poultry Farms were advised to apply and obtain mandatory consent from JK PCB through online portal (jkocmms.nic.in). Keeping in view prior registration (Provisional) required from department of Animal Husbandry, the time period granted for applying to PCB to seek consent is being extended till 31st March, 2021.

"Environmental Compensation" shall be levied along with legal proceedings in case any violation of Environmental Norms under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and Environmental (Protection) Act 1986, is observed in this regard.

DIPK-NB-5945/20

Sd/-
(B. M. Sharma) IFS
Member Secretary
JKPCB, Jammu

J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP) (A J&K Government Undertaking)

Corporate Office: Jawahar Lal Nehru Udyog Bhawan, Railhead Complex Jammu/ Sanat Ghar Srinagar

e-NIT No.:- SICOP 35 FA of 2021 Dated 24.02.2021

For and on behalf of the Managing Director of J&K SICOP, fresh Online tenders are invited from reputed suppliers/ firms/ agencies who are registered in India for the "Providing Insurance Cover to JK SICOP Assets"

The tender documents for the above job can be seen on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from 24-Feb-2021 01:15 PM and last date for bid submission is 03-Mar-2021 04:00 PM

Sd/-
Divisional Manager (F)
SICOP

DIPK-NB-5960/20

GOVERNMENT OF Union Territory of J & K

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JALSHAKTI DEPARTMENT (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

Phone/Fax .No:- 01933-295537/Email-id (phemechsouth@gmail.com)

SHORT TERM NIT Sl. No 125 OF 2020-21

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed tenders consisting of tender documents affixed with Revenue Stamp worth Rs.6/= are invited from Registered SSI Unit Holders/ workshop holders in similar field as works contractor as per enclosed annexure which should reach the office of the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (PHE) Mechanical Division (South)Awantipora on or before 04/03/2021 up to 2.00 PM. Together with earnest money equivalent to 2% of the advertised cost in the shape of CDR. Pledged to the official designation of the undersigned. In case last date for receipt of tenders happens to be a holiday or due to any other reason, office has to remain closed, tenders shall be received on next working day up to 2.00 PM. The tenders shall be opened by the undersigned on the same date or any other subsequent date, convenient to the tender opening authority in presence of the tenderers who may like to be present. The tender opening authority reserves the right to reject/accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The tender documents shall be issued against cash payment (Non-Refundable) at PHE Mechanical Division Awantipora as shown against each item in the enclosed annexure WEF /25/02/2021 to 03/03/2021 up to 2.00 PM on the production of CDR, Registration Certificate, GST/PAN & latest Tax clearance certificate from competent authority, Experience certificate having executed similar nature of job to the tune of 50% of the advertised cost for each item, completion/performance certificate which shall be issued by the competent authority not less than rank of Executive Engineer.
- The tender without CDR. Shall be rejected outrightly.
- The tenders should be written without corrections/ fraction/ overwriting & erasing besides, the rates quoted be covered with transparent tape without which, the tender is liable to be rejected.
- The successful tenderer shall have to complete the work strictly as per specifications, design/estimate within the stipulated time period as indicated in the NIT. Soon after issue of letter of intent/formal allotment whichever is earlier failing which, work shall be got executed through other means at the risk, cost & responsibility of the contractor besides, forfeiting his CDR.
- The rates quoted once by the contractor are firm/final and no correction slip or verbal representation for increase of rates so quoted by the contractor shall be accepted. The rates shall be quoted item wise as per tender document provided to the intending tenderer by the Division.
- The intending tenderers are requested to go through properly the detailed estimate/drawings besides visiting of site of work (s) before tendering.
- The tenders received after due date & time shall not be entertained even though the rates offered in such cases may be the lowest.
- Any kind of damage which may occur to any work during the course of execution due to torrential rains/heavy snow fall/cyclone/floods etc. Shall be the responsibility of the contractor till the work is finally handed-over to the department.
- The payment shall be made only after funds are allotted by the competent authority.
- Power of Attorney of the contract to some other agency for execution of work should not be acceptable to the department except for purpose of payments only to the Attorney holder & the contractor shall be responsible for all the contractual obligations.
- The tenders received are valid for (90) days only.
- Old/surplus/Replaced materials are to be returned to Divisional Stores against proper indent if any, without which, no payment shall be made.
- 90% payment will be made after successful completion of work and verification thereof by the concerned AEE/IE and balance 10% shall be released after 90 days successful performance of equipment/job.
- It shall be mandatory for the executing agency/contractor to ensure safe and adequate supply of electricity required for all the workmen skilled/unskilled deployed at site of work.
- Suitable arrangements for supply of potable water at site for all the workmen skilled/unskilled be made by the agency/contractor just before the virtual start of execution at site.
- Arrangements for sufficient sanitation facility at site be ensured by the executing agency/ contractor for all the workmen to be mobilized at site, besides, separate toilet facilities be provided for Female workers at the site of work, if required.
- Insurance cover as admissible under rules shall be provided to all the workers skilled/unskilled deployed at site and the necessary premium shall be borne by the executing agency/contractor itself.
- All Other terms and conditions shall be the same as laid down in the original detailed NIT/PWD. Form No.25-double / FC 31

Annexure To this office NIT No:- 125 of 2020-21

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost in Lacs	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Major Head
1	Electro Mechanical works to be carried out at WSS Planpora Naina	0.12	@ 2%	50.00	5 days	M&R
2	Repairs to 17.5 HP Motor at WSS Manimpara	0.15	@ 2%	50.00	5 days	M&R
3	Repairs to 15 HP open well submersible motor at WSS Melhura wachi	0.09	@ 2%	50.00	5 days	M&R
4	Repairs to 10 HP open well. Hoz. Submersible motor at WSS Bon Rakh Zahidbagh	0.06	@ 2%	50.00	5 days	M&R

No: MA/ 3555-61
Dated: / 25/ 02/ 2021

DIPK-13926/20

Executive Engineer
JSD (PHE) Mech.Division South
Awantipora.

Nirav Modi Can Be Extradited To India, Says UK Court



Agencies

LONDON: Jeweller Nirav Modi, wanted for fraud and money laundering in the 14,000-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan scam, can be extradited to India, a UK judge ruled today, dismissing arguments like his mental health worsening during the pandemic and poor Indian prison conditions.

"I am satisfied that Nirav Modi's extradition to India is in compliance per human rights," said District Judge Samuel Goozee, adding that he had the right to appeal the order.

While today's order takes Nirav Modi a step closer to extradition, it may take months yet to wade through appeals, as it has been seen in the case of another high-profile accused, liquor baron Vijay Malloya.

"There is no evidence that if extradited Nirav Modi will not get justice," the judge said, agreeing with India's submissions.

He made it clear that he felt the case for the jeweller to face trial in India was strong and that Nirav Modi had clear links with "other connivers" including bank officials in faked Letters of Undertaking that facilitated huge unpaid loans.

"Mr Modi personally subsequently wrote to PNB acknowledging the debt and promising to repay. The CBI is investigating that Nirav Modi firms were dummy partners," the judge noted. These companies were shadow companies operated by Nirav Modi, he said.

"I do not accept that Nirav Modi was involved in legitimate business. I find no genuine transactions and believe there is a process of dishonesty."

The manner in which Letters of Undertaking were obtained, "the combination as a whole, takes us to the conclusion that Nirav Modi and co were fraudulently operating", the judge said.

"Many of these are a matter for trial in India. I am satisfied again that there is evidence he could be convicted. Prima facie there is a case of money laundering."

The order will be sent back to UK Home Secretary Priti Patel for a sign-off.

Nirav Modi, 49, appeared via video conferencing from Wandsworth Prison in south-west London at the Westminster Magistrates' Court.

He was arrested in 2019 from a metro station in London on an extradition warrant.

His multiple attempts at securing bail were repeatedly turned down as he was deemed a flight risk.

Nirav Modi is facing two sets of criminal proceedings; the CBI case relating to illegal letters of undertaking or loan agreements used to clear crores in loan to the jeweller, and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case relating to the laundering of the proceeds of that fraud. He also faces two additional charges of evidence tampering and intimidating witnesses, which were added to the CBI case.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), representing the Indian government, alleged that Nirav 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 also played videos in court as proof of Nirav Modi's involvement in intimidating dummy officers of his companies to remain out of the reach of Indian investigating authorities.

Nirav Modi's defence team, led by barrister Clare Montgomery, claimed the case was that of a commercial dispute involving "authorised though ill-advised lending" that took place in "broad daylight". It also claimed that none of his actions met the legal threshold of perverting the course of justice or amounted to fraud.

Tremendous Scope Of Bee Keeping In J&K Due To Plethora Of Flora Available: Advisor Khan

Asks Officers To Motivate Youth Towards Establishment Of Bee Keeping Units As A Lucrative Vocation



SRINAGAR: The Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare department, Kashmir, on Thursday organized a one day training cum sensitization program on "Honey Bee- the indispensable Insect- Its Management for Honey Industry". Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, inaugurated the training program.

Advisor highlighted bee keeping as lucrative rural Agro-Horticulture based activity that fits well in the integrated agriculture system as an allied vocation to increase the income of all farmers. He said that there is a tremendous scope of bee-keeping in the UT of J&K due to plethora of flora available here.

Advisor stressed upon the officers to motivate youth towards establishment of viable bee keeping units as the sector has good potential to generate income not only in honey production but also the production of by-products like bees wax, propolis, bee venom and royal jelly. He laid stress on the need to organize more of such sensitization programs on apiculture as the sector plays a

crucial role in providing large scale opportunities at comparatively lower capital costs assuring more equitable distribution of income and wealth.

During the program, Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal, said that the department has prioritized upliftment of apiculture sector and designed and drafted Detailed Project Reports for promotion of high altitude honey in J&K under Honey Mission. He gave details regarding the colonies saying that at present we have around 70 thousand colonies in Kashmir division against the requirement of 7 lakh colonies.

Joint Director Apiculture and Mushrooms gave a detailed power point presentation on the subject and said that the apiculture cultivation is a way forward to double farmer's income by 2022.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) said that the department is all set to provide training and awareness to the officers of the department and farmers to acquaint them with latest technological intervention.

Besides a large gathering of apiculture growers, officers of the department and other concerned attended the training program.

Earlier, Advisor inspected the Kitchen Garden Lalmandi and inspected various proceedings regarding raising of vegetable seedlings under controlled conditions, raising of vegetable seedlings in poly pouches and recently introduced growing of seedlings organically in coco peat trays.

Advisor directed for conducting individual household survey of all the inhabitants of district Srinagar associated with the kitchen gardening so that the gap between the total demand and supply of vegetable seedling and other inputs could be regulated.

Director Agriculture informed that the household survey has already been started by the department on war footing basis, but again the department through print and electronic media shall coordinate with the inhabitants of district Srinagar to register themselves with Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar or Seed Production Officer Lalmandi so that the exact quantity of vegetable seedlings is grown under controlled conditions and distributed among the beneficiaries well in time.

Director Agriculture also informed that regarding Kharief preparedness the department is in readiness for distribution of 60 lakh seedling of different vegetables, out of which, 50 lakh seedlings will be distributed from Kitchen Garden Lalmandi and rest from respective districts.

ADVISOR DIRECTED FOR CONDUCTING INDIVIDUAL household survey of all the inhabitants of district Srinagar associated with the kitchen gardening so that the gap between the total demand and supply of vegetable seedling and other inputs could be regulated.

Subsidised, Non-Subsidised LPG Price Hiked By Rs 25 Per Cylinder



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Cooking gas LPG price on Thursday was hiked by Rs 25 per cylinder across all categories, including subsidised fuel and those availed by Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries.

This is the third increase in rates this month on the back of spiralling international rates as demand recovered.

A 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi now costs Rs 794 as against Rs 769 at which they were supplied on Wednesday, according to a price notification from state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase is applicable across all categories including subsidised and non-subsidised users. LPG is available only at one rate, market price, across the country. The government, however, gives a small subsidy to select customers.

However, this subsidy has

been eliminated in metros and major cities through successive price increases over the past couple of years.

So, in places like Delhi, there is no subsidy paid to customers and all LPG users pay a market price of Rs 794.

An oil company official said a small subsidy is paid to customers in remote and far-flung areas to make up for the higher price arising from freight charges.

LPG prices were increased this month first by Rs 25 per cylinder on February 4 and by Rs 50 on February 15.

Prices have been on the rise since December and rates have cumulatively gone up by Rs 150 per cylinder. There was, however, no change in petrol and diesel prices for the second day in a row. Petrol in Delhi comes for Rs 90.93 per litre and diesel is priced at Rs 81.32 a litre.

Luxury Housing In India Turns Cheaper Even As Global Prices Soar



Agencies

BENGALURU: India's metro cities including Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru witnessed a drop in prime residential properties during 2020 even as luxury housing became more expensive globally, according to Wealth report 2021 released by property consulting firm Knight Frank.

Global prime property markets witnessed a price increase at an average of 1.9 per cent year-on-year (YoY), but luxury houses in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, became cheaper by 0.1 per cent, 1.5 per cent and two per cent, respectively.

That said, the luxury housing market segment performed better than expected in 2020, with 66 of the 100 markets featured in Prime International Residential Index

(PIRI 100), recording annual price growth of two per cent. PIRI 100 tracks the movements in luxury residential prices across the world's top residential markets.

Delhi, ranked 72nd in terms of luxury residential prices which remained marginally lower at (-) 0.1 per cent in 2020 over the last year. Mumbai (ranked 77) and Bengaluru (ranked 79) registered a decline of 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively.

In terms of the most expensive properties worldwide, Mumbai topped the list amongst Indian metros with an average of 106 square metres of residential property worth \$1 million. For the same amount, one can buy an area of 202 square metres in Delhi and 351 square metres in Bengaluru.

Need Coordinated Action Between Centre, States On Tax Reduction In Fuel Prices: RBI Governor

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said there is a need for coordinated action between the centre and state governments to reduce taxes on petrol and diesel prices.

"There is a need for coordinated action between the centre and the states because there are inherent taxes levied by both," the governor said, adding that calibrated reduction of taxes is important.

He, however, said both the centre and the state governments have their revenue pressures and they are required to spend high sums of money to enable the country and the people to come out of the COVID-19 pandemic stress.

"So the revenue requirement and the compulsion of the governments are fully understood. But having said that the impact on inflation also is something, which comes in from the fact that petrol and diesel prices do have an impact on the cost of manufacturing, production," the Governor said at an event organised by Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

On the central bank's digital currency, Das said a lot of work is going on internally in the RBI and some broad guidelines and approach papers will be released on it soon.

The governor said RBI has certain concerns on crypto currencies and it has already been communicated to the government.

He said RBI is looking into strengthening the regulatory architecture for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). "(We are) refining and further upgrading the regulatory architecture in respect of the ARCs to ensure that they have



a skin in the game, and they are very much in business is receiving a lot of attention from us," Das said.

On setting up of ARC for non-performing asset (NPA) management, as announced in the Budget 2021, he said, "(in) no way will it jeopardise the activity of the existing ARCs" The governor said there is growing realisation and awareness among banks to dealing with bad assets and they are proactively making provision in their books for stressed assets.

He said RBI has sharpened and deepened its supervisory methods and is doing deep dive into areas of banking which were not done earlier.

"We have a precise idea of build-up of stressed assets in banks and as soon as we see a sign of stress, we immediately enter into a discussion with the banks and proactively deal with the problems," he said.

Das also asked public and private sector banks to improve their credit appraisal processes and take measures to stop ever-greening of loans. He emphasised that the country's financial sector currently is in a far much better place than it was earlier. **PTI**

Bharat Bandh On February 26 As 8 Crore Traders To Protest Against GST

NEW DELHI: Going ahead with their protest against arbitrary regulations and changes in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and alleged norm violations by e-commerce giants, traders across the country will go on a day-long strike on Friday.

In a statement, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) the umbrella body which has called for the strike said that over 8 crore traders belonging to more than 40,000 trade associations across the country will observe the 'Bharat Vyapar Bandh' to protest against some of the "draconian, arbitrary and critical" amendments made recently in GST rules.

It will also urge the government to rectify glitches in e-commerce for preventing violation of law by foreign e-commerce companies.

The All India Transport Welfare Association (AITWA) an apex body



of 1 crore transporters have already supported the strike and has also announced 'Chakka Jam' of transport sector on Friday all over India. CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said that not only traders but even small industries, hawkers, and women entrepreneurs among others will also join the bandh.

Further, associations of char-

tered accountants and tax advocates have supported the strike and have informed their clients not to visit their offices on Friday.

Khandelwal further said that on Friday as a mark of protest, 'dharna' will be held in more than 1,500 towns and cities across states and no traders will login to GST portal to register their protest. - IANS

NEWS MAKERS

Sensex Jumps 258 Points; Nifty Reclaims 15,000 Level



MUMBAI: Equity benchmark Sensex rallied 258 points and the Nifty reclaimed the 15,000 mark on Thursday, tracking gains in Reliance Industries, Axis Bank and TCS amid a positive trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE index ended 257.62 points or 0.51 per cent higher at 51,039.31. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 115.35 points or 0.77 per cent to 15,097.35.

ONGC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying around 5 per cent, followed by NTPC, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank and PowerGrid. On the other hand, ICICI Bank, Nestle India, L&T, Kotak Bank and Titan were among the laggards. "Domestic equities rebounded for the third consecutive day with Nifty crossing 15,000 levels again. A strong cue from global equities followed by favourable comments from Fed Chairman Powell in his second day testimony supported market rally," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Barring FMCG, all key sectoral indices ended in green with metal index remaining an outlier. Financials, auto and pharma indices recorded gains to the tune of 1 per cent. Notably, midcap and smallcap stocks outperformed broader indices sharply as improved visibility of earnings recovery attracted investors to this space, he said.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with significant gains. Stock exchanges in Europe were largely trading on a positive note in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, the global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.50 per cent higher at USD 66.51 per barrel. **PTI**

Moody's Projects 13.7 Per Cent Growth In Fy'22, Expects 7 Per Cent Contraction This Fiscal



NEW DELHI: Moody's on Thursday upped India's growth projection for the next financial year beginning April 1, to 13.7 per cent, from 10.8 per cent estimated earlier, on the back of normalisation of activity and growing confidence in the market with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine. For current fiscal, the US-based rating agency expects the economy to contract 7 per cent, lower than its previous estimate of 10.6 per cent contraction.

Moody's Investors Service Associate Managing Director (Sovereign Risk) Gene Fang said "our current expectation is that in the current fiscal ending March 2021, the economy would contract 7 per cent. We expect a rebound of 13.7 per cent growth in the next fiscal on normalisation of activity and base effects." The very large rebound incorporates the view that recovery in activity will continue, with the rollout of vaccines and growing confidence in the market that activities are coming back to normal, Fang said in an online conference on India Credit Outlook 2021 organised by Moody's and its India affiliate ICRA. ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said it expects 0.3 per cent growth in the third quarter (October-December) of current fiscal. ICRA expects Indian economy to contract 7 per cent in current fiscal and growth to rebound to 10.5 per cent in the next fiscal beginning April 1. "Recession in India has ended," she said, adding there could be upside to growth in FY'22 if government's capital expenditure increases, budget announcements are implemented and vaccination drives are carried out. **PTI**

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Armistice At

"But it was a verbal agreement between the two sides which lasted till 2012," Hooda said.

The ceasefire was violated on January 8, 2013 when New Delhi alleged that a Pakistani Border Action Team (BAT) ambushed an Indian Army patrol and killed two soldiers.

Since then, the LoC only became the raging battlefield for the two nuke-armed neighbours. Frontier guns even refused to thaw amid pandemic—with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lately informing Rajya Sabha that Pakistan resorted to 5,133 incidents of ceasefire violations in 2020 in which 46 government force personnel were killed.

But with the revival of the LoC ceasefire, many say, premier Narendra Modi has only followed the footsteps of the post prime minister of India.

A Surrender?
However, those who understand the pulse of South Asian politics call it a "two-pronged thaw" bereft of the bearings on the altered landscape's lingering fate.

There's a patent paranoia that the silent guns at the bloody line with the fresh Delhi-Islamabad pact might only perpetuate another transient period of bonhomie before bofors would once again fire on the bodies of Kashmiris on the either side of the divided line.

With beleaguered unionist and separatist camp univocally calling it a "peace move", the K-watchers term the LoC quiet as the step towards the normalization of post-August 5, 2019 Kashmir.

"If this thaw is limited as it seems," senior scribe Muzamil Jaleel said, "it is nothing but a move towards normalisation of the changed facts on ground."

Peace is important, he added, but if this cessation of hostilities don't change situation in Kashmir positively, it will only result in making unilaterally changed goal posts on ground a permanent feature.

"In that case," Jaleel believes, "it must be called what it is - a surrender. And if these bilaterally tactics of war and peace don't bring relief to us, we must think about us... think why we are always."

Reacting to his social media take, another senior Kashmiri journalist, Khurshed Wani said, "Yes...we [Kashmiris] are dispensable."

Incidentally, Wani said, it happened on a day "when our 'lion' had humiliateingly surrendered decades ago..." To which, Jaleel replied, "it is no longer only about the lion...such surrenders are happening again and again."

Meanwhile, calling the LoC ceasefire as a fresh phase of peace posturing, journalist Peerzada Ashiq asked: "Will this engagement pan out just like post 1953, where all post-August 9 and post Sheikh-ira measures were normalised?"

However, Srinagar-based editor Najeeb Mubarki believes that a sense of desperation and anger in Kashmir will only grow with this move.

"Surprising," Mubarki wrote on social media, "this seemingly sudden development of potential talks; primarily as India has left nothing very much to talk about. In fact, has always used the idea of talks, or talks as leading to more talks, as a holding measure while it furthers grabbing Kashmir even more."

Virtual Flare
The move already set the twitter in tizzy with many users hailing it.

"Good that 2 NSA's talked," tweeted journalist Mariana Baabar. "Pakistan should display humility and stop gloating that it brought India to agree to ceasefire at LoC. Pakistanis happy that there will be no body bags. Let Pak not rock the boat. There are no winners at LoC."

Peace and stability at borders are must for nation's prosperity and progress, said netizen Komal Mahajan. "It is a big and positive development."

BJP member Gautam Aggarwal termed the development as the second India-Pakistan joint statement since the Pulwama attack.

This development will be beneficial for the region and the civilian population residing in the area, said netizen Saima Iqbal. "Largely, it is an attempt to bring down violence level along the LoC."

However, summing up the debate, a social media user said, "Waiting for the next moves that might happen within next few weeks... It will be interesting to see what and all has been negotiated in backchannel diplomacy."

India, Pak Agree

other sectors with effect from midnight of February 24/25," the joint statement said.

The two sides also reiterated that existing mechanisms of hotline contact and border flag meetings will be utilised to resolve any unforeseen situation or misunderstanding, it added.

When asked about the announcement, the external affairs ministry spokesperson said India desires normal neighbourly ties with Pakistan.

"On relations with Pakistan, as we have said earlier, India desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan. We have always maintained we are committed to addressing issues if any in a peaceful and bilateral manner," the spokesperson asserted.

Indian Army officials maintained that there will be no let-up in the troop deployment as well its operations along Pakistan borders against militancy and infiltration.

The ceasefire, they said, does not mean that the army's fight against militancy has come to a halt and its alertness and vigil will not be lowered. They said they are "cautiously optimistic" on the ceasefire.

India and Pakistan signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but it has hardly been followed in letter and spirit over past several years with more violations than observance of the pact.

The officials said acts of militancy in the past have led to "deep distrust" between the two sides.

"There have been contacts between India and Pakistan on a hotline level since 1987. Frequently, the DGMOs of both countries stay in contact through this established mechanism," Pakistani army spokesman Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar was quoted as saying by Dawn newspaper.

He said that from 2014 there was a spike in ceasefire violations along the LoC.

"Both the DGMOs have agreed that the existing 2003 understanding should be implemented in letter and spirit," he said.

Both officials have agreed on making it sustainable and have expressed the intention to act on it, he added, according to the newspaper.

The latest development is seen as a thaw after years of tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, the paper said.

Army chief Gen M M Naravane on Wednesday had hinted at some development on the Pakistan front.

In a webinar, Naravane had exuded confidence that with continued engagement with Pakistan, there could be "some sort of an understanding because unsettled borders and violence on the borders help no one".

"We are always wanting peace and tranquillity in our border areas, whether it be the western front or the northern front and the LAC (Line of Actual Control). Or whether it is on the Indo-Myanmar border, we are always looking for peace and tranquillity and our role is to ensure that so as to the rest of the nation can develop," Naravane said.

In written response to a question in Lok Sabha earlier this month, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan

Reddy said a total of 10,752 cases of ceasefire violations have taken place along India's border with Pakistan in the last three years, in which 72 security personnel and 70 civilians were killed.

He said 364 security personnel and 341 civilians were injured in cross-border firings along the International Border and the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

With troops remain deployed along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, the officials said that the situation along the northern borders has no bearing on the decisions along the LoC and the western front.

Last week, the armies of India and China which have been engaged in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh completed withdrawal of troops and weapons from north and south banks of Pangong Tso in the high-altitude region.

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, Gen Naravane said on Wednesday but stressed that there is a long way to go and the next steps towards it are de-escalation and de-induction of troops.

He also said there were no signs of an "overt collusion" between China and Pakistan during the Ladakh standoff but India caters to a long-term strategy for not a two, but a two-and-a-half front war. With the half front, he was referring to the internal security.

Govt Tightens

Also, social media platforms on being asked by court or government will be required to disclose the first originator of the mischievous information that undermines the sovereignty of India, security of the state, or public order.

The intermediary, however, will not be required to disclose the contents of any message.

Beyond streaming and messaging, the code will also set guidelines for digital publishers of news and current affairs content, requiring them to disclose their ownership and other information.

Releasing the guidelines, Prasad said the code was needed to make social media and OTT companies accountable for "misuse and abuse".

Social media firms should be "more responsible and accountable," he said.

The new guidelines follow the government's spat with Twitter over allegedly inflammatory tweets and hashtags supporting farmer protests, with the microblogging service initially refusing to comply with orders to take down about 1,500 such posts and accounts. Twitter complied after it was threatened with the penal action.

Separately, an Amazon Prime Video original series "Tandav" was ordered by authorities to be re-edited following protests over its depiction of Hindu gods and goddesses. Freedom-of-speech activists and technology trade groups had previously criticised the draft version of the new rules, which replace a previous code from 2011, saying they would result in increased censorship and reduced user privacy.

The new rules take effect immediately, though significant social-media providers (based on number of users) will get three months before they need to start complying. Prasad said concerns have been raised over the rampant abuse of social media platforms and the spread of fake news.

"Social media companies are welcome to do business in India and empower Indians. We welcome criticism and dissent but it is important that users of social media are given a proper forum for the resolution of their grievances in a time-bound manner," he said.

India is a large market for digital and social media companies and is witnessing strong growth on the back of booming smartphone sales and the availability of dirt-cheap data.

The country has 53 crore WhatsApp users, 44.8 crore YouTube users, 41 crore Facebook users, 21 crore use Instagram and 1.75 crore are on Twitter.

Prasad said the rules require the 'significant' social media intermediaries to follow additional due diligence including the appointment of a chief compliance officer, a nodal contact person and a resident grievance officer. All three officials will have to reside in India. They will have to publish monthly compliance report and detail contents removed proactively.

The rules also state that users who voluntarily want to verify their accounts should be given an appropriate mechanism to do so and be accorded a visible mark of verification. Users will have to be provided with a prior intimation and explanation when a significant social media intermediary removes content on its own. In such cases, users have to be provided an adequate and reasonable opportunity to dispute the action taken by the intermediary.

Rules related to social media will be administered by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, while those related to Code of Ethics and procedure and safeguards in relation to digital media will be administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

On rules related to over-the-top (OTT) and digital media, the government said, guidelines have been framed keeping in mind the difference between viewership in a theatre and television, as compared to watching it on the internet. A Code of Ethics and three-tier grievance redressal mechanism would be applicable for news publishers, OTT platforms and digital media.

OTT platforms would have to self-classify the content into five age-based categories - U (Universal), U/A 7+ (years), U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult).

Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Prakash Javadekar said such platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age-verification mechanisms for content classified as 'A'.

The publishers of online curated content will also have to prominently display the classification rating specific to a programme together with a content descriptor, he added.

Publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, providing a level-playing field between the offline (print, TV) and digital media, an official statement said.

"Digital media portals have no right to spread rumour. The media's freedom is absolute but with reasonable restrictions. Content matter, especially media, OTT and digital media will be administered by I&B ministry. Intermediary platforms monitoring will be done by the IT ministry in the manner they have been doing it," he said

Mainstream Camp

that the statement will be followed in letter & spirit. JKNC has always been a strong supporter of the ceasefire along the LoC," the party said in a statement.

"This will allow people living along the LoC & IB (International Border) to go about their normal lives with minimal disruption & risk," the party said.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti in a tweet welcomed the ceasefire announcement and said dialogue was the only way forward.

"A big & welcome development that India & Pakistan have agreed to a ceasefire along the LoC. Dialogue is the only way forward if both countries want to stop the unending cycle of violence & bloodshed across the borders and J&K," Mehbooba said.

India and Pakistan have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors, according to a joint statement on Thursday.

The decision on ceasefire, effective since Wednesday midnight, was taken at a meeting between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan.

"In the interest of achieving mutually beneficial and sustainable peace along the borders, the two DGMOs agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns which have propensity to disturb peace and lead to violence," according to the joint statement.

Hurriyat Hails

and said it will provide a huge relief to the "beleaguered" people.

"It is a move in the right direction, which will provide huge relief to the beleaguered people living under constant threat on the LoC and end the bloodshed there," the Hurriyat faction led by Mirwaiz said in a statement.

The Hurriyat said the governments of India and Pakistan need to address the core concern of Jammu and Kashmir in keeping with the aspirations of its people.

The separatist conglomerate said that "talks is the best means to address this concern and we have always advocated it".

Doval's Secret Talks

the report said, while quoting the person privy to the developments.

India and Pakistan on Thursday announced that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

A joint statement issued in Islamabad and New Delhi said the Director Generals of Military Operations of the two countries held discussions over the established mechanism of hotline contact and reviewed the situation along the LoC and all other sectors in a "free, frank and cordial" atmosphere

Thursday's announcement on holding truce along the LoC comes almost three years after a similar pact was inked in 2018 to uphold 2003 ceasefire agreement signed between the two nuclear countries.

The report quoted officials as saying that Thursday's joint statement could be the first of the many steps that the two countries may take over the next few months to normalise relations, one step at a time.

The report also quoted National security planners as saying there were five developments over the last month or so that indicated a nuanced shift. The first sign of back-channel talks, the report said came earlier this month when Pak army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa spoke of Islamabad's commitment to what he called the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence and said: "it is time to extend a hand of peace in all directions".

The second development, the report said, was the toned-down statements that emerged from Islamabad three days later, on February 5 which is observed by the Pakistani establishment as Kashmir Solidarity Day. Simultaneously, there was a decline in the ceasefire violations along the border in Jammu and Kashmir in recent weeks, an official said.

"The fourth sign of a possible thaw in the relations was Pakistan steering clear of the Kashmir issue at last week's Saarc meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Covid-19 pandemic," the report said.

The fifth indicator, the report said was allowing Imran Khan's special aircraft to use the Indian airspace en route to Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Interestingly, Pak had denied use of its airspace in 2019 by three Indian VIP flights, including that of President Ram Nath Kovind to Europe, and another flight in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to US to attend the UN General Assembly session. Pakistani also didn't allow the use of its airspace by another VIP flight during Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia in October 2019.

PSA Detention

placed under preventive detention with a view to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State.

After hearing the counsel for the petitioner as well as the government, a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar said: "As is rightly contended on behalf of the (detainee), (advocate Zahid) was in the custody of the State when the organization, Jamat-e-Islami, was banned and continues to be so as on date. That being so, the banning of the organization cannot be said to be a ground for detaining the (detainee)."

The court observed that advocate Zahid has placed on record the bail order dated 11 April 2020 passed by the competent Court of law, whereby he has been bailed out in FIR No. 339/2008.

"The Detaining Authority is not aware of the aforesaid bail granted to the (advocate Zahid). That apart, this Court is of the view that the grounds of detention, on the basis of which (advocate Zahid) has been placed under preventive detention in terms of the impugned order, are stale on the basis of which (he) has been detained twice and both the orders of detention issued earlier have been quashed by this Court."

There was thus no fresh material available against advocate Zahid which would justify his further detention in the preventive custody, the court said.

"The factual averments made by the (detainee) in his petition have not been denied by the respondents (officials)," the court said and quashed the detention order. "The respondents are directed to release the (detainee) from the preventive detention forthwith, if not required in any other case."(GNS)

Police To Take

their power and aiding and abetting militant activities in Kashmir Valley.

The police were replying to a petition in the special court moved by Para seeking bail, which was subsequently rejected on February 23.

"The investigations conducted reveal that the accused had been in touch with ANEs (Anti-National Elements) and OGWs (Over Ground Workers), which includes some accused persons who are presently lodged in jail in NIA case.

"These accused are also to be questioned in the instant case after seeking permission from NIA court Jammu," the counsel for the police had said in the court. The Charge-sheeted Singh, Syed Naveed Mushtaq alias Naveed Babu as well as the group's alleged overground worker Irfan Shafi Mir and its member Rafi Ahmad Rather. The other two named are Tanveer Ahmad Wani, a trader, and Naveed Babu's brother Syed Irfan Ahmad.

Singh along with Mir were arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in January last year when they were ferrying Naveed Babu and Rather out of Kashmir to escape the harsh winter. Later, the case was taken over by the NIA and the agency filed charge sheet in July last year.

The CIK had registered the case in which it alleged that some "unscrupulous politicians, as part of a criminal conspiracy, had established clandestine connections and relations with different Pakistan-supported militant and secessionist organisations operating in Jammu and Kashmir for a number of reasons".

The conspiracy was hatched for furthering their political clout among local populace, countering the influence of rival political parties and their members,

protecting their own financial and business interests and with medium term motives of winning the trust of "the Pakistani establishment, dealing with subversion in Kashmir, including those in the United Jihad Council".

These politicians have supported the militants and secessionists, directly and sometimes through middlemen, by way of paying money, organising select physical attacks through militant elements.

These politicians also facilitated movements of militants and transporting their arms and ammunition.

In furtherance of the criminal conspiracy, these "unprincipled political parties functionaries" assisted and aided the militants and secessionists in intensifying the war against the Union of India with the main objective of ultimately making Jammu and Kashmir cede from the Union of India," it alleged.

Delimitation Panel

by virtue of holding powers of SEC.

According to a notification issued by Centre last year, the appointment of Commission's head, Justice (ret'd) Ranjana will be for a period of one year or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

The panel has been empowered to fix boundaries for 90 Assembly seats and five parliamentary segments of Jammu & Kashmir panel. It has also been tasked to reserve seats for schedule castes and schedule tribes.

Going by the parameters governing reservation for SCs and STs, 18 seats are likely to be reserved for them.

It is worthwhile to mention that Assembly of the erstwhile state of J&K had 87 seats, of which four seats were Ladakh. Ladakh is no more part of Jammu & Kashmir from October 31,2019 when it started functioning as a separate Union Territory- (KNO)

Kashmir's Higher

was 5.9 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 6.6 degree Celsius against 2.2 degree Celsius on the previous night while the gateway town of J&K had 1.8mm of rainfall during the time. The mercury settled at 3.2 degree Celsius at Pahalgam against minus 0.1 degree Celsius on the earlier night while the famous health resort had 3.4mm of rainfall during the time.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 5.5 degree Celsius against 1.5 degree Celsius on the previous night and had a rainfall in traces.

The minimum temperature settled at 5.2 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 3.8 degree Celsius on the previous night even as the northern Kashmir district recorded rainfall of 1.6mm during the time, he said.

Gulmarg, the world-famous skiing resort, recorded a low of minus 0.6 degree Celsius against 0.0 degree Celsius earlier night and recorded fresh rain/snow of 4.4mm during the time, the official said. (GNS)

No Traffic

Doda, Bhandarwah and Kishtwar and vice versa shall remain operational.

Mughal Road and Srinagar-Sonmarg-Gumri road will also continue to remain closed till further orders, it said.

LG Picks Top

Railway Manager, Danapur, Thakur has had multiple assignments outside the railways as well.

An alumnus of Delhi's prestigious St Stephen's college, IIFT and IIM Indore, he was Executive Director (Fuel Transportation) at NPTC, PS to then I&B Minister Ambika Soni, ADG Doordarshan (DTH), and Brand Head, Shatabdi Express.

Alongside the appointment of Thakur, the J&K administration said IAS officer Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, who was Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, General Administration Department and Mining Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.

"He (Dwivedi) shall continue to hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," it said.

LG Orders Withholding

matter, Sinha directed for expediting the process of releasing salaries in favour of affected teachers.

On being apprised by an applicant from Kulgam about the issue of raising surcharge in his electricity bills without delivering the same to the consumer, the Lt governor during the 5th round of "L-G's" Mulqaat-Live Public Grievance Hearing" directed Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited for deducting the undue surcharge from the salary of the officials concerned. In another case, the LG ordered an enquiry into

unnecessary delays made by J-K Gramen Bank in granting the loan to an applicant.

Similarly, Sinha directed for taking action against the responsible officer in a matter raised during the interaction, about ARTO Ramban retaining a vehicle's RC in an unauthorised manner.

The LG interacted with a total of 22 randomly selected applicants from across the UT, through virtual mode, and took first-hand appraisal of their grievances.

He also sought public feedback on the administration's efforts in providing on-spot redressal of their grievances.

Sinha observed that the UT administration is moving forward in its endeavour to strengthen the people-government partnership, where the dispensation is working as a facilitator to the people of J-K.

"Prompt redressal of people's grievances and accountable, responsive administration is the hallmark of good governance, which should be followed in letter and spirit," he said.

Sinha sought an immediate response from administrative secretaries, deputy commissioners, SPs and other senior officers of the various government departments and agencies pertaining to the grievances raised by the applicants.

Timelines were also set for taking requisite action for redressing the grievances projected by the applicants.

The LG directed the administrative secretaries to ensure that all departmental websites are updated with the latest information.

He asked the officials concerned to ensure that all educational institutions are connected with the scholarship portals.

Sinha further directed for ensuring on-ground participation of the officers concerned during Block Diwas. He also assessed the implementation of directions passed during the previous interactions.

J&K Logs 108

Budgam 6, Pulwama 3, Kupwara 2, Anantnag 4, Bandipora 1, Ganderbal 2, Kulgam 4, Shopian 1, Jammu 8 and Udhampur 23.

Moreover, the officials said that 59 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—11 from Jammu Division and 48 from Kashmir Valley.

Minor Dies Of

cause of the death seems due to 'convulsion'.

Convulsion is an episode in which one experiences rigidity and uncontrolled muscle spasms along with altered consciousness. The spasms cause jerky motions that generally last for couple of minutes.

'Militant' Warns

The Sarpanch in his complaint has claimed that the unknown militant sought his resignation within two to three days.

Taking cognizance of the complaint, a case FIR number 21/2021 under section 507 IPC, 67 Information Technology Act has been registered at police station Beerwah, the report said.

Pertinently, 7 Panchs including two women from Batapora Halqa of Magam area of Budgam yesterday resigned at BDO office Narbal. They were all residents of Roshan Abad Batapora area of Magam.

Police sources said that they are ascertaining the reason behind their resignation.

ACB Charges

Baramulla, ACB said in a statement. The complainant had stated that he purchased 14 marlas of land at Noorbagh Sopore in 2009 and got the sale-deed registered by Sub-Registrar Sopore but the land was not transferred to his name. He approached the concerned Naib Tehsildar namely Fayaz Ahmad and requested several times to get the land transferred to his name. The concerned officer allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 12,000 for transfer of land.

Subsequently, the complainant approached ACB for legal action. "A successful trap was laid and the accused was caught red handed while accepting the bribe money of Rs 12,000 as illegal gratification from the complainant."

The accused was arrested on spot and a case U/S 5(1) (d) r/w 5(2) JK PC Act, Svt. 2006, 4 (A) Amendment Act 2014 was registered.

"The next date of hearing has been fixed on 27.03.2021."

ED Conducts Raids

agency KDC reported. The search at the house of NC leader's son continued for several hours.

Pertinently, ED conducted multiple raids on Wednesday in the city including Tata Motors showroom and Numero UNO outlet located at Rajbagh.

CUK's EEW Holds 8Th Post End Semester Examination Workshop

GANDERBAL: The Examination and Evaluation Wing (EEW) of the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) Thursday organised the 8th Post End Semester Examination, workshop on "Assessment, Examination and Evaluation, Introspection and Reforms", at Green Campus here.

The workshop was organised to enable the university to further improve its overall "Assessment, Examination and Evaluation" process and match the present scenario. The workshop focused on challenges of holding examinations and evaluation thereof, especially during the present scenario wherein pandemic has put the entire nation to undergo a complete lockdown and living with the pandemic has become a "New Normal".

Valiant JK Cricket Team Loses To Determined Haryana By 13 Runs In Vijay Hazare Trophy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir cricket team on Thursday fell short by 13 runs while putting on a valiant effort to chase down Haryana's total of 308 runs in the Vijay Hazare Elite Group E match played at the famed Eden Gardens Stadium in Kolkata.

Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir won the toss and decided to field first. Haryana lost opener H. Rana (2) early on but a determined century by Shivam Chauhan (123) and cameos by Chaitanya Bishnoi (45) and Rohit Pramod Sharma (51) helped them reach a total of 308 for the loss of 6 wickets in the allotted 50 overs.

For Jammu and Kashmir, Mujtaba Yousuf and Aquib Nabi took 2 wickets each while Captain Parvez Rasool took 1 wicket. In response, the Jammu and Kashmir's top order batsmen struggled to make any meaningful contribution. Suryansh Raina (2), Vivrant Sharma (1), Shubham Khajuria (9) and Shubham Pundir (4) were all back in the pavilion while the score read 48 for the loss of 4 wickets.

Parvez Rasool (81) played a captain's innings to give his team a sense of hope. Lower order players, Bandep Singh (51), Abid Mushtaq (46) and Mujtaba Yousuf (32), all contributed to take Jammu and Kashmir closer and closer to Haryana's score. In the end, Haryana proved too strong for Jammu and Kashmir, bowling them out for 295 runs, with 5 balls to spare.

Jammu and Kashmir's second loss of their Vijay Hazare campaign leaves them in a precarious position in the points table of Elite Group E. They next play Bengal on February 27.

New Zealand Pip Australia By 4 Runs In 2nd T20 Match

Agencies

DUNEDIN: Martin Gupthill made a spectacular return to form, hitting eight sixes in a 50-ball innings of 97 which lifted New Zealand to a thrilling win over Australia by four runs in the second Twenty20 cricket international.

Gupthill led New Zealand to 219-7 as it batted first after losing the toss Thursday and Australia seemed out of the match when it slumped to 113-6 after 13 overs.

But Marcus Stoinis made 78 from 37 balls and shared a partnership of 92 in 6.1 overs with Daniel Sams, who scored 41 from 15 balls, to get Australia within a shot of an incredible victory. Australia went into the last over in a strong position, needing 15 runs with four wickets in hand.

New Zealand turned to Jimmy Neesham, who hadn't bowled in the match, and it proved an inspired decision; he removed Sams with the first ball of the over, tipping the match in New Zealand's favor. Stoinis couldn't score from the next two balls but clubbed a six from the fourth ball of the over, leaving Australia needing nine runs from two deliveries. Hitting out, Stoinis skied a ball high into the leg side and Tim Southee, with icy nerves, stood under the ball and claimed the catch which sealed the win and gave New Zealand a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

"We got back into a great position," Australia captain Aaron Finch said.

"That partnership between Stoinis and Daniel Sams produced some extraordinary hitting, like the first innings as well.

"It was a great game of cricket, good to be a part of, unfortunately we didn't come out on the right side."

Gupthill, 34 and New Zealand's most-prolific T20 batsman, had been under pressure to hold his spot in a strong Black Caps lineup as he endured a long form slump and new players emerged from domestic cricket to challenge him for his opening role.

On Thursday he provided a sharp reminder of his proficiency in the short format and set the tone for New Zealand's innings, exploiting the short boundaries at the University Oval which was hosting a T20 international for the first time.

In total New Zealand's batsmen hit 18 sixes, a record for a T20 international, and Gupthill overtook India's Rohit Sharma (127) to top the list for most sixes by a batsman in T20 internationals with 132. Kane Williamson hit three sixes in his 53 which came in a 131-run second wicket partnership with Gupthill. Neesham hit sixes from the first two balls he faced and four in his first five scoring shots. He finished 45 not out, hitting his last six from the final ball of the innings.

"My job doesn't change throughout the summer," Gupthill said.

"I just went out to do as well as I could and fortunately it came off today.

"Kane's a genius at batting and to have him alongside me in a hundred partnership was fantastic and set up the innings."

Australia made a strong beginning which saw it reach 50-1 after five overs, where New Zealand had been 30-1, but the Australian innings briefly meandered and lost its way, mainly against the New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner.

Josh Philippe tried to set the foundation on which a successful chase could be built, making 45 from 32 balls. But he had little support from the Australian top order; Finch made only 12, continuing his poor form from the Big Bash League, and Matthew Wade made 24.

Philippe fell at 112-4, the first of three wickets from four balls for Santner, who also dismissed Ashton Agar and Mitch Marsh for first ball ducks and left Australia 113-6.

Stoinis led Australia's extraordinary rally, reaching his half century from only 22 balls. He hit seven fours and five of the 13 sixes the Australian innings contained.

Sams was the perfect partner, striking the ball cleanly and hitting two fours and four sixes before falling to a knee high full toss in the final over.

India Wins 3rd Test Against England By Ten Wickets, Inch Closer To WTC Final

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Left-arm spinner Axar Patel created an illusion of turn with 11 straighter deliveries that put India on the brink of the World Test Championship final with a 10-wicket demolition of England inside two days in the day-night third Test here on Thursday.

In only his second Test, Patel (15-0-32-5), with a match-haul of 11/70, relentlessly hit the good length area and hoodwinked England batsmen, who played for turn only to find that there was none on offer from him.

The result was their lowest total against India -- 81 all out in 30.4 overs leaving the hosts with a target of 49 which they achieved with minimum fuss taking a 2-1 lead in the four-match series. The visitors were also knocked out of contention from the WTC final.

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (15-3-48-4) proved to be an ideal foil for Patel, becoming the fourth Indian bowler and second fastest in the world to complete a commendable milestone of 400 Test wickets with the dismissal of Jofra Archer.

Incidentally, after Afghanistan's debut Test in 2018 in Bengaluru, this was the second time that India won a Test match, well inside two days.

This was after England skipper Joe Root's fabulous career-best spell of 6.2-3-8-5 resulted in India's dramatic collapse from 114 for 3 to 145 all out.

"The result went our way but I don't think the quality of batting was good from either of the two teams. It was a very good batting wicket. Below-par batting by both teams but our bowlers were more effective," said Kohli in the post-match presentation.

"(Jasprit) Bumrah said I am getting work load management while playing," he quipped when asked about the finish inside two days.

India lost as many as seven wickets for only 31 runs after looking solid at 114 for 3 at one stage in the game but England lost all 10 in an entire session in which no pacer was seen in action.

Ironically, it was the non-turning deliveries from Patel that had the England's rank and file pressing the panic button as they pre-empted away turn every time.

Whether it was Zak Crawley, Jonny Bairstow or skipper Root, everyone lost the mind-game as Ashwin also joined the fun with records tumbling one after another.

"We were 70 for 2. But we didn't really capitalise on it. 250 on that wicket would have made it different. We will come back using this hurt and come back as a better



team," a disappointed but resolute Root said. When Patel sent back Ben Foakes, he became the first spinner to get 11 wickets in a pink ball Test match.

Following the two-day finish, ICC will be watching the Motera track with a "Hawk Eye" even though the debate can continue for ages whether it was the turn that did the batsmen in or the lack of it.

The turn on offer was standard for any sub-continental track and no deliveries misbehaved. However, all eyes will now be on ICC match referee Javagal Srinath from India and his assessment of the 22-yard strip.

A case in point would be the wickets taken by the two left-arm spinners -- Patel and Jack Leach.

They bowled deliveries at a speed between 88 kmph and 92 kmph with a round arm action and pitched them on good length leaving batsmen in two minds -- whether to play forward or go backwards.

While a bowler might end up getting the man of the match, Rohit Sharma's 66 off 96 balls in the first essay was 24-carat gold given that other batsmen looked like sitting ducks. Deservedly, he walked away with the "game-changer of the match honours".

But Indian batsmen save Rohit did have a torrid time during an afternoon session when Root and Leach made their lives miserable.

Ajinkya Rahane, who has never had much success against slow left arm bowlers, was

rapped on the pads as Leach fired one in and it was not much of an issue for umpire Nitin Menon to adjudge him leg before.

Suddenly, a pitch, on which India looked way more comfortable, started to challenge and just like England in the second session on the first evening, the Indians wilted under pressure.

Rohit missed a sweep off Leach and Menon's decision was retained as per Umpires' Call.

Once Rohit was gone, it was time for Root to enter the scene and do a Michael Clarke (6/9 with his left arm orthodox in Mumbai 2004) as Rishabh Pant (1), Washington Sundar (0) and Patel (0) were accounted for in quick succession.

At one point, Root's figures were 3-3-0-3 as he exploited the friendly conditions, repeatedly hitting the rough which helped him dismiss three left-handers in succession.

Root's superb effort led to a cheeky tweet from former England captain Michael Vaughan, "Indian batsman can't play off spinners from Yorkshire."

He was referring to the green top strips that are always on offer at the Leeds.

Ravichandran Ashwin (17) and Ishant Sharma (10 not out), who hit his first ever six in his 100th Test appearance, scored a few which proved to be priceless in the end.

India need to win the fourth and final Test at the same venue from March 4 to seal the WTC final spot.

'Modern Day Legend' Ashwin Becomes 4th Indian To Take 400 Test Wickets

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Ravichandran Ashwin on Thursday became only the fourth Indian and sixth spinner in the world to take 400 Test wickets, a feat which was nothing short of a "fairytale" for the seasoned pro who was called a "modern day legend" by skipper Virat Kohli.

Ashwin reached the landmark in the day-night third Test against England here when he dismissed Jofra Archer in England's second innings. He ended the match with seven scalps, which took his overall tally to 401.

The 34-year-old off-spinner, playing in his 77th Test, is the 16th bowler in the world to have taken 400 Test wickets.

"It feels amazing actually (to reach 400 Test wickets). The entire stadium stood up and clapped for me. Pleased it happened in the winning cause. I can't really get a grip of what has happened in the last 2-3 months. It has been a dreamy run and a fairytale," Ashwin, who took seven wickets in the match to tally 431 victims from 77 Tests, said.

Skipper Kohli was effusive in his praise, saying, "I think we need to stand up and take notice of what Ashwin has done. In Tests, he is a modern day legend."

Ashwin credited his self-belief for reaching where he has.

"It has been all about self belief. At the start of the Australian tour, I didn't think I would be starting, but then (Ravindra) Jadeja broke down and it might have had



to happen," said Ashwin, who played a big role in India's historic Test series win last month.

Former captain Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434), and Harbhajan Singh (417) are the other Indians who have 400 Test wickets to their credit.

Ashwin also became the second fastest to reach the milestone after Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan, who made it in his 72nd Test.

The veteran came into the match six short of the landmark and took three England wickets in the first innings.

Talking about the match, he said, "We were worried after getting bowled out for 145, didn't think we didn't have many runs on the board. But we then bowled beautifully on a wicket assisting us.

"I don't know if I'm ageing, but it's incredibly hard to watch the game. To come back (after losing first Test) and win it is even more special."

Asked this was his best as a bowler, Ashwin said, "In 2015-16 everyone asked me (if I'm bowling at my best), the same in 2016-17. One thing is sure I've always wanted to improve. I won't be surprised if I improve further in the future."

He said both captain Virat Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri had a conversation with him in Australia about his batting and they saw something special in his bowling.

"I think my bowling was coming along beautifully in the IPL too. I lost about 7-8 kgs in the lockdown and everything looked upwards for me."

Unhappy With Umpiring Decisions, England Take Up Matter With Match Referee

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: England skipper Joe Root and head coach Chris Silverwood sought umpiring "consistency" in the on-going day-night Test against India by taking up the matter with match referee Javagal Srinath, "who said that the captain was asking the right questions" of the on-field officials.

England were unhappy with two decisions made by third umpire C Shamsuddin on the opening day of the match on Wednesday. While India opener Shubman Gill survived a low slip catch appeal by Ben Stokes in the second over, Rohit Sharma's close stumping appeal by Ben Foakes was turned down late in the day.

"The England captain and head coach spoke with the match referee after play," an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokesperson said in a statement.

"The captain and head coach acknowledged the challenges the umpires faced and asked respectfully that in making any decisions there was consistency in the process. The match referee said the captain was asking the right questions of the umpires."

While Gill's dismissal was overturned after looking at several angles, the third umpire did not take much time to declare Rohit not out.

After Rohit was let off, Root was heard saying "we just want consistency" to on-field umpire Nitin Menon.

While the ball seemed to have touched the ground while Stokes attempted the catch off Gill, the second decision was a close one as Sharma's foot seemed to be in the air very close to the time when the balls were dislodged.

England opener Zak Crawley, who top-scored with a 84-ball 53, made the team's frustration clear in the post-play press conference.

"When we batted, Jack had one where it didn't quite carry and it seemed like they looked at it from five or six different angles. When we were fielding it seemed like they looked at it from one angle. That's where the frustrations lie," he added.

"I can't say whether they were out or not out, but I think the frustrations lie with not checking more thoroughly."

Friendlies Against Tough Opponents A Way To Test Ourselves, Says Gurpreet Singh Sandhu



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian men's football team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu feels the friendlies against tough opponents like Oman and UAE will help the Blue Tigers test themselves as they return to international action after more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Indian men's team is set to play two international friendlies -- against Oman on March 25 and United Arab Emirates on March 29 in Dubai.

"It's a brilliant piece of news not just for us players but for Indian Football overall that we will be playing again at the International arena," Sandhu was quoted as saying in an All India Football Federation (AIFF) release.

"Both the matches are against very tough oppositions whom we would love to play against, and test ourselves. "With International sports having shut down owing to the pandemic situation, I am aware as to how difficult it is to arrange matches under the current scenario," he added.

The Blue Tigers last played at the international arena -- in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers against Afghanistan (in Tajikistan) and Oman (in Muscat) in November 2019.

Sandhu feels it will be a big boost as the players will head to the camp straight after the Indian Super League and will have momentum on their side.

"The two friendlies happening straight after the Indian Super League will be a big boost. Most of the boys will be in momentum and heading straight to the national camp.

"That's what the players always love -- to have that continuity heading into International Football. We are all looking forward to the boys going out and giving their best."

Central defender Sandesh Jhingan dubbed the forthcoming two matches as "massive".

"It's a great piece of news which the entire nation was waiting for. It's massive for the fans, and for us players as well as we haven't played an International match in the last one and half years," he said.

"It's important for us to get back into the system of Igor Stimac, start training and improving," he added.

As part of the preparation for the two matches against Oman and UAE, the national team will assemble in a preparatory camp in Dubai from March 15 onwards.

"There are crucial games coming up in June which would be followed by the Qualifiers of the Asian Cup China 2023. The camp in March are just extra days to train and improve together as a team. I am extremely happy," Jhingan said.

ICC Signs Deal With IMG To Live Stream 541 Cricket Matches Across Three World Cups

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A total of 541 matches across three upcoming World Cups will be broadcast globally following a live streaming deal between the International Cricket Council and IMG, the game's governing body announced on Thursday.

The live streaming deal, which is up until April 2023, will enable fans to watch all qualifying matches to three World Cups: men's T20 World Cup 2022, men's World Cup 2023 and women's T20 World Cup 2023.

"We are delighted to be part-

nering with IMG to deliver more cricket to more fans than ever before," ICC Chief Executive, Manu Sawhney said in a release.

"This is a significant step forward for our sport and increases the size of our platform globally, which supports our long-term ambitions for greater sustainability for all of our Members.

The Apex body said "Of the 541 matches that will be broadcast, 145 are women's matches and 80 Associate Members will see fixtures from 41 qualifier events being produced and distributed, with more than 50 of those Members enjoying global cover-

age at an ICC event for the first time ever."

The coverage will capture performance of new teams including Hungary, Romania and Serbia, who are competing for the first time in the men's T20 World Cup qualification and Finland playing host to an ICC event for the very first time.

"In the Women's T20 World Cup 2023 pathway, eight teams: Bhutan, Botswana, Cameroon, France, Malawi, Myanmar, Philippines, and Turkey will be making their debuts in international ICC Women's events," the ICC said.

India Hockey Nationals To Begin In March After A Year's Break Due To COVID Pandemic

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The restructured Hockey India National Championships will restart in March after a hiatus of one year following the cancellation of last year's events due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The domestic competitions will resume in a new, restructured format this year, as HI looks to maximise athlete participation and develop the game in the states, union territories, institutional units and academies.

The season will kick-start with the 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Champion-

ship 2021 to be held in Simdega, Jharkhand from March 10 March to 18, followed by 11th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2021 scheduled to be organised in Narwana district of Haryana from March 17 to 25.

The inaugural edition of the first Hockey India Junior Women Academy National Championship 2021 will be held from March 17 to 26.

The women's event in this category will run simultaneously from March 17 to 24. Both the competitions will be played at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

This will be followed by the

11th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship at Simdega, Jharkhand from April 3 to 12.

Last year, only the 10th Hockey India Senior Men and Senior Women Championship 2020 (A Division) as well as the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (B Division) were held in January and February before the pandemic wreaked havoc worldwide.

"We are very happy to resume the domestic calendar after the pandemic halted all the sporting events last year," HI president Gyanendro Ningombam said in a statement.

"The season will begin in an all-

new avatar with the restructuring of events for sub-junior, junior and senior national championships for both men and women as well as Hockey India registered State Member Units, Public Sector Units/ Departmental Units and Academy Member Units respectively," he added.

With the threat of pandemic still looming large, the national federation has instructed the host state associations to appoint Hygiene Officers at every venue.

Besides, following HI's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is a must for all participating teams, tournament officials as well as host states.

MOTERA STADIUM

Yechury Joins Meme Fest, Says It's A 'Pawri' Of Cronies



Press trust of India

NEW DELHI: Jumping on the 'pawri ho rahi hai' bandwagon, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday used the trending meme to mock the Centre's explanation for renaming a cricket stadium in Gujarat after Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying it was a "pawri (party) of cronies".

Soon after President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the refurbished Sardar Patel cricket stadium, which will be known as 'Narendra Modi Stadium', in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, social media was flooded with remarks, including by some leaders of the Congress and other opposition parties who alleged that the renaming exercise amounted to an "insult" to Sardar Patel.

However, the government said the name change involves only the Motera stadium and the sports complex where it is located will continue to be named after

Sardar Patel.

"Yeh Narendra Modi Stadium hai, yeh iske do Ends hain...aur yeh cronies ki pawri ho rahi hai (This is the Narendra Modi Stadium, these are its two ends...and a party of cronies is going on)," Yechury said in a tweet, sharing a picture which showed the names of two bowling ends of the stadium—"Reliance" and "Adani".

'Pawri ho rahi hai' began trending after a video of Pakistani Instagram influencer and content creator Dananeer Mobeen, where she is seen enjoying with her friends, went viral early this month.

In the short video clip, Mobeen is heard saying, "Ye humari car hai, ye hum hain, aur ye humari pawri ho rahi hai (This is our car, this is us and this is our party going on)."

Spread over 63 acres, the Narendra Modi Stadium is the world's largest cricket arena that can accommodate 1.32 lakh spectators. It has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 800 crore.

RSS Chief Advocates 'Akhand Bharat'; Says Pakistan In Distress Ever Since Partition

Press trust of India

Advocating the need for "Akhand Bharat" (undivided India), RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, on Thursday, said countries such as Pakistan, which broke away from India, are now in distress.

Speaking at a book launch in Hyderabad, Bhagwat said "Akhand Bharat" is possible through "Hindu Dharma" but not through force.

"There is a need to make glorious 'Akhand Bharat' for the welfare of the universe. That is why there is a need to awaken patriotism...as truncated India has a need to be united (once again), all the divided parts of India, which no longer call themselves as India, they need more," he said.

Stressing that the concept of "Akhand Bharat" is possible, Bhagwat said some people had expressed serious doubts before the partition of the country whether it would be divided, but it happened. "If you ask six months before the partition of this country, nobody would have guessed. People asked Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that there was a new topic coming up about the formation of Pakistan."

"What is it? (Replying to that) he said it (the Partition) was a dream of fools," the RSS chief said.

According to him, Lord Wavell (during British rule) also said in British Parliament that God has made India one and who is going to divide it.

"But ultimately it (Partition)



happened. What seemed to be impossible happened, so it cannot be ruled out that "Akhand Bharat" which may seem to be impossible, will not happen...because, there is a need for 'Akhand Bharat'," he said.

Bhagwat said for separated regions of India which don't call themselves as Bharat any longer, it is much more a necessity to reunite with "Bharat".

According to him, there is unhappiness in the terrains of "Akhand Bharat" which now do not call themselves as Bharat.

"There is unhappiness. They did all they could, but did not find any remedy. And remedy is only one which is reunification (with Bharat) and all their problems will get resolved." "We talk of uniting them, not to suppress

them. When we talk of "Akhand Bharat" our intention is not with power (to achieve it) but to unite through dharma which is 'Sanatan' (eternal) which is humanity's dharma and of the entire world and today it is called as Hindu dharma," the RSS chief said.

"Gandhar became Afghanistan. Is there peace and tranquility in Afghanistan since then? Pakistan was formed. From that date till now is there peace and tranquility?" he asked.

He said India has the endurance to overcome several challenges and the world looks towards it to overcome difficulties.

With "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (world is one family) belief, India can again offer happiness and peace to the world, he added.

Mamata Rides Pillion On Electric Scooter To Protest Fuel Price Hike

Press trust of India

KOLKATA: In a unique protest against fuel price hike, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday rode pillion on an electric scooter to state secretariat Nabanna.

Banerjee was seen sitting behind state minister Firhad Hakim, who rode the battery-powered electric scooter.

With a placard protesting against the petrol price hike hanging around her neck, helmet-clad Banerjee waved at people on both sides of the road during the seven-km-long journey from Hazra More

the country in the coming days," she quipped.

Speaking on her unique protest, Banerjee said, "I rode on an e-scooter to protest the manner in which petrol, diesel and LPG prices are rising.

"A middle-class household needs two LPG cylinders a month which they can't afford now. Over 1 crore people in our state also depend on kerosene which they are not getting now," she said.

Banerjee said she will return home in the evening on the e-scooter.

The chief minister was trailed by security personnel on other two-wheelers as other vehicles



THIS IS NOTHING BUT AN ELECTION STUNT. Why is the state government not substantially withdrawing cess to blunt the effect of the fuel price hike to help the common man?"

TOOLKIT CASE

Delhi Court Grants Protection From Arrest To Shantanu Muluk Till Mar 9

Press trust of India

Delhi court on Thursday granted protection from arrest till March 9 to Shantanu Muluk, who is accused along with Disha Ravi in connection with allegedly being involved in sharing a "toolkit" on social media related to the farmers' protest.

Muluk along with Ravi and another co accused Nikita Jacob, was booked for alleged sedition and other charges.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana granted the relief after Delhi police said it needed time to conduct further interrogation before filing a detailed reply to Muluk's anticipatory bail plea.

The judge directed the police not to take any coercive action

against Muluk till March 9, when court will further hear the matter.

Muluk had got transit bail from Bombay High Court on February 16 for a period of 10 days, with a direction to approach the court concerned.

In his application, Muluk has said that he merely created the toolkit with information on the agitation, which was then edited by others without his knowledge.

According to the police, the 'Toolkit' was a sinister design to defame India and cause violence.

Ravi was arrested by a Cyber Cell team of the Delhi Police from Bengaluru and brought to Delhi.

Muluk and Jacob are currently on transit bail, while Ravi was granted bail after nine day custody.

If convicted for sedition, the accused may get a maximum jail term for life.

Will Bring Law To Stop 'Kidnapping' And Conversion Of Hindu Girls: Gujarat CM

Press trust of India

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Thursday said at an election rally that his government will bring in a law against "love jihad" to stop the "kidnapping" and conversion of Hindu girls.

Speaking at Godhra in Panchmahal district, Rupani reiterated the government's intention to table the legislation in the coming budget session of the state Assembly.

BJP governments in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have enacted laws to penalize 'fraudulent conversions' to stop what party leaders term as "love Jihad" or an alleged conspiracy to convert Hindu women through marriage.

"Assembly session is starting from March 1 and my government is willing to bring in a strict



law against love jihad. We will not tolerate this act of kidnapping of Hindu girls," Rupani said.

"Women are being lured and converted. This new law is aimed at stopping such activities," he said.

He was campaigning for February 28 elections to municipalities, taluka and district panchay-

ats in the state.

Rupani had announced on February 15 for the first time that the BJP government in the state will bring in such a law. BJP MLA Shailesh Mehta and the party's Vadodara MP Ranjan Bhatt had earlier called for a law on the lines of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Not Making Tea No Provocation For Husband To Assault Wife: Bombay High Court

MUMBAI: Upholding a 35-year-old man's conviction for assaulting his wife, the Bombay High Court has said the wife's refusal to make tea for husband could not be accepted as a provocation for him to assault her and observed that wife is "not a chattel or an object".

In an order passed earlier this month, Justice Revati Mohite Dere said "marriage, ideally, is a partnership based on equality". But, notions of patriarchy and the idea that the woman is a man's property still prevail in society, leading a man to think that his wife is his "chattel", the court observed.

The HC also said the testimony of the couple's 6-year-old daughter inspires confidence and cannot be disbelieved.

The court upheld the conviction and 10 years' imprisonment awarded to Santosh Atkar (35), a resident of Pandharpur in Solapur district, by a local court in 2016.

He was found guilty on the charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. As per the order, Atkar and his wife had been having disputes for some time.

On the day of the incident in December 2013, his wife insisted on going out without making a cup of tea for him.

The man then struck her with a hammer, injuring her grievously. As per the case details and testimony of the couple's daughter, Atkar then cleaned the spot of the crime, bathed his wife and took her to hospital.

She succumbed to her injuries after being in the hospital for about a week. The defence argued that Atkar had been provoked into committing the crime because his wife refused to make tea.

The HC, however, rejected the argument and held that there existed adequate evidence, including the testimony of the man's daughter, to prove the charges against him.

"The deceased, by refusing to make tea for the appellant (Atkar), by no stretch of imagination, can be said to have offered grave and sudden provocation for the appellant to assault her, much less, such a brutal assault," it said.

"It would not be out of place to observe that a wife is not a chattel or an object," the HC said.

Such cases reflect the imbalance of gender and skewed patriarchy, the socio-cultural milieu one has grown up in, which often seeps into a marital relationship, it said.

The court said an imbalance of gender roles exists in society, where the wife is expected to do all the household chores.

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