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Quote!
Always forgive your enemies – nothing annoys them so much
– Oscar Wilde

NEWS DIGEST

'Militant' Arrested In Ganderbal
SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a hybrid militant from a checkpoint in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. According to a police spokesperson, the cops at a mobile vehicle check post (MVCP) near Khann area on Thursday observed an individual. **More On P10**

Bear Mauls Woman To Death
SRINAGAR: A woman was mauled to death on Friday by a black bear in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 40-year-old Muneera Akhtar, wife of Muhammad Shaban Ahanger was critically injured after a bear attacked her outside her home in Diyaroo village of Ashmuqam, reports said. **More On P10**

IAF Chopper Makes 'Precautionary Landing'
JAMMU: On a routine sortie, an Indian Air Force chopper made a 'precautionary landing' in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Friday after the detection of some technical snag in it, defence sources said. A Chetak helicopter was routine sortie when **More On P10**

Ladakh Logs 15 New Covid Cases
LEH: Ladakh recorded 15 COVID-19 cases on Friday, taking its tally of infections to 21,098, while the count of active cases of the disease in the union territory rose to 130, officials said. Ladakh has registered 209 Covid-related deaths -- 151 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the **More On P10**

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Hizb Commander Killed In Kulgam Encounter



File Photo

3 Militants Killed In Srinagar, Kulgam Gunfights In 24 Hours

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A district commander of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen was killed in an overnight encounter with government forces in south

Kashmir's Kulgam district, taking the number of militants slain in two separate gunfights in Valley during the last 24 hours to three.

Shiraz Ahmad alias Shiraz Molvi alias Abu Haris of Souch village and Yawar Ahmad Bhat of Ponipora, both associated with Hizbul Mujahideen were killed in an encounter with a joint team of police. **More On P10**

'Suicide Bomber' Killed In Srinagar Shootout

Police on Friday claimed that a militant killed in a late night operation in Bemina area of the city here on Thursday was a suicide bomber who wanted to carry out a Lethpora type strike. Amir Riyaz of Khrew, Pampore was a relative of one of the accused militant of Lethpora attack and preliminary investigation indicated that he was assigned to carry out similar kind of fidayeen attack, a police spokesperson said Friday. Riyaz, he said, **More On P10**

HE WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN RECRUITING innocent youth into terror ranks and in spreading a reign of terror by killing civilians as well as political workers in Devsar and Brazloo areas of Kulgam. There are 15 FIRs registered against him for several terror crimes."

ARTO Kupwara, 2 Subordinates Suspended

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday suspended an assistant regional transport officer (ARTO) and two of his subordinates in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. ARTO Kupwara, Mohammad Mukhtar Sofi and Motor Vehicle Inspectors Khurshid Ahmad Kanna and Abdul Hamid Bhat were placed under suspension and were attached with the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government on Friday. **More On P10**

Kashmiri Singer Qaisar Nizami In Grammy Race

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Noted Kashmiri singer and musician Qaisar Nizami has been nominated for the prestigious Grammy award for his collaborative song 'Nazninay' (O Beauty), which forms a part of US-based music composer and santoor player Ehsaan Matorri's multinational 'The Voice and Bridges' project. The nominations for the 2002 Grammys (or the 64th Grammy Awards) will be formally announced at a live streamed event on November 23.

Nizami's nomination statement reads: "It is a matter of joy that the famous composer Ehsaan Matorri in collaboration with the greatest musicians of the world brought out an album in which many countries



lend their voices and the voice of Qaisar Nizami, the legendary singer of the Kashmir Valley, also is included in the album titled 'The Voice and Bridges', which speaks in itself about the music and poetry."

It is for the first time in Grammy history that a Kashmiri

LG Vows To Bring Back 'Misguided' Youth Into Mainstream

'Malicious Attempts Being Made To Push Youth Into Drug Menace, Keep Them Away From Mainstream'

Observer News Service

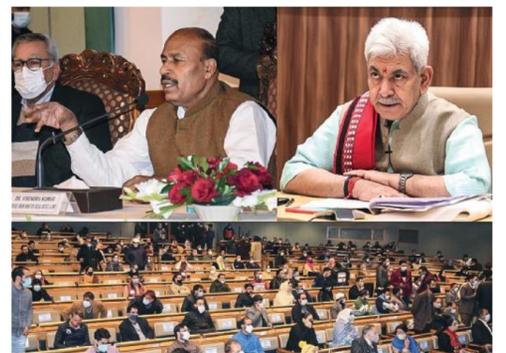
SRINAGAR: Claiming that malicious attempts are being made to push youth into the menace of drugs keeping them away from the mainstream, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday pledged to take a firm stance against drug abuse to give a befitting reply to narco-terrorism and bring back the misguided youth into mainstream arena.

Addressing the 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' awards ceremony held at SKICC here, through virtual mode on Friday, the LG said that drug abuse has emerged as one of the most serious social problems across the globe tearing apart our social fabric and posing a threat to mankind, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said, maintained that the UT Government was making dedicated efforts through its action plans, innovative prevention & rehabilitation strategies, besides creating supportive infrastructure, and continuous awareness dissemination to eradicate drug menace from Jammu & Kashmir.

"The active participation of 3 lakh youth, 2.7 lakh women and more than 500 educational institutions have strengthened the government's efforts to combat drug abuse in J&K," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"Malicious attempts are being made to push J&K's Youth into



I HAVE FULL FAITH IN THE potential of the youth of J&K. We are committed to connect the present and future generations with the hopes and aspirations of their progress and build a society in which the Youth is the key driver of the development and prosperity of J&K."

the menace of drugs keeping them away from the mainstream. Let us all reaffirm our resolve and take a firm stance against drug abuse to give a befitting reply to Narco-Terrorism and bring back the misguided youth into mainstream arena," he added.

Addressing the youth, the official spokesperson said that the LG advised them to move ahead, participate in the development process and be role models for others.

"I have full faith in the potential of the youth of J&K. We are committed to connect the present and future generations with the hopes and aspirations of their progress and build a society in which the Youth is the key driver of the development and

prosperity of J&K," Sinha said. As per the official spokesperson, the LG said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paved the way for combating drug abuse through the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction in 2018 which is having a greater impact in rooting out the evil of drugs from the society.

Sinha, he said, also underlined the importance of implementing multi pronged strategies like effective prevention strategies based on the community level and having an awakened social setting.

"Now is the time for more synergized and comprehensive efforts to fight drug menace," the LG said. **More On P10**

J&K Bank Posts Net Profit Of Rs 111Cr In Q2

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Public sector lender Jammu Kashmir Bank on Friday reported an over two-fold jump in net profit in quarter ended September. The bank had posted a net profit of Rs 43.93 crore in the year-ago period and a profit of Rs 104.32 crore in Q1 of FY22.

Total income of the bank rose to Rs 2,201.26 crore during the July-September period of 2021-22, as against Rs 2,194.47 crore in same period of 2020-21, Jammu Kashmir Bank (J K Bank) said in a

regulatory filing. Bank's provisions for bad loans and contingencies for the reported quarter fell to Rs 192.68 crore, as against Rs 324.92 crore in same period a year ago. Even as there was a slight rise in gross non-performing assets (NPA) ratio at 8.95 per cent of the gross advances as of September 30, from 8.87 per cent by end of September last year. Net NPA was down at 3.02 per cent against 3.03 per cent. Stock of J K Bank closed at Rs 45.95 apiece on BSE, up 0.33 per cent over previous close.

'Stay Home' Syndrome Returns As Cold-Covid Leaves Kashmir 'Breathless'

Tabia Masoodi

Lying on a hospital bed in the SMHS triage ward, Sahil Gulzar, 24, from Pattan, Baramulla is breathing with the artificial air of an oxygen cylinder. Sahil has a ventricular septal defect (a hole in his heart). With this life-threatening condition, his daily life gets paralysed during winter. As winter comes with the baggage of viral flu stretching from the common cold to increasing the risk of Covid nowadays, breathing problems get more aggravated in the valley. The great drip in his oxygen levels leaves Sahil to survive on artificial support frequently for more than three months every year. "Summertime is far better than winters," said his sister,

sitting beside him. "His condition is stable. But winter is hard for the whole family." Doctors have ruled out surgery for him and have strictly advised Sahil to avoid going out during winters. With Sahil's already serious situation, Covid was an add on, due to which he has to stay indoors through the year. Not only Sahil but there're thousands of people in the valley for whom winter is bad news. One among them is Saima Shah, an asthmatic patient from Srinagar. Saima has been diagnosed with asthma four years back, which for her was not sudden as it is an inherited disease. "My mother has been an asthmatic patient and my father also has breathing issues," says Saima. For asthma sufferers, winters



have always proven to be the worst period of the year. And Saima has been a first-hand witness of it as she has seen her mother suffering more during the cold season due to asthma

since childhood. But now the scenario has changed as she, no longer, is a witness but herself a sufferer. "In winter my condition gets deteriorated due to the shifts

in the weather as it irritates my airways," expressed Saima. She's on medication and has been taking proper precautions. Earlier she used to take inhalers. She believes that if proper

precautions are taken, a patient to some extent can be stable during winters. "Also, me and my whole family every year take flu shots as recommended by our doctor," said Saima. Apart from all other precautions, taking flu shots is a vital part of the survival game. "For patients with lung-related diseases flu shots are a must. It's an extra layer of protection for them," said Dr. Suraya A. Farooq, Associate professor, GMC Srinagar. But now, for patients like Saima and her mother, Covid-19 has proven to be the last straw. "Covid-19 situation has increased our fears a lot," expressed Saima's mother. "We've taken precautions more than needed, but the constant fear is always lingering in our lives." Dr. Suraya added that

patients who have suffered from Covid-19 earlier are at a high risk of getting post-Covid fibrosis. For which she suggested such patients mostly stay indoors. The already distressing situation has increased due to the Covid scenario. People with underlying conditions now have to take Covid precautions alongside their own precautions. One such person is Rabia, a tachycardia (fast heart rate) patient. Rabia suffers from breathing problems throughout the year, but her problems increase to a great extent during winters. "I have already been suffering from breathing issues and now wearing masks is an add on. It gets suffocating to wear a mask but one can't help it," says Rabia. Winters have never been Rabia's favourite. **More On P10**



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از نیابت انتہاء ناگ با اجلاس ایشیا زام احمد صاحب
درخواست منجانب: شائق منظور سیرت اختر مرتضی منظور اولاد منظور احمد شائق سارکار زینیر پورہ تحصیل منجانب: ربا۔ مرتضیٰ صاحب

اشیاء برآمدہ گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔
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اس طرح سائل کا نمبر 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کیونکہ سائل کی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے اور الٹا سائل کا نمبر 11 مان پختہ ہے جس کی ماہوار آمدنی 1820/= تک ہے۔ سائل کے سبب سے پاس دہ ہذا میں 2 کمال آرا سیرت موجود ہیں اور سائل کے سبب سے سالانہ آمدنی 100000 روپے سے کم ہے۔ سائل RBA سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سبب سے دن کے اندر آمد پناہ پذیر یا اعتراض دفتر ہذا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں سبب سے معافی کوئی معذرت یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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RNA (تقریر الصدور ایشیا زام احمد صاحب)

Public Notice

The name of my son has been wrongly written in Municipal & School records as Mohammad Anas Sofi while his correct name is Sarwar Mahmood which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of Municipal Council Shopian and Mohammadiya Educational Institute Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Sof
F/o Sarwar Mahmood
R/O Bonabazar Shopian ast

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written in MetLife Policy Bearing Policy No: 23566639 as Ghulam Mohiuddin Sheikh S/O Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh while my correct name is Mohiuddin Sheikh S/O Mohd Sheikh which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of PNB MetLife office, 3rd Floor Hadika Complex Barzulla Baghat Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohiuddin Sheikh S/O Mohd Sheikh
R/O Noorbagh Pamposh Colony Srinagar pd

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer kupwara NOTICE

Where As application has been received from Kulwinder Singh son of Shri Harbans Singh Resident of Hussani wala Ferozpur Punjab Vehicle no PB05-3655 and registered owner of vehicle namely parvaiz Ahmad Khan son of Mohd Dilawar Khan resident of Kralgund District Kupwara Vehicle type Alto Lxi
NOC Number:- PB/5/NOC/2019/1397
Registration no: P 05x3655
Registration Dt: 11 July-2013
Engine no:- F8DN5054092
Chassis No:- MA3EUA61S00268221
Tax valid upto: one time
Dispatch no:- 86
State to: Jammu & Kashmir
Rto To :- kupwara ARTO
Reason :- sold the vehicle in other Registering Authority
Transfer name:- parvaiz Ahmad Khan having NOC certificate to ARTO office kupwara for re-Registration purpose.
Now it is notified for General information that objection if any to the proposed of the sold vehicle shall be filled in written in the office of the Assistant Regional transport officer kupwara with in seven days from the publication of this notice in the same daily news paper.

Sd/Assistant Regional transport officer kupwara.
SULT

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار قلم آباد
درخواست منجانب: محمد یوسف گوہر بولکند ولد سلام الدین گوہر بولکند ساکنہ موناہل براج وصول SRO 2941 ST

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RNA (تقریر الصدور ایشیا زام احمد صاحب)

GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING KUPWARA

Email: xenrewkup@gmail.com
E-TENDER NOTICE NO:- 75 of 2021-22 DATED: 10-11-2021
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K (UT), e-tenders in SINGLE COVER SYSTEM are invited on item rate basis from approved Contractors /Reputed Firms/companies shown as under for the below noted work:-

S No	Name of work	Block	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender documents (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Scheme / Major Head of Acctt.
1	Const of crossing at Khan Mohalla Batpora A	Hyhama	9.55	DEE/CEE	600	45 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
2	Improvement of Gam Khul with R/Wall at Different Spots from High School To Nard.	Hyhama	6.00	DEE/CEE	300	30 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(PRI)
3	Const of R/Wall Different Spots Katwal Mohallah, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Batpora A	Hyhama	2.89	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(PRI)
4	Const of link road Mir Basti to Trumnard P.Yt:Batpora C	Hyhama	7.00	DEE/CEE	300	30 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(PRI)
5	Const of P Bund / Filling from H/O Ab Hussain Wani upto L/O Mohd Sharief Khan & others.	Hyhama	2.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
6	Const of Footpath from Bunpora Culvert to Ahanger Mohalla at Guttipora, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Guttipora.	Hyhama	2.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
7	Const. of Two No Flush Point at Guttipora Bunpora Block:Hyhama, P.Yt:Guttipora.	Hyhama	2.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
8	Const./Imp. Of Road from G Road to Shiekh Mohallah Batpora A	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
9	Const of Footpath with R/Wall near Masjid Sharief at Shartpora	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
10	Const of Road from Main Road to Tranda payeen near Shahzad Khan, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt:Manigah C	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
12	Const of Road from Tranda payeen to Ziyarat Shareef Sing Pir at Manigah c	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
13	Const of Road G/Road to L/O Khurshed Khan & others at Babapora.	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
14	Const of Soil Erosion R/wall from L/O Gh nabi Reshi Upto L/O Nazir Ahmad Reshi at Mazhar, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Manzhar	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
15	Const of Link Road From HS to Nard Daji NLO Gh Nabi Reshi & others. P.Yt: Manzhar	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
16	Dev. Of Play Ground/Levelling/ Filling at Trumnard, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Batpora	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
17	Const of crossing o Nallah Bnamarcheck NLO Khan Zaman Malik Manigah	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
18	Const of Flood Channel from H/O Syed Nasir Hussain to R&B road at Manzhar	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
19	Const of Road from MS Manzhar upto Reshnard at Manzhar, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Manzhar.	Hyhama	7.00	DEE/CEE	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
20	Const of Irrigation Khul NLO Abdullah Dar Maqbool Dar & others at Chal Gund, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Chal Gund.	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
21	Const of Soil Erosion P Bund at different Spots at Kashmir Manigah & Shalibhatu, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Manigah A.Under.	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
22	Const./Imp of Road from Gh Ahmad Bhat to Ibrahim Awan & others Phase-II. P.Yt: Manigah A.	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
23	Imp. Of Flood Channel Darzi Mohalla Zangli NHO M Shafi & Others, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Zangli.	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
24	Const of Soil Erosion P/Bund from H/O Mohd Yousuf Dar to H/O Razaq Dar & others, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Jugtival.	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
25	Const of Drain with P/Bund NLO Mohd Yousuf to Masjid Sharief at Gundisana, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Gundisana.	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
26	Const of Link Road from Zangli Sarband to Banganwali via Alif U Din, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Zangli.	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
27	Const of Footpath with R/Wall Kutwal Mohalla Link Road to Maqbool Khan via Riyaz Khan, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Batpora A.	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
28	Const of R/wall from Jamia Masjid Sharief to Mufti Ab Rashid Lone, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Batpora A.	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
29	Imp of Khul from Land of Imtiaz Ahmad Khan to H/O Gh Ahmad Dar at Dar Mohalla, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Gundisana.	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
30	Const./Imp of Road Beacon Road to Kutwal Mohalla Batpora A, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Batpora A.	Hyhama	1.58	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
31	Const of Fencing from Land of Darululoom at Gonipora Part-I, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Gonipora	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
32	Const of Road from G/Road to Ayoub Khan Mohalla, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Jugtival	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
33	Const./Imp. Of Road from G/Road to Mohammed Assadullah Dar others at Chal Gund, Block: Hyhama, P.Yt: chal Gund	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(BDC)
34	Const of Link Road with Drain G/Road to Ziyarat Sharief Syed Badshah Shab at Payerpora, Block: Hyhama, P.Yt: Payerpora	Hyhama	1.50	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
35	Const of Footpath G/Road to L/O Ab Satar Mughal Mohallah at Batpora B, Block: Hyhama, P.Yt: Batpora B	Hyhama	1.00	DEE/DDC Registered card holder	200	20 Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)
36	Const of Fencing NTPHC Gonipora, Block:Hyhama, P.Yt: Gonipora	Hyhama	7.00	DEE/CEE	300	30Days	Capex Budget (Area Dev Fund)(DDC)

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of funds = Budgeted
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, Eligibility Criteria, specification, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Sl. No.	Critical Dates Table	Date
1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice.	11-11-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	11.11.2021 To 18.11.2021
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	11.11.2021 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid submission End Date.	18.11.2021 up to 03.00 PM
5.	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	18.11.2021 at 4.00 P.M. in the office of Ex. Engineer, REW Kupwara

1. Special Condition:- For Works Adv. Cost Up to Rs. 3.00 lakhs, only DEE Class and DDC Registered Card holders of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in tendering process in light of the Govt Order No 238-F of 2021 Dated 09-07-2021. Bidder must upload any document Residential certificate/ Aadhar card/Ration card/ Electricity Bill showing Panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the particular Panchayat halqa

2. The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into treasury under Major Head 0515-OR's the bidders must upload the scanned copy of treasury acknowledgment slip.

3. Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

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

5. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

6. The date and time of opening of technical bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message one their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of all e- Bidders shall be opened on same Web site in the office of Executive Engineer REW Kupwara (tender receiving authority).

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.

27. COVID SoP / guidelines issued by the Government are strictly adhered to.

Executive Engineer
REW Kupwara

NO: XEN/REW/KUP/
Dated: 10/11/2021
DIPK-12536/21

اظہار تشکر

ہم اُن تمام دوستوں، رشتہ داروں اور ہمساویوں کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے ہمارے گھر آکر، بذریعہ فون یا سوشل میڈیا کے ذریعے ہماری والدہ اہلیہ عبدالرحیم راتھر ساکنہ ہستل محلہ ناؤ پورہ سرینگر کے انتقال پر ہماری ڈھارس بندھائی۔ ہماری والدہ 10 نومبر 2021ء کو انتقال کر گئیں تھیں اللہ تعالیٰ ان تمام لوگوں کو اجر عظیم عطا کرے اور ہماری والدہ کو جنت الفردوس نصیب فرمائیں۔ (آمین)

سوگواران
789566681

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10 th under Below mentioned particulars
Name: Danish Kaleem Dar
S/o Ghulam Rasool Dar
R/O Chewa Budgam Kashmir

Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 219487 Session /Year 2013 Bi-Annual
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued und, as per below mentioned details:-
Roll No: 266224
Class: 10th
Year & Session Annual Regular 2013
Registration No: N1234140028
Name: Mudasir Ahamd Lone
Father's Name: Sona Ullah Lone
Mother's Name: Mugla
Date of Birth:- 05-03-1999
Residenc:- Peth Makama Magam Budgam

According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate , so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate/ bearing Serial NO 13ARKAM -1008315 " be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/KD/21
Dated --
Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

CHANGE IN CONNECTION

I Want To Change The Connection (P.h.e Water Works Division) Registered In The Name Of Ab. Rehman Dar S/O Abdul Ahad Dar, R/O Rawalpore Bearing Id No. 020201011271 To Sajad Ahmad Dar, S/O Late Abdul Rehman Dar, R/O Rawalpore. If Anybody Has Any Objection Kindly Contact The Concerned Authority Within Seven Days After That No Objection Will Be Entertained.

CONTACT NO. 7006767200 inf

CHANGE IN CONNECTION

I Want To Change The Connection (P.w.d Sub- Division Baghat) Registered In The Name The Of Ab. Rehman Dar S/O Abdul Ahad Dar, R/O Rawalpore Bearing Id No. C.i.d.no. 0202050000572 To Sajad Ahmad Dar, S/O Late Abdul Rehman Dar, R/O Rawalpore. If Anybody Has Any Objection Kindly Contact The Concerned Authority Within Seven Days After That No Objection Will Be Entertained.

CONTACT NO. 7006767200 inf

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE
Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.
Contact:-0194-3550112
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All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.
Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE
Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.
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F.B: yardimci multiVenture

Plumbing Jobs
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Amriz Services- 7947411032
Valley Plumbers - 7947130027
Shah Constructions- 7947130111
Electric & Plumbing -- 7947130256
Ajaz Plumber- 6008402994

Carpenter Jobs
Manpreet Sigh- 9988612761
Mohammad Yaseen- 9419502845
Mohammad Ishfaq- 6064850094
Wasta Aashiq- 606480982
Kuljit Singh- 9906480421
Najjar Furniture Works- 9906598910
Umaid & Company- 7889686402
Suraj Joinery Works- 9906698804

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Excellent Coaching for,
9th,10th,11th &12th classes
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DHSK walks a mile ahead, orders transfer of MS LD hospital

Agencies

Srinagar: An order of transfer of Medical Superintendent LD hospital issued by Director Health Services Kashmir has raised eyebrows as it said that order is an intrusion into the area of responsibility of Principal GMC Srinagar.

Dr Shahir Ahmad Siddiqui, Consultant Anaesthesiology, presently looking after the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent, Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar is transferred and is directed to report in the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir for working as Nodal Officer for the establishment of Intensive Care Units (ICUNICU/PICU) in all the District Hospitals of Kashmir Division. Reads the order issued by Director health services of Kashmir on dated November 10.

Dr Muzaffar Hussain Sherwani, Medical Officer, presently looking after the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Budgam is transferred and posted in Lal Ded Hospital Srinagar. "He shall also look after the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent, Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar till regular arrangement is made. Dr Mohd Ayoub Fateh Khan, Medical Officer, District Hospital Budgam shall look after the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Budgam, in addition to his own duties, till regular establishment is made," the order reads.

It further states that the arrangement in respect of these doctors is made purely on temporary basis and shall not confer any right on these doctors to claim preferential treatment at the time of promotions/regularizations, which shall be made strictly in accordance with the rules. "The arrangement shall be without prejudice to the outcome of writ petitions, if any, pending before any competent court of law," the order adds further.

However, on October 12, the same order was issued by Additional Chief Secretary Health and Medical Education Vivek Bhardwaj.

Dr Mir Mushtaq spokesperson of directorate of health services Kashmir told KNO said that Medical Superintendent LD is basically an employee of the health department and the director can repatriate him back on directions of Additional Chief Secretary Health and Medical education.

Police alerts SMC about 277 alleged illegal constructions

'Corporation turning blind eye to violations'

Agencies

Srinagar: In a disclosure which could lift the veil about huge illegal constructions in J&K's summer capital, Srinagar police have sent a list of 277 buildings to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), which are being allegedly constructed illegally.

Sources told the news agency that the police have sent a list of 277 buildings to Srinagar Municipal Corporation, which the public alleged were being constructed illegally.

"The police have asked the SMC whether these constructions have requisite permission," an official told KNO.

He disclosed that these buildings are being constructed in different parts of Srinagar, but SMC has turned a blind eye towards these alleged violations. "The SMC has preferred to remain silent instead of taking action against these alleged illegal constructions," he claimed, adding that this police report is just the tip of the iceberg about illegal constructions in Srinagar.



The Srinagar Municipal Corporation has been often in news over illegal constructions, scams and infightings.

The disclosure about alleged illegal constructions has come to fore at a time when Jammu & Kashmir administration has unleashed a slew of reforms for ensuring transparency and accountability in

day-to-day governance.

When contacted, commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Athar Aamir Khan told that he was not aware of the matter. He said the enforcement wing of Srinagar Municipal Corporation is taking action whenever any report of illegal construction comes into their notice—(KNO)

Kids attend Sheene-Pipin session at Edraak Art Exhibition

Syed Burhan

Srinagar: On the seventh day of the event "Mashq-e-Payeez: Ishq-e-Nabi" organized by Edraak and a Children specific session was held at the art exhibition, Mahattas.

School children from various Institutes of the city attended the session. Principal Saint Paul's International Academy, Grace Paljor conducted a story telling session for children and made students aware about Kashmiri culture and folklore associated with the Sheene-Pipin (Streaked Laughing Thrush).

Rhymes on Samavar and Roasted Chestnuts were also recited and enacted making it a joyful experience for the children in the season of Harud.

On the occasion, Grace Paljor gave an insight into her books which she has conceptualized and compiled with a Kashmiri tinge.

"There is a void in the genre of children's literature in Kashmir; I have compiled the book while keeping Kashmiri characters alive in stories". She said, adding that "The text books taught in Kashmiri schools do not have anything about our own culture or flora and fauna of this place. We need to change that she added.

It was followed by a question answer session wherein students were given a chance to present their views.

Among the attendees is Iram Fatima, a 10th class student who has left aside her

10th class exam preparation and was busy attending the exhibition at Edraak.

"My father is an artisan and after seeing art works at the exhibition, I got inspired and learned more about Kashmiri culture", she said. I am myself a Paper Maché artist and after attending the exhibition, I got inspired from what I saw.

The exhibition has been organised by Edraak, a movement that aims at educational revival through arts and aesthetics in Kashmir which kicked off its exhibition at Srinagar's Mahatta Gallery on 5 November.

The event is aimed at budding talent to encourage, platform and inspire them. The workshop cum exhibition will last till November 14.

Law students urge KU to postpone exams or conduct it Online

Agencies

Srinagar: The Law students of the Kashmir University on Friday urged the administration to postpone the 2nd, 4th and 5th semesters examination till February, 2022 or conduct it online.

The students told the news agency that the University partially resumed offline classes towards the end of the academic session in October. But the majority of the students were stopped from coming to the

campus for the reason that they have not been vaccinated fully.

"But now we are being forced to take the examination offline too at short notice," the students told the news agency.

The students also met with the HoD and members of faculty a couple of days ago. They impressed upon them that they should be given an online examination and that too in February or March next in view of the disruption in their studies due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE
Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Bilal Mohi Uddin S/O Gulam Mohi Uddin Dar R/O Nathan Vihar Rannahla Nangloi New Delhi (Transferor) of Duster bearing registration No. DL8CAF-19 05 chasis No: 7028091 Engine No: 028741 Model 2014 in Andleeb Ansari W/O Sajad Haider Ansari R/O A Darul Ansar Eidgha Hawal Road Srinagar. (Transferee).

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.
No. representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.
Sd/-
NOJK-RTOK 2564

Dated: 23/06/2021 Regional Transport Office, Kashmir



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION (Ph.D.) NO. 05 OF 2021

On-line applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to Ph.D. programme in following subjects for the Academic Session 2021-22 as per following details:

S. No	Deptt./Discipline/Subject	No. of Vacancies
1	Economics	03
2	Statistics	01
3	Mathematics	02
4	Management Studies	13
5	Physics	03
6	Chemistry	02
7	Food Technology	06
8	Computer Science	05
9	Islamic Studies	02
10	Arabic Language & Literature	01
11	English Language & Literature	04
12	Journalism & Mass Communication	04
13	Civil Engineering	04
14	Electrical Engineering	05
15	Mechanical Engineering	06
16	Computer Science & Engineering	08
17	Electronics & Communication Engineering	08
18	Watson and Crick Center for Molecular Medicine	06

The candidates are advised to go through the Admission Notification thoroughly to check the eligibility criteria/other details before filling and submitting their online Application Forms.

Important Dates:

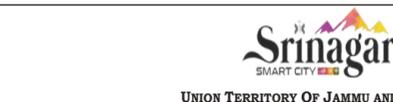
Availability of Online Application Forms	12-11-2021
Last Date for submission of Online Application Forms	25-11-2021

Queries, if any, can be made on **EPABX: 01933-247252 Phone: 9906400789 / 9858306455 Email ID: admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in.**

Detailed admission notification is available on the university website: www.iust.ac.in

No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/21/433

Dated: 11-11-2021. DIPP-NB-4974/21 Assistant Registrar, Academics



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD

(A J&K Government Undertaking)

Email: tenders.sscil@gmail.com Tel. No: 0194-2455370 (CIN: U72000JK2017SGC010107)

NIT NO.: RFP 11-SSCL of 11/2021 **DATED:** 10/11/2021

Subject: Notice inviting tenders for "Agency for Design, Built, Operate, Maintain and Transfer Public Bicycle Sharing System in Srinagar City on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Basis".
Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), invites online offers, on the basis of from registered and reputed Firms/Agencies/Entities/Companies having experience and expertise in Design, Built, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Bicycle Sharing Schemes for the above subjected work.

	Estimated cost of the
Engagement of Agency for Design, Built, Operate, Maintain and Transfer Public Bicycle Sharing System in Srinagar City on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Basis	

The Bid document and all the necessary information, consisting of bidding information, eligibility criteria, terms of reference, conditions of contract and other details, can be seen/downloaded from the e procurement portal of J&K Govt. <https://jtenders.gov.in> schedule of dates given hereunder:

	Schedule Date & Time
Date of issue of Notice for RFP	
Document download Start Date & Time	
Last Date for receipt of requests for	
Bid meeting Date & Time	
Bid Submission Start Date & Time	
Bid Submission End Date & Time	
Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	
Date of giving presentation	To be intimated separately.
Financial Bid Opening Date & Time	To be intimated separately.

The Cost of Tender Document is non refundable and is to be paid through online mode in favour of Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as under:

Name of Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
Branch: SSI Lal Chowk, Srinagar.
Bank Account Number: 021610100002252,
IFSC Code: JAKA05515GR
MICR Code: 190051059

Bids shall be received "on line" on or before /11/2021 up to 14:00 Hrs. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID. herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same. may change any part or the entire schedule of bid submission with prior intimation

Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Bid Document Cost.

The bids shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the due date of submission of bids. To this effect, the bidder has along with his bid, a duly filled and signed "Bid Securing Declaration Form" provided in the RFP document.

The bidder is required to quote minimum Viability Gap Funding required to implement the project in totality and the selection **Lowest Quoted Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** as per the procedure described in the RFP.

he eligible bidders registered as Micro and Small Enterprises shall be provided bid document free of cost subject to furnish relevant valid certificate/documents for claiming such exemption.

In lieu of Bid Security, the bidder is required to submit the Bid Security Declaration in the format as provided in the Bid D

Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.

The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.

The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason thereof and thereby assumes no responsibility of incurring any liability to the affect

Chief Executive Officer
Srinagar Smart City Limited.

DIPP-NB-4940/21

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
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
07 Rabi-ul Sani
1443

FAJR	5: 37
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	4:51
Magrib	5:30
ISHA	6: 52

This Day In History

- 1642 - Battle at Turnham Green outside London: King Charles I vs English parliament
- 1673 - Prince Willem III/Raimundo earl Montecuccoli conquer Bonn
- 1715 - Battle of Sheriffmuir during Jacobite rebellion. Battle inconclusive but Government forces halt advance of Jacobite army lead by Scottish Earl of Mar
- 1775 - American Revolutionary forces capture Montreal
- 1781 - British troops occupy Negapatam, Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
- 1851 - Telegraph connection between London-Paris linked
- 1865 - US issues 1st gold certificates
- 1918 - Russia cancels Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 1921 - US, France, Japan and British Empire sign a Pacific Treaty.
- 1935 - Anti-British riots in Egypt
- 1954 - 1st Rugby League World Cup: Great Britain beats France 16-12
- 1979 - Ronald Reagan in New York announces his candidacy for US President
- 1986 - NASA launches space vehicle S-199
- 1986 - US President Reagan confesses weapon sales to Iran
- 1990 - Saudis ask US for rights to bid on SPR (Strategic Petroleum Reserve) crude
- 1993 - Pakistani minister of Foreign affairs Faruk Leghari elected president
- 1994 - Sweden agrees to join European Union
- 1997 - UN pulls out arms inspection teams from Iraq
- 2001 - War on Terrorism: In the first such act since World War II, US President George W. Bush signs an executive order allowing military tribunals against foreigners suspected of connections to terrorist acts or planned acts on the United States.
- 2002 - Iraq disarmament crisis: Iraq agrees to the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441
- 2008 - Equity research by Deutsche Bank states that Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines should not experience a recession, despite potential harm to economic growth from falling commodity prices and possible weaker exports
- 2009 - The Netherlands officially exits the recession after experiencing 0.4% growth in the third quarter, but recovery for the Netherlands still remains fragile as the country is highly dependent on exports to maintain the recovery
- 2009 - Germany's growth of 0.7% in the third quarter helps lead the Eurozone out of the recession after providing overall growth of 0.4% in the same period, with the whole European Union growing 0.2%, it is reported today
- 2014 - Rohit Sharma of India sets a new record of 264 runs against Sri Lanka in an ODI innings in cricket
- 2015 - Terror attacks in Paris at 3 locations leave at least 129 dead. Isis claim responsibility.
- 2017 - Italy fails to qualify for 2018 Football World Cup (first time since 1958), after play-off defeat against Sweden.
- 2017 - Italy fails to qualify for 2018 Football World Cup (first time since 1958), after play-off defeat against Sweden
- 2017 - First Barbie doll to wear a hijab, modeled on Olympic fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad unveiled in New York

From KO Archives

'50 percent Indians are corrupt'

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Almost 60 per cent of Indians using government services end up paying bribes, according to a recent survey commissioned by India's Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). But only 20 per cent actually filed complaints against such corrupt practices.

The study was carried out by the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), which interviewed 2,576 visitors to government offices in five cities across the country from October 31 to November 4.

More than 60 percent of respondents said the problem of corruption was not being tackled seriously and that the judiciary was largely ineffective. Most of the respondents agreed the offices for securing driving licenses and civil supplies were the most corrupt in all five cities — New Delhi, Lucknow, Madras, Hyderabad and Pune.

One-third of respondents admitted to using "influence or favour" to get the service they needed. The survey noted that members of the business community and the self-employed topped the list of bribe givers. According to the survey, the government departments in Lucknow and Hyderabad were the most corrupt. About 42 per cent of people said the departments operated "middle men" who acted as a paid conduit between the public and officials. The public departments covered by the survey included electricity and telephone boards, civil supplies, driving license and local and urban development offices.

(Kashmir Observer, November 13, 2000)

UN Chief Says Global Warming Goal On 'Life Support'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F) is "on life support" as U.N. climate talks enter their final days, but he added that "until the last moment, hope should be maintained."

In an exclusive interview Thursday with The Associated Press, Guterres said the negotiations set to end Friday in Glasgow, Scotland, will "very probably" not yield the carbon-cutting pledges he has said are needed to keep the planet from warming beyond the 1.5-degree threshold.

So far, the talks have not come close to achieving any of the U.N.'s three announced priorities for the annual conference, called COP26.

One is cutting carbon emissions by about half by 2030 to reach the goal Guterres alluded to.

The other two are getting rich countries to fulfill a 12-year-old pledge of providing \$100 billion a year in financial climate aid to poor nations and ensuring that half of that amount goes to helping developing nations adapt to the worst ef-

fects of climate change.

Guterres said the Glasgow talks "are in a crucial moment" and need to accomplish more than securing a weak deal that participating nations agree to support.

"The worst thing would be to reach an agreement at all costs by a minimum common denominator that would not respond to the huge challenges we face," Guterres said.

That's because the overarching goal of limiting warming since pre-industrial times to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F) by the end of the century "is still in reach but on life support," Guterres said.

The world has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit), leaving far less than a degree before the threshold is hit.

Less than 36 hours from the scheduled close of the negotiations, Guterres said that if negotiators can't reach ambitious carbon-cutting goals — "and very probably it will not happen" — then national leaders would need to come up with new pledges next year and in 2023 during high-level meetings.

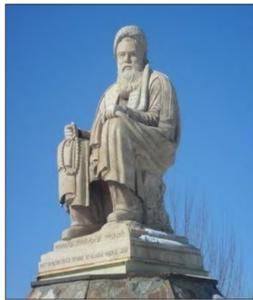
He said it is "very important" that nations update their goals and send top leaders to the climate talks every year, at this point.

However, Guterres would not say at what point he thinks the 1.5-degree goal would have to be abandoned.

"When you are on the verge of the abyss, it's not important to discuss what will be your fourth or fifth step," Guterres said.

"What's important to discuss is what will be your first step. Because if your first step is the wrong step, you will not have the chance to do a search to make a second or third one."

Taliban Replace Statue Of Hazara Leader In Bamiyan With Quran



Agencies

The Taliban have replaced the statue of a Hazara leader declared a national martyr by the former government with a replica of the Quran, Bamiyan residents said Thursday — a move they warned could trigger violence.

The original statue depicted Abdul Ali Mazari, a leader of the mostly Shiite minority killed while he was a prisoner of the Taliban during their first stint in power.

The statue was decapitated by a rocket-propelled grenade soon after the Taliban returned to power in August, in an incident residents of the city in central Afghanistan blamed on the hardline Islamists.

The Taliban's strict interpretation of Islam forbids the human form to be depicted in paintings and sculpture — and printed photographs in extreme cases.

Many businesses have removed or covered up billboards and posters featuring people since the group's takeover.

"Yesterday, they completely removed the statue and replaced it with a replica of the Quran," said Abdul Danishyar, a civil society activist in Bamiyan.

"They are trying to wipe out the history from Bamiyan, the people are going to react violently to this," he told AFP.

Mazari's statue stood in Bamiyan's central square, where the Taliban blew up two massive 1,500-year-old statues of Buddha in 2001 — just before the US invasion that ousted them.

The square, named after Mazari, has been renamed "military street", Danishyar said.

"This is a very sensitive issue, it might trigger reactions," he said.

"People in Bamiyan love Mazari, they were making a new statue to replace the partially destroyed one."

Mazari, a fiercely anti-Taliban militia leader, was killed in 1995 after being taken prisoner by the Taliban. They said they shot him after he tried to seize the gun of one of his guards while being transferred aboard a helicopter.

He was officially named a "Martyr for National Unity of Afghanistan" by ousted President Ashraf Ghani in 2016.

The mainly Shiite Hazara community, which makes up about 10 per cent of Afghanistan's nearly 38 million people, has long been persecuted by Sunni extremists, such as the Islamic State group, in a country torn by ethnic and religious divisions.



ISRAEL BELIEVES that the start of such military cooperation under US auspices could help counter Iran's "power projection" in the region.

Israel Holds First Military Drills With 2 Arab States Close To Iran

TRANS ASIA NEWS

MUSCAT: Israel has for the first time publicly joined military exercises with two Gulf Arab states of the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain under the auspices of the US naval forces close to the coast of Iran.

An Israeli naval officer told reporters that the start of such military cooperation under US auspices could help counter Iran's "power projection" in the region.

The training focuses on maritime "visit, board, search and seizure tactics" and will "enhance interoperability" between the four participating navies, the US Navy's 5th Fleet said in a statement on Thursday.

"It is exciting to see US forces training with regional partners to enhance our collective maritime security capabilities," Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, the commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command, said in a statement.

The US 5th Fleet is based in the tiny Persian Gulf state of Bahrain and operates in the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean.

The training underscores the shifting dynamics of the region following normalisation agreements between several Arab states and Israel during the administration of former President Donald Trump.

HERE THE GOAL is to extend the range of the navy's operations -- for the good of the State of Israel and the IDF -- to extend our ability to detect [threats], to extend our sailing range, to prevent naval terror and also to retaliate, when we must, when it's needed, against what the Iranians are doing,"

Commenting on the drills, a senior Israeli official told Times of Israel, that "Iranian presence is something that we need to push back as much as possible from the State of Israel, from the Red Sea, from the areas that harm our freedom to sail."

"Here the goal is to extend the range of the navy's operations -- for the good of the State of Israel and the IDF -- to extend our ability to detect [threats], to extend our sailing range, to prevent naval terror and also to retaliate, when we must, when it's needed, against what the Iranians are doing," the officer was quoted as saying.

Israel had informally coordinated in regards to their common enmity with Iran with militaries of the Gulf Arab states.

In October, Israel hosted its larg-

est-ever air force exercises. Both the US and the UAE participated along with France and Germany. While the UAE aircraft did not fly during the drills, the Emirates' air force chief travelled to Israel to observe.

Scuffles at sea

Since February, Iran and Israel have been accused of engaging in what analysts have called a naval "shadow war," in which vessels linked to each nation have come under attack in waters around the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in a series of tit-for-tat exchanges.

In April, an Iranian cargo ship, believed to be a base for the paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was hit by an explosion in the Red Sea. US media later reported the incident was Israeli retaliation for previous incidents.

Weeks earlier, on March 25, a cargo ship owned by an Israeli company was damaged by a missile in the Arabian Sea in what was suspected to be an Iranian attack, a senior Israeli security official said at the time.

The US and Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, have accused Iran of using the waters of the Gulf to ferry weapons to Houthi rebels fighting against Saudi Arabia-backed forces in Yemen.

Earlier this year, the US Navy said it fired warning shots during two separate encounters with Iranian vessels in the Gulf.

"Afghanistan Stands At Brink Of Economic Collapse", Warns Pakistan

Agence France-Presse

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan is "at the brink of economic collapse" and the international community must urgently resume funding and provide humanitarian assistance, Pakistan's foreign minister warned Thursday as US, Chinese, Russian and Taliban diplomats met in Islamabad.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi spoke at the opening of the so-called "troika plus" meeting, which included Thomas West, the new US special envoy for Afghanistan. The delegates also met Thursday with Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

"Today, Afghanistan stands at the brink of an economic collapse," Qureshi said, adding that any further downward slide would "severely limit" the new Taliban government's



ability to run the country.

After the meeting, a joint statement said the four nations had agreed to continue "practical engagement with the Taliban to encourage the implementation of moderate and prudent policies that can help achieve a stable and prosperous Af-

ghanistan as soon as possible".

But it also urged the Taliban to do more to create an inclusive government that provided equal rights and opportunities for women and girls to participate in all aspects of society.

"Don't forget history"

Qureshi said it was "imperative for the international community to buttress provision of humanitarian assistance on an urgent basis".

That included enabling Afghanistan to access funds frozen by Western donors since the Taliban took control of the country in August, he added.

Resuming the flow of funding "will dovetail into our efforts to regenerate economic activities and move the Afghan economy towards stability and sustainability," Qureshi said.

3 Killed In Blast At Afghan Mosque



Agencies

At least three people were killed and 15 wounded Friday by a blast at a mosque in Afghanistan's restive Nangarhar province, a hospital official told AFP.

The blast happened in Spin Ghar district of the eastern province, a hotbed of Islamic State group activity since the Taliban seized power in the country in August.

"I can confirm a blast during Friday prayers inside a mosque in Spin Ghar district. There are casualties and fatalities," a Taliban official told AFP.

"So far three killed, 15 wound-

ed," a doctor at the local hospital told AFP.

The Afghan branch of the Islamic State group, which first emerged in Nangarhar in 2015, has claimed responsibility for a series of bloody attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban's return to power.

One of the latest, in early November, saw IS fighters raid the Kabul National Military Hospital, killing at least 19 people and injuring more than 50.

More than 120 people were killed in IS attacks earlier this year on two mosques popular with the ethnic minority Hazara community.

I CAN CONFIRM A BLAST DURING FRIDAY prayers inside a mosque in Spin Ghar district. There are casualties and fatalities,"

China Suspects Kids' Clothing Deliveries Are Spreading Covid



Bloomberg News

China is taking its extreme Covid-19 containment measures even further, warning that the virus could be transmitted on parcels sent in the mail just as the country's biggest annual online shopping festival looms.

After three workers at a children's clothing maker in the northeastern Hebei province were found to have Covid, authorities more than 1,200 miles away ordered people who had received — or even just handled — packages from the company to get tested. The health commission in Guangxi, in China's southeast, described the situation as a "Covid-related mail chain."

Back in Hebei, which surrounds Beijing, officials have tested 300 packages of clothing from the company, Haohui Ecommerce Co., and halted parcel-delivery services in two cities — Xinji and Jinzhou — as well as the town of Shenze, the provincial government said in a statement. All the tests came back negative.

China has already been inspecting goods such as imported frozen food for the virus, despite international health bodies downplaying the risk of transmission on packaging and other surfaces. Chinese authorities said parcels from overseas or high-risk domestic locations should be sanitized. Even when receiving goods from areas deemed of low Covid risk, recipients are encouraged to wear masks and gloves when picking up and unpacking deliveries.

Increasingly at odds with the approach of other countries, China is persisting with its Covid Zero strategy, hunting down every potential virus case in an effort to contain a delta outbreak that has infected just over 1,000 people in the nation of 1.4 billion.

In addition to closing schools and entertainment venues in outbreak areas, the government is even ordering tests for people who have been in the same general area as someone found to be infected.

Meanwhile, authorities in Inner Mongolia's Xilinhot city have told people who shopped at or received packages from another clothes store in the past month to report to the local disease prevention department after traces of Covid were detected. Again, no positive tests have been linked to the items.

China's National Health Commission reported 39 locally-transmitted infections Wednesday.

Some people complained on social media that they were forced to quarantine at home because their green code — a smartphone app that tracks a person's health status — turned yellow after they received packages, meaning their movements would be restricted.

The latest warnings come as Chinese shoppers ready themselves for Thursday's "Singles' Day," the world's biggest online shopping bonanza held by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. Sales from the event last year totaled about 500 billion yuan (\$78 billion).

NEWS MAKERS

US Journalist Detained By Myanmar Junta Sentenced To 11 Years In Prison

Agence France-Presse

YANGON, MYANMAR: A Myanmar junta court on Friday sentenced an American journalist to 11 years in prison on charges of unlawful association, incitement against the military and breaching visa rules, his employer and lawyer said.

The military has squeezed the press since taking power in a February coup, arresting dozens of journalists critical of its crackdown on dissent, which has killed over 1,200 people according to a local monitoring group.

Danny Fenster, who had been working for local outlet Frontier Myanmar for around a year, was arrested in May as he tried to leave the country to see his family.

He was sentenced to 11 years for incitement, unlawful association and breaching visa rules, his law-



yer Than Zaw Aung told AFP. His client had not decided whether he would appeal, he added.

A junta spokesman did not respond to AFP's request for comment. Fenster, who has been held in Yangon's Insein prison since he was detained, also faces charges of sedition and terrorism, which could see him jailed for life.

"Everyone at Frontier is disappointed and frustrated at this decision," Frontier Myanmar said in a statement. "We just want to see Danny released as soon as possible so he can go home to his family."

Ming Yu Hah, Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director for Campaigns said the ruling was "a reprehensible outcome in a case that has been deeply flawed from the start."

'Outrageous'

The sentencing was based on evidence from the junta-appointed information ministry that showed at the time of his arrest Fenster had been working at local outlet, Myanmar Now, which had its licence revoked shortly after the coup, Than Zaw Aung said.

Fenster's team were barred from cross-examining the ministry's permanent secretary, he said, and the court did not consider tax evidence

that Fenster had already left the outlet and was working for Frontier.

Crisis Group Myanmar senior advisor Richard Horsey described the sentence as "outrageous".

"It sends a message not only to international journalists... but also Myanmar journalists that reporting factually on the situation is liable to get them many many years in prison," he told AFP.

He noted US diplomats were working to get him released. "It will be resolved through diplomatic channels and hopefully very quickly," he said.

"But obviously this sentence is a big setback to US efforts."

The sentencing comes days after former US diplomat and hostage negotiator Bill Richardson met junta chief Min Aung Hlaing in the capital Naypyidaw, handing the increasingly isolated junta some rare publicity.

Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange Given Permission To Marry Partner In Prison

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been granted permission to marry his partner, Stella Moris, in prison, British authorities say.

Assange has been held in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison since 2019 as he fights a US attempt to extradite him on espionage charges.

The couple began their relationship during Assange's seven years living in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London to avoid extradition to Sweden on unrelated sex offenses allegations.

Assange and Moris, a South Africa-born lawyer, have two young sons: Gabriel, 4, and Max, 2.

"I am relieved that reason pre-



vailed, and I hope there will be no further interference with our marriage," Moris said. In January, a judge refused a US request to extradite Assange, but he remains in prison while a higher court considers the US government's appeal.

Assange and Moris made their relationship public in April 2020 and had applied to prison authorities for permission to wed.

They threatened legal action against the prison governor and Justice Secretary Dominic Raab, accusing them of trying to prevent the marriage from taking place.

"Mr. Assange's application was received, considered and processed in the usual way by the prison governor, as for any other prisoner," the Prison Service said Thursday. No date has yet been set for the wedding. U.S. prosecutors have indicted Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks' publication of thousands of leaked military and diplomatic documents a decade ago.

PMAY Beneficiaries Protest Denial of Scheme Benefits

KO NEWS SERVICE

SOPORE: A day after the Jammu and Kashmir administration proposed to cancel nearly twenty thousand beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), several beneficiaries who were supposed to get affordable houses under the scheme staged a protest on Friday in the Sopore area of Baramulla district over not getting any benefits from the scheme for the past three years.

Demanding justice, the protesters took out a protest march and gathered outside the office of Municipal Council Sopore.

"We do not understand why we are still not getting benefit from this scheme despite the fact that we were included in the scheme for the last three years," protesters told a local news agency.

"We have contacted the concerned department many times but so far we have received nothing but false promises. We have suffered so much injustice that we can no longer bear it," said one of the protesters.

"We need an answer from the ad-

ministration as to when we will benefit from it. We do not understand the reasons why we are being treated unfairly," another protester said.

Protesters also claimed that the authorities have been taking new cases under the scheme while the old cases were pending.

"We do not understand why and how the new cases are being taken up," they said.

The protesters have sought immediate intervention of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir so that their grievances are addressed at the earliest.

Notably, Housing for all scheme also known as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is an initiative by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which affordable housing will be provided to the urban poor.

Meanwhile, an official said that considering the difficulties of the people, they have cleared this issue from administration side.

"Now it depends on officials of the Municipal Council Sopore and hopefully they will solve the same as soon as possible," an official said.

J&K's Administrative Council Lacks Kashmiri Representation



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Valley remains without any representation in the administrative council, the highest decision-making body of Jammu and Kashmir in the absence of an elected government.

Presently, the administrative council headed by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha comprises two members: Farooq Ahmad Khan, a former IPS officer of J&K cadre, and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, a former IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.

Earlier, former IAS officer Baseer Khan was a member of the council till his removal last month. Both Farooq Khan

and Baseer Khan are from the Jammu division.

After imposition of Governor's rule in J&K in June 2018, NN Vohra had appointed Khurshed Ahmad Ganie, a former IAS officer from Kashmir, as his advisor, apparently to give representation to Valley in the decision-making.

Ganie had resigned from the post of Chief Information Commissioner to take up the coveted assignment.

After reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir, all advisors were deemed to have been relieved from responsibilities.

But later Centre retained Farooq Khan and Kewal Kumar Sharma as advisors to LG GC

Murmu. However, Sharma was appointed as State Election Commissioner ahead of the district development council polls in J&K in 2020.

In March 2020, Baseer Ahmad Khan was appointed as advisor to LG Murmu. On October 5, 2021 Khan was relieved from the responsibility.

After Khan's exit, it was widely reported that many names were under consideration of the Government of India for appointment as an advisor to LG.

It is worthwhile to mention that an advisor exercises powers of a minister in absence of an elected government in J&K. He is also part of the administrative council.

Admin Devises Plan To Deal With Winter Woes

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the winter season, the government has formulated an action plan to deal with any eventuality, directing the power department to publish the curtailment schedule in the valley at earliest and also gear up to deal with the possible eventualities in the season.

The concerned departments have been asked to ensure strict implementation of priority wise action plan approved by the Administrative Council with regard to snow clearance.

"The chair directed that the priority wise action plan approved by the Administrative Council with regard to snow clearance shall be implemented in letter and spirit, without any deviation. Further, DCs & line departments, R&B, SMC, ULB etc shall caution the people not to throw the snow on the roads through notifications/IEC," reads the Minutes of Meeting, chaired by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole on 29-10-2021.

"Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Kashmir, Kashmir while appraising his chair about the status of preparation has informed that snow clearance plan for 8036 Kms have been formulated and put to tendering. Further, he informed that the tendering process shall be completed 15-11-2021. The chair directed that a brief tabulated information regarding the status of preparation/tendering plan be shared with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir office at an earliest, moreover the tendering process shall be completed in all respects by or before 07-11-2021," it added.

"Chief Engineer of MED informed that the department is clear-

ing snow from 8663 kms of road length. He further informed that men and machinery of his department are ready to face the eventuality of snow eventuality as various roads across Kashmir have been cleared during the snow fall on 23-10-2021. He has informed that the whole Kashmir Division has been divided in three zones, viz, North, Central and South Zone where 211 No" of machinery has been distributed judiciously," it said.

"Further, it has been informed that in order to cope with the deficiency of drivers in the department, recruitment has been recently made through SSRB and the orders of appointment in their favour, is expected within the short time. Newly recruited drivers shall be given training about the machinery well in advance. SRTC shall be approached for the deputation of drivers, preferably those drivers who were on the job in the recent past years," it added.

Moreover, Chief Engineer, KP-DCL Kashmir has informed that additional, buffer stock of transformers, conductor and Pole have been earmarked and will ensure its availability. "Moreover, transformers have been already deployed to advance areas."

The chair directed him to ensure submission of detailed priority wise action plan/list as directed by Lieutenant Governor in winter preparedness meeting. Further, the notification with regard to curtailment scheduled in the valley shall be published, it said, adding that the information with regard to buffer stock of transformer, conductor and pole shall be shared with this office.

"The branch cutting shall be completed within a week positively."

Tribal Affairs Dept To Modernise Hostels

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Tribal Affairs Department has initiated measures for modernisation of hostels in various districts aimed at providing best facilities to the students. Department has also initiated the process for enhancement of diet rates. Allocation of funds for completion of ongoing Hostel projects and improvements in facilities of existing hostels is aimed at providing standard accommodation to tribal students and also offering required educational facilities.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that steps have been initiated for completion of ongoing Hostel projects, sanction of new hostels and modernisation of existing hostels including furniture, furnishing, infrastructure upgradation and educational facilities.

Govt also released an amount of Rupees 15 crores for utilisation on current financial year which includes 30 lakhs each for 26 hostels to be provided furniture and furnishing while more than 8 crores provided for com-

pletion of hostels in Basantgarh, Kulgam, Shopian, Bani, Kalakote and Koteranka. More than 5 hostels are also being completed this month at an estimated cost of Rupees 16 crores.

Further, in a meeting chaired by Addl Chief Secretary the diet rates for hostel students were also decided to be enhanced by 50 per cent which is the first enhancement since last 13 years and provision has been kept for ensuring regular enhancement depending on market rates of commodities and national nutritional norms.

Department has also culminated the process for selection of new wardens and assistant wardens. More than 35 wardens and assistant wardens are being posted this month for management of hostels. Up gradation of facilities including smart class rooms, library, gymnasium, pantry, sports infrastructure and extracurricular facilities shall be top priority among the assignments on which performance of wardens will be monitored. Skill development courses have also been finalised to be introduced for students in all the hostels of the department.

Amid Third Wave Apprehensions, Medicos Called Back From DRDO Hosp Jammu

SRINAGAR: Stating a "significant decline" in Covid-19 cases in the Jammu division, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has repatriated several doctors deployed from the peripheral areas to the 500-bedded DRDO hospital in Jammu.

"In view of the significant decline in covid-19 cases in Jammu division leading to the underutilization of infrastructure of the covid-19 hospital and in the interest of health and patient care of peripheral areas and proper utilization of the services of medical professionals, it is hereby ordered that the doctors deployed from peripheral areas to the 500-bedded temporary

covid-19 hospital Jammu order no. 410JK(HME) of 2021 dated 24-October 2021 are hereby repatriated to their original places of posting with immediate effect," reads an order by additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Vivek Bharadwaj.

"It may be noted that in case of any increase in covid cases in the division, the services of medical professionals may be again requisitioned at short notice," the order, a copy reads.

The order comes at a time when Covid-19 cases have again begun to rise all over the country, leading to fears of an impending third wave of the pandemic.

6 Lakh People in J&K Involved in Drug Abuse: Govt

90 Percent Users Are In The 17-33 Age Group

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday said as per a consumption survey there are at least 6 lakh residents affected by drug related issues in the region.

The figures were revealed during the maiden meeting of the State Level Committee of the Narco Coordination Centre chaired by Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta. The meeting outlined broad project contours for tackling drug menace in J-K where an estimated six lakh residents are affected by drug abuse.

The officials noted that the drug menace in terms of its usage and addiction has significantly gone up in J-K during the recent years. As per the consumption survey, officials said 90% users are from the 17-33 age group.

Mehta directed for a focussed approach for counselling and rehabilitation of victims of drug and substance abuse for which a broad policy has to be formulated for timely intervention of the Government. He observed that the menace has to be tackled at a mega-scale considering the prevalence of the problem.

The need for compiling data on production of poppy and cannabis in J-K as well as the cross-border transportation to assess the presence of these drugs and their synthetic derivatives in the region was also emphasised during the meeting.

The officials observed that J-K lies in the vicinity of the "Golden Crescent" — a name given to South Asia's opium producing countries Afghanistan, Iran, and

Pakistan — which produces 80 per cent of the world's opium and is considered as the prime source of illicit drug trade.

To curb illicit cultivation of poppy, Mehta directed the Anti Narcotics Tasks Force (ANTF) — in coordination with the Excise and Agriculture departments — to map the expected cultivation areas and take remedial actions in terms of destruction of the illegal crops on both private and government lands. The ANTF was further asked to formulate an action plan to prevent such cultivation in the next season.

The ANTF was also directed to undertake extensive awareness generation drives to inform the public on the associated risks and issues, and accordingly plan a calendar of activities. The Task Force was directed to institutionalize the mechanism for promoting wide ranged reporting on illegal cultivation, transportation, trade and consumption of drugs and their synthetic derivatives; through NGOs, PRIs and Volunteers.

Mehta also directed the concerned to enhance conviction rate in narco-related cases while simultaneously focusing on counselling and rehabilitation of drug affected youth.

Further, Mehta stressed on formulation of a multi-faceted strategy to tackle the drug issue including proper training of enforcement agencies, enhancement of drug testing capacity, assessment of illicit production and trade, seizure and destruction, arrest and conviction of accused, and counselling and rehabilitation of victims; to completely eradicate drug problem from the region.

Bajrang Dal Protests Mehbooba's Visit To Jammu

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Bajrang Dal activists on Friday hold protests against PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti who is on a visit to the city. They raised slogans and showed black flags to Mehbooba when she came out of the Jammu airport.

The right-wing outfit activists alleged that the PDP leader was supporting Pakistan and defending Kashmiri medical students who raised slogans in favour of the Pakistan cricket team.

President Bajrang Dal Rakesh Kumar said, "We will continue to protest against Mehbooba Mufti for her Pro-Pakistani statements. We criticise her for defending students in Kashmir, who raised pro-Pakistan slogans after Pakistan won a cricket match against India."

He said Mehbooba should be sent to jail for inciting people of Kashmir and defending Pakistan.

Officials said the activists tried to come on the road when the PDP chief was leaving the airport but their attempt was thwarted by police

CS Reviews Pollution Situation Of Devika And Tawi Rivers

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress of pollution abatement of the rivers Devika and Tawi at the Udhampur town under the National River Conservation Plan.

The Administrative Secretary, H&UDD informed the meeting that the Rupees 186.74 crore project will benefit around 76,041 souls in the district once completed.

He further informed that construction of ghats under package I of the project has been completed after a delay of five months.

Stating that there has been physical progress of only 39 per cent in the construction of sewerage network of 124.22 kilometres under the package II of the project, the Chief Engineer, UEED informed that the project has been marred with significant delays despite the fact that the contractor has been penalised. The Divisional Commissioner informed that he had asked the departmental engineers to prepare an activity delay chart and work out the penalty to be imposed as per the contract.

DC, Udhampur shared the re-

sentment brewing in the residents of Udhampur town vis-à-vis the areas where the contractor has dug up the road sides for the project and have not refilled or restored them for a long time

Administrative Secretary, H&UDD informed that the department for some time has been exploring alternative options for early completion of the project and all steps necessary in this regard shall be taken.

He informed that the department has received a request from the contractor for engagement of subcontractors for the execution of the project and the same was under consideration within the terms of the contract while adding that the department shall not hesitate in taking stricter measures if necessary in public interest.

Stating that the execution of the project has to be expedited, the Chief Secretary directed the department to take all the measures necessary as per the contract to improve the pace of the execution.

Mehta directed the department to penalise the contractor in case the pace of the work at the site isn't improved immediately.

Div Com Kashmir Visits AIIMS Site

PULWAMA: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Friday visited the site for All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Awantipora to take stock of status of development works being executed there. On the occasion, officials of Central Public Works Department, executing agency for the AIIMS project informed that out of 5001 metres of boundary wall, work on 4500 has been completed

Amid Dengue Outbreak, JMC To Expedite Fogging Drive

JAMMU: The Jammu Municipal Corporation has said it will further expedite the fogging drives in view of increasing dengue cases in Jammu to eradicate the breeding of mosquitoes responsible for spreading the virus. As per the new daily roster all the wards shall be covered in respect of fogging drives with the coordination of Anti Malaria Wing of Jammu. Commissioner, JMC Ms. Avny Lavasa appealed to the inhabitants to avoid accumulation of water in their homes by emptying water coolers, pots and any stored water and keep their surroundings neat and clean.

(GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
NIT No: 163/9861-70/e-tendering //RNB/SPN/2021-22 DATED:- 12-11-2021
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders (in Single cover system) are invited for Consultancy services from Architects/ Structural designers registered with council of Architects/ designers for following utilities of this Division.

S.No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender/ document (in Rupees)	Earnest Money
1	Preparation of Detailed Project report including BOQ/ Detailed Estimate / Detailed Drawings / Architectural / structural/ Electrical / sanitary Design and Drawing, complete soil investigation, layout etc for constt. of Degree College at Zainpora. (G+3) including truss / electric fittings	Rs.600/-	Rs.41000/-
2	Preparation of Detailed Project report including BOQ/ Detailed Estimate / Detailed Drawings / Architectural / structural/ Electrical / sanitary Design and Drawing, complete soil investigation, layout etc for Constt. Of 1x15 mtr span intermediate lane plate girder bridge over Tongri Nallah on Narwani Badimarg road	Rs.600/-	Rs.6000/-

Relevant Information

- The bidding documents consisting of/qualifying information, Eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other can be seen / downloaded from the Department website WWW.Jktenders.gov.in.
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount of Rs 41,000/- and Rs 6000/- respectively as performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR/ within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the Department website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- The Technical bids uploaded on the website shall be opened on the due date. In case of holiday or office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

3. Critical dates:
Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ bid declaration form in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Shopian (tender inviting authority)

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12 / 11 / 2021
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	13 / 11 / 2021 10:00 AM to 18 / 11 / 2021 upto 4.00 P.M
3. Bid submission Start Date	13 / 11 / 2021 10:00 AM
4. Bid Submission End Date	18 / 11 / 2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	18/11 / 2021 at 4:10 PM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, (R&B) Division Shopian

Note: The Cost of tender document shall have to be deposited

- Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process:
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the download option as well as from bidders manual kit on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act 2000. Bidders can get DSC from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature.
- No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned as above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like
- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification/ eligible criteria with their bids:-
 - Registration certificate approved by Council of Architects/Structural designers
 - All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan
 - All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration Form
 - All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card
 - All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of latest quarter / proceeding month to issuance of NIT
- The applicant must have been awarded / designed and completed in the last 5 years ending 03/2021 at least one similar nature of work (Building work / bridge work) of the magnitude of more than Rs 6.21 crores Rs 0.9533 crores respectively , the details for such completed works must be uploaded by the bidder.
- An affidavit of not being black listed.

Illustration: Latest quarter July-September 2021-22 for those who file GSTR-3B quarterly and proceeding month i.e. Oct-2021-22 for those who file GSTR-3B monthly.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The bids of Architects/consultants/planner will be securitized as per their past performance. The firm shall be evaluated on the basis of following:-

- A registered firm with availability of architect, civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer as part of the team or an individual architect with established linkage, Association/ Partnership with Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, (to be supported with documentary evidence).
- Have undertaken or completed consultancy for (same nature of work) at least 3 projects with Govt./ Semi-Govt./PSUs/ Autonomous Body/within UT of J&K in the last five year (To be substantiated with documentary evidence).
- Experience certificate (to be substantiated with documentary evidence) not less than the rank of Executive Engineer.
- The Architect should be registered with council of Architect at least for last 10 years
- The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in favour of

No duplicity shall be entertained on account of above documents and such bidders found guilty shall be black listed without making any correspondence.

- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case, they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item, rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved in the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation and taxes: The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the agency on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Scope of work

The scope of work includes:-

- Soil Investigation
- Geotechnical Investigation
- Preparation of Architectural and structural drawings.
- Preparation of DPR/BOQs for all components like Civil, Electrical, Plumbing HVAC etc.
- Vetting of structural drawing by any NIT/ Design Directorate of J&K.
- On Site layout/regular site visits

Any other service not specifically mentioned here but required for the proper and successful completion of the project shall be proposed and designed by the consultant at no extra cost. Structure should be designed on latest version of STAAD-PRO taking into account of latest Earth quake IS code available.

Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Division Shopian
DIPK-12571/21

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks



"When you don't study history in school and instead learn it from WhatsApp then you get aql se azaadi"

@RanaSafvi

"Random people (aunties/uncles/chachas/chachis) asking random couples when they are having kids is rude and offensive. The couples can have health issues, financial issues or family issues and most of all issues which aren't anybody's business whatsoever"

@khawar_achakzai

"Detestable as it was, it wasn't the comment about India's independence being a charity that shook me. It was the claps that did it. Those claps were the apogee of Two Minutes Hate"

@andymukherjee70

Muslim Men And Prophetic Masculinity



IN A WORLD LIKE OURS, MASCULINITY has been predominantly equated with muscle power, robustness and aggression to subjugate women. This is a complete digression from the spirit of the Prophetic model of masculinity which guided men to treat women justly and see them as equal beings

For representational Purposes Only

Amir Suhail Wani

The Prophet of Islam (PBUH) is reported to have said, "Best among you is one who is best to his wife, and I am best among you in my dealings with my wives". This is but one out of hundreds of prophetic sayings which exhort believers to be compassionate, kind and loving to their wives in particular and women folk in general. But how have we, as followers of this Prophet of mercy (PBUH) and one of the greatest protagonists of women's rights in history, responded to his call pertaining to familial and marital affairs? Have we, in the spirit of prophetic teachings embraced the prophetic call of liberation and honour? Or are we too like the Arabs of the Prophet's era, wedded to our outdated social customs, oppressive cultural ideals and degenerating practices of era of ignorance?

Our society, as a matter of misfortune, does represent a dismal picture to this end. If not all, most of our men have equated masculinity with prerogative to oppress women, be unkind to them and indulge in an orgy of marital violence which is not only discouraged but abhorred and condemned by Islam as a symptom of barbarism and inhumanity. More tragic is the fact that these acts are committed under the rubric of Islam and many of our brethren live under the false consciousness that Islam vindicates these actions. Nothing else can be farther from reality and illustrations from the life of Prophet (PBUH) will amply demonstrate the kind of sublime treatment that Islam commands to be meted out to women.

Islam restored to women, her dignity, rights and a place that legitimately belonged to her. A full appreciation of these facts can't be gauged without

taking into account the social and familial structure of Arabian society of the Prophetic era. To begin with, the gores of this era, particularly pertaining to women, saw women as springheads of shame and disgrace, humility and burden, infamy and dishonour. No wonder that most, if not all Arabs,

life is something we can learn from even in an era of ours.

Are we not the pseudo champions of women's liberation, irked and deeply distressed on seeing women outscoring us in any facet of life? Aren't men, who are seemingly advocates of Women's liberation, unnerved at the

from prejudices that we have learnt over the years through culture and society.

But let's look back to our prophet (PBUH) and reflect on his conduct with women.

It is reported in the books of Ahadith that Prophet (PBUH) Prophet Muhammad (SAW) always supported his wives and helped them in household chores. He did his own work and participated in house chores as well. This is something which most of us, if not all, find contrary to our dignity, our definition of manhood and our perception of masculinity.

It is also very unfortunate that being affectionate is deemed frivolous by our men folk here in Kashmir. For us to engage in any funfair with our spouse seems too compromising for our position as a man and it seems to violate our self identity. We ignore the fact that Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was affectionate with his wives and even engaged in halal fun games with them. He made them feel close to him by devoting his time and attention to them.

When God describes the Prophet (PBUH) as paragon of moral perfection and emulation, it includes in its embrace, the role of the Prophet (PBUH) as a husband. The records of his familial life can help us tackle and solve familial and social issues of our own. We need to let go of our outmoded and asymmetric social and cultural mores and follow Prophet (PBUH)'s model whose success God has vouched for.

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

The author is a writer and columnist based in Srinagar

Beauty And Belly



Dania Sheikh

From quite early on in their lives women are indoctrinated with the socially constructed notions of beauty and are told that it is a prerequisite for a happy life. Their worth is reduced to how they look, they are made to derive their confidence from their looks and their physique. Young girls begin to idealize the barbies they play with, the female actors they see on television, and the mannequins they see in stores.

Exposure to such unrealistic and homogenous standards of beauty in the formative years of children has grave repercussions for their

these distorted notions of beauty and exacerbates the existing insecurities.

Fat-phobia establishes the need for diet culture, and the consequences this unhealthy obsession with diet culture has are frightening. It ruins a person's relationship with one's body and with food. Eating disorders like Anorexia nervosa, Bulimia nervosa, and binge eating are at an all-time high. Anorexia Nervosa mortality rate supersedes that of depression or any other psychiatric illness. Over the years these habits get so solidified that it becomes extremely difficult to rectify these habits, and these eating disorders if left untreated lead to suicides, deaths due to malnutrition, and cardiovascular diseases. A study reveals that every 62 minutes someone dies as a direct result of an eating disorder. It is, therefore, necessary to dismantle these toxic and misleading notions of what constitutes health and beauty.

The pandemic has exacerbated fat-phobia and the obsession with clean eating. There is an urgent need to apprise people about what being healthy means, healthy is not a size, and more importantly healthy looks different on different bodies, it cannot be gauged by a weighing scale. The recent body positivity movements by plus-size models have been successful in helping people to embrace their bodies and to overcome their fears of eating.

Eating disorders are lethal, they can wreak a person's physical and mental health and are emotionally draining, if not taken into account and not given the attention it requires, it could become the next epidemic. Abandoning a diet culture should not translate into consuming inordinate amounts of junk and processed food either, healthy choices are choices that make you energetic and enable you to live a happier life.

CAPITALISM takes advantage of these insecurities that are engendered especially among girls. Brands capitalize on this dissatisfaction and exploit our sentiments to expand their markets and aggrandize their profit.

physical and mental well-being. Studies have shown that children who are not confident about their physical appearances lag behind their peers in academics and extra curricular activities. A recent study reveals that 40-60% of elementary school-aged girls are dissatisfied with their weight and anxious about putting on weight.

Capitalism takes advantage of these insecurities that are engendered especially among girls. Brands capitalize on this dissatisfaction and exploit our sentiments to expand their markets and aggrandize their profit. They come up with myriad products ranging from fat loss pills to fairness creams which only seem to validate

Quad 2.0: Why The US, UAE, India And Israel Have Joined Forces

Arhama Siddiq

Monilateralism - a by-product of increased regionalism - seems to be the order of the day. A recent example came at the conclusion of a virtual meeting of foreign ministers from the US, UAE, India and Israel last week, where they opted to launch an economic cooperation forum. They also discussed joint ventures in transportation, technology and trade, among other areas.

The meeting highlighted the extent of the transformation in West Asian geopolitics since the signing of the Abraham Accords last year. Washington, Abu Dhabi, Delhi and Tel Aviv already have strong relations among each other. Israel is one of the largest arms suppliers to India, while the Emirates is vital to India's energy security. The UAE also hosts millions of Indian workers, thus contributing massively to India's remittance inflows.

India is already a member of the Quad with the US, Australia and Japan, based on shared interests in East Asia. The US-Israel relationship needs no elaboration, and the signing of the Abraham Accords between the UAE and Israel is revealing in itself.

All four countries have already stepped up cooperation in trade and investment, and they have shown staunch support for each other on critical political issues. Earlier this year, the Emirates tried to defuse tensions between India and Pakistan, and Dubai recently inked an agreement with Delhi to build infrastructure - which would include IT towers, logistics centres and a hospital - in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

Responding to China's rise
Though the "new Quad" claims to have a limited security agenda and there is no visible military component, it does seem to have strategic undertones aimed at encirclement and containment.

While the recent US withdrawal from Afghanistan suggested that Washington might finally be scaling back its presence in West Asia, Washington subsequently entered the Aukus alliance in September. The trilateral arrangement between Australia, the UK and the US is very much aimed at limiting Chinese expansion in the Indo-Pacific.

The formation of the new Quad also seems connected to the Biden administration's China containment policy. With Beijing increasing its engagement with the UAE and Israel, Washington is now actively responding to China's rise

on multiple fronts: military, political and economic. The new alliance signals Washington's desire to propel Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv away from Beijing.

A similar motive seems to be driving India. Relations between Beijing and Delhi, especially after their border standoff last year, have not been at their best. There is now a growing recognition in Indian policymaking circles that this threat must be countered.

In addition, the flight of former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani represented a major setback for India in Afghanistan, while giving Pakistan renewed prominence in the country. This has given Delhi a further push to form new alliances, and with the UAE and Israel emerging as powerful technology hubs, they would make valuable partners.

Increasing pressure
It is also important to note that since Iran and China signed a comprehensive strategic partnership in March, Tehran officially became a part of the multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Peace in Afghanistan could lead to an extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, bolstering China's global footprint and the stature of all countries linked to the BRI, including Pakistan and Iran. The new Taliban re-

gime in Kabul has already called China its "most important partner" and expressed interest in being part of the CPEC. This is something none of the Quad 2.0 countries would welcome.

At the same time, the new alliance will increase pressure on Saudi Arabia to formalise ties with Israel. It will also push China, Iran, Pakistan and Turkey to increase economic and security cooperation. And it shows that the fight for the Palestinian cause is all but forgotten: though US officials have said the Abraham Accords do not replace a negotiated settlement, Washington's tepid response to the building of new settlements in Palestine speaks volumes.

While it remains to be seen what shape this new alliance between India, Israel, the UAE and the US will take, it is clear that it signifies a new phase of the global economic race.

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

The author is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad (ISSI). She is also in charge of the MENA desk. The article was originally published by Middle East Eye

More Than Just A Wife And Diarist

Sophia Tolstoy And Her Fiction

Aditi Upmanyu

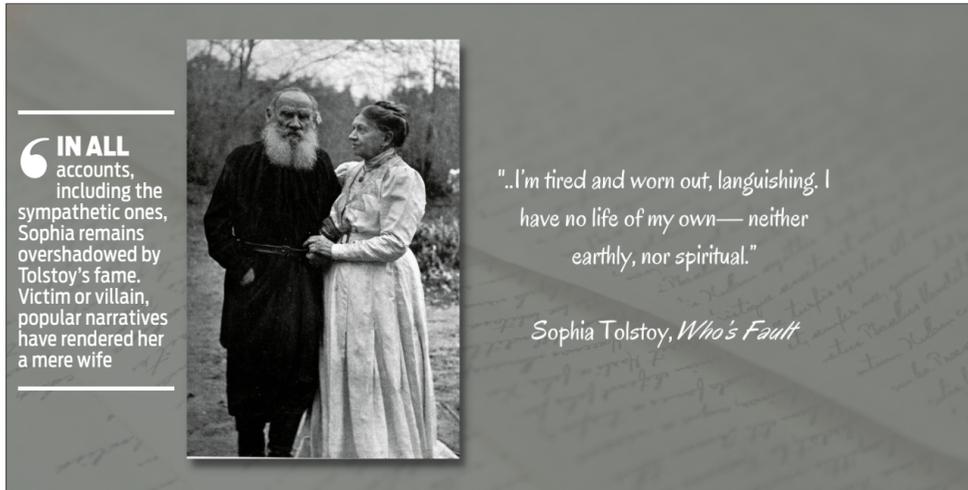
In 1910, Russian writer Leo Tolstoy abandoned his family and walked out of his estate. He was convinced that the domestic existence hindered his desire to live without material possessions and worldly afflictions. Unfortunately, he left home on a night of heavy rainstorm and met his tragic end within a week after catching pneumonia. Following his death, Sophia Tolstoy came to be viewed as the reviled woman who had driven her husband to death. In the public imagination, she was a wife who bickered with Tolstoy over finances, mired him in family disputes and prevented his creative genius from flourishing.

In the 1990s, the recuperative endeavours of feminist scholars resuscitated her reputation. She was now seen as the suffering wife, who copiously copied the manuscript of War and Peace eight times. However, in all accounts, including the sympathetic ones, Sophia remains overshadowed by Tolstoy's fame. Victim or villain, popular narratives have rendered her a mere wife.

Later biographies establish her merit as a prolific diarist and perceptive photographer. However, a diarist is inevitably tied to her gender, and diary writing becomes a private and "feminine" mode of expression, and not something meant for a wide readership. Thus, it is a constricting literary genre, often appreciated but seldom read.

I will consciously move away from Sophia's diaries, for which she is most well-known, and turn attention to her two novellas, *Who's Fault* and *Song Without Words*. Though scant, her oeuvre reveals a polemical feminist ethos. "Sofiya was imbued with many talents. She could draw exceedingly well; she was a fine musician; she left the world hundreds of unique and original photographs; she had a fine appreciation for words, and she herself was a writer," writes Ekaterina Tolstoya.

Sophia's foray into fiction has barely received any scholarly or popular attention for several reasons. Firstly, Tolstoy himself refused to read and acknowledge Sophia's writings, and their son felt her novellas would damage her reputation as a mother and wife. She,



IN ALL accounts, including the sympathetic ones, Sophia remains overshadowed by Tolstoy's fame. Victim or villain, popular narratives have rendered her a mere wife

"..I'm tired and worn out, languishing. I have no life of my own— neither earthly, nor spiritual."

Sophia Tolstoy, *Who's Fault*

FOLLOWING HIS DEATH, SOPHIA TOLSTOY CAME TO BE VIEWED AS THE REVILED woman who had driven her husband to death. In the public imagination, she was a wife who bickered with Tolstoy over finances, mired him in family disputes and prevented his creative genius from flourishing

too, chose to circulate them among only close family and friends. The Tolstoy family concealed the manuscripts from the public eye, and it was in 1994, nearly a century after she wrote them, that they reached readers. And it was not until 2014 that an English translation was first published. Written as counter-narratives to Tolstoy's most provocative work, *The Kreutzer Sonata* (1889), the works reveal her literary imagination and the ability to challenge Tolstoy in the territory he had mastered.

The Kreutzer Sonata is a confessional tale of a man who freely commits adultery but grows jealous when his wife develops a meaningful friendship with a musician. The narrator murders the wife in a fit of rage but escapes imprisonment after successfully proving her infidelity. The novella was instantly successful but remained controversial due to its explicit discussions on sex, adultery, murder, and violence.

Following its publication, specula-

tions around Tolstoy's tumultuous marriage intensified. The readers saw *The Kreutzer Sonata* as an autobiographical text wherein Tolstoy empathised with the narrator and urged the readers to forgive his transgressions because the wife is duplicitous and incapable of fulfilling his sexual needs. Indeed, Tolstoy's extra-marital affairs throughout their married life were hardly a secret from Sophia. But she responded to public allegations around her role as a wife and countered Tolstoy's views on women, sex and marriage through the counter novellas. It seems to be a battle between David and Goliath, but she engages with him fearlessly, and the novellas reflect her literary genius.

In *Who's Fault*, Anna is a beautiful, carefree and lovestruck teenager when she instantly draws the attention of Prince Prozorsky, a flirtatious nobleman twice her age. The writer describes the prince's attraction to-

wards Anna as purely physical, and his sexual advances terrify and confuse her. When the two are eventually married, the prince does not attempt to develop emotional intimacy and sees her purely as a sexual commodity. When she resists his advances, he grows cold, indifferent and begins affairs with several women. Anna is left to fulfill her domestic duties as a wife and mother. She becomes pregnant over and over again until she finally resorts to contraception. In a passionate outburst, she exclaims,

"Does a woman's calling really consist only in this," Anna wondered, "to go from serving the physical needs of a nursing infant to meeting those of a husband? Taking turns— always! But where is my life? Where am I? That genuine self which at one time aspired to the sublime, to serve God and my ideals?...I'm tired and worn out, languishing. I have no life of my own— neither earthly, nor spiritual."

In *Song Without Words*, the protagonist Sasha has lost all zest for life after marriage. Her husband loves her but refuses to see her as anything more than his wife. Eventually, a frustrated and insipid Sasha finds herself falling madly in love with her musician neighbour – a man who acknowledges her talents.

"Only in her (Sasha) imagination did she devise the most insane scenes of mutual love between herself and Ivan Ilych. She dreamt that she would inspire him and together with him would serve that art they both loved so much. Never once did the possibility enter her head that she would betray her husband— she did not consider this love a betrayal; her husband remained her husband and she remained his honest wife who loved him after a fashion— but her relationship to Ivan Ilych was something special, poetically artistic, a spiritual celebration, a gift from on high..."

Apart from her views on sexuality and adultery, Sophia primarily indicts the destruction of women's literary and artistic abilities in the confines of matrimony. The protagonists in both counter-narratives are despondent women who pine for intellectual companionship in their respective marriages. While Anna is lured into marrying an abusive and philandering nobleman, Sasha experiences mental fragility and alienation after marrying a man who takes no interest in her musical talent.

Sophia constructs her protagonists as artists and exonerates their adultery by establishing women's intellectual deprivation in marriage as opposed to men who cheat to satisfy carnal desires. She reveals the complexity of the two women's emotions as they are torn between staying faithful in their loveless marriages or committing adultery to find spiritual, intellectual and psychosexual fulfilment. Moreover, a sustained reading of Sophia's fiction has the potential to rescue her from the binaries of passive victimhood and villainy.

The author is pursuing her M.Phil. in English literature at the University of Delhi. The article was originally published by Live Wire and is being reproduced with permission from the author

How Technology Will Change Our Lives In Ten Years

Fazal Ansari, Dr. Abhishek Venkateshwar

The simplest form of technology is the development and use of basic tools. The pre-historic invention of shaped stone tools followed by the discovery of how to control fire increased sources of food. The later Neolithic Revolution extended this, and quadrupled the sustenance available from a territory. The invention of the wheel helped humans to travel in and control their environment. Technology is constantly advancing and changing, sometimes at a shocking pace. While we often think we know what the future holds we are treated to mind blowing advances in certain areas of tech we didn't know existed.

In 2005, futurist Ray Kurzweil predicted that the future of technology would mainly consist of an overlapping "GNR Revolution" of genetics, nanotechnology and robotics, with robotics being the most important of the three.

Some believe that within the next 10 years, humans will discover nanobot technology, while others believe that we are centuries away from its invention. It is believed by futurists that nanobot technology will allow humans to 'manipulate matter at the molecular and atomic scale.' This discovery could pave the way for many scientific and medical advancements, such as curing new diseases, or inventing new, more efficient technology. It is also believed that nanobots could be injected or otherwise inserted inside the human body, and replace certain parts, keeping humans healthy for an incredibly long amount of time, or combating organ failure to a degree.

The Tomorrow

1) E-voting: India is the largest democracy in the world. Hundreds of

Millions of people head to their nearest voting station to cast

a vote. The present dry run of smartphone-based e-voting is using artificial intelligence and Blockchain technologies to make it more secure. A three-factor authentication will be implemented with name Matching with Aadhaar, Liveness Detection of Individual, and Image Matching.

a) Some people are not voting as they can't come to of homes due to several reasons such as caring for elderly or sick people. For them, the postal ballot is not allowed as of now. So, e-voting is very beneficial for them. This will increase voter turnout.

b) Easier for elderly people to cast a vote from their home.

c) Block chain technology guarantees anonymity and maintains transparency.

2) E- Learning: COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the rise of E-learning. This situation led to debates on whether e-learning is a good alternative to classroom learning.

a) A few girl children and differently-abled children are not attending schools/colleges due to lack of facilities there. E-learning is a boon for them.

b) E-learning gives flexibility. Even if we miss any class, we can listen to it later.

c) Through e-learning, teachers can explain the concepts using animations or other technologies.

3) Artificial Intelligence: Artificial intelligence has changed the world so much and will bring many more changes in the coming days. AI is already integrated into our daily lives. If we take the example, many of us are using virtual assistants such as Google Assistant, Alexa, Siri etc to assist us. It is predicted that in the near future, AI will be more integrated into our daily lives and the coming innovations that

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE has already improved many industries and it has the potential to revolutionize all sectors by reducing the monotonous work, improving the efficiency of employees and also by quick decision making possibilities.

are based on AI will transform the world for good.

a) It improves our productivity by assisting us in many ways and saving plenty of time by taking care of monotonous tasks at home also at workplaces. For example, now we can schedule the robotic vacuum cleaner to clean the floor and thereby we can save some time and energy.

b) Websites are providing personalized experience using AI. For example, YouTube provides personalized suggestions based on what we watch. In future, more personalized services will come including personalized healthcare services.

c) With the advancements AI is bringing, there will be more data privacy and security issues. And laws to deal with the same will come. Ethical concerns will also arise.

The Future

1) Disease Prevention: Watches and wearable devices are currently on the market that can monitor our heart rate and how many calories we burn when exercis-

ing. Tomorrow's software will allow wearable tech to monitor blood sugar levels, oxygen consumption and even changes in hormone levels. Your watch can tell you when your stress levels are rising. When you need to eat and what would be the best food choice at that time for optimal health. Today we are getting much better at curing cancer, in 10 years. Our wearable tech may actually be able to help prevent it in the first place.

2) Minimal Drive Time: We are already seeing cars that can park themselves and self-driving cars are definitely on their way, but current technological advancements are already decreasing our need to even use cars in the first place. As it is, features like video conference and cloud computing are allowing more and more businesses to offer their employees. The freedom to work remotely, not to mention hire someone from India as easily as someone from Indiana. Not only does this cut down on the amount of time spend commuting every day. But it also cuts down significantly on the number of people that even need cars in the first place. Public transportation is also making rapid advances as are car sharing services and even hire services like Uber and Lyft. The time may come when individuals won't even need driver's licenses anymore because they either don't drive at all or their car drives itself. With less cars on the road – and possibly even less roads – this will also lead to fresher air and less pollutants in the atmosphere. This may also lead more people to get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air. Fewer cars will almost also lead the trend away from giant shopping centers and mega marts in favor of smaller. Local stores within walking distance – which will also have an increased benefit to overall health.

3) Less Time Spent on Routine Tasks: 20 years ago, when you went to the grocery store, a checker had to remove each article from your basket. And manually ring in the price of each item into a cash register. Today, checkers simply run a bar code over a scanner – if there is even a checker at all. Checking out has become so easy. Many people opt for a self-checkout rather than waiting in line to have someone do it for them. In the future, there will be no checkout lines at all, as scanners will simply scan any items you leave. The store with and automatically debit your financial account. Many items will actually be ordered by your appliances and simply delivered to your home. Most likely via a drone or even a robot. Even your visit to the doctor will start off with a drone or robot checking your vitals. Hormone levels and perform a number of baseline tests, which will include accessing the information from your personal health monitor.

All in all technological advancements are moving towards automation to take over our most mundane daily tasks, as well as the most mundane tasks in business, science and medicine. Artificial Intelligence has already improved many industries and it has the potential to revolutionize all sectors by reducing the monotonous work, improving the efficiency of employees and also by quick decision making possibilities. As AI will be more integrated into our lives, we need to keep it on the right path by discussing and taking the right steps on ethical and security concerns. In the end you can't deny that whatever tech we see in the coming decades will sure be exciting.

The article is from the International Journal for Research in Applied Science & Engineering Technology

Covid-19 Pandemic Generated Eight Million Tonnes Of Plastic Waste: Study

Press Trust Of India

LOS ANGELES: The COVID-19 pandemic has generated more than eight million tonnes of plastic waste globally, with over 25,000 tonnes of it entering the oceans, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that a significant portion of this ocean plastic debris is expected to make its way onto either beaches or the seabed within three to four years.

A smaller portion will go into the open ocean, eventually to be trapped in the centres of ocean basins, which can become garbage patches, and accumulate in the Arctic Ocean.

The researchers noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increased demand for single-use plastics such as face masks, gloves, and face shields.

The resulting waste, some of which ends up in rivers and oceans, is intensifying pressure on an already out-of-control global plastic problem, they said.

The team led by researchers at Nanjing University in China and University of California (UC) San Diego, US, used a newly developed ocean



plastic numerical model to quantify the impact of the pandemic on plastic discharge from land sources.

They incorporated data from the start of the pandemic in 2020 through August 2021, finding that most of the global plastic waste entering the ocean is coming from Asia, with hospital waste representing the bulk of the land discharge.

The study stresses on the need for better management of medical waste in developing countries.

"When we started doing the math, we were surprised to find that the amount of medical waste was substantially larger than the amount of waste from individuals, and a lot of it was coming from Asian countries,

even though that's not where most of the COVID-19 cases were," said study co-author Amina Schartup, an assistant professor at UC San Diego.

"The biggest sources of excess waste were hospitals in areas already struggling with waste management before the pandemic; they just weren't set up to handle a situation where you have more waste," Schartup said.

The Nanjing University MIT-gcm-plastic model (NJU-MP) used in the study works like "a virtual reality," said Yanxu Zhang, the corresponding author and a professor at Nanjing University.

"The model simulates how the seawater moves driven by wind and how the plastics float on the surface

ocean, degraded by sunlight, fouled by plankton, landed on beaches, and sunk to the deep," said Zhang.

The researchers found that most of the global plastic waste from the pandemic is entering the ocean from rivers.

Asian rivers account for 73 per cent of the total discharge of plastics, with the top three contributors being the Shatt al-Arab, Indus, and Yangtze rivers, which discharge into the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and East China Sea.

European rivers account for 11 per cent of the discharge, with minor contributions from other continents, the researchers said.

While most of the pandemic-associated plastics are expected to settle on beaches and the seafloor, a smaller amount will likely end up circulating or settling in the Arctic Ocean.

The model shows that about 80 per cent of the plastic debris that transits into the Arctic Ocean will sink quickly, and a circumpolar plastic accumulation zone is modelled to form by 2025, the researchers said.

The Arctic ecosystem is already considered to be particularly vulnerable due to the harsh environment and high sensitivity to climate change, they said.

The older you are, the more antibodies you have: Study

Agencies

With the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants worldwide, the pandemic's spread is accelerating. A research team led by Joelle Pelletier and Jean-Francois Masson, both professors in Université de Montréal's Department of Chemistry, wanted to find out whether natural infection or vaccination led to more protective antibodies being generated.

In their study published in Scientific Reports, they observe that those who received the Pfizer BioNTech or AstraZeneca vaccine had antibody levels that were significantly higher than infected individuals. These antibodies were also effective against the Delta variant, which wasn't present in Quebec when the samples were collected in 2020.

Masson, a biomedical instruments specialist, and Pelletier, a protein chemistry expert, were interested in an understudied group: people who have been infected by SARS-CoV-2 but were not hospitalized as a result of the infection.

Consequently, 32 non-hospitalized COVID-19 positive Canadian adults were recruited by the Centre Hos-

pitalier de l'Université Laval 14 to 21 days after being diagnosed through PCR testing. This was in 2020, before the Beta, Delta, and Gamma variants emerged.

"Everyone who had been infected produced antibodies, but older people produced more than adults under 50 years of age. In addition, antibodies were still present in their bloodstream 16 weeks after their diagnosis," said Masson.

Antibodies produced after an infection by the original, "native" strain of the virus also reacted to SARS-CoV-2 variants that emerged in subsequent waves, namely Beta (South Africa), Delta (India), and Gamma (Brazil), but to a lesser extent: a reduction of 30 to 50 per cent.

"But the result that surprised us the most was that antibodies produced by naturally infected individuals 50 and older provided a greater degree of protection than adults below 50," said Pelletier.

"This was determined by measuring the antibodies' capacity to inhibit the interaction of the Delta variant's spike protein with the ACE-2 receptor in human cells, which is how we become infected. We didn't observe the same phenomenon with the other variants," he added.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate Of School Education Kashmir

Subject: Appointment of Candidates on compassionate grounds under SRO-43 OF 1994
NOTIFICATION

It is notified for information of all concerned that the compassionate appointment cases of below named candidates are under process in this Directorate. Therefore, any person having any sort of objection in this behalf shall submit the same in the office of Chief Education Officer concerned or this Directorate within ten days from the date of publication of this notification in press. After the expiry of stipulated period, no claim what-so-ever will be entertained.

S/No.	District	Name o of candidate with parentage/Residance	Name of deceased official with Designation & place of posting
1	Kupwara	Mr. Shoib Ashraf S/o Mr. Mohammad Ashraf War R/o Natnussa, Tehsil I Handwara, District Kupwara	Mtr. Rafiq Bano, Lab. Assistant, GHSS Handwara,
2	Kupwara	Mr. Waseem Akram S/o Mr. Nazir Ahmad Ganie R/o Tehsil Kupwara, Distrcit Kupwara.	Mr. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Senior Assistant, HSS Walsa.
3	Anantnag	Mr. Mohammad Iqbal S/o Mohd Shafi Shah, R/o Qasba Baghat Tehsil Anantnag, District Anantnag.	Mtr. Fatima Akhter, Class-IV (Peon) ZEO's Office Anantnag.
4	Kulgam	Ruqia Qasim D/o Mohamamd Qasim Dar W/o Mr. Javeed Ahmad Thoker R/o Sopat Tangpora, Tehsil Devsar, District Kulgam	Mr. Javeed Ahmad Thoker, Class-IV (orderly), HS Sopat Tangpora.
5	Budgam	Mr. Abdul Majeed Ganie S/o Ali Mohd Ganie, R/o Lalpora Beerwah, District Budgam	Ali Mohammad Ganie, Class-IV (Chowkidar) GHSS Beerwah.

DIPK-12482/21
No: DSEK/NT/SRO596/612/610/611/609/2021/1899-1903
Dated 10/11/2021

Personnel Officer,
Directorate Of School Education, Kashmir

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tel/Fax: 0194-2433590- , 2437647 (srinagar) : 0191-2479371, 2470102 (jammu)
website: <http://www.jakbopee.org>. email: ceojakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: - Provisional Admission to PG Diploma in Rehabilitation Psychology in CRC-Course, 2021.

Reference: - (i) Notification No. 108-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15-10-2021.
(ii) Letter No. CRC-Sgr/acad/4000/21/333 dated 08-10-2021.
(iii) Notification No. 119-BOPEE of 2021 dated 05-11-2021

Notification No. 123-BOPEE OF 2021 Dated 10-11-2021

Whereas, vide Notification No. 108-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15-10-2021 applications were invited for admission to PG Diploma & Rehabilitation Psychology, 2021 in Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Bemina, Srinagar with the qualification as mentioned in above referred to Notification.

1. Bachelor's Degree (Regular Mode) with General Psychology Courses in all the three years; or
2. Master's Degree in any Branch of Psychology either in Regular Mode or Distance Mode; or
3. Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology either in Regular or Distance Mode;
4. Have obtained a minimum of 55% marks in aggregate for OM category candidates, minimum 50% marks for SC/ST/OBC (renewed category) in aggregate is essential. Entry qualification shall be from a UGC recognized university.

Whereas, the above qualification was notified in pursuance of a communication received from Composite Regional Centre, on the subject; and
Whereas, upto the last date of receipt of application forms viz 31-10-2021, 38 applications were received by the Board physically, which have been scrutinized and following has been observed:-

38 candidates belonging to three categories viz those possessing Bachelor's degree with general Psychology Courses in all the three years; those possessing Bachelor's degree with general Psychology Courses in all the three years with Master's degree in any branch of Psychology and those possessing only Master's degree in Psychology in accordance with the above qualification, have been found eligible;

Note:
In view of non-availability of the eligible candidates in the following reserved categories (except those selected in open merit as per merit) in PG Diploma & Rehabilitation Psychology - in CRC course 2021, the vacant category seats have been converted into open merit under sec-

tion-9 (2) of J&K Reservation Act-2004 as per details given below and have been filled up from Open Merit category candidates:-

- Schedule Tribe (ST) = 02 seats
- Schedule Caste (SC) = 02 seats
- Pahari Speaking People (PSP) = 01 seat Total = 05 seats

Further, one (01) seat reserved for UT of Ladakh shall remain vacant since no candidate from UT of Fladakh has applied for the said course.

Whereas, the Board having considered the matter in totality accordingly devised the following criteria for making selections:-

i) 90% weightage on pro-rata basis to the marks obtained in qualifying examination viz Bachelor's degree/Master's degree in Psychology as the case may be;
ii) 10 additional points to the candidates possessing Master's degree in any branch of Psychology in addition to Bachelor's degree with general Psychology and;

Whereas, on the basis of inter-se merit of the eligible candidates with due regard to reservation rules, 19 candidates as per Annexure-A have been shortlisted for admission to PG Diploma & Rehabilitation Psychology, 2021 in Composite Regional Centre, Bemina. Srinagar and is notified accordingly.

Now, therefore:-
i) the candidates as per Annexure-A to this Notification are hereby provisionally selected for admission to PG Diploma & Rehabilitation Psychology, 2021, who shall report to the Composite Regional Centre, Bemina, Srinagar, Kashmir upto 22nd November, 2021 along with all necessary documents for verification and further scrutiny by the said Centre who shall allow them to join only on production and verification of original requisite certificates including Domicile certificate of the candidate;
ii) The CRC shall forward list of admitted candidates along with shortfall, if any, to the BOPEE on 23rd November-2021 through e-mail.

DIPK-NB-4977/21

No. BOPEE/Exam-25/2021

Dated: 10-11-2021.

(Dr. Sunil Gupta)
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ ZumZum Complex Rambagh Srinagar. www.jkssb.nic.in

ADVANCE NOTICE

Subject: Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination for various posts in the Month of December 2021- regarding.

It is hereby notified for the information of aspirants/ candidates that the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board has scheduled Computer based Written Test (CBT) Examination for posts mentioned in Annexure "A" to this Notice from 08th of December 2021 onwards.

All such candidates who have applied for the posts shown in the Annexure A, are accordingly informed to participate in the CBT examination to be held from 08th of December 2021 onwards.

However, the post wise schedule for conduct of the aforesaid CBT examination and downloading of Admit Cards shall be notified separately in due course.

This is the advance notice for information of concerned candidates.

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board Jammu

No. SSB/COE/CBT-IV/2021/7607-17
Dated: 10-11-2021

ANNEXURE A

S.No	Advertisement No.	Item No.	Department	Name of the post	Cadre of the post	Total	Date CBT Examination
1	07 of 2020	312	Skill Development	Junior Lab Assistant	Div. Kashmir	1	w.e.f. 08-12-2021 onwards
2	07 of 2020	322	Skill Development	Junior Lab Assistant	Div. Jammu	12	
3	07 of 2020	279	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Srinagar	10	
4	07 of 2020	280	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Budgam	4	
5	07 of 2020	281	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Anantnag	5	
6	07 of 2020	282	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Kulgam	2	
7	07 of 2020	283	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Baramulla	3	
8	07 of 2020	284	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Pulwama	4	
9	07 of 2020	285	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Budgam	4	
10	07 of 2020	286	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Anantnag	2	
11	07 of 2020	287	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Baramulla	7	
12	07 of 2020	288	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Bandipora	1	
13	07 of 2020	289	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Pulwama	3	
14	07 of 2020	290	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Bee Keeper/Field Assistant Grade-III/Equivalent	Kupwara	2	
15	07 of 2020	274	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Beekeeper	Udhampur	1	
16	07 of 2020	275	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Beekeeper	Reasi	1	
17	07 of 2020	273	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Farm Supervisor	Udhampur	2	
18	07 of 2020	276	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Field Supervisor	Doda	2	
19	07 of 2020	277	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Field Supervisor	Poonch	1	
20	07 of 2020	266	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Plant Protection Operator	Jammu	6	
21	07 of 2020	267	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Plant Protection Operator	Kathua	1	
22	07 of 2020	268	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Plant Protection Operator	Ramban	1	
23	07 of 2020	269	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Plant Protection Operator	Doda	5	
24	07 of 2020	270	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Plant Protection Operator	Kishtwar	1	
25	07 of 2020	271	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Plant Protection Operator	Rajouri	2	
26	07 of 2020	272	Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare	Plant Protection Operator	Samba	2	
27	04 of 2020	107	Finance	Junior Statistical Assistant	Div. Kashmir	40	w.e.f. 08-12-2021 onwards
28	04 of 2020	113	Finance	Junior Statistical Assistant	Div. Jammu	51	
29	04 of 2020	115	Finance	Assistant Compiler	Div. Kashmir	27	
30	04 of 2020	116	Finance	Assistant Compiler	Div. Jammu	2	
31	04 of 2020	071	Labour & Employment	Care Taker	UT	1	
32	04 of 2020	118	Finance	Sub Inspector	UT	2	
33	04 of 2020	121	Finance	Sub Inspector	Div. Jammu	48	
34	04 of 2020	123	Finance	Sub Inspector	Div. Kashmir	12	
				Total		268	

DIPK-12494/21

(Ashok Kumar) KAS
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board Jammu

Marketing of G.I. Tagged Kashmiri Saffron Reviewed



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: To take stock of the marketing of G.I Tagged Kashmiri saffron on national level, The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Friday chaired a meeting at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, here. A delegation from National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) headed by Assistant Managing Director Pankaj Kumar Prasad, representatives of Saffron Growers Association, Technical Experts from India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre and senior officers of the Department were present in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director reiterated the importance of preserving the unique identity of Kashmiri Saffron. He said that Kashmir is having a distinction of producing one of the best saffron in the world; therefore it is our individual/collective and moral responsibility to preserve this golden spice not only for a large number of families directly associated with the cultivation of saffron but for our generations to come.

He asked the delegation from NAFED and other stakeholders

to work in close coordination for the development and prosperity of the saffron farmers. He highlighted the importance of an effective marketing strategy on national and international level to serve the interests of this sector.

Director said that the Department is committed to serve the interests of farming community and when it comes to the saffron sector, Department is working expeditiously to restore the past glory, and add modern global standards in the cultivation and marketing of this golden spice.

Iqbal said that Department is open to innovative ideas for the development and progress of agriculture sector. He asked the participants to come up with feedback from all the stakeholders so that the economically sustainable ideas could be considered while making the plans and programmes for the development of saffron sector.

Among others, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Sheikh Shahid Iqbal; Joint Director Agriculture Marketing, Mohammad Qasim Gani; Chief Technical Officer, Sheikh Farhan; Chairman Saffron Growers Association, Ab.Majeed Wani and other senior officers of the Department were present in the meeting.

'Trout Fish Could Become Next Big Exporting Product Of J&K After Apples'



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Navin K Choudhary, called on Union Secretary Fisheries, Jatindra Nath Swain here on Friday.

Principal Secretary apprised the Union Secretary of huge potential of Fisheries sector in Jammu and Kashmir. He explained that Trout fish could become the next big exporting product of J&K after apples. In this regard, planning and preparations are being done to create a supply chain to help export local trout to various markets all over India, he added.

Navin Choudhary informed that 25 percent air freight subsidy is being provided to farmers and orchardists of J&K for carrying their products to other parts of India. He also informed that entrepreneurs are being motivated to set up plants for improved and sturdy packaging material locally.

He further revealed that the department helps in planting fish seed and the panchayats have been given the rights to harvest the produce and earn from it.

Principal Secretary sought support from the Union Secretary in perpetuating Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the same would further revolutionise the sector once robust power supply becomes available shortly.

Union Secretary expressed satisfaction over the progress of fisheries department in the UT and called for increasing local consumption as well as exports vigorously. He stressed on improved packaging, cold storage facilities and enhanced modes of logistics. He also assured support from experts of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) as and when required.

Director Fisheries, Bashir Ahmad Bhat besides other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

'Retail Sales Up By 34% In October; 14% Over Pre-Pandemic Levels'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Signalling a positive trend after reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for a long period, retail sales in October grew by 34 per cent compared to the same month last year, according to the Retailers Association of India (RAI).

In the 21st edition of the Retail Business Survey, RAI said in October this year there was 14 per cent growth when compared to the pre-pandemic levels of October 2019.

"The October survey has revealed encouraging results. In order to understand the complete impact of the festival season on retail sales, it is essential to see the figures of October and November combined," RAI Chief Executive Officer Kumar Rajagopalan said in a statement.

He further said, "We would await the results for the month of November to draw definitive conclusions. However, all the signs indicate a positive trend."

Retail businesses across regions have indicated growth in sales as compared to pre-pandemic levels with West India



signalling growth of 23 per cent, followed by East India at 13 per cent while North and South India indicated a growth of 10 per cent each as compared to sales levels in October 2019, RAI said.

In terms of categories, the RAI survey found that the jewellery segment had a significant recovery with a growth of 24 per cent as compared to sales levels in October 2019.

Apparel category also grew by 6 per cent, while food and

groceries, and quick service restaurants (QSR) grew by 31 per cent and 29 per cent respectively as compared to pre-pandemic levels of October 2019, RAI said.

"As the country achieves inoculation of more than one billion citizens, the retail industry is hopeful of setting a steady pace of recovery during the ongoing festive quarter. The optimism is visible as retail chains have resumed expansions across the country," RAI said.

Retail Inflation Rises Marginally To 4.48% In Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation inched up to 4.48 per cent in October due to an uptick in food prices, government data showed on Friday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was at 4.35 per cent in September and 7.61 per cent in October 2020.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), inflation in food basket rose to 0.85 per cent in October, compared to 0.68 per cent in the preceding month.

The Reserve Bank, which mainly factors in CPI-based inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has



been tasked by the government to keep it at 4 per cent, with a tolerance band of 2 per cent on either side.

The RBI has projected the CPI inflation at 5.3 per cent for 2021-22; 5.1 per cent in second

quarter, 4.5 per cent in third; 5.8 per cent in last quarter of the fiscal, with risks broadly balanced.

The retail inflation during April-June period of 2022-23 is projected at 5.2 per cent.

Passenger Vehicle Dispatches Drop 27% In October

NEW DELHI: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India declined by 27 per cent year-on-year in October with semiconductor shortage hitting production of automobile manufacturers, auto industry body SIAM said on Friday.

Passenger vehicle sales last month stood at 2,26,353 units, as compared to 3,10,694 units in the year-ago period.

As per the latest data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), two-wheeler dispatches to dealers also witnessed a 25 per cent decline at 15,41,621 units, compared to 20,53,814 units in October 2020.

Motorcycle dispatches were



also down 26 per cent last month to 10,17,874 units, as against 13,82,749 units in the year-ago period. Scooter sales fell 21 per cent to 4,67,161 units, from 5,90,507 units in the year-ago month, SIAM said.

Vehicle sales across passenger vehicles, three-wheelers, two-wheelers and quadracycles categories last month, declined

by 25 per cent to 17,99,750 units, from 23,91,192 units in October 2020.

"Manufacturers were banking on the festive season to recover from the severe drop in sales they have faced in the early part of the financial year 2021-22. However, shortage of semiconductors and steep hike in raw material cost have been a major spoilsport for the industry," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said.

Last month, the total production of passenger vehicle, three-wheelers, two-wheelers and quadracycles stood at 22,14,745 units, down 22 per cent from 28,30,844 units in October 2020. (PTI)

Most Employees Favour Hybrid Model Of Work Post Pandemic: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI: As the country slowly paces back to normalcy with the declining rate in COVID-19 cases, rapid vaccine drive, and growing economic and employment rate, a survey has revealed that 73 per cent of employees are in favour of the hybrid model of work across industries.

Over 73 per cent of the employees interviewed respondents said they are in favour of this new emerging hybrid model across industries, according to a survey by HR solutions provider Genius Consultants.

As most organisations across various industries were forced to shift staff operation remotely owing to the pandemic restrictions, most employees opined that this provision should continue even after the situation normalise, it added.

Further, the survey found that the hybrid model would be cohesive and would allow employers to continue working in an environment they deem feasible.

"It would help employees save time and money, which might have been spent on commuting and also helps companies save up on office space," according to the survey.

The survey was done online with over 1,000 respondents in October across sectors including banking and finance, construction and engi-



neering, education/teaching/training, FMCG, hospitality, HR solutions, IT, ITES and BPO, logistics, manufacturing among others.

Further, the survey found that over 71 per cent of employees were of the opinion that a hybrid model would have a positive impact on employee productivity and would assist them in being more resourceful.

Employees said they feel that even in a virtual stimulating environment they can yield effective results and reach their optimum capacity without any hassles, it noted.

"As restrictions continue to ease up, the most vital question remains whether a hybrid model would be a viable option for industries or not. Many organisations across various sectors have already made the decision to continue working in a hybrid system. Some have also ruled it out and others continue to mull over it. As sentiments across industries remain varying and dubious pertaining to its applicability and effect on employee productivity," Genius Consultants CMD R P Yadav added.

'What Is This Paytime?' His Dad Asked Paytm IPO Made Him A Millionaire

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Electronics engineer Siddharth Pandey will become a millionaire after the country's biggest ever public issue, but he says he had to overcome his father's opposition to join fintech firm Paytm when it was a fledgling start-up nine years ago.

About 350 current and ex-employees will each have a net worth of at least ₹10 million after Paytm's \$2.5 billion IPO, a source in the company told Reuters.

Many, like Mr Pandey, will become dollar millionaires when the company lists next week. Those rewards are huge in a country where the per capita income is below \$2,000. Mr Pandey, now 39, is no longer with the company and is working at another start-up that he declined to identify.

But he says his seven-year stint at Paytm left him with tens of thousands of shares. He declined to give details, but the shares were priced at ₹2,150 apiece on Friday.

Mr Pandey said he would be worth more than \$1 million. "My dad was very demotivating. He



said, 'What is this Paytime?'" Mr Pandey told Reuters, referring to the time he joined Paytm in 2013.

"For once work in a company people know about," my father said. "Now he (my father) is obviously very happy. He has just asked me to stay grounded," said Mr Pandey, who is from Uttar Pradesh.

When Mr Pandey joined Paytm, it was primarily a small payments company with fewer than 1,000 staff.

Today the firm has more than 10,000 employees and offers a range of services from banking, shopping, movie and travel ticketing to gaming. To celebrate, Mr Pandey says he took his father on a five-day luxury trip to Udaipur, a popular tourist destination in the Rajasthan in September, spending roughly ₹4 lakh.

SHORT TAKES

Asst Director MSME GoI visits IDP at Lassipora I.E

PULWAMA: To speed up the project of development of Industrial Estates in Kashmir division, the Assistant Director, Saheel Alaqband from Ministry of MSME field office DI Srinagar visited Infrastructure Development Project (IDP) Industrial Estate (I.E) Lassipora, Pulwama to review the progress of infrastructure development work under MSE CDP Scheme of Ministry of MSME.

Under the project, development of drainage, roads, street lighting is being taken up in phase 1st of the estate. Also water distribution plant is being constructed which will ensure adequate water supply to the unit holders.

Already under administrative and services complex, display centre for MSMEs, conference Hall, first Aid, Canteen and other facilities have been constructed and same needs to be established by SIDCO.

As per the implementing agency, project is expected to complete in next two three months.

During the inspection of the project, the AD MSME was accompanied by Superintendent Engineer, Nazir Ahmad SIDCO and other officers of SIDCO along with the industrial association president Haji Muzaffar.

PM Modi Launches Scheme For Retail Participation In Govt Securities

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched two customer-centric schemes with a view to strengthen financial inclusion by ensuring participation of small retail investors in the government securities market as well as to improve grievance redressal mechanism.

The launch of these two schemes -- Reserve Bank's Retail Direct Scheme and Integrated Ombudsman Scheme -- will expand investment opportunities in the country and ensure easier access to capital markets with simple and secure mechanism, he said while launching schemes through video conferencing.

At the same time, he said, Retail Direct Scheme will also help in garnering funds for development works. Retail direct scheme has given small investors in the country a simple and safe medium of investment in government securities. Similarly, One Nation, One Ombudsman System has taken shape in the banking sector with the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme today, he said.

The Integrated Ombudsman Scheme seeks to merge other ombudsman schemes making it a One Nation, One Ombudsman System for the entire financial sector. Observing that one of the biggest touchstones of any democracy is the strength of its grievance redressal system, he said, the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme will go a long way in that direction.

I Squared Capital Drops Out Of BPCL race

NEW DELHI: US private equity firm I Squared Capital is dropping out of the race to buy India's second-largest state oil firm, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) owing to a complex deal structure and lack of financial backers for the transaction, sources said.

I Squared Capital through its Indian arm, Think Gas was among the three suitors that had evinced interest in buying the government's near 53 per cent shareholding in BPCL.

"The company has made a decision not to participate in the financial bidding," a source with direct knowledge of the development said.

"The firm has not communicated the decision yet to the government or its transaction advisor but has decided not to go ahead," the source added. While emails sent to I

Squared Capital and the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) - which is running the privatisation plan - remained unanswered, a senior government official said the government will not be aware of such a development as only the transaction advisor would be privy to such moves and that there was an iron curtain between the government and the transaction advisor on such issues.

Besides I Squared Capital, mining baron Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Group and private equity firm Apollo Global Management are the other bidders. Both I Squared Capital and Apollo Global talked to global energy giants and sovereign and pension funds to get financial and strategic support for the bid but failed to elicit much interest, another source said.

IUST Celebrates 16th Foundation Day



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: To commemorate its establishment of Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora on the occasion of 16th Annual Foundation Day, IUST organized two day festivities at the campus and a huge convention in which Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, was the chief guest.

While offering his highest commendations towards the work done by all those associated with the university since its journey began in 2005, Prof. Romshoo, hailed the efforts of all the former vice chancellors, administration, teachers, staff members and students for having met high levels of standards in acquiring an elevated position in the society and lauded the "rate at which the university has progressed" throughout the years.

He also expressed his satisfaction at how the "difficult phases including the pandemic" that came along in the journey of all institutions aided in laying down a stronger foundation for university, Prof. Romshoo said, "Many of us including the institution suffered some personal losses amidst the challenges of Covid-19. We resumed our academic activities and returned to where we were." Prof. Romshoo shared his future plans and strategic approaches that would benefit university in coming years and create a niche for it in the Higher education sector, "We have a strategic document on every aspect of the university governance whether it comes to university administration, financing or the promotion of academics and research". He also stressed the importance of such Research Centers, to understand and

promote the culture, language, civilization, by putting forward a "good advisory" for the University to be categorized as a "research" centered institute.

Registrar IUST, Prof. Naseer Iqbal, while sharing his thoughts about the overwhelming journey of the University's growth said, "The university had humble beginnings and now it is witnessing a massive growth in every aspect be its academics, infrastructure, research or other developments". Crediting all the former Vice Chancellors of IUST, for "their remarkable achievements", he hoped for such an exemplary movement of "development and growth" to be carried forward for reaching new heights of success.

Dean Academics Affairs, Prof. A.H Moon, called the Foundation day as a "peek into the past", to look back in order to plan the future, while praising the previous contributions that helped in the establishment of IUST. "This rare occasion gives us an opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who are responsible for the development and raising of this institution, at times with financial constraint," he said.

Former VCs of IUST, Prof. Siddiq Wahid and Prof. A. R Prof. Trag also spoke on the occasion.

Several cultural performances comprising folk music, storytelling, skit, poetry recitation, mentalism were presented by the students which were coordinated by the Head, Cultural Affairs Dr. Monisa Qadiri who also proposed the vote of thanks.

At this event, VC Prof. Romshoo and Prof. Iqbal presented mementos to the invited dignitaries and staff members to acknowledge their contribution.

Air Quality In Delhi-NCR On Brink Of Emergency, People Advised To Limit Outdoor Activities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Authorities on Friday advised people to limit outdoor activities and told government and private offices to cut vehicle use by at least 30 per cent as air quality in Delhi-NCR inched towards the emergency level amid a rise in emissions from farm fires and unfavourable meteorological conditions.

Over 4,000 farm fires, accounting for 35 per cent of Delhi's pollution on Friday, played a major role in pushing the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) to 471 by 4 pm, the worst this season so far. It was 411 on Thursday.

A sub-committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) said meteorological conditions will be highly unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants till November 18 and agencies concerned must be fully ready to implement measures under 'emergency' category.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said the 24-hour average concentration of lung-damaging fine particles known as PM2.5 in Delhi-NCR crossed the 300 mark around midnight and stood at 381 micrograms per cubic metre at 4 pm on Friday, over six times the safe limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre.

The PM10 level was recorded at 577 micrograms per cubic metre, over five times the safe limit of 100 micrograms per cubic metre.

According to GRAP, the air quality is considered to be in the 'emergency' category if the PM2.5 and PM10 levels continue to be above 300 micrograms per cubic metre and 500 micrograms per cubic metre respectively for 48 hours or more.

After reviewing the situation, the sub-committee on GRAP said, "Government and private offices and other establishments are advised to reduce vehicle usage by at least 30 per cent (by working from home, carpooling, optimising field activities etc). People are advised to limit outdoor activities and minimise their exposure."

"Concerned agencies must be in complete readiness for implementation of measures under

'emergency' category as per GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan)," an order issued by the committee read.

The GRAP -- a set of anti-pollution measures followed in Delhi and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation comes into force in mid-October when air quality levels start worsening.

The measures to be followed in the 'emergency' situation include stopping the entry of trucks in Delhi, ban on construction activities and introducing the odd-even car rationing scheme.

CPCB Member Secretary Prashant Gargava observed that in view of unfavourable meteorology, stubble burning and poor dispersion resulting in accumulation of pollutants, the coming week is critical regarding Delhi-NCR's air quality.

The CPCB said an action-taken report is received daily from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Pollution Control Boards but these are awaited from Delhi Pollution Control Committee and Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

According to an analysis by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, people in Delhi breathe the worst air between November 1 and November 15 every year. The city has recorded severe air quality on six of the last eight days after Diwali.

Faridabad (460), Ghaziabad (486), Greater Noida (478), Gurgaon (448) and Noida (488) also recorded severe air quality at 4 pm on Friday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

A layer of eye-stinging smog lingering over Delhi-NCR thickened on Friday, giving an orange tint to the sun and lowering visibility to 200 metres at several places in the region.

India Meteorological Department officials said moderate fog and low temperatures in the morning -- a low of 12.6 degrees Celsius on Friday -- and

calm winds have been trapping pollutants close to the ground.

"Visibility levels at the Indira Gandhi International Airport and the Safdarjung Airport dropped to 200-500 metres due to moderate fog. It intensified on Friday due to high humidity," an official said.

Green think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has said the ongoing smog episode is a public health emergency and could be the longest in four years. In another report, it said vehicles accounted for more than 50 per cent of Delhi's pollution from October 24 to November 8.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality forecasting agency SAFAR, stubble burning has accounted for at least 25 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution for nine days on the trot, starting November 4.

Gufuran Beig, the founder project director of SAFAR, said stubble burning generally contributes to PM2.5 but this time its coarser particles in PM10 are also becoming a lead pollutant at several locations in Delhi.

"This is a new feature in the winter. This is mainly because of the particle growth mechanism due to high humidity at night and increased humidity during the day probably due to water sprinkling which increases the holding capacity of the air. Since the flow is regular, many PM2.5 particles are growing towards PM10 (sic)," he said.

The share of farm fire in Delhi's pollution had increased to 48 per cent on Sunday, the highest since November 5, 2018, when it was 58 per cent.

Last year, the share of stubble burning in Delhi's pollution had peaked at 42 per cent on November 5. In 2019, it accounted for 44 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution on November 1.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday launched the second leg of the campaign to control dust pollution. On Thursday, he had launched a month-long campaign to prevent the open burning of waste and biomass in the city.

HDFC Bank Integrates With Government Of India's National Agriculture Market

SRINAGAR: HDFC Bank today announced its integration with the Government of India's National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries.

Launched in 2016, with Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) as the nodal implementing agency under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, eNAM is an online trading platform which facilitates online transaction of agricultural commodities for farmers, traders, FPOs and other stakeholders.

HDFC Bank has partnered with the SFAC to further improve the ease of doing business on e-NAM platform by offering the Multi-Netbanking, Debit card, NEFT/RTGS and UPI/IMPS collection modes.

Farmers utilizing the e-NAM platform simply need to upload required KYC details to get registered.

The bank further supports the farmers with its 5,000+ branch network. With over 50% of its branches in Semi-Urban and Rural areas, the bank gives the farmers and traders access to its banking services to support their trading activities on the eNAM platform, even in remote geographies.

"As envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to maximise the benefit for farmers by use of technology, I expect that this tie up with HDFC Bank will benefit the farmers across the country as they will be able to do business transactions from place of their convenience," said Smt. Neel Kamal Darbari IAS, Managing Director, SFAC.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to partner with SFAC to offer our banking services for the eNAM platform. It allows us to support farmers by enabling them to receive their payments in a seamless manner and offer ease of doing business to them," said Ms Sunali Rohra, Executive Vice President, Government & Institutional Business & Gig Banking, HDFC Bank.

HDFC Bank is the second largest agency bank to Government of India for tax collections. The bank has been nominated as collecting banker for Direct Tax, and for GST payments besides GeM portal integration for collecting Caution Money deposit for procurement through the portal. The Bank also handles around 9% of total DBT payments to the beneficiaries of various government schemes like MGNREGA, PMAY, and PMSKY.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Hizb Commander

army's 9RR and the personnel of CRPF 18 battalion in an encounter that broke out in village Chancer in Chawalgam area of Kulgam district on Thursday, a police spokesperson said Friday.

As per police records, he said, both the killed militants were part of groups involved in several "terror crimes" including attack on security forces and civilian "atrocities".

Molvi, the police spokesperson said, was an A++ categorized militant and was active since 2016 figuring among the list of most wanted militants.

"He was also involved in recruiting innocent youth into terror ranks and in spreading a reign of terror by killing civilians as well as political workers in Devsar and Brazloo areas of Kulgam. There are 15 FIRs registered against him for several terror crimes," he said.

Earlier, the police spokesperson said that the operation was launched on specific inputs about the presence of militants in the village. He said that during the search operation, as the presence of militants got ascertained, they were given opportunity to surrender.

"However they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party. The joint teams ensuring safety of civilians rescued and shifted all the civilians to safer places. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter," he said.

"In the initial exchange of fire, although one terrorist was killed, however due to darkness the operation remained suspended throughout the night," he added.

In the wee hours, the police spokesperson said that repeated announcements were again made to the hiding militant to surrender. However, the holed-up militant, he said, again fired on the joint search party which retaliated leading to the elimination of the militants.

He further said that the bodies of both the killed militants were retrieved from the site of encounter. He also said that incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 01 AK-rifle & a Pistol were recovered from encounter site.

"All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. Police have registered cases under relevant sections of law and investigations have been initiated," he said.

Pertinently, three militants have been killed by government forces in two separate encounters in Kulgam and Srinagar since Thursday morning.

The police spokesperson also quoted IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar as congratulating the joint teams for carrying out both the operations in professional manner resulting in elimination of three militants including a most wanted militant.

"He also congratulated Police/SFs for working with great synergy and coordination on the ground that led to the elimination of 133 terrorists including many top commanders during

this year," the police spokesperson said.

'Suicide Bomber' Killed

was associated with Mujahideen Gazwatul Hind and digital evidence recovered from his mobile show that he was prepared by the militant outfit for fideen attack.

Giving details of the operation, the police spokesperson said that acting on specific input about possible attack and movement of militants in Bemina area, a joint checkpoint was established to thwart such evil designs.

In the meantime, he said, militants attacked a checkpoint established near Bund Bemina which was retaliated leading to an encounter. "The further reinforcement was rushed to the spot, 2RR and Valley QRT CRPF also joined the operation. In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist of proscribed outfit Mujahideen Gazwatul Hind was eliminated and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter," he said.

The police spokesperson claimed that one AK-rifle was recovered from the Bemina encounter site.

NIA Arrests Two

investigation has revealed that the arrested accused persons are terror associates/Over Ground Workers of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to terrorists, the NIA said.

The NIA registered the case on October 10 with regard to a conspiracy to undertake violent militant acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major cities by cadres of terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and their affiliates such as the Resistance Front (TRF) and the People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF).

The spokesperson said the case relates to conspiracy both physically and in cyberspace for undertaking violent militant acts and the agency arrested 27 people in the case till now.

"These terrorists and cadres have effected several terrorist acts including killings of numerous innocent civilians and security personnel, unleashing a reign of terror in the valley of Kashmir, thereby challenging the writ of the state, the NIA said.

Three days after the registration of the case, the NIA carried out searches at 18 locations in Kashmir Valley and arrested nine militant associates. Four more arrests were made during searches at 11 locations on October 20.

On October 22, eight more militant operatives were arrested during searches at 10 locations, while two arrests each were made in multiple raids on October 29 and 30.

Srinagar Records

while Kokernag witnessed a low of 1.8 degrees Celsius Thursday night.

Gulmarg resort in Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of 0.6 degree

Celsius.

Kashmir Valley is slipping into wintry conditions much ahead of the beginning of extreme harsh weather conditions. The extreme weather usually starts during third week of December.

Chillai Kalan, the 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir, begins on December 21 every year.

LG Vows To Bring

"Along with this, the youth clubs that have been set up in all the panchayats and wards of urban local bodies in Jammu and Kashmir will act as a catalyst in this direction," he added.

Expressing happiness over the awareness programs that are being run in Rajouri, Kishtwar, Budgam districts by connecting Gram Sabha and Anganwadi workers to this campaign, the LG, as per the official spokesperson asked the DCs to identify fake de-addiction centers being run in both the Jammu and Kashmir divisions and take action against such centers within the ambit of law.

The official spokesperson said that the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar conferred Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan awards under different categories in the award ceremony aimed at acknowledging the contributions of District Administrations, NGOs, and volunteers in eradicating the menace of drugs.

In his address, the LG, he said, extended his sincere gratitude to the Union Minister for his cooperation and support to the mass movement against drug abuse in 10 districts of J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, the Union Minister commended the administration of 10 districts of J&K for performing well under this campaign and tackling the social evil of drug menace to a larger extent.

"This award ceremony showcases the great work of people whose tireless efforts have reduced this problem across the country," Kumar said.

According to the official spokesperson, the Union Minister highlighted the important role of public representatives, PRIs, local population and NGOs in making the society drug-free. Kumar, he said, also announced that a special camp for specially-abled people at Jammu and Srinagar will be held soon for the distribution of various aids to them.

Under the category of best Deputy Commissioners, DC Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla; DC, Budgam Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza and DC Rajouri, Rajesh Shavan bagged 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively.

Similarly, under the category of NGO's, Cultural Educational and Environmental Organization, Budgam bagged first prize while Ali Sports Academy, Bandipora and Human Welfare Voluntary Organization Pulwama bagged 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Likewise, Government Degree College Anantnag bagged the first prize in best college category and Govt. Girls Higher Secondary

School, Kulgam in the best school category.

A booklet on the last 15 months achievements of Jammu and Kashmir under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was also released on the occasion, the official spokesperson said.

ARTO Kupwara

"Pending enquiry, the (three) officer/officials of Transport Department are hereby placed under suspension, with immediate effect, in terms of Rule-31 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956," reads the order issued by Dwidvedi.

The order further directed the Transport Department to initiate departmental proceedings (RDA—regular departmental inquiry) against the suspended officer/officials in terms of extant rules.

The officials have been suspended over corruption charges. The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) has already filed a case FIR No 09/2021 in this regard.

Kashmiri Singer Qaisar

"Never before has any singer of the Valley had the privilege of having had any of his songs chosen for the Grammy Awards," Nizami said, urging all Kashmiri music lovers to participate in the online voting process.

According to previously published media reports, Nizami was connected with Matorri when he found himself stranded in the U.S. as a result of the first Covid-19 lockdown in India. Nizami had gone to the U.S. to perform in a concert at the University of North Texas College of Music, Denton, Texas, when the lockdown was announced, resulting in the suspension of all international flights.

That was when a professor at the university, Sadaf Munshi, introduced him to Matorri, who was working on 'The Voice and Bridges' project since 2019 to explore the musical traditions of different cultures. 'Nazninay' has Kashmiri and Farsi lyrics -- Kashmiri poet Ibrahim Miskeen's 'Pur Mah' (Full Moon) in Kashmiri and the late Iranian poet Fereydoon Moshiri's 'Beneshin Mara' (Stay With Me) -- alternating with each other.

'Stay Home' Syndrome

seasons, as her survival is much problematic. Shortness of breath and chest pain are some of the gifts of winter for her. "I do suffer in summer but my condition gets worse during winters, with constant chest pain. It became challenging for me to go out in the winter season," expressed Rabia.

There is a high-risk factor during winters, especially patients having underlying conditions like diabetes, hypertension, etc, said Dr.Salis, a resident at SMHS hospital. "There's always a risk of high infections during winters."

Even cardiac patients face breathlessness, Dr. Salis said, as conditions related to heart have a direct effect on breathing issues.

The high factor of catching the viral infection has its psychological implications on patients.

"I believe one's condition can get deteriorated due to psychological impact. I have seen my mother having an asthma attack which can lead to a panic attack if she is not given an inhaler shot," expressed Saima.

Moreover, sometimes, Saima's mother doesn't overcome the asthma attack till she gets a proper doctor's checkup.

"During summer my mother sometimes doesn't even remember she is asthmatic, but with the onset of winter her complaints about breathlessness increases a lot," said Saima.

'Militant' Arrested

to have come suspiciously close towards it and when challenged, he tried to flee from the police instead of complying with the signs and command.

The individual, he said, was overpowered and apprehended on spot. He identified the suspect as Arshad Ahmad Mir of Sehpora, Ganderbal.

"Subsequently, FIR No 211/21 U/S 13, 39 of ULA (P) ACT and 7/25 of Arms Act was registered in PS Ganderbal and investigation set into motion," the police spokesperson said.

During sustained questioning, he said, Mir was found as a staunch militant of Lashkar-e-Toiba/TRF whose name had surfaced during earlier investigations also.

Mir, as per the police spokesperson had also been found involved in recruitment of his own brother Lateef Ahmad Mir, arrested in FIR 57/21 u/s 13, 39 ULA (P) Act & 7/25 Arms Act of PS Kheer Bhawani.

"Other individuals motivated and facilitated for recruitment by hybrid Terrorist Arshad Ahmad Mir are being identified and further arrests/recoveries are expected," he added.

Bear Mauls

The injured woman, reports said, breathed her last when her family were removing her to the hospital for treatment.

IAF Chopper Makes

its pilots noticed some technical snag in it and made a precautionary landing safely in the Purmandal area of the district, they said.

The entire four-member crew led by a squadron leader were safe after it landed at the sports ground.

The chopper later took off and landed in Jammu, they said. (PTI)

Ladakh Logs

pandemic last year. Ten more patients have been cured and discharged from hospitals in Leh, pushing the number of recoveries to 20,759, they said.

All new cases were reported in Leh, the officials said.

No death due to Covid was reported in Ladakh on Thursday.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh has gone up to 130 126 in Leh and four in Kargil. (PTI)

Rahane To Lead India In 1st Test Against NZ

All-format stars rested; Vihari dropped, Iyer back



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will lead India in the first Test against New Zealand before regular skipper Virat Kohli returns for the second match even as some all-format bigwigs got complete rest from the assignment in line with the BCCI's workload management of players.

Newly appointed T20 captain and regular opener Rohit Sharma, wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, and pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami have all been rested from the two matches in Kanpur (November 25 to 29), and Mumbai (December 3 to 7).

"Virat Kohli will join the squad for the second Test and will lead the team," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer made a comeback in the Test squad along with off-spinner Jayant Yadav. The Test series will be preceded by a three-match T20 series beginning November 17 in Jaipur. Kohli will not be a part of the T20 series after opting to take a break.

One of the notable absentees from the Test side was Hanuma Vihari, who has been dropped from

the 16-member squad (will be 17 in next Test). Vihari, it is learnt, is being added to the India A squad for the tour of South Africa where he will get three matches to stake a claim in the main squad which will start its series in the last week of December.

According to sources close to the selection committee, Vihari's current form, and not past record, has been taken into account while selecting the Test squad.

It is understood that Vihari's defensive game is pretty similar to that of both stand-in vice-captain Cheteshwar Pujara and Rahane, who are going to bat at No.3 and 4 respectively.

The reason behind including a more flamboyant Iyer is that against the second new ball, he can play a counter-attacking knock.

Interestingly, all the three openers in the squad — KL Rahul, Agarwal and Shubman Gill — at some point in their careers, have batted in middle-order in Tests as well as first-class matches.

Veteran Wriddhiman Saha, the oldest Indian Test player in this current set-up at 37, will get another crack at the traditional format during the two matches at Green Park and Wankhede.

Kohli Might Give Up Captaincy In Other Formats: Shastri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Former India head coach Ravi Shastri says Virat Kohli might give up captaincy in other formats after doing so in the T20 version to deal with the intense pressure associated with the job, especially in Covid times.

Shastri's tenure with the Indian team ended with an early exit from T20 World Cup.

Kohli, who has taken rest for the T20 series and one Test against New Zealand to recover bubble fatigue.

Speaking to India Today, Shastri was asked about Kohli giving up captaincy in other formats to manage his workload better.

"In red ball cricket, India have been number one for the last five years under his captaincy. Unless, he wants to give it up or he is mentally fatigued where he says he wants to focus on my batting which can happen in the near future.

"It won't happen immediately but it can happen. The same might happen with white ball



cricket, he might say he had enough and he focuses on Test captaincy. It is his mind and body that will make that decision. He won't be the first.

"A lot of successful players have given up captaincy to focus on their batting for their side."

Shastri said Kohli remains the fittest cricketer in the team by far.

"He is hungry for sure, fitter than anybody in the team. No doubt about that. When you are physically that fit, your longevity only increases. On the captaincy part of it, it will be his decision but I see if anything he might say no to white ball cricket but red ball, he should carry on because he has been the best ambassador for the test cricket. That will make him carry on," said Shastri.

Wade Thought Pak Semifinal Could Be His Last Opportunity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade thought the T20 World Cup semifinal against Pakistan would "potentially be his last opportunity to represent Australia" before becoming the star of the show with a sizzling 41-run knock that helped his side reach the final.

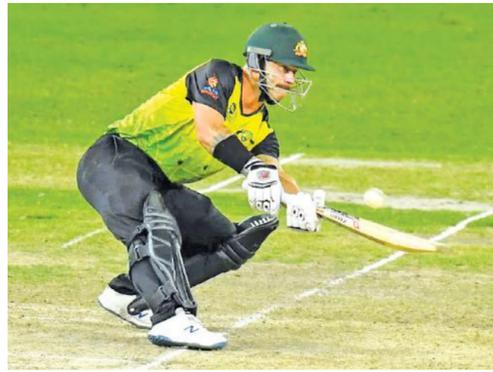
Player of the Match Wade blazed his way to an unbeaten 17-ball effort to play a pivotal role in Australia's dramatic five-wicket victory against Pakistan here on Thursday.

"I was a little bit nervous coming into the game and knowing potentially it could be the last opportunity to represent Australia," Wade said at the post-match press conference.

"I just wanted to do well and really wanted us to win this game, give us an opportunity to win the whole thing.

"(The final) might be my last game too. As I've said in the past, I'm comfortable with it. I'm sure when I get the tap on the shoulder, I'll look back on the last three or four years and be proud of the way I could come back," he added.

Wade's international career had seemed all but over when he was dropped before the



2017-18 Ashes.

The 33-year-old also went three years without an international T20. Since then he has reinvented himself as a specialist batter.

Asked to reflect on his journey, Wade said "It's hard to reflect on tonight so quickly, to be honest. Hasn't sunk in yet. I'm sure when we get back to the hotel and tomorrow morning it will sink in more about how we went about it than what we just had.

"But I'm happy that I got the opportunity to reinvent myself into a batsman and all of a sudden now I'm playing as a keep-

er batsman now batting at 7." Wade, who has also led the limited overs team on occasions, said he doesn't worry about his batting position or whether he is captaining the side as he gets older.

"I don't know when my last game will be. I treat every one like it potentially could be. I'm sure when it's all over, when I get the tap on the shoulder, I'll look back on the last three or four years and be proud of the way I could come back."

Australia will take on New Zealand in the summit clash on Sunday.

■ (THE FINAL) MIGHT BE MY last game too. As I've said in the past, I'm comfortable with it.

Pathetic Display: Gambhir On Warner's 6 Off Double-Bounced Ball

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Former India opener Gautam Gambhir has slammed Australian batter David Warner for hitting a double-bounced delivery off Mohammed Hafeez for a six during their T20 World Cup semifinal win over Pakistan, saying it was a "pathetic display of spirit of the game".

In the eighth over of Australia's run chase, the first ball from Hafeez slipped out of his hand and bounced twice. Warner moved outside leg and swung it over deep mid-wicket for a six.

From the subsequent no-ball, Warner got two more runs. Thanks to that six, Australia got 13 runs from that over. Australia chased down the 177-run target with five wickets and one over to spare.

"What an absolutely pathetic display of spirit of the game by a Warner! #Shameful! What say @ashwinravi99?" Gambhir tweeted trying to imply that Warner should have left the delivery as it had slipped out



of Hafeez's hand. However, no cricketing law calls for such a delivery to be considered dead.

Senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was criticised in the past for running out Jos Buttler at the non-striker's end after he backed up too early and issuing a warning to Aaron Finch in the IPL, commented on Gambhir's tweet after it was described as a "bad take" in replies.

"His point is that if this is right, that was right. If that was wrong, this is wrong too. Fair

assessment?" tweeted Ashwin. "Absolutely it was a wonderful hit by @davidwarner31. Great shot," the senior Indian off-spinner wrote.

Warner went on to make 49 off 30 balls with the help of three fours and as many sixes. Matthew Wade hit three consecutive sixes off Shaheen Shah Afridi to notch up the sensational five-wicket win.

After Two Nights In ICU, Rizwan Volunteered To Play In Semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan spent two nights in the Intensive Care Unit of a hospital here, battling severe chest infection but insisted on playing in the T20 World Cup semifinal against Australia, eventually top-scoring for the team in a lost cause.

Pakistan team doctor Najeeb Somroo revealed these details in the post-match press conference after the side's ouster from the mega-event.

Just before the semifinal on Thursday, batting consultant Matthew Hayden had simply said that the wicketkeeper-batter was hospitalised without mentioning that Rizwan was admitted to the ICU.

"Mohammad Rizwan developed a severe chest infection on 9th of November after which he was admitted to the hospital. He spent two nights in the ICU recovering. He made an incredible recovery and was deemed fit before the match," Somroo said.

"We can see his great determination and tenacity that shows his spirit of performing for the country. And we can see how he performed today."

Captain Babar Azam said it was Rizwan who wanted to play in the semifinal.

"When I saw him, he was a little bit down, but when I asked him about his health he said, 'no, I will play'. Definitely he's a team man. The way he played today, it was exceptional.

"And the way he played today he showed that he's a team man. And I am very confident about his attitude and his performance."

The in-form Rizwan struck 67 off 52 balls in Pakistan's total of 176 for 4 after they were asked to bat by Australia. The Australians chased down the target with one over to spare in a sensational fashion.

The team doctor said that Rizwan's hospitalisation and admission to the ICU was kept a secret by the team management.

"The decision regarding and around his health was made by the whole team management. And this was regarding the morale of the whole team. And therefore we kept it within the team," he said.

Before the semifinal match, Hayden had said that Rizwan was hospitalised for a night due to a "lung condition".

"Mohammad Rizwan was in hospital a night ago suffering with some sort of lung condition. This is a warrior. He's been brilliant through the campaign and he has great courage," Hayden had said.

Pak Cricket Fraternity Backs Hasan Ali After Mistake In T20WC

Say, 'Don't single him out.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARACHI: Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali, who has been in the eye of a storm after dropping a crucial catch in the T20 World Cup semifinal loss to Australia, has got full support from the country's cricket stalwarts like Wasim Akram and Misbah-ul-Haq.

Pakistan's former captains Akram, Waqar Younis, Rashid Latif, Misbah and Inzamam-ul-Haq backed Hasan and said it would be unfair to hold him responsible for Pakistan's five-wicket defeat on Thursday night.

"I don't understand why one player should be singled out. Hasan has been an outstanding performer for us and won us matches. Anyone can drop catches or have an off-day? Does that make him a bad player?" questioned Akram.

"What we don't want is that the whole country gets after

poor Hasan Ali now. I have been through this, Waqar Younis has been through it. In other countries, it's just a game for people. Next day, you say well tried, bad luck, better luck next time, and move on," he said on 'A Sports' channel.

Inzamam also agreed and noted that in such high pressure games mistakes can happen.

"The Australians also dropped catches. Hasan is very low on confidence and I think it is the responsibility of the team management to ensure he does not fall down completely," he added.

Waqar echoed the sentiment. "No one does anything intentionally. As a former player myself I know I have been through such bad times...had off days in bowling...dropped catches. I remember how people criticised me after the 1996 World Cup quarter final but I think we need to understand it is a sport," he recalled.



Babar Makes Amends, Says Players Can Drop Catches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Pakistan captain Babar Azam sought to make amends for his comment that Hasan Ali's dropped catch of Matthew Wade was the turning point of their T20 World Cup semi-finals defeat to Australia, saying players dropping catches was part of game and the costly mistake was not the reason for his team's ouster.



"On the day, catches were dropped and because of that the match changed. Had the catch not been dropped, the scenario would have been different. But this is part of the game and the more we learn from our mistakes the better," he said.

When a reporter asked if he now realised that Ali's form was not good throughout the tournament and his dropped catch was the reason for Pakistan's ouster from the tournament, he said, "I don't feel like that." "He is our main bowler and has won many matches for Pakistan. Players do drop catches sometimes." Babar, who was one of the standout performers among batters in the tournament, said Ali is "a bit down" but "fighting out" and the team will support him.

"He is fighting it out and I will keep backing him. Every player cannot perform in every game. Some individuals who are having a good day try to make the most of it and come up with good performances," he said.

"Yes, he is a bit down. We will keep backing him and giving him confidence. People will say a lot of things, but we are behind him," he added.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
J&K ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY
(ERA) PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (JTRP)
(WORLD BANK FUNDED)**

ERA 2nd floor ERA Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar
2nd Floor JKPC Building, Panama Chowk. Rail Head Complex, Jammu

Subject: Construction of Road (Rigid pavement of Eastern Foreshore Road) in Kashmir Division of UT of Jammu & Kashmir under JTRP

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of public in general and those likely to be benefitted/affected in particular that the following road sub-project have been taken up for their up-gradation within the existing width-of-road/right-of-way under the World Bank funded Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project by Jammu and Kashmir Economic Reconstruction Agency in Kashmir Division of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sl no.	Name of the sub-project	District	Length of the road	Major settlements along the road
1	Construction of Road (Rigid pavement of Eastern Foreshore Road.	Srinagar	2.890 kms	Sathu, Khanyar, Bohri Kadal, Shamswari, Fateh Kadal, Habba Kadal, Chinkral Mohalla, Munawarad

Objections if any, as far as Right of Way is concerned, duly supported by authentic documentary evidence, shall be received in the office of the undersigned either through email or by post on the address given below within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the newspaper.

Sd/=

Director Safeguards, J&K ERA

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AUCTION NOTICE

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir sealed offer (in the form of plain application affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 10) are invited from interested parties for participation in the auction of old shingles lying behind Departmental Assets at Gulmarg as per following details:-

S.No	Name of the Item	Quantity	Minimum Bid Amount	Date of Bidding
1.	Old damaged Shingles (usable as firewood)	10 Qntls (approx.)	5500	24/11/2021

Terms & Conditions:-

- The interested bidders can visit the site during working hours for onspot inspection between 13/11/2021 to 20/11/2021.
- The bid proceeding will be held on 23/11/2021.
- The interested persons shall have to deposit the bid amount onspot before participating in the bidding process.

The offers along with ID Proof, registration number & GST registration shall be deposited in the office of the Joint Director Hospitality & protocol Kashmir or in the office of the Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority during working hours upto 22/11/2021.

Reyaz Ahmad Malik (KAS)
Joint Director
Hospitality and Protocol
Kashmir

No: JDH&P/K/Estt/
Dated: /11/2021
DIPK-12492/21

Kangana Says 1947 was 'Bheek', 'Real Freedom' Came in 2014

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Maharashtra Minister and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nawab Malik on Friday demanded that the Centre must withdraw the Padma Shri award from Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut for her controversial remarks on the country's Independence and sought her immediate arrest.

Addressing a press conference, NCP leader condemned Ranaut's statement that India got real freedom in 2014 and said it seems the Bollywood actor is on a heavy dose of Malana

said Maharashtra Minister.

Earlier on Thursday, BJP leader Varun Gandhi also criticised the actor for her comment.

He shared the viral video of the actor and said, "Sometimes an insult to Mahatma Gandhi's sacrifice and penance, sometimes respect to his [Mahatma Gandhi's] killer, and now an insult to the sacrifices of lakhs of freedom fighters -- from Shaheed Mangal Pandey to Rani Laxmibai, Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and more. Should I call this madness or treason?"



cream, a particular variety of hashish which grows specifically in Himachal Pradesh.

"We strongly condemn actress Kangana Ranaut's statement. She insulted freedom fighters. The Centre must take back the Padma Shri from Kangana and arrest her. Looks like Kangana Ranaut took a heavy dose of Malana Cream before making such a statement,"

The controversy began after Ranaut on Thursday said that India attained freedom in 2014 when the Modi-led government came to power and described the country's Independence in 1947 as "bheek", or alms.

Kangana received the prestigious award by President Ram Nath Kovind at a ceremony hosted at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the capital on November 8.

Top Maoist Leader Carrying 1 Crore Bounty Arrested In Jharkhand: Police

Agenceis

Ranchi: Top Maoist leader Prashant Bose alias Kishan Da, who was carrying a bounty of 1 crore on his head, has been arrested in Jharkhand along with his wife Sheela Marandi, a senior police officer said on Friday.

Marandi is also a member of the CPI(Maoist).

Bose, wanted in several criminal cases, is a senior leader of

the outfit's central committee. He is also the secretary of the CPI (Maoist) eastern regional bureau.

According to the officer, the police, acting on intelligence inputs, arrested the duo.

Bose, who hails from West Bengal, was in charge of Maoist activities in several states including Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, and was believed to have been operating from Saranda forests, the officer added.

If Army Can't Move Its Missile Launchers Upto Indo-China Border, How Will It Fight War: Centre To SC

Agenceis

The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that if the Army cannot move its missile launchers, heavy machinery upto the northern Indo-China border, then how will it defend it and fight a war, if it breaks out.

Trying to allay the concerns of landslides in Himalayan regions due to the construction of the wider Chardham highway project, the government said all necessary steps have been taken to mitigate the disaster and added that landslides have happened in various parts of the country and not specifically due to road construction.

The strategic 900-km-long Chardham project worth Rs 12,000 crore aims to provide all-weather connectivity to four holy towns -- Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath -- in Uttarakhand.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and Vikram Nath which reserved its verdict on a plea of the Ministry of Defence to modify its earlier order and plea of an NGO Citizens for Green Doon' against the widening of the road asked them to file written submissions on the steps taken and to be taken to mitigate landslides in the region.

Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for Centre, said These are inhospitable terrains where Army needs to move heavy vehicles, machineries, weapons, missiles, tanks,



troops and food supplies. Our Brahmos missile is 42 feet long and needs large vehicles to carry its launchers. If the Army cannot move its missile launchers and machineries upto the northern China border, then how will it fight a war, if it breaks out.

He said, God forbid if the war breaks out then how will the Army deal with it if it does not have its weapons. We have to be careful and on guard. We are to remain prepared. Our Defence Minister attended Indian Road Congress and had said that the Army needs disaster-resilient roads.

Venugopal said that appropriate studies have been undertaken including geological surveys, morphology, and human activities in the vulnerable areas and steps like slope stabilisation, afforestation, scientific muck disposal have been undertaken.

Landslides can happen anywhere in the country even where there is no road activity

but mitigation steps which are necessary are undertaken. Our roads need to be disaster resilient. There are specialised protection measures undertaken in the vulnerable areas, where frequent landslides occur and heavy snowfall blocks the road, he said.

The top law officer said that the Indian Road Congress (IRC) has recommended an additional 1.5-meter width in snow-bound areas so that vehicles can move in those areas.

The build-up on the other side of the border can only be accessed through passes in these mountains. The High Powered Committee (HPC) supervising the Chardham project in its report did not address these concerns of the Army. The HPC report is far cry from the needs of the Army, he said.

He said today there is a situation where the country needs to be protected and all the available resources and forces need to be combined to protect the country.

Chief Of Defence Staff Gen Rawat Says China Is "Biggest Security Threat"

Agenceis

China has become India's biggest security threat and the tens of thousands of troops and weaponry that New Delhi rushed to secure the de-facto Himalayan border last year will not be able to return to base for a long time, Defence Chief General Bipin Rawat said.

A lack of "trust" and growing "suspicion" is coming in the way of resolving the border dispute between the nuclear-armed neighbours, General Rawat said late Thursday. Last month, the

13th round of border talks between Indian and Chinese military commanders ended in a stalemate as both sides couldn't agree on how to pull back from the border.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has shifted its strategic focus from long-time rival Pakistan after the deadliest India-China fighting in four decades erupted last summer. 20 Indians and at least four Chinese soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand combat in a clash along the 3,488-kilometer border last June.

Since then, China and India have been adding to infrastructure, troops and military hardware along the Himalayan frontier, General Rawat said. "India is prepared for any misadventure along the border and in the sea," he added.

His comments coincided with India's Foreign Ministry's criticism of new Chinese construction in areas that both sides claim. The Defence Chief said the Chinese are building villages along the Line of Actual Control, as the disputed but de facto boundary between the two countries is known.

Hindutva And Hinduism Are Two Different Concepts, Says Rahul Gandhi Amid Khurshid Row; BJP Hits Back

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday maintained that Hinduism and Hindutva are "different things" and slammed the ideology of the BJP-RSS alleging it has spread hatred in India, drawing a sharp retort from the BJP which claimed that the Congress leadership nurses a "pathological hatred" for Hinduism.

Observing that his party's ideology is alive and vibrant and is like a "beautiful jewel" with an unending power inside it, but it has been overshadowed by the BJP, Gandhi also said in today's India, ideological fight has become very important.

"Is Hindutva about beating a Sikh, or a Muslim. Hindutva, of course, is. In which book is it written? I have not seen it. I have read the Upanishads. I have not read it," Gandhi said, as he sought to draw a distinction between Hinduism and Hindutva, a term widely used by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"What is the difference between Hinduism and Hindutva. Are they the same thing. Can they be the same thing. If they are the same thing, why don't they have the same name. Why do they have a different name. Why do you use the word Hinduism, why not just use Hindutva if they are the

same thing. They are obviously different things".

The remarks by Gandhi that escalated the political heat between the BJP and the Congress ahead of the assembly polls in five states including Uttar Pradesh came a day after senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid sparked a row by comparing a "robust version" of Hindutva to the jihadist Islam of terror groups such as the ISIS and Boko Haram. Khurshid, who stood by his remarks made in his new book on Ayodhya verdict, had come under attack on Thursday from the BJP as well as his party colleague Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Gandhi said that if crystallized, the Congress ideology will envelope that of the BJP-RSS, and emphasised on strengthening his party's ideas within the organisation and spreading them across the country.

Gandhi was addressing online a four-day 'AICC orientation programme' organised at Sevagram Ashram in Wardha in Maharashtra. Congress representatives from across the states are participating in the event.

"We have to accept that there are two ideologies in India - the Congress ideology and the RSS ideology. We have to accept the BJP-RSS has spread hatred in today's India."

6-Month Separation Period Not Valid If Couple Seeks Divorce Mutually: Rajasthan HC

Agenceis

The Rajasthan High Court in a significant decision has said that "if a husband and wife seek divorce with mutual consent, six month separation period will not be valid".

The court was hearing a case on Thursday from Pratappgarh in which the Udaipur Family Court had fixed a six months separation period for divorce and had rejected application for instant divorce. The High Court in its order clearly said in the case that it was not appropriate to give six months' time to the couple seeking divorce mutually.

In this case, an applicant

Monika Sharma, a resident of Dhariyavad had filed a petition in the High Court stating that she is living separately from her husband, Rahul Sharma, resident of Udaipur, since 2019.

Both of them had applied for divorce in the family court of Udaipur with mutual consent, but were given six months' separation time.

"Both of us have been living separately since 2019. The appeal for hand-to-hand divorce was rejected by the family court," said Monica in her application while her counsel told the court that the Supreme Court had earlier removed the requirement of six months' separation in a case.

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