



Maximum : 15°
Minum : -1°
Humidity : 68%

SUNSET
Today 05:20 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:21 AM



P6 LIFE & TIMES

Instagram adds India-first 'Live Rooms' feature to let users go live with up to 3 guests

P5 PANORAMA

Ethics of "Comments and Replies" Section

Why I comment on scientific papers on the earthquake geology of Kashmir region



P8 NEWS

Transporters threaten to halt North India ops to support farmers' protest



Wisdom Quote!

"You do not write your life with words...You write it with actions. What you think is not important. It is only important what you do."

—Patrick Ness

News Digest

BSF Man Shoots Self Dead In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: A Border Security Force (BSF) personal on Wednesday shot himself dead in the frontier district of Kupwara. Head Constable Bharinder Singh of BSF 118 Battalion allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Tangdar area of the north Kashmir district on Wednesday morning, news agency GNS reported. Singh, the report said ended his life while being on duty. Quoting unnamed officials, the report said that the reason of Singh taking this extreme step was not immediately known. Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and started further investigations.

Missing Minor Boy Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A 3-year-old boy on Wednesday was found dead in Chewdara village of Beerwah in central Kashmir's Budgam district, a day after he went missing. An official said that the minor boy had gone missing from his home in Chewdara village on Tuesday evening. He said that the boy had gone missing when he was playing around his house and since then the family had been looking for his whereabouts. Today morning he was found dead in his native village, reported news agency KNO. Meanwhile, a senior police official said that they are ascertaining the details and further investigation has been taken up to find the actual cause of the minor boy's death.

Teen Falls Off Moving Cab, Dies

Srinagar: A teenager on Wednesday died after falling off a moving cab in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 18-year-old Riyaz Akhoun fell down from the rooftop of a running cab in Nowbugh area of the district on Wednesday evening, news agency KDC reported. The injured teen was removed to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, Police have registered a case under FIR number 72/2020 under sections 279/373/304A, and started further investigations in this regard.

Roshni Scam Illuminated Gupkar Bungalows: Jitendra Singh

JAMMU: Firing a fresh salvo at rival parties in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP leader and Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that the Roshni scam had illuminated the "Gupkar bungalows" but extinguished hope for the poor. He said the Roshni scheme was launched in 2001 by the then government with an envisaged objective of raising an amount of Rs 25,000 crore for setting up power projects which were to provide electricity to every household, including those of economically weaker sections of society. "However, in the final bargain, what was witnessed was that all the

PANCHAYAT BY-ELECTIONS

65% Turnout In 2nd Phase Of Panch By-Polls

52% Polling For Sarpanch Vacancies

SRINAGAR: The second phase of by-elections to vacant seats of Panch and Sarpanch in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday witnessed 65.54 percent and 52.24 percent voter turnout respectively, State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma said on Wednesday. The polling was held on Tuesday along with the second phase of the District Development Council polls but the figures were released on Wednesday. Sharma said 65.54 per cent polling was recorded in the bypolls to the vacant panch seats and 52.24 per cent for the sarpanch seats. The SEC said the second phase of the by-elections to vacant panch seats was held in 343 constituencies -- 317 in Kashmir division and 26 in Jammu division. Jammu division recorded 79.25 per cent turnout and Kashmir division recorded 63.92 per cent, he added. [➔ More On P2](#)

BJP Tonga Rally in Geelani Bastion

SRINAGAR: For the first time in the past 30-years, Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday witnessed a Tonga rally organized by the BJP leaders who promised International Mandi for Sopore if people vote for their candidates in the ensuing District Development Council (DDC) elections. Abdul Majeed, a Sarpanch from Mabugh area of Sopore, where the rally was held, said that it is for the first time in the past 30 years that a Tonga rally was held in favour of BJP in the area. "This is a message of peace and in this rally dozens of Tonga wallas participated. [➔ More On P2](#)

Dry Weather In Kashmir Till Dec 6: MeT

SRINAGAR: The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg was the only place in Kashmir which experienced a sub-zero night even as there was an improvement in the minimum temperature across the Valley, officials said on Tuesday. The weather is expected to remain dry till December 6 in Kashmir, they added. Gulmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, was the only place in the valley where the mercury stayed below the freezing point at a low of minus 1.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said. They said the mercury in Srinagar, which had recorded the minimum temperature of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius on Monday, settled at a low of 1.0 degree Celsius on Tuesday. Pahalgalam tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a low of 0.2 degree Celsius. The officials said the mercury settled at the minimum of 1.4 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, 1.0 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and 1.2 degrees Celsius in Kokernag. The MeT office has forecast mainly dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir till December 6, after which there is a possibility of a spell of rain and snow between December 7-8.

COVID-19 Vaccine Is Here But Do We All Need To Be Vaccinated?

Here's What We Know

SRINAGAR: The United Kingdom, today, became the first country in the world to approve the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer Inc-BioNTech SE. The vaccine will be available for mass use from next week onwards, as per reports. Although India will have to wait a little longer as it is yet to get approvals for vaccines. It will be either Oxford-AstraZeneca which is tested by the Serum Institute of India (SII) or the Russian vaccine Sputnik-V tested in India by Dr. Reddy's Lab. The vaccine has been the only hope for the past many months as the coronavirus turns a year old. Currently, there are many vaccine candidates in the race including Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Oxford-AstraZeneca, Russia, and China. But, does everyone need to get vaccinated once the COVID-19 vaccine is available for mass use? Pfizer scientist says no. [➔ More On P2](#)



set about planning to vaccinate millions of fit and healthy people with a vaccine that hasn't been extensively tested on human subjects," Yeadon wrote for Lockdown Sceptics. In fact, the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday said that the Indian government has never spoken about vaccinating the entire country. "If we're able to vaccinate a critical mass of people & break virus transmission, then we may not have to vaccinate the entire population," ICMR DG Dr. Balram Bhargava added. "Govt has never spoken about vaccinating the entire country," says Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. "If we're able to vaccinate a critical mass of people & break virus transmission, then we may not have to vaccinate the entire population," ICMR DG Dr. Balram Bhargava added. He further added, "Vaccination would depend on the efficacy of the vaccine & our purpose is to break the chain [➔ More On P2](#)

J&K Reports 6 More Covid-19 Deaths, Toll 1708

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed six more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, raising the death toll due to virus related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1708. While Kashmir Valley witnessed three more deaths due to Covid-19, three other people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division, officials said Wednesday. Among the three victims in the Valley, officials said, included a 60-year-old woman from Ganderbal, who died at SKIMS Soura, a fortnight after she was admitted to the tertiary care hospital. Besides her, officials said, an 80-year-old man from Chanapora [➔ More On P2](#)

452 New Cases Include 6 Security Men, 3 Minors

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 452 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including six security men, a doctor and 3 minors, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 11130. While Kashmir Valley reported 194 new cases of Covid-19 on Wednesday, the remaining 452 were detected from the Jammu division, officials said. Among those infected included 15 travelers, six security men, a doctor and 3 minors. Giving district wise break-up the officials said that Srinagar reported 81, Baramulla [➔ More On P2](#) 25,

Soldier Arrested Over 'Molestation' Charges In Uri

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday arrested an army man for allegedly molesting a 36-year-old woman in Uri town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Hawaldar Parvaiz Hussain of 173 Territorial Army's engineering unit, presently attached with 18 MLI Bandi in Uri was arrested by police after allegations of molestation were made against him by a woman from Parapeelan village, reports said Wednesday. The accused is said to be a resident of Doda district. According to police, a case FIR No168/20 under sections 457, 376, 511 of IPC have been registered against the accused soldier and further investigations have been started in this regard.

HC Orders Release Of Shopian Youth Detained Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against a youth from Shopian and ordered authorities to release him forthwith from the preventive detention. A resident of Allyalpora Shopian, the detainee, Waseem Ahmad Sheikh, had through his father Bashir Ahmad Sheikh filed the petition last year against the detention order passed by the deputy commissioner Shopian 10 August 2019. "The only precious and valuable right guaranteed to a (detainee) is of making an effective representation against the order of detention. Such an effective representation can only be made by a [➔ More On P2](#)

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FROM FRONT PAGE

COVID-19 Vaccine ...

of #COVID19 transmission. If we're able to vaccinate the critical mass of people & break virus transmission, then we may not have to vaccinate the entire population."

While it's still soon to say when we will be able to beat the pandemic, the news of vaccines coming-in definitely ignites a ray of hope. You might not be one of those who would need a vaccine but that doesn't mean you will never be able to contract the virus. Until we get a permanent solution to this, let's keep following the safety precautions and help each other in fighting the COVID battle!

BJP Tonga Rally ...

We want to tell the people to come out and vote for the BJP candidate in the DDC polls and give BJP a chance to serve the people of Sopore," he said.

Tonga rally was held in Mazbugh area of apple town, which is five kilometers away from main town Sopore. Tongas were decorated with BJP flags.

BJP General Secretary and J&K affairs incharge, Vibodh Gupta said that Sopore was known as mini-London, but past 30 years of situation blocked all means of development in this area.

"Today's Tonga rally is a direct message of people of Sopore that they are with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We promise to the people of Sopore that if they choose BJP candidate, we will set up an international mandi in Sopore to give a fillip to the fruit market of Sopore," he said.

"Bumper polling in the two phases of DDC polls has given a message that Kashmir has changed and there was no space for militancy and separatism and want to live in peace with dignity," he added.

He said that BJP is committed to revive the economy of business hubs of Kashmir be that Lal Chowk of Srinagar or the once popular mandi of Sopore. —Agencies

65% Turnout ...

For the vacant sarpanch constituencies, 52.25 per cent polling was registered in 83 constituencies -- 62 in Kashmir division and 21 in Jammu division.

"In Jammu division, Jammu district recorded the highest voter turnout of 86.93% and 79.21% for Panch and Sarpanch by-polls respectively. Whereas in Kashmir division, Bandipora topped the Panch and Sarpanch voter turnout with 78.15% and 74.20% polling in second phase of elections," he said.

The SEC further said that the voting was peaceful and smooth at all polling stations in the across the union territory. (With PTI inputs)

452 New Cases ...

Budgam 21, Pulwama 9, Kupwara 16, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 14, Ganderbal 17, Kulgam 3, Shopian 0, Jammu 127, Rajouri 15, Udhampur 54, Doda 15, Kathua 14, Poonch 3, Samba 8, Kishtwar 10, Ramban 7 and Reasi 5.

Moreover, officials said, 403 more patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals 168 from Jammu Division and 235 from Kashmir Valley.

J&K Reports 6 ...

here died at SMHS hospital, a week after being admitted there. "A 70-year-old man from Chokibal Kupwara died after remaining admitted to the SKIMS Soura for thirteen days," they added.

In Jammu region, two of the victims were residents of the winter capital and one from Rajouri district, officials said..

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1110 and 598 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 419 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (304), Baramulla (163), Budgam (101), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (84), Anantnag (79), Doda (56), Bandipora (51), Kulgam (51), Rajouri (50), Udhampur (50), Ganderbal (39), Shopian (37), Kathua (39), Samba (30), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar(18), and Reasi (9). (With GNS inputs)

HC Orders Release ...

(detainee) when he is supplied the relevant grounds of detention, including the materials considered by the detaining authority for arriving at the requisite subjective satisfaction to pass the detention order," a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said.

"Since the material is not supplied to the (detaiiee), the right of the (detainee) to file such representation is impinged upon and the detention order is resultantly vitiated," the court said and underlined that judgments on this point, both of the Supreme Court and of various High Courts including J&K, galore.

"So far as the ground taken i.e non communication of the grounds of detention is concerned, perusal of file reveals, that there is nothing to show or suggest that the grounds of detention couched in English language were explained to the (detainee) in a language understood by him, as there is no material to that effect on record," the court said, adding, "the grounds of challenge set up by petitioner (Waseem), succeed and the detention stands vitiated. Other grounds urged do not therefore, need to be separately addressed."

Subsequently, the court quashed the detention order and directed the authorities to release Waseem from preventive custody forthwith.

"Registrar Judicial of this Court shall forthwith convey the order to District Magistrate Shopian and Jail Superintendent concerned for compliance of the order forthwith." (GNS)

Roshni Scam ...

On November 1, the Union Territory administration cancelled all land transfers that took place under the JK State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 - also known as the Roshni Act - under which 2.5 lakh acres of land was to be transferred to the existing occupants.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court had declared the Roshni Act as "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable" and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of the land under this law.

Singh said over the last decade, the BJP had been consistently demanding a thorough and impartial probe into the "embezzlement" that had taken place in the name of the Roshni scheme.

But, he alleged, successive governments run by the National Conference, Congress and the PDP did not agree to the probe and instead sought to "cover-up" the scam because the ministers and the chief ministers of the then governments were themselves beneficiaries.

It is only now under the Modi government, said Singh, when the investigative agencies were given a free hand to carry on their task that the entire scam has got unearthed and the skeletons are tumbling out.

While the "Gupkar governments robbed the land" that should have legitimately gone to the poor, he said, it is under Prime Minister Modi that targets have been set to construct a house for each family under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

HC Orders Release ...

and their Srinagar based correspondent for publishing false and fabricated story on the basis of false information provided by the government officials.

The officials, he said have portrayed his father in a wrong color sullyng their image and integrity in the general public and political circles, and accusing them of illegally occupying government land at Magarmal Bagh under the Roshni Scheme.

"The fact of the matter is that the said land and property in question has been under our legal occupation from 1948 after my father and his brother sold their ancestral property at Chatabal under a Cabinet Sanction and with the same proceeds were given the occupation of the Magarmal Bagh property under the government sanction under proper rules and regulations of that time," Shah said.

Rejecting the official claims that the Magarmal Bagh property was in no way associated with the Roshni Scheme, Shah said that his ancestral property inherited by the present generation rightfully and legally stands under their occupation.

"The purpose of taking names selectively of our family, our aunt Mrs Suraya Ali Matuu or our uncle Dr Farooq Abdullah, his family is nothing but witch hunting to create confusion and damage our integrity, nationality and credibility," he said.

"The real culprits of the Roshni Scheme are now identified as former MLAs and Ministers of the BJP in the Jammu Division. The law will take its course against every erring individual involved in the scam," he added.

Talking about the ongoing District Development Council (DDC) elections, the ANC leader said that he has taken up the issue of "brazen discrimination and disparity" in security to the PAGD candidates with the State Election Commissioner KK Sharma over phone

"BJP and Apni party candidates and campaigners are facilitated with full security gear and state empowerment. Most of their leaders carry double escort, local police station escort in addition to being provided bullet proof vehicles. Their vehicles are provided cover during nights to corrupt voters as against this PAGD candidates including MLAs / MLCs, senior leaders and even PAGD apex members and star campaigners are denied adequate security cover and put to an open disadvantage," he said, and urged SEC to take immediate redressal measures and ensure level playing fields to one and all.

Shah also demanded a "strict action" against the officials in Budgam for allegedly giving special treatment to BJP leader Shah Nawaz Hussain by providing him fool proof security while touring the Soibugh Constituency on 28 November, keeping PAGD, ANC candidate Nazir Ahmed Wani under custody in his guest house.

"This is a gross violation of the rules of the election commission of India," he said. (KNT)

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire At Border

JAMMU: The India and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire along the International Border (IB) in Hiranagar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said on Wednesday

Pakistani Rangers opened fire at border outposts along the IB in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district, drawing retaliation from the Border Security Force, they said.

The firing from across the border in Karol Krishna, Pansar and Gurnam border outposts started around 9.50 pm on Tuesday and the cross-border firing between the two sides continued till 4 am Wednesday, the officials said. There was no report of any damage on the Indian side.

Mutton Dealers Protest In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The mutton wholesalers and dealers association of Kashmir on Wednesday staged a protest against the government for 'pushing their families towards starvation'.

Scores of mutton wholesalers and dealers assembled at Srinagar's press enclave here and raised slogans in favor of their demands.

Sahil Ahmad, one of the protesters said that their shops are closed for last one month after the government fixed fresh rates for mutton. "In an interview, the concerned Director has claimed that 20 shops are open and selling meat at the rate of Rs 480 per kg. But, we want to tell the Director Sahab that there are at least 30,000 families who are belonging to this trade and are suffering at present," he said.

He added that if the government sticks to its order, then it should provide them mutton on its own at less rates so that they can sell meat as per the fixed rates.

"The government should hold a meeting with the mutton dealers again and address our concerns," he said, adding that in case the government is reluctant to fulfill their demands, it should give them an alternative too to earn their livelihood

PcK Inks Pact With Chinese Firm for 700MW Hydro Project

ISLAMABAD: The government in Pakistan-

controlled Kashmir (PaK) has signed agreements with a Chinese company and a local renewable energy firm for the construction of 700MW hydropower project at an estimated cost of USD 1.35 billion in the region as part of the ambitious China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a media report said on Wednesday.

China Gezhouba Group and its local partner Laraib Group Pakistan are the shareholders of the 'Azad Pattan Hydropower Project', which is located on Jhelum river in Sadhanoti district of PaK, Dawn newspaper reported.

The consortium of lenders consists of China Development Bank, China Construction Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Bank of China, the paper said.

The implementation agreement and water use charges agreement for construction of the project were signed by PaK Electricity Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan and Azad Pattan Power Private Limited CEO Li Xiaota on Tuesday, the paper said.

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of Chinese

President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Originally valued at USD 46 billion, the CPEC projects were worth USD 62 billion as of 2017.

India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through PcK.

The Ministry of External Affairs early this year said that Pakistan was told that "the entire Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of India and that Islamabad should immediately vacate the areas under its illegal occupation."

The government of Pakistan implementation agreement, Punjab water

For instance, several weeks prior to the clash Chinese Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe made a statement encouraging Beijing to "use fighting to promote stability."

Just over two weeks before the incident, in another potential indication of Chinese leaders signalling their intent to escalate tensions, an editorial in China's state-owned tabloid Global Times warned that India would suffer a "devastating blow" to its trade and economic ties with China if it got "involved in the US-China rivalry."

Further satellite images depicted a large Chinese buildup in the Galwan Valley, including potentially 1,000 PLA soldiers, the week before the deadly skirmish, said the Congressional Commission created in 2000 for monitoring and investigating national security and trade issues between the US and China.

China and India have engaged in multiple physical clashes along their border for decades, but since General Secretary Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012 the two countries have seen five major altercations along their border. The exact motivations behind the Chinese government's provocative behaviour on the LAC this year remain unclear, it noted.

"The proximate cause of the clash appeared to be India's construction of a strategic access road to support troops stationed along the LAC. China has also built extensive infrastructure along the LAC in recent years. In the aftermath of the clash, Beijing asserted sovereignty over the entire

Galwan Valley, a new claim and significant change to the territorial status quo," the report said.

According to the report, the Chinese Navy has also regularly deployed diesel-electric and nuclear attack submarines in the Indian Ocean since 2013, which - despite their ostensible mission to support China's Gulf of Aden anticipacy task forces - serve to collect intelligence and signal to India that China could contest the Indian Navy or threaten commercial shipping.

Chinese hydrographic survey vessels also sometimes venture into waters around India's strategic sites to collect intelligence, the report said, citing an example of India's navy chasing away China's Shiyan-1 research vessel in December 2019 after catching the vessel loitering without permission near Port Blair.

The Commission said that in 2020, China sought to project an image of confidence and increased efforts to portray itself as a global leader superior to the United States even as it faced an increasing array of challenges at home and abroad.

"Beijing ramped up its multiyear coercion campaign against its neighbours, provoking military or paramilitary standoffs with countries from Japan to India and much of Southeast Asia. Shortly after China's defence minister urged Beijing to use military force to stabilise its periphery, a violent clash on the China-India border in June led to the first loss of life between the two countries since 1975," it said.

Religious, political groups in Leh, Kargil hold joint meeting, decide to continue talks

KARGIL: Representatives of two alliances of religious, political and social organisations based in Ladakh's Leh and Kargil held their first joint meeting here and said they will oppose any law that is against the interests of the people of the union territory.

The Leh-based People's Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) discussed various issues, including demands for full statehood and inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule, during the meet.

"We discussed threadbare all issues concerning Ladakh in the three-hour long meeting including the demand for Sixth Schedule and statehood. The meeting ended in a cordial atmosphere, and it was decided that we will oppose and fight jointly any law which is considered against the interests of the people of the region," KDA co-chairman Asgar Ali Karbalai said.

Karbalai said both sides presented their view points on all issues and decided to continue talks in the larger interest of Ladakh.

"We agreed on various issues but there were also difference of opinion on some issues. Such type of a meeting had taken place for the first time, and we welcome it," he said, expressing hopes that they will together usher in a new era in Ladakh.

Veteran politician and former Lok Sabha MP Thupstan Chhewang, who is the leader of the People's Movement for Sixth Schedule, said, "This is most probably happening for the first time in the history of Ladakh that all segments of society from both the districts, including political and religious leaders, social activists and youth leaders, met to discuss the safeguards, security and opportunities."

The meeting discussed all the issues concerning the interests of Ladakh in a conducive atmosphere, and the leaders were unanimous to fight together any move which would be against the interests of Ladakh, Chhewang said.

"We will fight together for the rights of the people of Ladakh," he added.

Referring to the apex body's meeting with the Union home minister in September over its demand for inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of Constitution, Chhewang said they are yet to receive a fresh invitation from the home ministry but would like representatives of Kargil to join them in the meeting as well.

"We will like to go together but if they (people of Kargil) get a separate invitation, they can meet the home minister separately as well," he added.

تعزیت

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ سے دی جاتی ہے کہ حاجی شوکت حسین شاہ ولد مرحوم غلام رسول شاہ ساکنہ
چھانہ پورہ نوشہرہ سری نگر یکم دسمبر ۲۰۲۰ بروز منگل علی الصبح اس جہان فانی سے کوچ کر گئے۔
مرحوم انتہائی نیک سیرت اور ہر دلعزیز تھے۔ تعزیت تین روز تک ہوگی۔ سوگوار خاندان کی
یہ استد ہے کہ مرحوم کے حق میں دعائے مغفرت کرے۔

سوگوار خاندان

محمد مقبول شاہ , مسرور شوکت شاہ

فون نمبر 8493016358

Pvt schools continue to demand hefty admission fee

Srinagar: In a brazen violation of government orders, various schools in Kashmir continue to charge an exorbitant admission fee from the parents for their wards.

Parents from different areas complain that schools are demanding a hefty sum of money when they went to admit their wards.

"A few days before, for the admission of my child, I approached two leading schools in our area. One asked me to pay Rs 40,000 while other demanded Rs 30,000 as admission fee," Gulzar Ahmad, who is a resident of Anantnag, said. "If there is a government order not to charge an admission fee, why is it not implemented on the ground."

Shakeel Ahmad, another parent from Ganderbal said that education of children is a must but private schools need

to show some mercy as everyone has faced the brunt of the financial crunch from the last two years.

"Schools who are violating the norms must be dealt with



strictly," he said.

Meanwhile parents also alleged that private schools are asking students to join regular classes violating social distancing norms amid Covid-19 pandemic.

They said that most of the schools have started functioning normally and only transport of the schools has been kept is a suspended form.

"My son is studying in a school which is 4 kms from our residence and every day I have to drop him at 10:30 am, and wait up to 1 pm to take him back home," Tanveer Ahmad, from Shopian said.

"If there are directions that student must be given classes through on-line mode, then how schools are allowed to function normally," he said, "And if they have been allowed to function normally then they must be allowed to use school buses as well."

Despite repeated attempts, Director School Education wasn't available for comment on the issue—(KNO)

Making J&K self reliant in mutton production Memorandum of Cooperation between JK ASH Deptt & New Zealand G2G

JAMMU, DECEMBER 02: Principal Secretary, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, held a meeting regarding Memorandum of Cooperation between Jammu and Kashmir Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department and High Commissioner/ Ambassador for New Zealand on capacity building and transfer of know-how for enhancing sheep wool and meat industry in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Directors Sheep Husbandry Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Sanjeev Kumar and Dr Abdul Salam, Director Finance, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Imtiyaz Wani, Director Planning, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Girdhari Lal, besides participants from New Zealand including Acting HOM, Brent Rapson, Director, New Zealand G2G, Mischa Mannix-Opie, New Zealand Trade Commissioner for South Asia, Ralph Hays, Commercial Manager, G2G, Matthew Hall, Business Advisor, G2G, Peter Bull, Senior Business Development Manager, New Zealand High Commission Sudha Palit.

During the meeting, a brief power-point presentation was given by the J & K team depicting the existing scenario of sheep and goat sector in the Union Territory pinning focus on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities besides threats of the sector. Besides, the participants were informed about the existing resource base of the UT besides were apprised about the envisaged vision of the Government of J&K.

Choudhary informed that one third of the demand of mutton is imported from neighbouring states in the UT has not evolved at the desired pace over the years which has been precipitated by various factors like dearth of fodder supplies, insufficient breeding cover, inadequate vaccine availability and lack of modernization besides technological interventions which have been adopted in other parts of the world especially New Zealand. He emphasized that though J&K is a green state, it still has to rely on fodder supplies from comparative drier states.

Bumzoo-Mattan, Akura-Mattan roads closed for traffic

ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 02: The District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO) also District Magistrate Anantnag, K. K. Sidha, today issued an order for closure of traffic movement on Bumzoo-Mattan and Akura-Mattan roads for two days viz 03 and 04 December, 2020.

The order has been issued to ensure smooth and hassle free distribution/dispatch of poll material and polling parties of Khoveripora block/DDC constituency from Block Development Office Mattan (Distribution/Collection Centre) on 03 December 2020 and its receipt back on 04 December, 2020.

During this period no traffic/vehicular movement other than poll parties are to be allowed on Bumzoo Mattan Road via Gurdwara Mattan and Akura Mattan Road leading to Distribution/Collection Centre on 03 and 04 December 2020.

Meanwhile, Tehsildar Anantnag East Mattan and SHO Police Station Mattan have been directed to implement the order in letter and spirit.

SMC employee suspended for harassing female official

Srinagar: An employee of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was suspended on Wednesday for allegedly harassing a lady official and on charges of misconduct of duties.

An order issued by Joint Commissioner Administration, SMC, a copy of which lies with news agency Kashmir Dot Com, reads, "Pending enquiry one Ghanent Wani, Class IV, Secretary Office, is placed under suspension with immediate effect."

Moreover, the suspended employee has been attached with Drainage Circle, SMC.

Joint Commissioner Administration has also stated that a charge sheet in this regard will be issued separately.

JK Premiere League Kick-Starts at B'la

BARAMULLA, DECEMBER 02: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr G N Itoo today kick-started JK Premiere League at Showkat Ali Stadium Khawaja Bagh, here.

The 15 days long tournament is being organized by District Youth Services and Sports Council in collaboration with the district administration during which several sports events viz Football, Volleyball, Kabaddi and Hockey shall be organised and top performing teams in each event shall be selected to play at JK level.

Office Of The Principal Govt. College For Women, Nawakadal Srinagar (J&K)

(NAAC Re-Accredited Grade A) (CGPA-3.10)

www.gcwnk.ac.in Telefax:0194-2503456 Email: principal@gcwnk.ac.in

No.WCN/20/ Dated: -----

Merit cum Selection List for UGC-NSQF skill based courses for the Session 2020-2021.

A. **Certificate Course in Beautician**
70087,70051,70024,70021,70026,70088,70038,70027,70003,70063,70048,70011,70037,70102,70004. Waiting List: 70023,70044,70030

B. **Certificate Course in Hospitality and Catering (Front Office Associate).**
70065,70078,70066,70015,70109,70061,70110,70064,70086,70111,70006,70112,70077,70017,70075. Waiting List: 70016,70018,70036

C. **Certificate Course in Web Designing**
70054,70001,70049,70010,70090,70072,70073,70113,70020,70022,70079,70074,70041,70083,70034,70053,70059,70082,70050,70089,70076,70092,70028,70042,70031,70080,70097,70068,70103,70032. Waiting List: 70029

D. **Diploma in Dress Making**
70085,70070,70081,70099,70002,70069,70060,70057,70071,70009,70005,70056,70013,70012,70084,70019,70062,70014,70067,70047,70025,70039,70052,70007,70055,70106,70033,70046,70058.

E. **Diploma in Fitness Management**

(The selection List for this course is available on college website. The admission process will be notified separately)

Submission of the Form

- The candidates are selected on the basis of percentage in 12th Class examination.
- Selected candidates are advised to submit the hard copy, duly filled and signed along with other documents as mentioned below.
- Candidates need to submit only the course fee (Rs. 5000/-) at the time of submission of Admission form, the University/SSC Examination Fees will be collected at the Semester End before Examination. There is 100% exemption in Course Fee for ST/SC Candidates and 50% Exemption for Physically Handicapped Candidates.
- At the time of submission of admission form, it is the responsibility of the candidate to take the receipt from the counter duly signed by the office clerk.
- Last date of Submission of Admission Form along with requisite fee is 10th December 2020 for Courses A - D. The admission process for Course E - Fitness Management will be notified separately. If anyone fails to submit the admission form (from courses A - D) by then, the candidates from Waiting List will be selected accordingly. No claim for admission will be entertained after the Last date.

> Fee should be submitted through DD drawn in favor of Principal, Govt. College for Women Nawakadal Srinagar payable at Srinagar at the time of submission of application form by the selected candidates.

> Documents required at the time of Submission of Application form in College.

- The Candidate must bring the Fee Demand Draft or submit the fee in CASH at the Admission Section of College
- Date of Birth/ 10th Class Certificate in original. Xerox to be submitted along with admission form.
- (10+2) or equivalent examination mark-sheet in original. Xerox to be submitted along with admission form.
- Character Certificate issued by the institution last attended, if any.
- Must bring four recent coloured photographs (passport size) bearing name.
- Candidates belonging to any Category must bring original certificate at the time of admission. Xerox to be submitted along with admission form.

DR. NADEEM BASHIR
NODAL OFFICER UGC-NSQF
CONTACT: 9419524512

PROF. TABASUM RAFIQ
Principal
Govt. College for Women
Nawakadal, Srinagar

DIPK-9815/20

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (U T)

**Office Of The Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division Srinagar, Mechanical
Engineering Department, Kashmir.**

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

Corrigendum 03 ; Date: 01-12-2020

Name of work: Supply of 8 units of 50 HP, 4WD-Tractors with heated Cabin fitted with MS wedge type Fixed V Pough alongwith Maintenance for 02 Years For Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC).

References: 1. This office NIT No:- MDS/TS/2020-21/ 110 /e-tendering; Dated: 03 -11-2020. (Tender Id: 2020_PWDJK_108347_1).

2. Corrigendum 01 dated: 12.11.2020 issued vide No. MDS/TS-476/4910-13 Dated: 12.11.2020

3. Corrigendum 02 ; Date: 24 -11-2020 issued vide No: MDS/TS-476/ 5196-99 Date: 24 -11-2020

In view of poor response evoked from prospective bidders, the critical dates for the NIT are extended as:

Particular	Date as per NIT	Extended Date
Last Date of download/ submission of tender documents	30-11-2020 (06:55 PM)	07-12-2020 (12:00 Noon)
Date and time of opening of Technical Bids	02-12-2020 (02:00 PM)	07-12-2020 (04:00 PM)

All other Terms & Conditions and Technical Specifications shall remain same as per the original NIT and subsequent corrigenda issued.

Sd/= (Er. Ab. Rashid Bhat) Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, Srinagar

No: MDS/TS- 476/5397-5401
Date: 01 -12-2020

DIPK-9805/20

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir

**Office Of The Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Phe Division Chadoora**

Fax-Phone: 01951-257592 E-mail ID:xenphedc786@gmail.com

e-NIT . No.25/PHEDC of 11/2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, Executive Engineer PHE Division Chadoora invites tenders by e-tendering mode in single cover system from Contractors/firms/ registered with J&K UT PWD/MES/Railways for the works detailed below.

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	EMD (in)	Cost of TD (in)	Time	Class of Contract	Head of Account
01	Providing and Laying/fitting of pipes for providing water supply facilities to 36 No Schools viz. HSS Khanda, BMS Behrampora, BMS Kultreh, GMS Khanda, MS Nowbugh, MS Suthsoo Kalan, BMS Doonwari, BMS Khana, GMS Rather Mohala Kultreh, MPS Zenipora, GPS Bonhar Wathora, PS Kargari Mohala Khanda, GPS Dolonwari, PS Magray-pora, PS Asthan Mohala Nowbugh, PS Jameel Abad Kultreh, PS Khan Mohala Kuzwera, PS Khumani-C Suthsoo Kalan, PS Balpora Wathora, PS Sarfikkhudan, BPS Pakharpora, PS Sarband, PS Checki Bradipathri, PS Muqdam Mohala, HS Checki Sardar, PS Muqdam M Buzgou, MS Brarigund, PS Wuder Mohala Brarigund, GMS Awanpora, GPS Shamas Check, BPS Hayatpora, S Bon M Kherigund, GMS Nowpora Payeen, PS Eidgah Mohala Kanihama, PS Kantbagh, PS Pet Malpora and 6 No uncovered Anganwadi Centres viz. Goglipathri-A, Loolipora-A Borwah-A, Gopalpora-A, Gaffar Mohala Nagam, Sogam-B falling under the scope of Jal Shakti PHE Division Chadoora.	Rs.26.44 lacs	Rs. 52880.00	1700.00	01 Month	"BEE"	JJM

Position of Funds:- Available under JJM (through PFMS Major Head of Account:- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The bidding document can be downloaded from the website jktenders.gov.in where in all the terms and conditions are highlighted in details.

Important Dates.

Date of Publishing	28-11-2020
Date of downloading the bidding documents.	28-11-2020 to 11-12-2020 upto 4:00 P.M
Date of submission of bid online	28-11-2020 to 11-12-2020 upto 4:00 P.M
Date of opening	12-12-2020 11:00 AM

No:-PHEDC/ 5349-65

S/- Executive Engineer,

DIAL-EMMA

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

🌙

HIJRI CALENDAR

17 Rabi-us-Sani
1442

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 53
ZUHR	12: 20
ASR	3:45
Magrib	5:25
ISHA	6:50

This Day In History

- 1834 - First US dental society organized (NY).
- 1835 - First US mutual fire insurance company issues first policy (Rhode Island).
- 1847 - Frederick Douglass publishes first issue of his newspaper "North Star".
- 1854 - Eureka Stockade: In what is claimed by many to be the birth of Australian democracy, more than 20 goldminers at Ballarat, Victoria, are killed by state troopers in an uprising over mining licences.
- 1863 - Confederate General James Longstreet abandons his siege at Knoxville, TN.
- 1878 - Settlers arrive at Petach Tikvah, Israel.
- 1910 - Neon lights first publicly displayed (Paris Auto Show).
- 1912 - Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece & Bulgaria sign weapons pact
- 1912 - First Balkan War: The Naval Battle of Elli takes place.
- 1917 - The Supreme Allied War Council, meeting at Versailles to define war aim, fails to reach an agreement.
- 1920 - Turkey & Armenia agree to peace treaty.
- 1922 - First successful technicolor movie (Tall of the Sea), shown in NYC.
- 1934 - Italian colonial Tripoli & Cyrenaica annexed to Libya.
- 1943 - Battle of Monte Cassino, Italy begins.
- 1946 - US government asks UN to order dictator Franco out of Spain.
- 1948 - Chinese refugee ship "Kiangya" explodes in E China Sea killing 1100.
- 1952 - Marcos Perez Jiménez elected president of Venezuela.
- 1956 - Britain and France pull troops out of Egypt.
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 8; it crashes on the Moon.
- 1967 - 1st human heart transplant performed by Dr Christian Barnard in South Africa.
- 1967 - Former Indonesian president Sukarno placed under house arrest.
- 1971 - Indo-Pakistani War of 1971: India invades West Pakistan and a full scale war begins claiming hundreds of lives.
- 1973 - Pioneer 10 passes Jupiter (1st fly-by of an outer planet)
- 1985 - 23rd Shuttle Mission (61-B)-Atlantis 2-lands at Edwards AFB.
- 1989 - Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George H. W. Bush, declare the Cold War over.
- 1991 - Hulk Hogan defeats Undertaker to become 4th time WWF champion.
- 1992 - UN Security Council votes unanimous for US led forces to enter Somalia
- 1992 - The Greek oil tanker Aegean Sea, carrying 80,000 tonnes of crude oil, runs aground in a storm while approaching La Coruña, Spain, and spills much of its cargo
- 1995 - England cricket wicket-keeper Jack Russell dismisses Clive Ekesteen with his record 11th catch in 2nd Test v South Africa in Johannesburg
- 1995 Northwestern South Carolina begins using new area code 864
- 1995 - Davis Cup Tennis, Moscow: Pete Sampras beats Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 to give US a winning 3-1 lead (ends 3-2); record 31st US title
- 1999 - NASA loses radio contact with the Mars Polar Lander moments before the spacecraft enters the Martian atmosphere
- 2005 - XCOR Aerospace makes first manned rocket aircraft delivery of US Mail in Mojave, California.
- 2017 - First pizza party in space held by astronauts of the International Space Station Conference meeting

From KO Archives

US steps up efforts for Kashmir breakthrough

Azim M Mian

NEW YORK: Efforts for Musharraf-Vajpayee meeting have been accelerated, despite the Pakistan claim of no such invitation by India, sources told The News on Sunday.

According to these sources, the United States — whose quiet diplomacy has caused ceasefire along LoC during Ramadan — fully supports such a meeting.

They believed Pakistan will get the dividends of this move; and the IMF decision on loans for Pakistan is one example.

Islamabad's acceptance of the ceasefire, coming a day after IMF's decision on loans, indicates the link they said. They claimed that a change in the White House would not affect the peace process in Kashmir.

This has been confirmed by a much-controversial figure, Mansoor Ijaz, who has played role in the US track-II policy on Kashmir: "we are making every effort for a meeting between General Musharraf of Pakistan and Atal Behari Vajpayee of India- and hope these efforts would bear fruit."

Mansoor Ijaz said in a telephonic interview with the Pakistani newspaper, The News.

Known for his articles in the US media, Mansoor claimed his visits to Delhi Islamabad and Srinagar, and his meetings with Atal Behari Vajpayee, General Musharraf, Farooq Abdullah and others were fully supported by the Clinton administration.

He said that the peace proposal for Kashmir carried by him to South Asia was fully endorsed by President Clinton.

The US administration too never denied Mansoor's much-publicized claims of Clinton's backing. Rather his article carried by International Herald Tribune in its November 22 issue is a good way of knowing current political developments in Kashmir.

I welcome the announcement by Pakistan who has put the ball in the Indian court by responding positively to the Indian offer of ceasefire in Kashmir. India has been running a public relations campaign against Pakistan on Kashmir.

Pakistan's Gen Musharraf has effectively countered the India move by his announcement of the ceasefire," Mansoor, currently in the Middle East, said.

He also said that he had carried a letter from Hizbul Mujahideen leader, Commander Salahuddin addressed to President Clinton seeking his support and confirmation for the peace process in the held region.

(Kashmir Observer, 03 December, 2000)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Farmers’ protest

Farmers across the country have vowed to continue protesting against recently passed agricultural law after talks with the government didn’t lead to any breakthrough on Tuesday. The 35-member team of farmers met Agriculture minister Narendra Tomar, his cabinet colleague Piyush Goyal and junior industry minister Som Prakash at Delhi’s Vigyan Bhawan. This was the third round of talks between the farmers and the government in the last few months. The government has suggested the formation of a committee to resolve the differences over farm laws but it was rejected by farmers. The farmers want the government to withdraw a set of three laws adopted in September that they apprehend could put an end to minimum support prices that the government would earlier pay them. This was turned down by the government.

The farmers have threatened to block five entry points to Delhi: Sonipat, Rohtak, Jaipur, Ghaziabad-Hapur, and Mathura. Meanwhile, more farmers from Punjab and from Haryana are making their way to New Delhi. The protest is said to be supported by over 3 lakh farmers. They have braved water cannons, tear gas and police barricades on their way to national capital.

Government in its defence says the new laws are geared to do away with middlemen and allow farmers to sell produce anywhere in the country. But the farmers contend that the laws will deprive the farmers of minimum support price and leave them at the mercy of corporates.

But the significance of the farmers protest goes beyond the demand to withdraw three laws. It will be important to see whether the protest dents the popularity of the Modi government. So far this has not been the case. The BJP’s excellent performance in recent Bihar polls indicates this. The saffron party performed better in the areas with large concentration of migrant workers who suffered most during Modi government’s badly implemented lockdown. Similarly, the months long NRC protests last year didn’t affect the party’s image. Nor has the ongoing economic recession which also is in part the result of the government’s ill-thought policies, done any damage to the reputation of the central government. So, to expect the farmers’ protest impinge on the popularity of the Modi government is premature. Also, this government has shown a resilient ability to not only withstand but also defeat any challenge to its legitimacy. The political opposition, on the other hand, has been reduced to fighting over scraps. But the situation can still change. Having been in power for six years, the government may find it increasingly difficult to override the disaffection among various sections of the population all the time. More so, when the new laws are seen to detrimentally affect the interests of a large section of population. It would be thus in the interest of the centre to listen to the farmers and address their issues.

OTHER OPINON

Donald Trump’s last push in West Asia

President Donald Trump has given up on foreign policy except in West Asia. His administration is presumed to have had a role in the assassination of Iran’s top nuclear scientist last week. His son-in-law has flown to the Persian Gulf for one last diplomatic roundabout. Mr Trump’s team is tying up the loose ends of what it sees as its great foreign policy moment — getting a slew of Gulf Arab nations to recognise Israel and concrete an anti-Iran coalition.

West Asia’s deepest geopolitical fault-line no longer runs between Israelis and Arabs but between Shia Persians and Sunni Arabs. It was the Gulf monarchies which applauded Mr Trump ending the Iran nuclear agreement, initiated the Israel outreach and are now working to ensure all this will be fait accompli for President-elect Joe Biden. Mr Biden’s foreign policy supports the Arab-Israeli rapprochement. But it may be frosty towards Saudi Arabia and includes plans to resurrect the Iran nuclear agreement. The last won’t be easy. Iran has 12 times more low-enriched uranium than the original agreement allowed while Washington has zero diplomatic credibility.

The stakes are high. The Arab Street has no love for Israel. Iran’s informal empire remains intact but broke. Outsiders must tread this minefield carefully. India has even more reason to avoid a regional role and continue to maintain a set of bilateral relationships. Pakistan is struggling. The United Arab Emirates banned visas for Pakistan and others who opposed normalisation of ties with Israel. As West Asian politics becomes ever more cut-throat, Islamabad may have to choose between ideological sanctity and economic stability. Either way will be to New Delhi’s advantage.

Hindustan Times



View From The Foyer

Conversion Law Legitimises Honour Killings

R. RAJ RAO

“If a state can pass laws that contravene Supreme Court rulings, it does not augur well for the wisdom of the judiciary. It means that governments can override any Supreme Court judgment that is unpalatable to them

Uttar Pradesh has become the first Indian state to transform the conversion ordinance into law. On 24th November, the state cabinet passed the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2020. Hours after the law was passed, the Deorania Police Station in Bareilly District registered a case against a 24-year-old Muslim man named Ahmad for eloping with a Hindu girl, and marrying her with a view to converting her to Islam. An FIR was lodged at the police station by the girl’s father, even as Ahmad has gone underground. However, the girl has denied that she was converted, or converted against her wishes. Whatever happened between the couple was consensual, the girl has stated. This has prompted BSP chief Mayawati to comment that the Love Jihad law is riddled with doubt.

The Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act punishes offenders with a jail term ranging from one to five years, and a fine of Rs. 15,000. If the girl is a minor, the jail sentence can extend to ten years. The law has special ramifications for a Muslim-majority union territory like Jammu & Kashmir, where many students migrate to universities in other states, fall in love with non-Muslim girls, and decide to marry them.

I see a conspiracy between the new law and this dirty business of honour killings, for which states like UP, Haryana, Kerala and many others are notorious.

An honour killing is the murder of a married couple by their parents for marrying against the wishes of the parents. The parents are usually against the alliance because the boy and girl belong to different castes or religions. Sometimes, the class factor too can play a decisive role, if say the girl is more educated than the boy. In recent times, the blockbuster Hindi film Dhadak, starring newcomer Ishaan Khattar and the late Sridevi’s daughter Janhvi Kapoor, dealt with the theme of honour killings. Several episodes in the popular television show Crime Patrol are also centred on real-life cases of

honour killings. Though same-sex marriage isn’t legal in India, the decriminalization of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code in September 2018 notwithstanding, many gay, lesbian and transgender couples who have chosen to live together have also been the unfortunate victims of honour killings.

Vulnerable young people who fear that their families will track them down and kill them for their rebellious unions can have recourse to the law. They can approach local police stations to ask for protection, and can also file criminal cases against their families in the courts. Several people who love each other and wish to spend the rest of their lives together have thus been saved from the wrath of their tyrannical families by the timely intervention of the cops and the courts.

The new UP law, however, snatches away this last refuge that youngsters have at their disposal. Couples who perceive a threat from their families can now no longer seek police or legal protection, for

marry a person of one’s choice is integral to Article 21 (Right to Life and Liberty) of the Constitution.” And the judgment actually concerned a case where a Hindu woman in Kerala converted to Islam after marriage. The judgment by a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court expressly stated that “Neither the state nor the law can dictate a choice of partners or limit the free ability of every person to decide on these matters.”

If a state can pass laws that contravene Supreme Court rulings, it does not augur well for the wisdom of the judiciary. It means that governments can override any Supreme Court judgment that is unpalatable to them.

The central government has so far been silent about the UP law, passed by its own party, the BJP. However, not distancing itself from the law somehow makes it complicated, leading to fears that tomorrow this may become a national law.

That said, for now two states that are very likely to pass the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion

“The law has special ramifications for a Muslim-majority union territory like Jammu & Kashmir, where many students migrate to universities in other states, fall in love with non-Muslim girls, and decide to marry them.

the cops and the courts cannot protect them from something that is illegal in the first place. They will thus be turned away.

Although the law specifically applies to Muslim men and Hindu women, it is liable to have a snowballing effect, so that now onwards all run-away marriages and live-in relationships will be viewed with suspicion by the authorities. The law then, rather than coming to the aid of victims by punishing their oppressors, conspires with the oppressor to eliminate the victim. This is truly ironic.

The Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act comes in the wake of a recent Supreme Court judgment that said that “The right to

of Religion Act, following UP’s example, are Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Once this happens, bigoted parents in these three states will have a free hand to stalk their recalcitrant kids who have married against their wishes and butcher them, all in the name of preserving the so-called family honour.

Dr. R. Raj Rao is an internationally known Indian English novelist, poet and critic. He was Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Pune in Maharashtra. He has also been a Visiting Professor at universities in Canada and Germany



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer’s name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, spaceand accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities has been observed to varying degrees of success around the world. The observance of the day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.

The Persons with Disability (Divyangjan) community has been facing its own set of challenges. The condition of the Divyangjan in India is really worrying. Their social and economic conditions are also more difficult as compared to the common people. The Government has also introduced various schemes to empower Divyangjan,

but only rehabilitation and educational services have established their identity in society. They are neglected in society and the perception towards disabled people is biased. Today, Divyangjan needs social acceptance in society. Foremost, they are people like us. Divyangjan can move forward with their challenges by the positive coor-

dination of society. We should respect their diversity and boost them to come up in the mainstream. This is the need of the hour.

....
Amit Singh Kushwaha, Satna
amitsk68@gmail.com

Many standard journals and newspapers offer “Comments and Replies” sections that allow scholarly discussions on a recent publication. Such short discussions are often very useful to understand the details on data, methodology, and results etc. of a newly published article. However, if authors, editors and reviewers fail to understand the nature and importance of forum communications by not performing the editorial duties responsibly, they could endanger and damage the integrity of such discussions. Usually, comments raise some of the serious problems, which have somehow gone undetected by the otherwise routine rigorous editorial procedures. For example, I commented on one of the published scientific papers that showed a major fault in the center of the Kashmir basin, and demonstrated that there was absolutely no evidence for such a fault. As you have seen from the above example, a typical comment raises a serious problem not minor problems, which are not worth a discussion.

Once I asked one of my teachers and now a colleague from India that I would like to comment on a publication. He categorically said no, “Don’t do this because you will make enemies, and your research progress will be unnecessarily hindered”. I took that piece of advice lightly, because it was beyond my understanding to accept that scientific researchers, who I thought are full of wisdom, would prefer arrogance over wisdom, and fact over fiction.

Therefore, I started commenting on some of the publications that interest me. And since I have worked on the earthquake geology of the Kashmir region, therefore, my comments are mostly on publications related to that region. My initial thought was, and I am still on it, that in a scholarly world people should not use negative emotions to answer professional comments when someone asks for clarifications etc. And instead, they should be grateful to the commentator for raising some of the critical concerns that would have otherwise remained unanswered. The “Comment and Reply” section is designed to engage in a cordial and professional manner to communicate a problem so that readers are benefited and all of the serious concerns are nicely discussed and communicated. And this whole exercise would ultimately improve publications, science, and authenticity of data etc., which is what a typical and a decent researcher would like the most.

However, immediately after I started

Ethics of “Comments and Replies” Section

Why I comment on scientific papers on the earthquake geology of Kashmir region

AFROZ SHAH



“The world of Science is beyond the personal and emotional worlds and it is based on evidence. If we fail to produce credible evidence, it ought to be rejected or retracted

receiving replies I came to realize that my professor was partly right. Because sometimes the replies from authors are derogatory, inflammatory, and often abusive: tactics to hide the deficiencies in the published work. Interestingly, these authors would largely highlight some minor mistakes of commentators to shield the actual problem that was the focus of the discussion in the commentary. But the problem is not just about the unprofessional attitudes of authors in their reply but more about their mind-set, which seems to have strong streaks of arrogance and jealousy

that would hinder a decent scientific communication. And how would editors and reviewers not realize the unprofessionalism and abusive response in a reply.

Ideally, reviewers and editors should thoroughly read all the comments and replies, and then decide the merit of what has been claimed by both the parties. However, often this is not the case (of what I have experienced), and by allowing an unprofessional language they are part of the problem because it exploits the commentators, who may not comment again because it would mean to indulge in extremely non-scientific discourse, which often discourages important and timely discussions. It is a pure nuisance, and harassment and who would like to live with it?

I strongly believe that in any sensible society one could discuss anything if it is backed by evidence, and therefore, a typically publishable work should produce evidence based science etc. And normally reviewers and editors would decide the fate of a submitted work, it is their job to do it efficiently. And if they are not doing their job properly the problem can multiply, and instead of reaching a plausible solution it could create more serious problems, which is not why a commentator comments. Because the purpose of any scientific discourse (comment etc.) is to ultimately improve the contents of a publication rather than to involve in personal gains by indulging in writing of an emotionally charged reply etc. When we work, we agree or disagree with people, which is perfectly fine. But, making it a personal animosity is not science, and such language should be thoroughly moderated to make discussions fruitful, and ethically appealing. And if an

editorial board allows unhealthy and abusive discussions they are simply helping such authors, and suppressing any future commentary, probably, one of the reasons why comments are uncommon among the scientific community. And this partly proves what my professor advised me a few years ago.

Therefore, the question remains about what should be done if a serious problem is detected in a newly published report, research etc. Should one just wait and write a new research paper by raising questions on the previously published works, or should we continue to comment so that timely and focused discussions are allowed to solve the problem. I would say: comments are better because they allow commentators and authors to timely discuss a focused problem or a set of problems. Universities are places of wisdom, and when students would read what gets published from a university they will surely feel embarrassed to be part of such a system. I was told by one of my colleagues that Shah is very famous at the University of Kashmir because everyone hates him as he only comments on papers published by the Kashmiri researchers and that suggests he is using his scientific power to defame the earthquake related science that gets published from the university. I would say such allegations are not only false but contradictory to itself, and speaks volumes about the scientific and humane temper that they harbor. As I said above, the motivation of a typical scientific discussion is to grow science and not to distort it. The world of Science is beyond the personal and emotional worlds and it is based on evidence. If we fail to produce credible evidence, it ought to be rejected or retracted. All that glitters is not gold, and by extension I would say that all that gets published does not mean that the data are good it could mean the editorial procedures were weak, and that is when I comment.

Making a herd of researchers to not cite previously published works on the science of earthquakes in Kashmir region is nothing but dishonesty to science, and by indulging in such an act is itself an explanation of personal problems, which would mostly be based on arrogance.

Views expressed are author’s own and do not necessarily represent that of Kashmir Observer

The author is an Assistant Professor of Geological Sciences at the Faculty of Science Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Mind Over Matter?

For most people, running a marathon sounds like a lot of work — and they probably wouldn’t even consider completing more than one within 24 hours.

The will to go the extra mile is what lies at the very heart of ultra-endurance events (and that’s exactly why they’re called “ultra”).

These events are for athletes who go beyond the typical marathon distance of about 42km, or engage in physical exertion for more than six hours. They’re generally performed via biking, swimming or running, but can also be held in activities such as kayaking.

Our new research published in the journal PLOS One looks at the role of “mental toughness” in the performance of ultra-endurance runners. Our findings suggest mind over matter is a real phenomenon — but can only get you so far.

The nitty-gritty of ultra-endurance events

On-foot ultra-marathons are notoriously challenging, with distances starting around 56km and going upwards of 150km. They’re often held in remote mountainous settings and almost always involve unpredictable course conditions and massive shifts in altitude.

Unsurprisingly, research on ultra-marathon runners has found this unique population experiences a range of difficult circumstances during these events.

The most common physical reasons for withdrawal include nausea, vomiting, blisters and/or muscle pain. Alongside extreme physical pain and discomfort, it’s also common to experience intense fatigue, unpleasant emotions and negative thoughts.

Is it really mind over matter?

“Mental toughness” is usually associated with the ability to either remain consistent in the face of challenges, or to quickly recover from setbacks and adversity.

We wanted to investigate what motivates ultra-endurance athletes to keep going despite obvious physical and mental challenges. To do this, we focused on a group of 56 ultra-marathon runners who competed in the Hawaiian Ultra Running Trail 100, or HURT100.

This 160.1km endurance run is a difficult five-lap course in the mountains above the city of Honolulu, Hawaii. The track has little clear running space and runners spend most of the course navigating through tree roots and crossing streams. Topping it off is about 7,500m of cumulative elevation gain and loss over the course.

The elite athletes in our study completed two questionnaires, from which we found mental toughness didn’t seem to predict performance within the group.

Thus, we conclude there may be a “threshold” level of mental toughness one must overcome to even be able to prepare for, and compete in, such an event. But beyond this, other psychological, physical and logistical factors appear to have a greater impact on performance.

We also compared our group of ultra-marathon runners to athletes in other sports including hockey, tennis, professional football, high performance male athletics and mixed martial arts. We discovered the runners had significantly higher levels of mental toughness.

In terms of which specific characteristics led to



“This 160.1km endurance run is a difficult five-lap course in the mountains above the city of Honolulu, Hawaii. The track has little clear running space and runners spend most of the course navigating through tree roots and crossing streams. Topping it off is about 7,500m of cumulative elevation gain and loss over the course.

greater mental toughness, such as confidence, commitment, personal responsibility or control over one’s thoughts — “self-efficacy” scored high.

This refers to an athlete’s belief in their ability to execute a task. For example, whether they believed they could complete the HURT100 distance within the 36-hour cut off time.

Traversing the human mind

Our research has practical implications for athletes, whether they want to increase their own mental toughness, or know what it takes to run in an ultra-marathon event.

Having advanced knowledge of the mechanisms underpinning mental toughness (such as self-efficacy)

could also help sport psychologists and coaches create more effective and targeted training programs.

That said, our findings do open doors to more questions. What other factors could predict performance in ultra-marathon runners? How wide is the range of characteristics that can be linked to mental toughness? And can these be learned by anyone?

Some may argue people are just born with greater levels of mental toughness and it’s in their genes. Others claim this can be developed over time as a result of individual experiences. It seems the age-old nature versus nurture debate persists.

By Arrangements With The Conversation

“There may be a “threshold” level of mental toughness one must overcome to even be able to prepare for, and compete in, such an event. But beyond this, other psychological, physical and logistical factors appear to have a greater impact on performance

KENDALL GEORGE

New AI model may help treat cancer more effectively, study says

LONDON: Scientists have developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) model that could help treat cancer more effectively by identifying the best drug combinations to selectively kill cancer cells with specific genetic or functional makeup.

The new machine learning method, described in the journal Nature Communications, found associations between drugs and cancer cells that were not observed previously. The model was trained with a large set of data obtained from previous studies, which had investigated the association between drugs and cancer cells.

"The model learned by the machine is actually a polynomial function familiar from school mathematics, but a very complex one," said Professor Juho Rousu from Aalto University in Finland.

The researchers noted that combination drug therapies often improve the effectiveness of the treatment and can reduce the harmful side-effects if the dosage of



individual drugs can be reduced.

However, experimental screening of drug combinations is very slow and expensive, and therefore, often fails to discover the full benefits of combination therapy, they said.

"The model gives very accurate results. For example, the values of the so-called correlation coefficient were more than 0.9 in our experiments, which points to excellent reliability," Rousu said.

In experimental measurements, a correlation coefficient of 0.8-0.9 is considered

reliable, the researchers said.

The model accurately predicts how a drug combination selectively inhibits particular cancer cells when the effect of the drug combination on that type of cancer has not been previously tested, they said.

"This will help cancer researchers to prioritise which drug combinations to choose from thousands of options for further research," said Tero Aittokallio from the University of Helsinki in Finland.

The researchers noted that the same machine learning approach could be used for non-cancerous diseases. They said, in that case, the model would have to be re-trained with data related to that disease.

For example, the model could be used to study how different combinations of antibiotics affect bacterial infections or how effectively different combinations of drugs kill cells that have been infected by the SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus, according to the researchers. -PTI

'Students falling behind in math during pandemic'

A disproportionately large number of poor and minority students were not in schools for assessments this fall, complicating efforts to measure the pandemic's effects on some of the most vulnerable students, a not-for-profit company that administers standardized testing said Tuesday.

Overall, NWEA's fall assessments showed elementary and middle school students have fallen measurably behind in math, while most appear to be progressing at a normal pace in reading since schools were forced to abruptly close in March and pick-up online.

The analysis of data from nearly 4.4 million US students in grades 3-8 represents one of the first significant measures of the pandemic's impacts on learning.

But researchers at NWEA, whose MAP Growth assessments are meant to measure student proficiency, caution they may be underestimating the effects on minority and economically disadvantaged groups.

Those students made up a significant portion of the roughly 1 in 4 students who tested in 2019 but were missing from 2020 testing. NWEA said they may have opted out of the assessments, which were given in-person and remotely, because they lacked reliable technology or stopped going to school.

"Given we've also seen school district reports of higher levels of absenteeism in many different school districts, this is something to really be concerned about," researcher Megan Kuhfeld said on a call with reporters.

The NWEA findings show that, compared to last year, students scored an average of 5 to 10 percentile points lower in math, with students in grades three, four and five experiencing the largest drops.

English language arts scores were largely the same as last year. NWEA Chief Executive Chris Minnick pointed to the sequential nature of math, where one year's skills — or deficits — carry over into the next year.

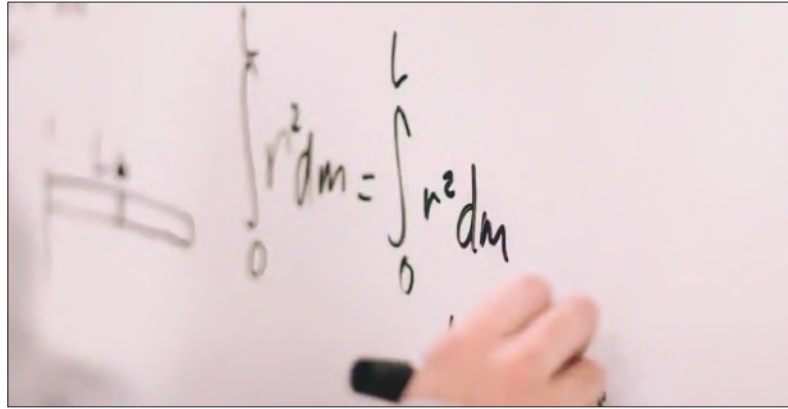
"The challenge around mathematics is an acute one, and it's something we're going to be dealing with even after we get back in school," he said.

NWEA compared grade-level performance on the 2019 and 2020 tests. It also analyzed student growth over time, based on how individual students did on assess-

beginning of the school year, with some grades 12 or more weeks behind.

Black, Hispanic, American Indian and students in schools serving largely low-income families fared worse but the pandemic so far hasn't widened existing achievement gaps, the Renaissance report said.

NWEA said that while it saw some dif-



Instagram adds India-first 'Live Rooms' feature to let users go live with up to 3 guests

Facebook-owned Instagram has announced a feature called 'Live Rooms' to help creators go 'Live' with up to three guests, giving them more opportunities to have conversations with their communities and grow their audiences.

The early tests for this feature were done in India and now, India is one of the first countries to roll it out more broadly, according to a statement.

The roll-out for 'Live Rooms' has begun and will be available to everyone in India and Indonesia soon, it added.

The statement said Instagram Live views in India grew 60 per cent on a week-on-week basis in March (comparing March 18-24 period with the week of March 11-17).

"Now, with the ability to go Live with up to three guests, creators have more opportunities to have conversations with their communities, and to expand their reach and use cases for Live," it added.

The early test for 'Live Rooms' took place with a few creators in India, including @shereenlovebug aka Shereen Bharwani, @mr.mnv aka Manav Chhabra and @rohina aka Rohina Anand Khira. Ajit Mohan, vice-president and managing director at



Facebook India, said creators are at the forefront of pushing culture and creativity on Instagram and the company is constantly innovating to help them express themselves better.

"This year, in particular, has seen extensive use of Live, and as physical distancing norms continue, Live will remain an invaluable feature to bring friends, families and audiences together, and foster meaningful

conversations," he added.

Mohan said that from the launch of Reels to the testing and roll-out of Live Rooms, India is playing a crucial role in the way products are being designed for the future.

Instagram noted that while 'Live Rooms' will facilitate greater audience engagement, safety continues to be a focus and the existing safety measures will work on Live Rooms as well. -PTI

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Constr. Div. No. 1st Sgr

FRESH NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

NIT No.107/e-tendering /CD-Ist/ 10344-60 DATED.01-12-2020

For and on behalf of the President of India (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States/UTs/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	T&D of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract	MH of Account
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1.	Improvement of BAM Khan Hazratbal road including Gousia Mohalla Mughal road and allied links at Lal Bazar / Nowpora to Rainawari Chowk / Improvement / Upgradation of alamgari Bazar Sazgaripora Rajouri Kadal including Ganie stadium to Rangji Masjid by way of Providing and laying WBM G2nd at Shahibuddin lane and Malik lane Malkha Nowhatta road.	2,93,000/-	200/-	5860/-	25 days	09-12-2020	DEE	State Sector
2.	Improvement of BAM Khan Hazratbal road including Gousia Mohalla Mughal road and allied links at Lal Bazar / Nowpora to Rainawari Chowk / Improvement / Upgradation of alamgari Bazar Sazgaripora Rajouri Kadal including Ganie stadium to Rangji Masjid by way of Re-construction surface drain from Rajouri kadal Sazgaripora road.	2,37,000/-	200/-	4740/-	30 days	09-12-2020	DEE	State Sector
3.	Improvement of BAM Khan Hazratbal road including Gousia Mohalla Mughal road and allied links at Lal Bazar / Nowpora to Rainawari Chowk / Improvement / Upgradation of alamgari Bazar Sazgaripora Rajouri Kadal including Ganie stadium to Rangji Masjid by way of Construction of lane at Kanitar chowk, providing and laying WBM Grade 1st, WBM Grade 2nd from the H/O. Ab. Rashid Akhounupto H/O. Mohammad Shafi Khan.	1,50,000/-	200/-	3000/-	20 days	09-12-2020	DEE	State Sector
4.	Improvement of BAM Khan Hazratbal road including Gousia Mohalla Mughal road and allied links at Lal Bazar / Nowpora to Rainawari Chowk / Improvement / Upgradation of alamgari Bazar Sazgaripora Rajouri Kadal including Ganie stadium to Rangji Masjid by way of Providing and laying WBM G2nd in patches / stretches and WBM Grade 3rd in full and construction of edge wall (at spots) Usmani colony Lal Bazar Srinagar.	5,94,000/-	300/-	11880/-	40 days	09-12-2020	DEE, CEE	State Sector
5.	Improvement of BAM Khan Hazratbal road including Gousia Mohalla Mughal road and allied links at Lal Bazar / Nowpora to Rainawari Chowk / Improvement / Upgradation of alamgari Bazar Sazgaripora Rajouri Kadal including Ganie stadium to Rangji Masjid by way of providing and laying WBM Grade 1st and WBM Grade 2nd at Saderbal opposite Masjid Sharief starting Asha Villa upto H/O. Gh. Qadir.	1,17,000/-	200/-	2340/-	15 days	09-12-2020	DEE	State Sector
6.	Improvement / Upgradation of Pantha Chowk Khrew Khonmoh road (PKK) including allied links by way of construction of cement concrete drain, providing and laying WBM Grade 1st in patches and WBM Grade 2nd in full at Lane No. 2 Naaz colony Pantha chowk Srinagar.	4,46,000/-	200/-	8920/-	25 days	09-12-2020	DEE	State Sector

1. Position of AAA/TS:-Accorded
2. Position of Funds:-Available.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-12-2020
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02.12.2020 10:00 A.M to 08.12.2020 4.00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	02.12.2020 from 10:30A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	08.12.2020 upto 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09.12.2020 at 11:00AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
Note :-The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploaded softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectarat Finance department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-

- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
 - The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing E-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.
 - Similarly, instead of insisting on actual Call Deposit Receipt , a copy of same duly pledged to the concerned department should be uploaded by the tenderers. However before allotting the work or issuing the supply order , the original CDR should be obtained and kept on record.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender inviting authority) and earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/ pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender receiving authority) .
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
 - All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).
 - 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.
 - Earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR shall be released after D.L.P is over successfully.

No.107/e-tendering/CD-Ist/10344-60

DATED_01-12-2020

DIPK-9833/20

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
R&B Construction Division No. 1st Srinagar

DID YOU GET
YOUR COPY OF
**KASHMIR
OBSERVER**

REGULARLY?

IF NOT

CONTACT
CIRCULATION
INCHARGE

IRSHAD AHMAD:
7006276927

General Manager Estates Special Sub-Division, JKPDC Srinagar

1st EXTENSION NOTICE

Of

E-NIT NO: 03 of 2020-21 Dated: 10-09-2020

Due to poor or no response, the timelines for submission of bids for the above mentioned tender for the works depicted in E-NIT NO: 03 of 2020-21 Dated:10-09-2020 at S.No.1,3,4,5,7,8&9 hosted on jktenders.gov.in, are extended as per the following details:-

S.No.	Particulars	Date	Time
1.	Bid documents submission end date	07-12-2020	1600 Hrs.
2.	Technical Bid Opening Date	08-12-2020	1400 Hrs.
3.	Financial Bid Opening Date	12-12-2020	1400 Hrs.

- All intending bidders have to submit hard copy of Tender Document fee (DD IN ORIGINAL and EMD IN ORIGINAL IN THE FORM OF CDR) prior one day before the "Bid documents submission end date" ends.
- All other terms & conditions would remain same.

DIPK-NB-4266/20

No: - JKPDC/Estates/Tech/3139-45

Dated:-30-11-2020

Sd/-
General Manager
Estates Special Sub-Division,
JKPDC Srinagar

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Craft Development Institute, Srinagar

EXTENSION NOTICE

Craft Development Institute (CDI) in Association with Handicraft and Handloom Development Department, J&K is in the process of registering Kishtwari Lol under Geographical Indication of Goods Act and Certification and Labelling of Kashmir Tweed.

In this regard, a comprehensive survey to document the detailed craft process of both the crafts needs to be carried out in the craft concentrated areas at District Kishtwar, Bandipora and Kupwara etc.

For this application are invited from eligible candidates having Bachelors Degree with 3 years experience of working in the craft sector to carry out the task as per the Terms of Reference which can be obtained from the Institute on any working day.

Last date for submission of the proposal along with financial bid and resume is extended till 7th December 2020.

Craft Development Institute,
Baghi-Ali-Mardan-Khan,
Nowshera, Srinagar
0194-2411430/2411772

CDI/ Estd/ Advt./2020-21/
1st December 2020

DIPK-NB-4263/20

Sd/
Director, CD

Iran's president rejects bill that would boost enrichment

Agencies

Tehran- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday rejected a bill approved by parliament that would have suspended UN inspections and boosted uranium enrichment, saying it was harmful to diplomatic efforts aimed at restoring the 2015 nuclear deal and easing US sanctions.

The tug-of-war over the bill, which gained momentum after the killing of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist last month, reflects the rivalry between Rouhani, a relative moderate, and hard-line lawmakers who dominate parliament and favour a more confrontational approach to the West.

The bill would have suspended UN inspections and required the government to resume enriching uranium to 20 per cent if European nations fail to provide relief from crippling U.S. sanctions on the country's oil and banking sectors. That level falls short of the threshold needed for nuclear weapons but is higher than that required for civilian purposes.

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting, Rouhani said his administration, does not agree with that and considers it harmful for the trend of diplomatic activities." He implied the lawmakers were positioning themselves ahead of elections planned for June.

He added that today, we are more powerful in the nuclear field than at any other time.

Trump teases 2024 run at White House Christmas party

Washington: US President Donald Trump teased running again for president in 2024 as he hosted a holiday reception at the White House on Tuesday evening.

"It's been an amazing four years," Trump told the crowd, which included many Republican National Committee members. "We're trying to do another four years. Otherwise, I'll see you in four years."

The video of Trump's appearance was streamed live on Facebook by one attendee, Pam Pollard, who is national committeewoman for the Oklahoma GOP.

It showed dozens of people crammed into the Cross Hall of the White House state floor, standing closely together. Many seen in the video were not wearing masks.

The Trumps began hosting holiday receptions this week, intent on celebrating a final season before Trump leaves office on January 20.

According to social media postings reviewed by The Associated Press, the events have featured large crowds of often mask-less attendees gathered indoors — violating the very public health guidance the US government has pressed the nation to follow this holiday season as cases of Covid-19 skyrocket across the country.

In the video, Trump is heard continuing to air baseless allegations of election fraud to explain his defeat by President-elect Joe Biden despite his attorney general, William Barr, telling the AP earlier on Tuesday that the Justice Department had not uncovered evidence of widespread voter fraud and had seen nothing that would change the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.



UK To Vaccinate People Against Covid From Next Week, Clears Pfizer Shot

Press Trust Of India

London- The UK on Wednesday became the first country to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine against COVID-19 after "rigorous" analysis by its independent regulator, paving the way for mass vaccinations from as early as next week among people at the highest risk of death from the deadly virus.

The British regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), says the jab, which claims to offer up to 95 per cent protection against Covid-19 illness, is safe for roll out.

The UK government said the approval follows a "rigorous" analysis of the data, conducted at a faster pace but without any compromise on standards.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson welcomed the fantastic news and confirmed that the vaccine will begin to be made available from next week.

It's the protection of vaccines that will ultimately allow us to reclaim our lives and get the economy moving again, Johnson, a COVID-19 survivor, said.

The vaccines require two doses 21 days apart, with strong immunity response kicking in after seven days of the second dose. The MHRA said it will continue to monitor the data on a rolling basis once

the vaccines are deployed among the British public.

I am thrilled. Help is on its way we can see the dawn. Let's redouble our efforts to follow the lockdown rules, said UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

It's been a very tough 2020 but 2021 will be brighter, he said.

The UK government has formally accepted the recommendation from the MHRA, which means the two-dose vaccine can be injected into arms of high-risk categories within days. Around 10 million doses should be available soon, with the first 800,000 arriving in the UK in the coming days.

The vaccine will be made available across the UK from next week. The NHS [National Health Service] has decades of experience in delivering large scale vaccination programmes and will begin putting their extensive preparations into action to provide care and support to all those eligible for vaccination, said a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

This follows months of rigorous clinical trials and a thorough analysis of the data by experts at the MHRA who have concluded that the vaccine has met its strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness, the spokesperson said.

The UK's Joint Committee on

Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) has published its advice for the priority groups to receive the vaccine, including care home residents, health and care staff, the elderly and the clinically extremely vulnerable. Elderly people in care homes and care home staff are top of the priority list, followed by over-80s and health and care staff.

Professor Wei Shen Lim of the JCVI told reporters at a Downing Street briefing that vaccine prioritisation has been based on the risk of death from Covid-19 and the hope is that "in phase one of the vaccination programme, 90 to 99 per cent of those who are most at risk of dying from Covid-19 will be covered".

NHS Chief Executive, Simon Stevens, said the health service was preparing for "the largest-scale vaccination campaign in our country's history".

Around 50 hospitals are on standby and vaccination centres in venues such as conference centres are being set up now, with military personnel being deployed to assist with the logistics.

The joint vaccine, produced by American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and German biotech firm BioNTech, had recently claimed trials suggested it works well in people of all ages, races and ethnicities.

Word leaders to address high-level, special session of UNGA on COVID-19 pandemic

Press Trust Of India

United Nations- World leaders, the top leadership of the UN and vaccine developers will address a two-day, special session of the UN General Assembly on COVID-19 this week and discuss the pandemic's impact as well as the multi-faceted, coordinated response required to address the greatest global health crisis in decades.

The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic will take place on December 3 and 4 at the UN Headquarters.

The world organisation said government leaders, United Nations' principals and other relevant stakeholders would be able to engage in dialogue on the impact of the pandemic on people, societies and economies and discuss the multi-faceted, coordinated response required to address this crisis.

Serum Institute of India Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawala

la will also address the session through a pre-recorded video on December 4.

BioNTech co-founders Ugur Sahin and Ozlem Tureci, vaccine team leader at Oxford University Sarah Gilbert and Chief Executive Officer of GAVI (the vaccine alliance) Seth Berkley will address the special session virtually.

AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford are working on a COVID-19 vaccine, while global drugmaker Pfizer and BioNTech announced their vaccine candidate is 95 per cent effective.

World leaders expected to address the session are Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, French President Emmanuel Macron, Nepalese Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

President Donald Trump is not listed as a speaker for the session and US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar will address the high-level meeting.

The two-day special session will allow many stakeholders to share their experiences in fighting the pandemic, reflect on the global response to date, and forge a united, coordinated, and people-centered path forward.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed more than 1.3 million lives and infected more than 54 million people globally, "is not only the greatest global health crisis since the creation of the United Nations 75 years ago, it is also a humanitarian, socio-economic, security and human rights crisis," the world body said.

The session's first day will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly Volkan Bozkir, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, President of the Security Council for the month of December South African Ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila and Chair of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries Iham Heydar oglu Aliyev. The General Assembly will then hear from world leaders.

China says its close ties with Nepal will not affect 'any third party'

Press Trust Of India

Beijing- China on Wednesday said that its close ties with Nepal, reinforced during the recent visit of its Defence Minister to the Himalayan nation, will not affect "any third party".

Defence Minister Gen Wei Fenghe met Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and held talks with Army Chief Gen. Purna Chandra Thapa on ways to resume military cooperation and training impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during his visit on Sunday.

We believe that our cooperation is in the benefit of both peoples and conducive to the socio-economic development in Nepal. This relationship will not affect any third party, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying

told a media briefing here on a question on Gen. Wei's visit.

During his visit, Gen Wei, also a State Councillor, lauded Nepal's leadership for resolutely pursuing the "one-China" policy and offered firm support to the Himalayan country in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, the defence ministry said here on Monday.

Under the "one-China" policy, Beijing emphasises other countries to recognise Taiwan and Tibet as part of China, it said.

As China firmed up its ties with Nepal, which shares borders with Tibet, with heavy investments besides loans and financial assistance, Beijing wants Kathmandu to stop the free-flow of Tibetans to travel to Dharamshala in India to meet Tibet's highest spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, the statement said.

Government of Jammu And Kashmir			
Office of District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Anantnag			
Ph. 01932-222291(Office), Fax: 01932-22229 / 223164,email: entanantnag@ "Greater participation for a Stronger Democracy			
Subject: Publication of List of Panchayat Halqa-wise Polling Locations in Phase-III for conduct of DDC, Panchayat and Municipal By-Polls-2020			
NOTIFICATION			
Following locations are hereby notified for conduct of DDC Elections, Panchayat and Municipal Bye-polls for 3rd Phase of elections scheduled on 04.12.2020 covering Khovripora, Hiller District Development Constituencies besides Mattan and Seer Hamdan Municipal Committees.			
For DDC Election and Panchayat By –Polls, 2020(Phase-III):			
S.No.	Name of Block	NO. & Name of the Panchayat Halqa	Name of the Clubbed Polling Location
1	Khovripora	PH-01 Akura	Govt. Middle School Bonpora Akura
2	Khovripora	PH-02 Badigam	Govt. Middle School Badaran Badigam
3	Khovripora	PH-03 Brad	Govt. Middle School Brad
4	Khovripora	PH-04 Bun Nambal A	Govt. High School Nambal
5	Khovripora	PH-05 Bun Nambal B	Govt. Middle School Nambal Khah pora
6	Khovripora	PH-06 Bonpora Nanil	Govt. Middle School Nanil
7	Khovripora	PH-07 Fohar	Govt. High School Fohar
8	Khovripora	PH-08 Hangalpawa	Govt. Middle School Hangalpawa
9	Khovripora	PH-09 Hapatnard A	Govt. High School Hapatnard
10	Khovripora	PH-10 Hapatnard B	Govt. High School Hapatnard
11	Khovripora	PH-11 Hardu Akad	Govt. High School Akad
12	Khovripora	PH-12 Hassan Noor	Govt. High School Hassannoor
13	Khovripora	PH-13 Herpora Nanil	Govt. Higher secondary school Nanil
14	Khovripora	PH-14 Hugam	Govt. High School Hugam
15	Khovripora	PH-15 Hutmurrah	Govt. High School Hutmurrah
16	Khovripora	PH-16 Khairbugh	Govt. Middle School Khairbugh
17	Khovripora	PH-17 khayar	Govt. High School khayar
18	Khovripora	PH-18 Manigam	Govt. Middle School Manigam
19	Khovripora	PH-19 Nowgam A	Govt. High School Singhpura
20	Khovripora	PH-20 Nowgam B	Govt. High School Singhpura
21	Khovripora	PH-21 Paibugh	1. pyt. Ghar Ganiepora Paibugh
22	Khovripora		2. Govt. Middle School Shamsipora Paibugh
23	Khovripora	PH-22 Panzmulla	Govt. Middle School Panzmulla
24	Khovripora	PH-23 poshkeeri	Govt. High School Poshkeeri
25	Khovripora	PH-24 Rambirpora A	Govt. High School Rambirpora
26	Khovripora	PH-25 Rambirpora B	Govt. Girls Middle School Rambirpora
27	Khovripora	PH-26 Rampora	Govt. Middle School Rampora
28	Khovripora	PH-27 Salia A	Govt. Higher secondary school Salia
29	Khovripora	PH-28 Salia B	Govt. Higher secondary school Salia
30	Khovripora	PH-29 Seligam	Govt. Middle School Seligam
31	Khovripora	PH-30 Shumhall	Govt. Middle School Shumhal
32	Khovripora	PH-31 Vail Nagbal A	Govt. High School Nagbal Vail
33	Khovripora	PH-32 Vail Nagbal B	Govt. High School Nagbal Vail
1	Hiller	Changoo	GMS BADERMUNA
2	Hiller	Checki Wangund	HSS Checki Wangund
3	Hiller	Dalwatch	HS DALWATCH
4	Hiller	Dingowari	GHS MANZMOH
5	Hiller	Hiller	HS Hillar
6	Hiller	Lower Munda	GMS Lower Munda
7	Hiller	Manzmooch	PS Manzmoh
8	Hiller	Poolia	GMS CHINGUND
9	Hiller	Sadiwara-A	GHS Sadiwara
10	Hiller	Sadiwara-B	GHS Sadiwara
11	Hiller	Shistergam	GMS Gagisgund
12	Hiller	Tanjloo	GHS Checki Wangund
S.No.	Name of Municipality	No. and Name of Vacant Ward	Name of the Polling Location (Polling Buiding Name)
1	Mattan	4-Kralpora	Govt Hr.Sec School Mattan
1	Seer- Hamdan	1-Gund Bagh	Town-Hall Seer-Hamdan
2	Seer- Hamdan	2-Lone Mohalla	
3	Seer- Hamdan	3-Malik Mohalla	Govt Middle School Chan- Mohalla Seer-Hamdan
4	Seer- Hamdan	4 -Chana Mohalla	Govt Middle School Gaurd Mohalla Seer-Hamdan
5	Seer- Hamdan	5-Mugadam Mohalla	
6	Seer- Hamdan	6 -Gad Mohalla	
7	Seer- Hamdan	8 -Kral Mohalla	
8	Seer- Hamdan	9-Hiram Mohalla	Town-Hall Seer-Hamdan
9	Seer- Hamdan	11-Ganaie Mohalla	Govt.Girls High School School-Colony Seer-Hamdan
10	Seer- Hamdan	12-Shakhzaz Mohalla	Govt H.S.School School-Colony,Seer-Hamdan
No.DEO/Ang/P. STNS/1887-2007 Sd/- DIPK-NB-4271/20 Distrcot Election Officer, Anantnag			

SAD DEMISE



With profound and sorrow it is informed that Ghulam Qadir Dhoobi S/o Mohd Sultan Dhoobi R/o Dhoobi Mohalla, Shalimar Srinagar passed away on December 1st , 2020 after brief illness.

The Fateh Khawani will be held on 4th of December 2020 (Friday) at his ancestral graveyard Shalimar, Srinagar.

BEREAVED

Farooq Ahmed Dhoobi and Javid Ahmed Dhoobi (Sons)
(7006953230/9697097151)

NOTE: Ladies are requested that they will not bring any kind of belongings with them.

از وفات نائب تحصیلدار انت ناگ با اجلاس جاوید احمد حکیم نائب تحصیلدار اچھیل			
معلوم درخواست غائب: روزی جان درود ستارہ دہلال احمدیہ ساکان اور ایگم پٹرش RBA سرکاری قہت الہا 294			
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام			
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکان صدر نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC سرکاری فتر بازہ			
میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹرش عادی حلقہ تحصیل افرانکبہ بڑیل درت ہے۔			
نام صاحب کتبہ ولدیت	نمبر	پیشہ	آدائی
مظفر احمد شیر گوری ولد لاال شیر گوری	48 سال	دوگہ داری	5000
فہیمہ فاؤزہ مظفر احمد شیر گوری	40 سال	کھریلو کام	LPC
تاجین بی بی مظفر پیر۔۔۔	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	---
یاسرین مظفر پیر۔۔۔	14 سال	---	---
الید اختر۔۔۔۔۔	10 سال	---	---
انکے علاوہ اولوں کی فرکانہ میں موجود ہیں سے سال کا کتبہ جھپٹ پندرہ سالوں سے دھ بازہ میں رہائش			
پڑھنے اور سال کی کتبہ سالادہ عادی مدقروہ سے کم تک ہے اس حوالے سے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو			
موجودہ سرکاری اجراء کرنے کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض فتر بازہ			
میں پیش کریں۔ معاذ گورنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔			
تقریر الصدور نائب تحصیلدار انت ناگ			
MJA			

از نیابت اچھیل با اجلاس جاوید احمد حکیم نائب تحصیلدار اچھیل			
معلوم درخواست غائب: روزی جان درود ستارہ دہلال احمدیہ ساکان اور ایگم پٹرش RBA سرکاری قہت الہا 294			
اشتہار برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام			
معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں ساکان یہ عنوان مال فتر پٹرش زیر کار دہائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹرش عادی حلقہ سے مشمول دیگر کاغذات			
پٹرش کاغذ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیال ہوا کہ سالک مشغ کار ایگم پٹرش سکوت پڑے سالک کا کتبہ بڑیل پٹرش پر مشتمل ہے۔			
نام صاحب کتبہ ولدیت	نمبر	پیشہ	آدائی
نعام قادری۔۔۔	48 سال	دوگہ داری	5000
مریم بیگم پیر۔۔۔۔۔	45 سال	کھریلو کام	---
یڈال احمد پیر۔۔۔۔۔	21 سال	دوگہ داری	5000
مدوی جان فتر۔۔۔۔۔	19 سال	زیر تعلیم	---
فرود ستارہ در فتر۔۔۔۔۔	17 سال	---	---
ماد پیر پیر۔۔۔۔۔	16 سال	---	---
نیکس احمد پیر۔۔۔۔۔	14 سال	---	---
اس کے علاوہ زیر کوئی افراد کتبہ میں نہیں سے سالک کے کتبہ سالادہ زری و غیر ذریعہ 1800000 روپیہ سے لہذا اگر کسی شخص یا			
شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ دو فتر میں اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ معاذ گورنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض			
قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔			
تقریر الصدور نائب تحصیلدار اچھیل			
MJA			

Farmers' protest leads to closure of key route on Noida-Delhi border

Police advised commuters to avoid using Chilla route, take DND or Kalindi Kunj route

Farmers protesting against the new farm laws continued their sit-in at the Noida-Delhi border for the second day on Wednesday, leading to closure of a key route that connects Uttar Pradesh with the national capital.

The Noida Traffic Police has advised commuters travelling to Delhi to avoid using the Chilla route and instead take the DND or Kalindi Kunj route.

The farmers at the Delhi-Noida border belong to various districts of western Uttar Pradesh and want to reach the national capital to join the bigger stir launched by farmers of Punjab and Haryana against the Centre's agriculture reform laws.

"The Chilla route is obstructed due to the farmers' sit-in demonstration at the Noida-Delhi border. Kindly use alternative routes (DND or Kalindi Kunj) to reach your destination," the Noida Traffic Police tweeted. Hundreds of farmers affiliated to the Bharatiya Kisan Union and other groups had gathered at the border on Tuesday evening where heavy security has been deployed on both Noida and Delhi sides, which has prevented them from proceeding further.

Transporters threaten to halt North India ops to support farmers' protest

NEW DELHI: Coming forward in support of agitating farmers, transporters' apex body AIMTC on Wednesday threatened to halt operations in northern India from December 8 if the government fails to address concerns of the farming community.

The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) is the apex body of transporters, representing about 95 lakh truckers and other entities. "AIMTC has already extended its support to the farmer agitation from day one. We have decided on stopping our operations strategically starting from North India and if the government does not address the issue of the farmers then we may decide to go for shutting down of transport operations nationwide in their support," AIMTC President Kultaran Singh Atwal said.

Atwal said the road transport fraternity of the country has extended its full support to farmers who are 'ann daata' (food providers).

AIMTC Core Committee Chairman Bal Malkit Singh told PTI, "Starting December 8, we will halt the movement of supplies in entire North India including Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. We will then escalate it to entire country if the government fails to address their issues."

The AIMTC, in a statement, said

the farmers are fighting for their legitimate rights and over 70 per cent of the rural households depend on agriculture.

Entire North India is affected and thousands of trucks carrying food, vegetables and other perishable and non-perishable items coming from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir are impacted, it said. AIMTC supports the farmers as 65 per cent of the trucks are engaged in carrying farm produce, it added.

"At present it is the season of apples, which are getting wasted. Apart from that potatoes, onions and other fruits and vegetables as well as other essential commodities like medicines, milk etc too (are) stuck up as their movement is disrupted, which is leading to their shortage in Delhi and in other northern states," the statement said.

The situation will worsen in the days to come, unless the government take prudent and pragmatic steps to resolve farmers' concerns, it said.

"The government must treat the farmers with dignity and allay their apprehensions on the farm Acts. We wholeheartedly support the cause of the farmers and look forward to a peaceful and amicable resolution of their issues raised by the Government," it said.



A GROUP OF BOATMEN extracting sand from river Jhelum in Sumbal area of Bandipora district on Wednesday. —KO Photo: Abid Bhat

SC Directs Centre To Install CCTV Cameras In Offices Of CBI, ED & NIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 2: The Supreme Court directed the Centre on Wednesday to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies, including the CBI, the ED and National Investigation Agency (NIA), which conduct interrogations and have the power of arrest.

A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman said that states and Union Territories (UTs) should ensure that CCTV cameras are installed at each and every police station, making them imperative at all entry and exit points, main gate, all lock-ups, all corridors, lobby and reception area as also areas outside the lock-up room.

The apex court, which had earlier ordered installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to check human rights abuses, said that as most of the probe agencies including Narcotics Control Bureau, Department of Revenue Intelligence and Serious Fraud Investigation Office carry out

interrogation in their offices, CCTVs be "compulsorily installed" in all offices where such questioning takes place and accused are kept.

It said the CCTV systems must be equipped with night vision and have audio as well as video footage and it shall be mandatory for the Centre, states and UTs to purchase such system which allows storage of data for maximum period possible, and in any case not below one year.

"In addition, the Union of India is also directed to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment in the offices of: Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Department of Revenue Intelligence, Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), any other agency which carries out interrogations and has the power of arrest," said the bench, also comprising Justices K J Joseph and Aniruddha Bose.

"As most of these agencies carry

out interrogation in their office(s), CCTVs shall be compulsorily installed in all offices where such interrogation and holding of accused takes place in the same manner as it would in a police station," the bench said in its order.

The top court said that in September this year, it had impleaded all the states and UTs in the matter to find out the exact position of CCTV cameras in each police station as well as constitution of Oversight Committees in accordance with the April 3, 2018 order.

The apex court, while dealing with a matter related to custodial torture, had in July this year taken note of a 2017 case in which it had ordered installation of CCTV cameras in all the police stations to check human rights abuses, videography of crime scene and setting up of a Central Oversight Committee and such a panel in every states and Union Territory. PTI ABA MNL SJK SA.—PTI

Ex-HC judge Karnan arrested for objectionable comments on judiciary

Accused of releasing offensive videos/posts and threats of sexual violence against judiciary officials



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Police on Wednesday arrested retired High Court Judge, Justice CS Karnan, in connection with the release on the social media offensive videos/posts with "objectionable comments and threats of sexual violence against judicial officials and their family members".

Karnan had allegedly released the said videos, after which several lawyers had written to the Chief Justice of India against him. The apex court had asked them to approach appropriate authorities.

In October, the Cyber Crime Wing of Chennai Police had registered a case against Karnan.

The complaint was filed by a non-practising advocate S Devika, a non-aggrieved party, and Karnan's contention was that only an aggrieved party can file a complaint against any person.

Nevertheless, Karnan had appeared before the police for inquiry.

Meanwhile, a case was filed in the Madras High Court to register a case against him.

It may be recalled that when Karnan was a Judge in the Calcutta High Court, he was sentenced to six-month jail for contempt of court in 2017 by the Supreme Court. He was arrested by the Kolkata Police and served his jail term. —IANS

Honey sold by major brands in India adulterated with sugar syrup: CSE

Honey sold by several major brands in India has been found adulterated with sugar syrup, the environment watchdog CSE claimed Wednesday.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) food researchers selected 13 top and smaller brands of processed and raw honey being sold in India to check their purity.

They found 77 per cent of the samples adulterated with the addition of sugar syrup. Out of the 22 samples checked, only five passed all the tests.

"Honey samples from leading brands such as Dabur, Patanjali, Baidyanath, Zandu, Hitkari and Apis Himalaya, all failed the NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) test," the study said.

There was no immediate reply to queries mailed to Dabur, Emami (Zandu) and Patanjali on the CSE findings, while spokespersons for Baidyanath and other companies couldn't be contacted immediately.

Samples of these brands were first tested at the Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) at the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Gujarat.

According to the Centre for Science and Environment, almost all the top brands passed the tests of purity, while a few smaller brands failed the tests to detect C4 sugar—it

is the basic adulteration using cane sugar.

"But when the same brands were tested using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) laboratory tests currently being used globally to check for such modified sugar syrups almost all big and small brands failed. Out of the 13 brands tests, only three passed the NMR test, which was done by a specialised laboratory in Germany," it claimed.

"What we found was shocking. It shows how the business of adulteration has evolved so that it can pass the stipulated tests in India. Our concern is not just that the honey we eat is adulterated, but that this adulteration is difficult to catch. In fact, we have found that the sugar syrups are designed so that they can go undetected," said Amit Khurana, programme director of CSE's Food Safety and Toxins team.

The CSE also claimed that it tracked down Chinese trade portals which were advertising fructose syrup that can bypass tests to check adulteration. It also found that the same Chinese companies that advertised this fructose syrup that can beat C3 and C4 tests were also exported to India. CSE director general Sunita Narain said they then conducted an undercover operation to find out more.

"Chinese companies informed CSE that even if 50-80 per cent of the honey is adulterated with syrup, it would pass all stipulated tests. A sample of the syrup that can bypass tests was then sent by the Chinese company as paint pigment to get through customs," she claimed.

We are consuming honey more of it to fight the pandemic. But honey adulterated with sugar will not make us well. It will, in fact, make us even more vulnerable. On the other hand, what should also concern us is that the loss of bees will lead to a collapse of our food system bees are critical for pollination; if honey is adulterated, then not only do we lose our health, but also the productivity of our agriculture," she said.

Narain said it is time to outwit the business of adulteration.

"We need to strengthen enforcement in India through public testing so that companies are held responsible. The government should get samples tested using advanced technologies and make this information public so that consumers are aware and our health is not compromised. It will also hold companies responsible," Narain said.

"Ensure that every honey company is required to trace back the origins of the honey from the bee-keeper to the hive," she added.

Shiv Sena Asks Centre To Ban Use Of Loudspeakers In Mosques

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena has asked the Centre to take steps to stop the use of loudspeakers in mosques to curb noise pollution. An editorial in Sena mouthpiece "Saamana" said the issue is of noise pollution and environment protection.

"The Centre should promulgate an ordinance to stop loudspeakers on mosques to prevent noise pollution," it said.

The comments came amid a row over Shiv Sena's Mumbai-South vibhag pramukh (division head) Pandurang Sakpal's suggestion of holding an "Azaan" recital competition for Muslim children.

The editorial said the BJP's criticism of the Sena leader praising "Azaan" was similar to describing farmers agitating (against new farm laws) on the Delhi borders as

"Pakistani terrorists."

It said most of the agitating farmers are former soldiers or those whose children are defending the country's borders now.



"What to expect from these people who call the farmers terrorists. Trolls say the Shiv Sena has given up Hindutva, but pictures of them

(BJP leaders) eating Eid delicacies are published," the Marathi publication said.

"We don't want to politicise this because the country's 22 crore Muslims are Indian citizens," it added.

It also said even though a law has been passed against cow slaughter, its sale, purchase and consumption is legal in the BJP-ruled states of Goa and North East.

"If this is not appeasement for votes, then what is it?" the editorial asked.

Defending Sena leader Sakpal, the editorial said he had only suggested to a Muslim foundation to hold an online "Azaan" competition so that people don't crowd outside, and celebrate rituals and festivals digitally from home.

Ex-girlfriend chops hair, pours super glue into eyes of boyfriend's bride in Bihar



PATNA: There's no fury greater on earth than woman scorned. Angry over her lover choosing another for his wife, a girl in Bihar's Nalanda district poured Fevi kwik, a super glue, into the eyes of the new bride after chopping off her hair.

The incident was reported late Tuesday, Mohamad Shibli Nomani, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Bihar Sarif confirmed the incident.

The girl was angry over the marriage of her boyfriend Gopal Ram. The wedding was in adjoining Shekhpura district on December 1.

After the marriage ceremony, Gopal Ram returned to his Mora Talab village with wife and other relatives in tow, the officer from Bhagan Bigha police station said.

The jilted lover, who was also a friend of Gopal

Ram's sister, managed a friendly entry into the house. With most of the family members tired and falling asleep, she entered into the bedroom and chopped off the hair of the newly wed girl, then poured Fevi kwik into her eyes.

The victim screamed in pain that awakened the other family members. They managed to catch the girl as she was trying to escape.

She was beaten up and held hostage through the night. When police reached at the spot, they handed her over.

"The victim is currently admitted in Sadar hospital in Bihar Sharif with severe burn injury. She could lose her eye sight. Her condition is stable at the moment," an official said.

Following the incident, situation remained tense in the village. Police is camping there to restore normalcy. —IANS

بند مائے کثرت مہربانی

ٹریفک قوانین کی پاسداری کریں۔

KINDLY OBEY TRAFFIC RULES

TRAFFIC POLICE CITY SRINAGAR

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