



Maximum : 2.0°
Minimum : -7.2°
Humidity : 91%

SUNSET
Today 06:01 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:29 AM

Contact: -0194-2502327
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &
YOUR COPY OF



www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P4 WORLD
BIDEN ADVISER: IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, CHINA ARE KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

US President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, says dealing with China, Afghanistan and Iran are key early priorities for the new....

P7 THINK
REVEALING REMINISCENCE BAITHAK(S) OF HERITAGE KASHMIRI HOUSES

In #Kashmir Diwan Khana usually refers to a large room/hall located on any of the floors (mostly ground/ top) used....



P11 SPORTS
Virat Kohli at 4, Cheteshwar Pujara rises to 6 in latest ICC Test Rankings

Virat Kohli remained the highest-placed Indian batsman at fourth position even as Cheteshwar....



Widom Quote!
We never know the worth of water till the well is dry."
— Thomas Fuller

NEWS DIGEST

Electric Shock Injures PDD Daily Wager

SRINAGAR: A daily wagger of the Power Development Department (PDD) on Saturday was injured due to electrocution in Kulgam district of south Kashmir. Manzoor Ahmad Dar of Damhal Hanjipora received an electric shock when he came in contact with a live wire in Nandmarg locality while repairing a transform, resulting in injuries to him, news agency KNO reported. Quoting officials, ● More On P10

OGW Arrested In Pampore: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba from Pampore town of Pulwama district. Junaid Altaf of Konibal locality of Pampore was arrested by a joint team of police, army's 50 RR and CRPF 110 battalion and incriminating material of LeT was recovered from his possession, a police spokesperson said Saturday. He said all the recovered ● More On P10

Banned Wildlife Items Seized, Man Held

SRINAGAR: A joint team of wildlife department officials, police and CRPF personnel recovered a large quantity of contraband wildlife products during a raid in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday and arrested the accused. On a specific information provided by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi (WLCBB), a team of Police, personnel of CRPF 40 Battalion and wildlife officials of ● More On P10

Missing Man Found Dead In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: The body of a missing man was recovered on Saturday in Cherkoot area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 33-year-old Javid Ahmad Mir's body was recovered in the forest area of Cherkoot on Saturday, a fortnight after he went missing from his home in Igzund village of Khumriyal on January 15, news agency GNS reported. Four days after his disappearance, the report said, a missing report ● More On P10

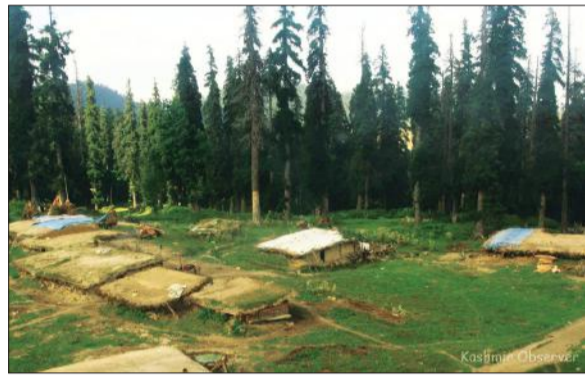
ITBP Gets New Commander In Ladakh

NEW DELHI: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which guards the Line of Actual Control with China, has posted a new officer to head its frontier in Ladakh, official sources said on Saturday. Lhari Dorjee Lhatoo, a 1999-batch officer of the Manipur cadre, will be replacing ITBP Inspector General (IG) Deepam Seth, who was commanding the force troops deployed along the LAC with China in Ladakh. Seth, a 1995-batch ● More On P10

Centre Okays Use Of J&K Forest Land For Non-Forestry Purposes

Agencies

SRINAGAR: For the first time after abrogation of Article 370, the Government of India has given its clearance for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes in Jammu & Kashmir for construction of geo-strategic and national importance. Central government has given approval for non-forest use of 680.1 hectares of forest land for construction of Ujh multipurpose hydro-electric project in district Kathua of Jammu &



Kashmir, a local news agency KNO reported Saturday while quoting official documents. The report further said that this was the first project submitted to Centre's Forest Advisory Committee after ● More On P10

THE REHABILITATION & RESETTLEMENT PLAN shall ensure that no rehabilitation is proposed over forest land. A copy of the approved R&R plan shall be submitted by the user agency to the UT administration who will monitor to ensure that no project affected person occupies forest land."

J&K Reports 3 More Covid-19 Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday three more coronavirus deaths while 76 new cases of virus were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

The victims officials said, were a 95-year-old man from ● More On P10

Doda Becomes Corona Free

Press Trust Of India

BHADERWAH: Jammu and Kashmir's Doda has become the first coronavirus-free district in the Union Territory after the last three active cases turned negative and subsequently discharged from hospital, officials said on Saturday.

The hilly district had not registered any new COVID-19 cases over the past fortnight, ● More On P10

Chilleh Kalan Ends, Chill Persists



A woman carries a bucket of water on her head as water lines in Srinagar and elsewhere froze due to severe cold conditions on Saturday. KO Picture, Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley continued to reel under intense cold conditions even as the winter's harshest

phase—the 40-day long Chilleh Kalan—ended with Srinagar recording the season's coldest day at minus 2 degree Celsius on Saturday. Srinagar city ● More On P10

Highway To Remain Closed On Thursdays
Jammu-Srinagar, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, shall remain closed for next four ● More On P10

30,000 KP's Apply For 2,000 Posts Under PM's Package

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Over 30,000 Kashmiri Pandits have applied for the 2,000 re-allocated government jobs under the prime minister's employment package and the selection process would be completed by the end of April, officials said on Saturday.

The prime minister's package for Kashmiri Pandit migrants announced in 2008 has two major components — one pertaining to the provision of 6,000 jobs for youth and another pertaining to the provision of 6,000 accommodation units for the recruited employees.

"As regards to the jobs, out of 6,000 posts, 3,841 candidates have already been selected and appointed in various departments. The remaining 2,000-odd posts have been referred to J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB)," a relief and rehabilitation department spokesperson said.

"The JKSSB has already received more than 30,000 applications for these posts and the selection process shall be completed by the end of April. This will ensure completion of the PM package component related to jobs," the official said.

He said there are a few posts which have remained unfilled due to ● More On P10

Injured Militant, Associate Surrenders During Pulwama Encounter: Police

Will Welcome Those With Open Arms Who Shun Violence: IGP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two local militants of Hizbul Mujahideen, one among them injured, laid down their arms during a gunfight with government forces in Lelhar area of Pulwama district, police said Saturday.

Acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, police, army's 50 RR and the personnel of CRPF 183 battalion launched a cordon and search operation in Lelhar area of the south Kashmir district around 8:00 pm Friday, a police spokesperson here said. The holed up militants, he said, fired upon



the search team when their presence got ascertained. "The search party retaliated to the fire leading to an encounter. However, the joint forces showed utmost ● More On P10

Cross-Border Firing Rattles Kathua

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: After exchanging fire along the Line of Control (LoC) for two consecutive days, the Indian and Pakistani troops on Saturday traded heavy gunfire along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Saturday.

The Pakistani army has violated the ceasefire again by resorting to unprovoked firing along the IB in Kathua district, they said.

The firing from across the border started around 10.10 pm on Friday in the Bobiyaan border outpost area of Hiranagar sector, prompting an effective retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), the officials said.

They said the cross-border firing between the ● More On P10

JKP Among Best Forces: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Saturday that Jammu and Kashmir police was among the best police organisations in the country and being accorded with one of the highest numbers of gallantry medals in the last few years, itself speaks about the courage and bravery of the JKP personnel.

Sinha made these remarks while attending Special Security Force's (SSF) "Bada Khana" held here at Raj Bhavan on Saturday, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, lauded the SSF personnel for performing their duties with a high order of ● More On P10

CBI Arrests ESIC Deputy Director With Rs 50K Bribe

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested Deputy Director of the ESIC posted in Jammu for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000.

Darbara Singh, incharge Regional Director, ESIC Jammu was arrested by CBI on the basis of a complaint filed by an employee of a private firm that provides security services to different private institutions, a spokesperson said. "The complainant came

to know in the month of December 2020 that a notice has been issued to the firm by ESIC, Regional Office," he said.

On knowing this, the spokesperson said, the complainant and the owner, both visited the office of ESIC to meet Dy. Director and during the meeting Singh allegedly told them that their papers were not proper and ESIC would impose a penalty of Rs.23, 90,850/- (approx) on them and if they would pay him a bribe of Rs.2 lakh, he can reduce the penalty amount. "After negotiation, ● More On P10



Kashmir Life Editor Bereaved

KEG Expresses Solidarity With Masood Hussain

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Gull Hassan Wani, father of senior journalist and Editor-in-Chief 'Kashmir Life', Masood Hussain, passed away Saturday morning at SKIMS, Soura.

Wani was not keeping well for some time and was admitted to SKIMS Soura on Wednesday, late evening, Family sources said.

As his condition deteriorated, he was put on ventilator support, where he breathed his last at around 5 am.

KEG Condoles Demise of Masood's Mother

A resident of Gehend village in Shopian district in south Kashmir, he was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard. Late Wani is survived by wife, five sons and a daughter. Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) condoled the demise of Gull Hassan Wani, father of Masood Hussain, Editor Kashmir Life and KEG Secretary General. In a condolence message KEG expressed grief over Mr Wani's demise. A highly revered person, Gull Hassan Wani ● More On P10

Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) condoles the sad demise of mother of senior Journalist Nazir Masoodi. In a condolence message KEG expressed ● More On P10

Govt Orders Minor Reshuffle In Admin

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday ordered minor reshuffle in the administration by shifting half a dozen officers with immediate effect.

As per an order issued here in this regard, Rajesh Sharma, Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission, has been transferred and posted as Custodian General, J&K, replacing Suriya Jabeen, who has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to Government, Tribal Affairs Department, an official spokesperson said.

He said Raj Kumar Katoch, Director, Tourism, Jammu, has been transferred and ● More On P10



Kashmir Through Pages: Five Upcoming Books To Watch Out For

Yash Daiv

The abrogation of Article 370 that revoked Kashmir's semiautonomous status was a thunderclap in a storm that has been brewing in the region for decades.

While it brokered many emotions — confusion and anger being the prominent ones — it also generated many stories that have now found their expression in books.

The coming quarter of 2021 has interesting books in the offing, ones that reflect the current mood and others that invoke the memories of past.

Then, there are commentaries on

the geography and old battles that have now found place in the limelight.

This thoughtful, organic travelogue is born in the dark that came over Kashmir after August 5, 2019. Author Suhas Munshi, who has spent a decade reporting politics, conflict and culture across India, was visiting Habba Khatoon's relic in Gurez when Article 370 was abrogated.

The narrative of his book was extracted from the gloom that overshadowed Kashmir. It tries to give a sense of what that moment has meant to the common Kashmiri.

Apart from these stories, this insightful travelogue breaks away from

the clichéd view of Kashmir — one that sees it "either as an earthly paradise or a living hell".

It takes you to unexpected places, into the homes of poets, playwrights and street performers; to the minuscule Christian community in Baramulla and much more.

Farah Bashir, a former photojournalist with Reuters, is set to make a scintillating debut with Rumours of Spring.

In the book, she documents her adolescent years in Kashmir during the 90s — the epoch marked by the siege. She writes about understanding militarisation of domestic spaces and forming new etiquette with the

boundaries that turned Kashmir into a sore oyster.

The book has already been hailed by stalwarts from many domains for it is the kind of on-ground, honest narratives that world needs.

In 'Forgotten Kashmir', Dinkar P Srivastava—who joined Indian Foreign Service in 1978 and is current Indian Ambassador to Iran—sets a chronology of events that led to stretching of barbed wires, diving one people and the subsequent evolution of Pakistan-administered Kashmir over seven decades.

It includes major milestones like the 'tribal' war in 1947-48. ● More On P10



Scientists Develop New Tool That May Help Decontaminate Viruses In Aerosols

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have engineered a new tool which exposes aerosolised virus particles to microwaves in a controlled manner, an advance that may lead to the development of novel methods to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, studies have found that the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 spreads via aerosols that can be generated and spread through breathing, coughing, sneezing, or talking by infected individuals.

While previous studies have explored the use of electromagnetic energy to deactivate viruses in bulk fluids, the researchers, including those from the Air Force Research Laboratory in the US, said less work has been done to understand the role of microwaves in inactivating viral pathogens in aerosols.

In the current research, published in the journal Physics of Fluids, the scientists developed experimental tools capable of presenting electromagnetic waves to an aerosol mixture containing viruses.

They said the apparatus offers the ability to vary power, energy, and frequency of the electromagnetic exposure.

With further research, the scientists hope to better characterise the threshold levels of microwave energy needed to inactivate aerosolised viral particles and reduce their ability to spread infection.

They believe the new experimental design can provide the means to identify a wide variety of virus inactivation mechanisms.

According to the researchers, the systems are designed to prevent the release of microwaves into the work environment since at high levels the radiation could potentially interfere

with diagnostic equipment and other electronics.

They plan to expose coronavirus surrogate—bovine coronavirus—to microwaves at frequencies ranging from 2.8 gigahertz to 7.5 gigahertz (GHz).

In comparison, commercial microwave ovens operate at around 2.45 GHz.

Explaining, the need for the surrogate virus, Brad Hoff, a co-author of the study from the Air Force Research Laboratory, said the bovine coronavirus is "similar in size and configuration to human coronavirus, but is safe to humans."

"If shown to be effective, the use of microwaves may enable the potential for rapid decontamination not currently addressed by ultraviolet light or chemical cleaning for highly cluttered areas, while potentially operating at levels safely compatible with human occupancy," Hoff added.

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION SUMBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
FRESH NIT50/ET/R&B/SUMBAL of 01/2021.
 (Single Cover System)

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Development of berm at Bon-Mohalla Canal road and Shakur-Ud-Din Mohalla by way of P/L of Khak Bajree. Under Scheme: - Inner Links at Hajin.	5.04	300/-	20- Days	Cities and Towns	CEE/DEE
2.	Restoration of road surface by way of Providing and laying of WBM G-I and G-II at Gundjahangir.	2.39	200/-	20- Days	3054-M&R	DEE

Position of AAA: Accorded
 Position of funds Available

- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
- | S.No | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | Period of downloading of bidding documents | Bid submission Start Date | Bid Submission End Date | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) |
|------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | 30.01.2021 | From 2.00 PM | 30.01.2021 | upto 3.00 PM. | 06.02.2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal |
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal (tender receiving authority).
- All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- 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 Sumbal (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

No. R&B/Sbl/ZI/2298-2307
 Dated: -30-01-2021. DIPK-12337/20

Sd/
 Executive Engineer,
 (R&B) Division Sumbal /R.MIR/

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Passport bearing No: B 295144 as Imtiyaz Untoo while my correct name is Imtiyaz Habib which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file /her objection in the office Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Imtiyaz Habib S/o Habibullah Ams

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in school records as 01-06-2008 while my correct DOB is 01-06-2010 which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file /her objection in the Office Shah Rasool Memorial Welkin Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Immad Mustafa Lone
 Mustifa Rashid Lone R/o Zalora Sopore Ams

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education, BRANCH OFFICE SOPORE

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original Migration certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name Shakir Hussain
 Fathers Name Fida Hussain Ahanger
 Mothers Name Khatija Begum
 Roll No 3180233 Session /Year annual regular 2018
 Migr No: 18AKTR/15702

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Migration Certificate. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
 Branch Office Sopore
 Ams

از نیابت ماگام با اجلاس جناب نائب تحصیلدار صاحب ماگام

منوان: منضمون درخواست سائنسز و بلتیس اتر و مڈر اہم اداوان غلام محمد چوہان
 ساکن موضع سوبال برادر مغلانی بنگلوار ایریا سرگٹھت تحت SRO294

اشہاد برادر آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

منازل مندرجہ منوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست برادر بنگلوار ایریا سرگٹھت پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجراء کرنے مطلب سے کہہ کر ذیل فتوا پر مشتمل ہے۔

میں نے یہ کہہ دیا ہے کہ یہ درخواست برادر بنگلوار ایریا سرگٹھت میں 70 سال
 65 غلام محمد چوہان
 51 غلام محمد چوہان
 48 شریف زید چوہان
 22 کلیم یاقوت
 20 عارف احمد چوہان
 18 سائید اختر
 17 بلتیس اختر
 19 عارف احمد چوہان
 15 مڈر اہم چوہان

اسکے علاوہ عہد کی مہمان آمدنی ڈرنک و غیر ذریعہ 7000 سے منگھت زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ عذر گورنر کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

نائب تحصیلدار ماگام

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI DIVISION (PHE)BIJBEHARA
 E- NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
 (e-mail: phebijbehara230@gmail.com Telephone/Fax:01932-234230)
 NITNo: e-NITNo 31/PHED/Bijbehara/ of 2020-21 Dated29-01-2021

For & on behalf of the lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders in Two cover system are invited on item rate basis from Registered Contractors registered J&K UT, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost Lacs	Cost of tender Doc Rs	Time for Compl Days	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1	Providing design Constt and successful testing & commissioning of 0.92 lac gallons capacity OHT incl. soil testing and trial run for six months (DLP 09 months) WSS Reshi Mohallah Khandipehri	127.43	1200	180	AAY	JKIDFC
2	Construction of 0.50 lac gallons capacity SSFP, 0.25 lac gallons SR, constt. of sluice chambers, constt of crate works at head site, Constt of anchor/thrust blocks at valunerable spots and L/F of RWM/supply main & trial run for six months (DLP 09 months) WSS Adigam-Gretwalipora.	88.16	600	180	AAY	MNP Distt. Sector
3	Providing design, Construction and succesful testing and commissioning of 0.15 MGD RSFP comprising of Clarifloculator, flash mixer, filter house, separate back wash tank of required capacity alongwith all electrical/mechanical components incld trial run for six months (DLP 09 months) at sakhras and providing fixing of 80 mm dia D.I to connect 65mm dia pipe of village Babgund WSS AmirporaNambal (NABARD)	600	180	AAY	NABARD	
4	Completion of balance portion of Raw water main with Crossing and Crate works for WSS Regional shangus	39.41	400	15	AAY/BEE	NRDWP
5	Providing design, Constt. and succesful testing and commissioning of 0.15 MGD RSFP comprising of Clarifloculator, flash mixer, filter house, separate back wash tank of required capacity alongwith all electrical/ mechanical components incld trial run and trial run for six months (DLP 09 months) WSS semthan under NABARD	114.00	1000	180	AAY	NRDWP
6	Laying & fitting of 200 / 150mm dia raw water main for Sundbrari side and for watnard side WSS. Regional Watnard	118.69	1100	90	AAY	NRDWP

1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the dates shown below:-

S. No.	De-	Date	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	29/1/2021	10.00 AM
2	Download start date	29/1/2021	10.00 AM
3	Bid submission start date	29/1/2021	10.00 AM
4	Bid submission end date	09/2/2021	02.00PM
5	Pre-bid meeting date	08/2/2021	11.00AM
6	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	10/2/2021	11.00 AM
7	Bid opening date (Financial Cover)	12/2/2021	11.00 AM
8	Place for opening of bids and address for communication	Office Of The Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara (phebijbehara230@gmail.com)	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. In case of bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before fixation of contract as per following break up within four days from the opening of tenders.

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% below	3%

The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work i.e. Civil / Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in- Charges of Civil & Mechanical wings In-charge of the Scheme.

If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-NIT's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.

Executive Engineer, (JSD)
 PHE Div, Bijbehara,

No: PHEB/7050-75
 Dated:- 29/01/2021
 DIPK-12315/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in school records of my Daughter as Mohd Ashraf Parray while the correct spelling is Mohammad Ashraf Parray which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file /her objection in the Office Gulzar Memorial Education Trust Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Ashraf Parray F/o Hafsa Ashraf R/o Nowpora Kalan Sopore Ams

Office Of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from Irfan Manzoor S/o Manzoor Ahmad R/o Old Chanpora Srinagar (Transferor) of Maruti 800 bearing registration No. JK01N-8791 chasis No: 2797138 Engine No: 4226485 Model 2010 in favour of Masarat Sarwer W/o Ghulam Mohi-ud-din R/o Jamia Masjid Srinagar

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No. representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 5977
 Dated: 28/01/2021
 Regional Transport Office, Kashmir
 z

Office Of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as an application for transfer of ownership has been received from M/S Moder Hospital Prop: Muzaffar Jan R/o Rajbagh Srinagar (Transferor) of Altoo 800 bearing registration No. JK01W-9197 chasis No: 566459 Engine No: 535051 Model 2014 in favour of Ghulam Mohammad Wani S/o Ab Ahad Wani R/o Wagoora Chinarbagh Pahroo Budgam

Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general, public that representation/ Objection, if any in connection with proposed transfer will be received within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer to the address of undersigned.

No. representation/ objection shall be considered unless it is made writing it is made in the aforesaid period.

NOJK-RTOK 5993
 Dated: 29/01/2021
 Regional Transport Office, Kashmir
 z

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in school records as 01-01-2011 while my correct DOB is 15-01-2012 which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file /her objection in the Office Shah i Hamdan Memorial Institute Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zuhan Sarfaraz S/o Sarfaraz Ahmad Mir R/o Shahdab Karewa Shopian AS

Azad Asks Govt To Bring Restoration Of J&K Statehood Bill In Parliament



SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister J&K and Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has asked the Government of India to bring restoration of statehood in J&K bill in parliament.

"Scrapping of Article 370 was done unilaterally and the state was downgraded. The Prime Minister, Home Minister have

promised that statehood would be restored in J&K. This is the time to bring a bill in Parliament regarding restoration of statehood in J&K," he said during his speech in a virtual meeting of All Parties. "DDC and Panchayat elections were held recently. Now they should have no excuses to grant statehood to J&K.

He asked the Government of India to give power to the elected representatives and said that it is not good to give unlimited power to officers in a place which has borders with China and Pakistan where the situation is bad there.

SCRAPPING OF ARTICLE 370 WAS DONE unilaterally and the state was downgraded. The Prime Minister, Home Minister have promised that statehood would be restored in J&K. This is the time to bring a bill in Parliament regarding restoration of statehood in J&K,"

Union Addl Secretary DARPG Visits Grievance Cell, JK IGRAMS



JAMMU: Union Additional Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), V Srinivas, today inspected the functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS) and Grievance Cell at Civil Secretariat here today.

Pertinently, JK-IGRAMS is a centralized online grievance registration and monitoring initiative of J&K Government launched by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, on 11th September, 2020.

Secretary Public Grievances, Simrandeep Singh, briefed the Union Additional Secretary about working of the portal, the grievance cell and the entire grievance redressal mechanism in place. He elaborately explained that a central grievance handling team collates grievances received from various modes, which includes social media, letters, web portal and even the ones received during public meetings. He also briefed that more than 1900 sub-users have been created across 20 districts which redress the grievances registered by the people. The grievances are regularly monitored by LG, Chief Secretary, Departmental Secretaries and the District Magistrates, he added.

It was highlighted that ever since September, 2020, the number of grievances getting registered on the Portal has increased by 94 percent, which is a clear sign of people's faith over this new initiative of the Union Government. "The number of

grievances being disposed of is also increasing every month since and the LG reviews the cell's working on a monthly basis", informed the Secretary Public Grievances.

Additional Secretary DARPG lauded the efforts of the department and expressed satisfaction over the way the Grievance mechanism has been functioning. He suggested that the department should document and publish some notable success stories and resolved grievances which will further enhance the working and thus the credibility of the JK-IGRAMS.

Srinivas lauded the effort of integration of district level portals with JK-IGRAMS and said that it would lay a roadmap for integration of CPGRAMS with other district portals in the country. He also appreciated the Union Territory for being the first in reaching district level for grievance registration and disposal. "Quality disposal, not just the number of disposals, should be our goal", he maintained.

Additional Secretary asked Secretary Grievance Cell to study some of the successful and much appreciated grievance redressal models and softwares being implemented in other districts of India. He also suggested that a thorough study into the most common grievances and their wholesome remedy would help departments to eliminate their root cause forever.

Special Secretary Grievances, Veerji Hangloo and Under Secretary, Public Grievances, Azeeta Qureshi were also present in the meeting.



Wildlife Trafficking Syndicates In J&K Busted

Huge Quantity Of Wildlife Contrabands Seized

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an unprecedented intelligence operation of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), New Delhi, two epicenters of illegal wildlife poaching and trade were identified in Anantnag area of Kashmir valley and Manwal in the Jammu region.

In a joint operation of WCCB officers, who flew in from Delhi, officers of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Wildlife Warden and Police, simultaneous raids were conducted in both these places on 29.01.2021.

In the raid in Anantnag, 08 leopard pelts, 38 bear biles, 04 musk pods were seized from Mr. Gul Mohammad Ganie R/o

Sherpura, Anantnag.

Five Leopard pelts, 07 leopard nails, 08 canines, 02 molars, 02 leopard skulls and leopard bones (04 Jaw bones, 140 bones pieces), 01 musk teeth were seized in Manwal of Jammu region from one Kushal Hussain Bocked R/o Kingriyal, Jammu. Preliminary investigation revealed that both the offenders arrested in two places were partners in the Illegal Wildlife Trade.

Further investigation will reveal for how long they have been involved in this illegal trade, as also quantum, extent and associates of this illegal business. Efforts are being made to trace the forward and backward linkages of this illegal activity, demand

and supply chains and onward traders' linkages.

The present seizure is one of the largest seizures in the recent past. Musk deer and Himalayan Black bear are endangered species and poached for musk pods, bear bile, which is used in Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM). These poached animals - leopard, bear and musk deer are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. As per the provisions of the Act, poaching of these animals and trading them by parts is punishable with a minimum 03 years of imprisonment extendable up to 07 years. A case has been registered in police station Anantnag.

Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel Likely To Be Thrown Open For Traffic In March

4-Lane Tunnel Built On Austrian Model

Agencies

QAZIGUND: The work on the four-lane Qazigund-Banihal tunnel is going on in full swing and is expected to be thrown open this year in March.

The 8.4 km Navayuga Tunnel will connect the hilly region of Banihal directly with South Kashmir's Qazigund area.

An official said that much to the relief of the people, this double-tube tunnel will reduce the distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 16 kilometers.

While divulging information about the tunnel, Muneeb Tak, Chief Manager, Navayuga Engineering Company said that the tunnel is 400 meters below the existing Jawahar Tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and it will reduce the travel distance between Qazigund and Banihal by 16 kms.

He said during winters Srinagar-Jammu Highway frequently witnesses closure due to inclement weather but this new tunnel will bypass Jawahar Tunnel and Shaitan Nalla which means there will be no obstruction in vehicular movement on highway even during winters.



File Pic

The Chief Engineer said that work is going on smoothly and if everything remains perfect, the tunnel will be thrown open for traffic by March this year. He said this project is a masterpiece of engineering and has been constructed from Austrian Tunnelling Method (ATM).

"Modern style and a state-of-the-art "exhaust system" has been introduced in the tunnel to remove gas from it and bring fresh air into it. At Least 126 Jet fans, 234 CCTV modern cameras and fire-fighting systems are being installed in both tubes of the tunnel for which the work is

underway," Tak said.

Over Rs 2000 crore is being spent on this tunnel project. Its executing company, Navayuga Engineering Limited is Andhra Pradesh based that has pressed men and machinery into service caring for a fig for the harsh weather.

When contacted District Development Commissioner Ramban Mussarat Islam said that the work on the project was delayed due to several reasons but now everything is going smoothly. "We are expecting the inauguration of this tunnel after over a month. It will hopefully be thrown open for traffic in March this year," he said.

Police Bust Jaish Module, Arrest Six In Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Police Saturday claimed to have arrested six militants and their associates along with pistols and grenades in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Police sources said that two youths were apprehended in Doniwara area of Bijbehara.

After being questioned the arrested youth revealed the names of their associates and accordingly during raids 4 more persons were arrested.

Meanwhile, police in this regard issued a statement stating that acting upon a specific input that the Lashker-e- Mustafa (Parent Organization Jaish-e-Muhammad) are contemplating an attack in Anantnag and Bijbehara towns, joint multiple Nakas were established by soldiers from 3 Rashtriya Rifles and Anantnag Police and meanwhile at one of the MVCP established at Donipora Bijbehara, an Alto car K-10 bearing registration No. HP12C 0981 approached the Naka and it was signaled to stop and two persons boarding the said car tried to escape but were apprehended tactfully.

On questioning they were identified as two freshly recruited militants namely Imran Ahmed Hajam of Nathpora Khanabal and Irfan Ahmed Ahanger of Nandpora Khanabal and from their possession two pistols along with three magazines and 116 rounds were recovered. During questioning they confessed that they have joined the JeM outfit recently and divulged that LeM was re-



cently floated to give an impression that militancy in Kashmir is indigenous and not sponsored by Pakistan.

Police spokesperson said that they further revealed they are close associates of Hidayat Malik alias Hasnain of Sharafpora Shopian chief of LeM, Umer alias Wahid Khan of Shopian and Aftab alias Ali Bhai of Dachipora, and they were carrying rice of the area to plant an IED in order to target security forces and Police.

"Later on multiple raids were conducted at various locations and 4 over ground workers including Bilal Ahmed Kumar of Haff Shopian, Tawfeeq Ahmed Lawey of Pushwara Anantnag, Muzamil Ahmed Wani of Muniward Anantnag and Aadil Ahmed Rather of Khandipari Harnag, affiliated with banned militant outfit JeM were arrested.

"Two grenades, one kg explosive material and 30 rounds of AK-47 rifle were recovered from their possession. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Bijbehara and investigation taken up," the police spokesperson said.

ARTO Kupwara Clarifies Fare Rate From Kupwara To Srinagar

KUPWARA: In view of complaints regarding overcharging of fare by Cab drivers from Kupwara to Srinagar, ARTO Kupwara in a communiqué today clarified the notified fare rate of the said route.

Accordingly the fare of Xylo/Innova as per notified rates works out at Rs.258.50 per passenger from Kupwara to Srinagar.

Meanwhile, passengers boarding the cabs from the said route are asked to pay the fare as per the mentioned notified rate.

Besides, the drivers have been warned about strict action in case of violation of the notified fare rates.

Failure In Devising SOPs For Railway Services Reflect Reckless Approach Of J&K Govt: Bukhari

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Ataf Bukhari on Saturday took a strong exception to the lackadaisical approach adopted by the J&K administration which has resulted into unnecessary halt in railway services, causing immense sufferings to the local commuters.

In a statement issued, Bukhari said that a time when the railways reserve services have been resumed in other parts of the country, J&K government seems to be a mute spectator to the miseries of thousands of people who would primarily avail the cheap and hassle free railway services on a daily basis.

"Maharashtra government has already resumed the sub urban train services for essential workers, women and other categories months ago. This is apart from the resump-

tion of reserve train services across the country," Bukhari said, while regretting the irresponsible approach of the J&K administration that is yet to formulate the requisite Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for resumption of train services in J&K.

Apni Party President said that on an average around 15,000 to 20,000 people avail railway services in just Banihal to Baramulla section of Northern Railways in J&K and it is because of the administrative inertia that this hapless section of commuters have been left high and dry.

"These figures reflect just a section of the passengers who are provided with the tickets by the railway department in Banihal to Baramulla section on a daily basis. Over all the business community, essential workers, patients and student community in particular are suffering direly for want of railway facility," Bukhari remarked.

NEWS MAKERS

Info Dept Condole With Masood Hussain, Nazir Masoodi



JAMMU: Director Information and Public Relations, Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar has condoled the sad demise of father of Masood Hussain, Editor in Chief Kashmir Life and mother of Nazir Masoodi, Bureau Chief NDTV.

In this connection, a condolence meet was held in the office chambers of Director Information in which all the officers participated. Dr. Sehrish and other participants expressed deep sorrow and grief over their demises.

Dr. Sehrish also offered her deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and courage for the bereaved families to bear their irreparable losses.

Digital Calendar, Coffee Table Book Of IWMP Works Out

JAMMU: Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Sheetal Nanda, today released Digital Calendar and a Coffee Table Book of IWMP works in respect of Udhampur district.

Secretary appreciated the efforts of the district IWMP team for achieving the set goals and expressed hope that they will continue to work with the same spirit and devotion in future also to make the IWMP scheme a grand success enabling Udhampur to become a role model for the entire Union Territory.

Project Manager IWMP, Udhampur, Sapna Kotwal, highlighted the working and achievements of works being executed in different watersheds of IWMP in the district.

Raj Bhavan Staff Pay Homage To The Martyrs



JAMMU: On the occasion of Martyrs' Day, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, and the civil and security officers, besides the staff members of the Raj Bhavan observed a two-minute silence at 11 am today as homage to Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and brave Indians who sacrificed their lives during the Indian freedom struggle.



Valley Associates

E-mail: tariqbhat72@gmail.com

- ▶ SERVICES PROVIDED: E-FILLING, E TDS, INCOME TAX
- ▶ RETURNS, SALES TAX/ VAT RETURNS, BOOK KEEPING,
- ▶ ALSO SERVICE FOR PAN, TAN AND DIGITAL SIGNATURE
- ▶ CERTIFICATE (DSC) REGISTRATION

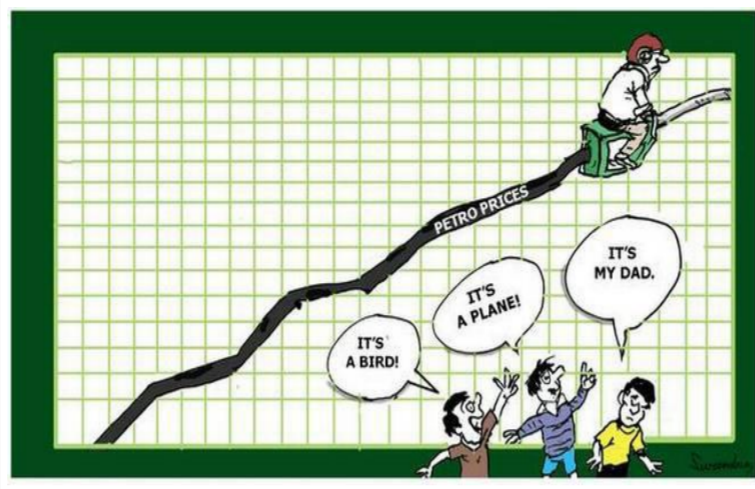
Cell: +91- :9419540025 / 9596020164 / 7006818341

SATHU PAYEEN BAGHWANPORA, BARBARSHAH, SRINAGAR, KMR.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

NO HOLDS BARRED



Education in winters has been virtually outsourced by the government to these private players and getting good education is a matter of privilege which, unfortunately, the poor can't afford

Poor and Private

Truth is that most of the coaching centres located in towns are acting like a state within the state

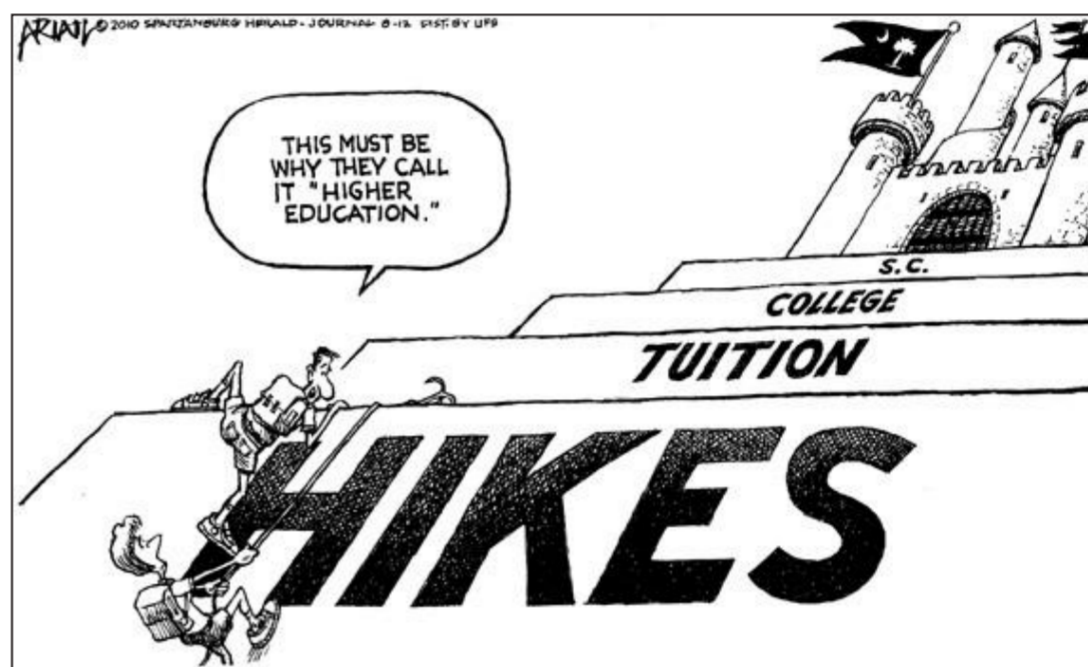
MALIK JAVID

There is no definite fee policy and centres are involved in arbitrary hike of fee structure year after year and the bigger problem is the manner in which this fee is collected. Instead of collecting the fee at the end of the course or month wise, students are made to deposit half the fee in advance and in some cases they accept the complete fee before the course has even been started.

Few days back, I had to visit a local J&K bank branch to replace my expired debit card with a new one. I had just driven a few Kilometers from home till I was caught in a traffic mess. First I thought it might be a usual traffic halt, common in our narrow streets, but I was wrong as my wait for resumption of normal traffic kept on brewing. With no transit route available, I was left with no other option other than to leave my cosy car to know about the whys and wherefores behind this traffic mess. I had just walked a few steps from my car when I began to spot a huge crowd gathering on a road, this time I thought they might be protesting the usual electricity woes or water scarcity crisis quite common in winters in our vale. But I was again proven wrong as I reached ground zero. I was astonished and literally felt numb after listening to the whole saga from the people who had gathered there to pacify the young boys involved in fist fight. I came to know, that a gang of young boys studying at a local coaching centre had a heated verbal scuffle over some issue, to soothe the raw emotions of these young boys, a local tuition teacher tried to intervene to calm the things down, but instead of listening to his advice, one of the guy in a state of rage spanked the young teacher, exasperating the situation further. Thus, a teacher who had tried to be the part of the solution became the part of the problem himself. The situation could have taken ugly turn had the local police not arbitrated quickly. The above situation is the microcosm of the bigger picture of moral deprivation dominant in coaching centres.

Back to my driving seat, I turned off the stereo of my wagon to have a deeper thought on the growing moral threat of coaching centres, I began to question myself, where are we heading as a society? Has moral bankruptcy taken over our sanity? Why don't our parents keep an eye on their ward's doings? And more importantly why is our administration reluctant in keeping the tab on those coaching centres which are involved in violating the rules and regulations important for normal functioning of an educational institution in broad daylight?

Truth is that most of the coaching centres located in towns are acting like a state within the state, authorities have lost control over them, poor students have been left at the mercy of these greenhorns managing these money minting centres in the name of coaching centres under open sky. Beyond mandatory registration of the coaching centres, authorities don't put any more checks and



balances on the working of these coaching centres. From poor location to poor infrastructure to indefinite teacher student ratio, nothing is hunky dory in these centres. There is no definite fee policy and centres are involved in arbitrary hike of fee structure year after year and the bigger problem is the manner in which this fee is collected. Instead of collecting the fee at the end of the course or month wise, students are made to deposit half the fee in advance and in some cases they accept the complete fee before the course has even been started. Thus, there is no exit window left for students to quit in the middle if they feel that they are not getting the quality education that they were promised, as there is no refund policy in these coaching centres.

Also, in a place like Kashmir one can't be certain about tomorrow, like we have been witnessing from the past decade in the form of summer unrest becoming a new normal in our routine. Thus, education in winters has been virtually outsourced by the government to these private players and getting good education is a matter of privilege which, unfortunately, the poor can't afford.

It's said Uniform brings uniformity in stu-

dents and it bridges the status gap between the students belonging to two different backgrounds i.e. poor and rich. I am not advocating for separate uniforms for tuitions just like schools, I am pleading for proper dress code in these centres. Not everyone can afford to wear new fancy dress every day, in many cases students from poor backgrounds have become the victims of inferiority complexes and end up forcing their financially constrained parents to take extreme steps to afford unaffordable luxuries for their wards. I know, I might sound more utopian and less realistic here but for the larger good of our society, we have to do something productive with these coaching centres in shaping our better future.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author can be reached at
malikjavid86@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, DC/UPPSALA - When the World Health Organization launched last year's World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, it expanded the campaign's focus from antibiotics to all antimicrobials - including antiviral, antifungal, and antiparasitic drugs. The WHO said that framing the response to antibiotic resistance (ABR) within the broader antimicrobial resistance (AMR) agenda, including HIV and malaria, would "facilitate programmatic synergy and efficiency, and catalyze country-level action to combat drug-resistant infections." But although there are many commonalities between ABR and AMR, there are also important differences that justify paying specific attention to antibiotics.

ABR has been a slow-growing pandemic, fueled in part by relatively weak political support for implementing national action plans that include the establishment of well-resourced surveillance systems. The resulting lack of context-specific data on the health and economic burden of resistance has created an obstacle to policy action.

Although aggregate numbers on the global AMR burden exist - the most cited, from the United Kingdom's independent 2014-16 AMR review, chaired by the economist Jim O'Neill, put the toll at 700,000 deaths per year - these underrepresent the ABR problem, owing to the limited scope of bacteria covered. In fact, estimates suggest that ABR alone claims more than 750,000 lives every year, with the largest toll most likely occurring among children in the poorest countries. In a recent global survey, 79% of physicians treating newborns reported an increasing trend of multi-drug-resistant infections over the last five years, while 54% cited ABR as the leading cause of failure to treat neonatal sepsis, a blood infection affecting newborns.

In the past, the drug-resistance problem has typically been addressed by researching and developing new antibiotics. But although R&D is an important element of the ABR response, it is scientifically challenging and expensive. In effect, an arms race between drug development and resistance has ensued. With few novel antibiotics in the development pipeline, we need incentives to spur R&D while decoupling investment returns from sales volumes in order to slow the evolution of resistance.

At the same time, new drugs coming to market

The Silent Pandemic Of Antibiotic Resistance

Antibiotic resistance has been a slow-growing scourge, fueled in part by relatively weak political support for implementing national action plans and surveillance systems. Because the problem is essentially the result of multiple systems failures, overcoming it requires urgent global collective action.

PATRICIA GELI | OTTO CARS



must be accessible and affordable for all those who need them. The additional median overall cost of resistance imposed by moving to second-line treatments can be significant, amounting to \$700 per infection. In fragile states where out-of-pocket payments by individuals account for 55% of total health expenditure, this can have catastrophic consequences, including increased morbidity and mortality, and long-term impoverishment.

The health and economic costs of ABR must be

quantified to convince governments to intervene and strengthen incentives for the development of antibiotics. That, in turn, will justify the investments and public-private partnerships needed to bring new drugs to market.

The fact that ABR seems to be winning the arms race makes it even more important to preserve existing antibiotics. But there is no one-size-fits-all way to do this. In many countries, for example, increased access to drugs is imperative to reduce unnecessary

morbidity and mortality from bacterial infections. Initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria have partly addressed the issue of access to effective antiretroviral, anti-TB, and antimalarial drugs.

But as a WHO report puts it, "there is no similar funding or distribution mechanism to cater for the corresponding needs for effective antibiotics against the broad range of common bacterial infections in developing countries." In this context, the newly established Multi-Partner Trust Fund is an important step in the right direction. Although the fund's financial scope is still modest, it will support countries in implementing national action plans against the threat of AMR, including ABR.

Balancing the need to preserve antibiotics' effectiveness while expanding access to them is challenging, because wider use inevitably will increase ABR. The problem is compounded in many poorer countries, where civil conflicts, poor hygiene and nutrition, and unreliable water supplies risk facilitating the rapid spread of resistant pathogens. But the full extent of the problem remains hidden, owing to the lack of national surveillance systems for monitoring antibiotic drug use and resistance. A health-systems approach is critical to ensure that unintended consequences of controlling ABR do not hamper equitable and sustainable access to life-saving drugs.

Africa has recently made important progress in this regard. Last September, African Union heads of state and government endorsed a common position on controlling AMR. In addition, Africa is leading the way in collaborative efforts on COVID-19, including the roll-out of cutting-edge technologies such as digital surveillance and next-generation sequencing. These could become an essential component of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's AMR Surveillance Network, which aims to connect actors from the human and animal health sectors. Such efforts are particularly important in the African context, where many low-income and fragile countries are expected to bear the brunt of AMR's negative consequences.

The growing ABR problem does not respect national borders. It is essentially the result of multiple systemic failures, which only urgent global collective action can overcome.

Project Syndicate

Revealing Reminiscence **Baithak(s) of Heritage Kashmiri Houses**

HAKIM SAMEER HAMDANI

In #Kashmir Diwan Khana usually refers to a large room/ hall located on any of the floors (mostly ground/ top) used to entertain guests and host ceremonies like weddings. Also known as Baithak, the larger ones in the mohalla would be used by neighbors lacking such large spaces

Handoo House, Narwara

The first three images are of Handoo house at Narwara. The house known as Draag-i Laer (Famine House) was constructed by the family during a famine in the 19th century as a relief effort. Those who worked would be paid and would also be given free lunch and dinner.



Begum Park, Dana Mazzar

The next image is from an imposing house at Dana Mazzar constructed by the Shah family, with a rather catchy name of 'Begum Park'. It dates back to early 20th century



Ganai's House, Nawa Kadal

This image is of the family house of the Ganai's at Nawa Kadal. A large rambling mansion- partly used as a school partly as a residence, the house was about to be dismantled when I last visited it.



Daryal "Heritage Homes", Nowhatta

These next images are from the Darayal family who own four "heritage homes" at Nowhatta. Again, these buildings date from the 20th century and are located on the top floor of the house: kani.



Jalali House, Zadibal

This image is from the famous Jalali house at Zadibal dating back to the 19th century. (Image credit Zainab Mustafa). The house has two other halls on the ground and the first floor.



Dewan Khana, Safa Kadal

My personal favorite is the Dewan Khana on the first floor of a house built by a Pandit family at Safa Kadal along the riverfront. Particularly love the floor tiles, known as Minton tiles. These used to be manufactured in Bombay.



Khan House, Aali Kadal and Zaz House, Bohri Kadal

ending with some images from Khan house at Aali Kadal & Zaz house at Bohri Kadal. (I hope I remember the house right). These images were taken in 2004 as a part of INTACH's listing of Srinagar. Those interested may check the 2nd volume of INTACH publication, Shehar-i Kashmir.

I may add that the owners have always been open and welcoming about allowing people (complete strangers) to visit and take pictures of these wonderful houses. Those interested must surely visit them. One must also listen to the owners as they reminisce about the times and people who built them!



The author is the Design Director at INTACH Kashmir and holds a PhD. Islamic Architecture. Tweets at @hamdanisameer

Plunder of Kashmiri Antiques in Central Asia

PROF FIDA MUHAMMED HASSNAIN

“We have every reason to believe that almost all the wall paintings of Central Asian temples and viharas were created by the Kashmiri artists. The painted book covers of the Buddhist manuscripts found at Gilgit are the tangible evidence of the Kashmiri school of art, which flourished in Kashgar and Ladakh

During the 7th and the 8th centuries, the powerful Kushanas extended their hold over vast areas, stretching from Kashgar, Yarkand and Khotan to Kabul, Kashmir, and Mathura. With the advent of Kanishka, Buddhism received a tremendous support and Kashmir became the foremost centre of Buddhist learning, art, and culture.

He held his 4th Buddhist Council in Kashmir which resulted in a new orientation of Buddhism in the form of the Mahayana. After this historic event, several Kashmiri Buddhist scholars and artists migrated to many Central Asian oasis towns on the Silk Road to conduct missionary activities. Vairchana, a famous Kashmiri Buddhist scholar built the first Buddhist monastery at Khotan. The Kashmiris also went to Kucha, Kashgar, Yarkand and Turfan. The successive wave of Buddhist learning, art and culture traveled to Central Asia from Kashmir. It is for this reason that we find the imprint of Kashmiri art in the works, found at Kizil, Dandan-uliq, Tun-huang, Khotan and Kashgar. All these works of art have been executed by the Kashmiri artists, calligraphers and painters. This Kashmiri art style is some times called the Gandhara art and the Greco-Indian Buddhist art. Others have termed it as the Kushana-Gandhara art. However, it cannot be denied that besides maintaining its individuality, the Kashmiri art, during various periods of its development, got inter-mingled with the art style and traditions of other countries. In this regard, it enriched itself from the Greek, Persian, Indian, Tibetan and



Chinese artists.

The paintings and sculptures, taken away by Stein from Kizil, Karashr, Khotan and Turfan are definitely Kashmirian and bear a close connection with similar relics from Ushkar, parhaspura, Kanispor and Harwan in Kashmir. The tiles of Akhnoor, Ahan, Mattan and Harwan in Kashmir depict the features of the Central Asian men and women. A careful study of these titles would reveal that during ancient times, the valley of Kashmir shared a common civilization and culture with the people of Chinese Turkestan. The most glorious phase of the Kashmiri art reached its zenith in the reign

of Lalitaditya Mukta-pida (725-726 A.D.) when Kashmir established its sway over a vast region in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Northern India. We have every reason to believe that almost all the wall paintings of Central Asian temples and viharas were created by the Kashmiri artists. The painted book covers of the Buddhist manuscripts found at Gilgit are the tangible evidence of the Kashmiri school of art, which flourished in Kashgar and Ladakh.

This article is being reproduced from KO archives (24th November 2010)

India's Eight Core Industries' Production Down 1.3% In December



Agencies

The production of India's eight major industries decelerated on a year-on-year basis during December.

The Index of Eight Core Industries' reading in December showed an output contraction of 1.3 per cent from an expansion of 3.1 per cent.

On a sequential basis, the output of eight major industries had contracted by 1.4 per cent in November.

ECI index comprises 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

These industries comprise coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity.

On a sector specific basis, the output of coal, which has a weight of 10.33 per cent in the index, performed better than others, showing an increase of 2.2 per cent in December 2020 over the same month of the previous year.

But the output of refinery products, which has the highest weightage of 28.04, declined 2.8 per cent in December 2020, compared to the corresponding month of the last fiscal.

However, electricity generation, which has the second highest weightage of 19.85, increased by 4.2 per cent, whereas the steel

production was down 2.7 per cent last month.

The extraction of crude oil, which has an 8.98 weightage, declined by 3.6 per cent during the month under consideration.

The sub-index for natural gas output, with a weightage of 6.88, declined by 7.2 per cent.

Cement production, which has a weightage of 5.37, slid by 9.7 per cent in the month under review.

Fertiliser manufacturing, which has the least weightage -- only 2.63 -- also declined by 2.9 per cent.

"Discouragingly, the core index continued to contract for the third consecutive month in December 2020, tempering the exuberance generated by the upticks recorded in several other lead indicators of the industrial and services sectors in that month," ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said.

"Based on the plateau in the core sector data, juxtaposed with the uptick in auto production trends and recovery in non-oil merchandise exports, we expect the IIP to rebound to a modest growth of 0.5-1.5 per cent in December 2020, trailing the level seen in October 2020. The available high frequency indicators for January 2021, such as electricity demand, generation of GST e-way bills and rail freight, indicate a reasonably steady momentum of growth."

Sales Of Affordable Homes Improving; Signalling Recovery In Real Estate Sector: Survey



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the residential property market during the April-June period last year but sales have improved in affordable homes segment since July onwards, reflecting economic recovery in the real estate sector, according to the Economic Survey.

The National Housing Bank's (NHB) Housing Price Indices (HPIs) are a broad measure of movement of residential property prices observed within a geographic boundary. The NHB-RESIDEX captures two housing price indices -- HPI@Assessment Prices and HPI@Market Prices -- Under Construction Properties based on the data available for 50 cities with quarterly update.

The housing price index HPI @ Assessment Prices is based on valuation data collected from primary lending institutions, while HPI @ Market Prices for under construction properties primary and secondary data is collected through market survey.

"The total number of transactions for HPI@Assessment Price reduced by 71 per cent from March 20 to June 20 on Q-o-Q (Quarter-on-Quarter) basis while on Year-on-Year basis transactions reduced by 67 per cent from June 2019 to June 2020, indicating that COVID-19 crisis has significantly impacted the residential real estate market. New listings were down significantly and buyers also reduced their home buying activity," the survey said.

However, during the quarter July to September 2020, transactions for HPI@Assessment Prices have increased by around 150 per cent on Q-o-Q basis. "...thus, it is observed that sales have retrieved in affordable segments, reflecting economic recovery in the real estate sector," the document said.

Moreover, the survey revealed that housing loans growth decelerated to 8.5 per cent in November 2020 from 18.3 per cent a year ago. A significant fall has been observed in housing inflation from 6.7 per cent in 2018-19 to 4.5 per cent in 2019-20 and further to 3.3 per cent in 2020-21 (April-December)



International tourist arrivals fell by one billion, or 74 percent, in 2020. (Representational)

Bollywood FAM Delegation Assures Support To Local Producers, Artists

Visits Various Locations At Pahalgam For Film Shooting

SRINAGAR: The Bollywood producers on a FAM trip to Kashmir Saturday held a series of interactions with the local travel and hospitality sector, line producers and artists in Srinagar and Pahalgam and assured them that they would utilise their services in their future films to be shot in Kashmir.

Producer Aashish Singh said their visit to Kashmir was very fruitful and will revive film shooting in Kashmir to its old golden days.

"We had an amazing experience in Kashmir. We talked to every sector here associated with the tourism and film industry which has given us an insight about our new future films. We will bring many film crews here to revive our old association with the Valley when many blockbusters were shot here," he said. He said their FAM trip has been

wonderful due to the excessive snow here. "We will take back beautiful and great memories with us and come back with film units," he said.

Singh said the government is also willing to support them and they are looking forward to a lasting relationship with the J&K.

CEO of Producers Guild Nitin Ahuja assured that they will take on board local stakeholders and artists and provide them ample opportunities during their shoots in Kashmir.

President Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) Farooq Kuthoo, Kashmir Tourism Alliance Chairman Manzoor Pakhtoon besides some filmmakers and producers of Kashmir were also present in the meeting and discussed about opportunities for the local industry in the upcoming Bollywood projects.

Later, the delegation of visiting film producers left for Pahalgam where they took a tour of Betab Valley where popular film Betab was shot and also saw the facilities at Pahalgam Club.

Director Tourism Kashmir Dr. G N Itoo gave a detailed information to the delegation on how the J&K Government followed all SOPs while facilitating tourists in Kashmir after opening of the tourism sector across the country under current pandemic.

He also assured them that the tourism department would facilitate film makers in Kashmir for their hassle-free shootings.

A 24-member delegation from various banners of Bollywood had arrived here on January 27 and visited Gulmarg on January 28 and Pahalgam today to explore the locations for the film shooting.

Autonomous Driving To Be Cheaper Than Cost Of A Car: Softbank Chief Son



Agencies

Mass production of vehicles without a driving wheel will start in about two years and autonomous driving is going to be cheaper than the present cost of a car, Softbank Group CEO Masayoshi Son said on Friday. Speaking at the World Economic Forum's online Davos Agenda Summit, he said the COVID-19 situation is a tragedy, but technology is evolving faster due to the pandemic.

Speaking to BlackRock chief Larry Fink during a session on the last day of the week-long summit, attended by top government and business leaders from across the world, Son said he is optimistic in the long-run about recovery from the pandemic, adding that vaccines have come as a sign of hope.

But it will take some time to get people vaccinated, causing worry in the short run, he added.

Technological advances are changing people lives and the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated those developments, Son said.

"Tragedy is tragedy. It's a disastrous situation. But technology-wise, it's evolving quicker," he said.

For example, video conferencing has taken off and so has education-technology and autonomous driving, both spurred by innovations in artificial intelligence (AI), the Softbank Group Corp Chairman and CEO said.

"New tech unicorns represent USD 510 billion -- half of that from US, and two-thirds of the remaining half from China, with only one company from Japan," he said.

"Some of it is not just a disruption. Some of it are miracles. We wouldn't have been able to stay as connected as we are today just six years ago," Fink said.

"Think about how we are able to do our work and live our lives in this remote world as we try to say healthy. I look at that as a miracle," said Fink, who heads one of the biggest asset managers in the world.

Son added, "Consider autonomous vehicles. Licensed mass production of a vehicle without a driving wheel is starting in two years. Shortly after that, autonomous driving will be cheaper than the cost of a car." "I think a drastic change will happen to the way we live, the way we commute, the way we interact," he further said.

Asked what will it mean for workers, Son said, "People have to adapt. The technology revolution cannot be stopped or slowed down. It's happening anyway. We cannot stop it. We have to educate ourselves, we have to learn."

Fink said a zero-carbon future is estimated to need a spending of USD 40 trillion and asked Son about his priorities for environmentally-focused investments, to which the world's foremost startup and tech investor said he is focused on investing in solar.

Asked whether AI is good for humanity or not, Son said, "Definitely it's good for humanity. It's helping people's lives. No more traffic accidents. AI is helping people connect to each other. Even global climate AI is helping. As long as we use the power of AI for the good of humanity -- which I believe that most people are -- then it is good for humanity."

UAE To Grant Citizenship To Investors, Professionals

Agencies

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced it is opening a path to citizenship for select foreigners, but it is unclear if new passport holders will benefit from the public welfare system.

Dubai ruler and UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on Saturday said "investors, specialised talents and professionals including scientists, doctors, engineers, artists, authors and their families" would be eligible for naturalisation under the new amendment to the citizenship law.

"The UAE cabinet, local emiri courts and executive councils will nominate those eligible for the citizenship under clear criteria set for each category," he said. "The law allows receivers of the UAE passport to keep their existing citizenship."

The UAE government said the amendment "aims at appreciating the talents and competencies present in the UAE and attracting more bright minds to the Emirati



community".

Citizens make up a small minority of the nine million-strong population of the UAE, which has a huge migrant labour force, largely from South Asia, some of whom are second or third generation residents.

UAE's visa system
Foreigners in the UAE usually have renewable visas valid for only a few years tied to employment.

The government in recent has made its visa policy more flexible, offering longer residencies for certain types of investors, students and professionals.

Last year, the government extended its "golden" visa system -- which grants 10-year residency in the Gulf state -- to certain professionals, specialised degree holders and others.

The UAE also has a growing community of wealthy expats attracted by the low-tax regime and the luxury megaprojects and tourist attractions of the larger emirates.

The Emirates has long guaranteed its 1.4 million citizens a high standard of living through reserved jobs and a cradle to grave welfare system. To protect it, they have seldom allowed naturalisations.

Fruit Growers Demand Import Ban On Iranian Apples

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Jammu & Kashmir Fruit Growers Association today called on Director Horticulture Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat to apprise him of the issues faced by them including the import of Iranian apples via Afghanistan.

The association demanded that the import and sale of Iranian Apples via Afghanistan in New Sabzi Mandi Azadpur, New Delhi must be restricted as it severely jeopardizes the interest of fruit growers of the valley.

The Director Horticulture assured the delegation that the issue has been taken up with the UT Government as well as GoI with the request to take appropriate action as



warranted. The delegation was further assured that all their genuine issues shall be redressed.

Later, a meeting of the Sub Committee of SLEC for examination and scrutiny of DPRs related to C.A. Storage units/Reefer Vans under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) was held at the Directorate of Horticulture, here.

NEWS MAKERS

What's In Focus For Government's High Stakes

The country's ruling party has promised 'game-changer' plans to boost economic growth when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the 2021/2022 federal budget on February 1. Here's a look at some top topics she is likely to cover on Monday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government tries to bring the country's economy back on track. (Also Read: Healthcare Spending Must Increase To 2.5-3% Of GDP: Eco Survey)

Healthcare Spending

India is likely to double healthcare spending in the next fiscal year with the aim of raising expenditure in the sector to 4 per cent of gross domestic output in the coming



ing four years, as the country looks to fix shortcomings exposed by the pandemic.

Union

INDIA IS LIKELY to aim to raise \$40 billion from privatisation of a whole host of companies in energy, mining and banking, and selling minority stake of large companies such as Life Insurance Corp.

The government could also increase a health tax from the current 1% of income and

corporate tax to fund the new programme.

Privatisation Drive

India is likely to aim to raise \$40 billion from privatisation of a whole host of companies in energy, mining and banking, and selling minority stake of large companies such as Life Insurance Corp.

The central bank is expecting a sharp rise in bad loans in the banking system due to the pandemic.

Aiming to boost lending in the economy and improve the valuation of state-run banks before selling stakes in them, the government could finally announce the creation of a "bad bank", where bad assets of state-run banks could be parked and later sold at a discounted price in the market.

Development Financial Institution

Institution

India has set itself an ambitious target of building infrastructure worth 1.02 trillion in the country. However, funding these infrastructure projects may be a challenge given the revenue constraints and strained banks' loan books. Sitharaman is likely to announce a dedicated development financial institution to facilitate financing greenfield infrastructure projects.

Import Duty

India is considering hiking import duties by 5 per cent-10 per cent on more than 50 items including smartphones, electronic components and appliances. The move to increase import duties is part of Modi's "self-reliant India" campaign that aims to promote and support domestic manufacturing.

