



P3 CITY

SMC GRANTS PERMISSION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS ON WETLAND

The officials in Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) have bent the rules to permit construction of residential flats on 25 Kanals wetland in Srinagar's Peerbagh...

P6 THE DIRE DEARTH

There is dearth of female ECG technicians in associated hospitals of GMC Srinagar and Jammu. The picture is similar in District and Sub District hospitals across Jammu & Kashmir. The number of women ECG technicians in J&K in Government run



P5 STATE

MMU URGES GOVT TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS AHEAD OF EID

All constituent members of Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir Thursday asked the Government to lift restrictions on congregational Friday



Quote!
Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.
—Abraham Lincoln

NEWS DIGEST**CDS Visiting Forward Areas Along LoC**

JAMMU: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat is visiting forward areas along Line of Control (LoC) to take stock of the army's operational preparedness and the security situation in Jammu region, officials said Thursday. He will be returning to Delhi in the evening, they said. He will be reviewing operational preparedness, security situation and anti-infiltration grid with field commanders, they said. ● [More On P10](#)

Man Carrying Rs 10L Cash Detained

SRINAGAR: A man carrying Rs 10 lakh cash was detained by the joint team of army and police in Teetwal area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, reports said Thursday. The man hailing from Jabdi Karnah was travelling in a vehicle when a joint team of police and army apprehended him near Karnah tool post, a local news agency KNT reported. Quoting sources, the ● [More On P10](#)

KU Faculty Told To Submit Asset Details

SRINAGAR: Teaching faculty at Kashmir University have been directed to submit a copy of their Property Statement within 30 days, reports said Thursday. According to a local news agency KNT, the faculty members have also been directed to seek prior approval before leaving for any foreign country for higher studies. Assistant Registrar Kashmir University issued this order on the ● [More On P10](#)

JEE Mains Session 4 Exam Postponed

NEW DELHI: The fourth edition of engineering entrance exam JEE-Main has been postponed and it will now be held from August 26 to September 2, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Thursday. National Testing Agency has been advised to provide gap of 4 weeks between third and fourth editions of JEE-Main, Pradhan said. PTI

3 Militant Associates Held In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba and recovered one pistol along with ammunition, fake SIM cards, forged documents and other incriminating material from their possession. Suhaib Ah Malik alias Asif and Aejaz Najjar of Gundpora and Touseef Sheikh of Chittaybanday Bandipora were arrested by a joint team of police, army's 14RR and the personnel of CRPF 3rd battalion ● [More On P10](#)

Drone Destroyed Over Jammu Air Force Station

File Photo

Agencies

JAMMU: Another drone was spotted in the area of Air Force Station in Jammu city which was jammed and destroyed by using anti-drone technology by the Air Force.

The drone was detected in the early hours of Thursday. Drones have been spotted in Jammu city over military installations and near the International Border in

Jammu district ever since two drones used by the terrorists damaged an office building and caused injuries to two personnel at the Air Force Station in Jammu on June 27, 2021.

Air Force Station drone attack in Jammu is being probed by the NIA.

Defence sources said the armed forces have already equipped military installations and ● [More On P10](#)

Govt Issues Draft Rules To Ease Drone Use In India

The civil aviation ministry Thursday issued draft rules to ensure ease of using drones in India on the basis of "trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring", an official statement said. Drones were used on June 27 to drop explosives at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu airport, causing minor injuries to its two personnel. On June 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had held a top-level meeting to discuss emerging security threats including drones. The number of forms to be filled to operate drones in the

THE ARMY FIRED ON A PAKISTANI quadcopter after it tried to venture into the Indian territory along the Line of Control (LoC).**Court Rejects Para's Bail Plea**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A special court here Thursday rejected the bail plea of PDP leader Waheed Para, the second time in five months, and decided to hear Friday arguments on the chargesheet filed against him, officials said.

Para is considered a close aide of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti.

The in-camera proceedings had been hearing the arguments of defence and prosecution over the maintainability of the case filed against Parra, who was initially arrested by the NIA in a different case related to militant-funding.

The complete judgement on the rejection of the bail application would be made available Friday, the officials said. In a related ● [More On P10](#)

Ethanol Blended Petrol Bring Cars To A Halt Dealers Pass The Buck, Say People Unaware About Precautions

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As complaints over the breakdown of vehicles due to ethanol blended petrol continue to pour in, the Kashmir Valley Tank Owners and Petroleum Dealers Association (KVPDA) on Thursday said that it was unfair to hold petrol-pumps and dealers responsible for the breakdown as the people were unaware about the precautions that are must before using the blended petrol.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, the spokesperson of the association, Bilal Ahmad, said that it was highly deplorable that people were targeting them for breakdown of their vehicles alleging that water was being



blended with the petrol.

"The Government and oil companies are responsible for creating awareness among the general public like they had informed the fuel dealers about the ethanol blending in petrol

but instead of them it was our association that had issued advisory for the general public on use of the ethanol blended petrol," he said.

He further added that, "We should not be blamed for anything as awareness about the use of this ethanol blended petrol fuel has not been disseminated by the concerned authorities among consumers."

Last year, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas had made the petrol fuel blended with 10% ethanol mandatory for all the public sector oil companies. But unlike other states where fuel outlets began placing banners and even printing on their bills that the petrol that they ● [More On P10](#)

UNLESS THE PEOPLE ARE NOT FULLY aware about the use of this 'ethanol blended Petrol', vehicles in Kashmir will keep on breaking down."



To his luck, there's a provision in the RTI Act 2005 that if one is unsatisfied with an RTI report, on a considerable

basis, or with a genuine point, he can file an unsatisfied or repeal form. Badrul decided to go for the same.

Second Covid Wave On Decline, Not Over: Expert**Observer News Service**

Srinagar: A senior medical expert on Thursday warned against lackadaisical attitude towards the adherence of Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), stating that the same can lead

to inception of 3rd wave of the deadly coronavirus infection.

"Currently on an average SHMS hospital admits eight to ten Covid patients," Dr Hardeep Singh, Professor of Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) said Thursday. ● [More On P10](#)

J&K Sees 203 New Cases, 1 Death

Jammu and Kashmir reported 203 new covid-19 cases while one person succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Thursday. They said that 74 of the fresh cases were reported from Jammu division and 129 from Kashmir Valley, taking the overall tally to 319355. Regarding the death due to the virus, they said, it was reported from Jammu division and none from Kashmir, taking the fatality count to 4361. Providing the district-wide details, the officials ● [More On P10](#)

Day-Picnickers Barred From Visiting Gulmarg On Weekends

File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Thursday ordered that "no local day-picnicer" shall be allowed to enter world famous tourist destination Gulmarg on weekend days -Saturday and Sunday.

The order by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla comes days after similar

directions by his counterparts of Anantnag and Ganderbal, barring the day-picnickers to Pahalgam, the famous tourist destination in South Kashmir, and Sonamarg, the gold meadow in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, respectively.

"No local day-picnickers shall be allowed to enter tourist destination Gulmarg" ● [More On P10](#)

A Lawyer's Women Advocacy Is Creating Institutional Change In Kashmir

Romaan Arora

Talking to a postman, a young boy in his mid-20s is signing yet another crucial white paper. Once signed, he goes back to his room—only to come out again for another document that arrived in just a span of 20 minutes.

"Though I'm tired of doing all this, but it's an unending work and I'm steadfast for this cause," says Badrul Dujja, a practicing lawyer, from Hawal locality of Srinagar, who has been on a loop of performing such task since last three and a half months.

Popular in his circle as 'information warrior', the 22-year-old man is single-handedly responsible for the establishment of sexual harassment committee in more than 70 government departments.

"This crumbling society is touching new lows day by day," he says rhetorically with reference to the rise in the cases of sexual harassment against women at the workplace in Kashmir. "Our women need security in such a predatory environment."

Collecting the results and reports of his second and third RTI, Badrul's first RTI went effective yet impact-less, which he had filed in December 2019. "It was 26 December 2019 when I filed my first RTI, and the response came early next year," he recalls.

The RTI was filed to the General Administrative Department Jammu and Kashmir. The GAD filed a response where it told the information and date seeker that sexual harassment committees were constituted in only 18 government departments. The reply from GAD, however, was dissatisfying.

However, with his exams in January 2020, the young fellow failed to file the repeal and thus the first RTI was somehow 'impact-less'.

"It didn't do what it was supposed to do. So I, as a responsible citizen, researched every aspect of the issue I was concerned with and went ahead with the ultimate master plan," says the young lawyer.

The master plan, as he calls it, referred to the next two RTI he filed and the buzz it subsequently created in every nook and corner of the valley.

After almost an entire year of research, Badrul went for the second RTI on December 15, 2020. Nonetheless, it wasn't that much powerful as the law aspirant wasn't able to track its response. However, it did impact the public departments and set the base for the third and the most powerful RTI of his life.

"I filed third RTI on 21 January 2021, and everything changed miraculously," he says with a bright smile.

As filed only after 35 days of his previous RTI, the third case not just impacted the entire public institutions of the valley but denied their entire structure. Soon after the 21st of the first month of 2021, Badrul started getting responses more often than what he expected.

"From that day onwards, I've been a recipient of more than 100 RTI responses with at least three responses each day," he says.

"Also," he continues, amusingly, "I've a personal record of receiving more than 15 RTI responses in a single day on February 8, 2021."

From public departments to higher education institutes in the state, Badrul Dujja is getting information of sexual harassment ● [More On P10](#)



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مضمون درخواست منجانب: میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس
برادری RBA منجانب
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان: صدر میں سائنس کے ایک درخواستی بخش حصول ایک وارڈاریا
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سے منجانب: میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس
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نمبر	نام فراڈ	نمبر	نام فراڈ
01	میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس	01	میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس
02	میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس	02	میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس
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05	میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس	05	میر تقی محمد یونس صاحب سائنس

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ٹھیکہ دار کی کارڈ ٹھکانا مطلوب ہے
برخاس و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ ٹھیکہ دار کی کارڈ ٹھکانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو
کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دنوں کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض آریڈیٹو ڈویژن تک پہنچانے کے لئے ضروری ہے۔
معدیا گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
برخاس و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ ٹھیکہ دار کی کارڈ ٹھکانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو
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معدیا گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK04E- 8622 .
Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having
any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection
in the Concerned office within a period of seven days from the
date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be
entertained.
Ashiq Hussain Malik
S/O Ali Mohammad Malik
R/O Magam
bmg

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EXTENSION NOTICE
It is notified for information of all the concerned that the
last date for submission of online application forms for
admissions to Undergraduate/ IMBA/ Diploma
Programmes notified vide Admission Notification No. 02 of
2021 Dated: 04-06-2021 has been extended upto 9th
August, 2021. The candidates can apply online for the
aforesaid academic programmes through the University
Website www.iust.ac.in. However, the Entrance Test(s) for
Post Graduate programmes shall be conducted from 28-
07-2021, for which the schedule is being issued separately.
Queries, if any, can be made on EPABX: 01933-
247954/247955 Phone: 9858306455 / 9906400789 Ext.:
1109 / Email ID: admissions@islamicuniversity.edu.in.
No: IUST/Acad/Admissions/21/197
Dated: 15-07-2021
Assistant Registrar, Academics

**COURT OF PRINCIPAL
DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG**
Present Mr Naseer Ahmad Dar
1 Mst. Haseena Akhter Wd/o Gh Qadir Sofal
2 Sujharat Qadir D/o Gh Qadir Sofal
3 Zaid Qadir Sofal S/o Gh Qadir Sofal
Minor through his mother Applicant No 1
R/o Shripora Payeen Agam
V/S Public at Large
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas an application for succession certificate has been moved by petitioner
(s) in respect of an amount of Rs 894000 name of deceased Gh Qadir Sofal S/o
Ali Mohd Sofal R/o Shripora Payeen Agam
Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid claim
by or before next date of hearing i.e 31/07/2021 falling which matter shall be
determined on merits
Issued under my hand seal of the court on 15/07/2021
Principal District Judge
Anantnag
RNA

**COURT OF PRINCIPAL
DISTRICT JUDGE ANANTNAG**
Present Mr Naseer Ahmad Dar
1 Jeeba Rashid
D/o Late Ab Rashid Shah
V/S Public at large
R/o Mohalla Chah Kandaan
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas an application for succession certificate has been moved by
petitioner (s) in respect of an amount 35000 in the name of deceased
AB Rashid Shah S/o Ab Rehman Shah R/o Mohalla Chah Kandaan.
Hence Objections if any are invited from all and Sunday to the aforesaid
claim by or before next date of hearing i.e 19/07/21 falling which matter
shall be determined on merits
Issued under my hand seal of the court on 15/07/21
Principal District Judge
Anantnag
RNA

NOTIFICATION
I have Pursued my P.H.D Programme in the University
of Teaching Department, In(SSSTUMS)
Sri Satya Sai University of Technology and Medical
Science Sehore (M.P) . I have Qualified my
P.H.D Degree in Political Science on 24/05/2021
If anybody have any objection they can report within 7days
after that no objection will be valid.
Rayees Ahmad Bhat
S/O Abdul Rehman Bhat
University Registration No SSSPOLSI6045.
RNA

NOTIFICATION
I have pursued my P.H.D programme in the de-
partment of Physical Education, in(SSSTUMS)
Sri Satya Sai University Of Technology and
Medical Science Sehore (M.P) I have quali-
fied my P.H.D degree in Physical Education
on 12/06/2021 if any body have any objection
they can report within 7days after that no ob-
jection will be valid.
Tasleem Arif Sheikh S/o Gh Mohi Ud Din Sheikh
University Registration No SSSPED16115.
RNA

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
Office of the Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
N.I.T No.71/e-tender/Estate/2021-22 of 07/2021
S.No Name of Work Approx. cost of work Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.) Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs) Time of completion Class of Contractor Major Head of Account
1. Annual Maintenance contract for Operation of existing 1000 lines capacity EPABX at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar Kashmir 3.50 lakhs 300/- 3% of Advertised Cost 365 days Registered / authorized Dealers/ companies and firms 2216 Non-Plan
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage Basis from Approved and eligible / original manufacturers / registered authorized distributors/dealers with J&K Govt./CPWD/Railway and other State / Central Government for the following work:-
Position of Funds:-
1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 14-07-2021
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents From 15-07-2021 10.00 am to 27-07-2021 (4.00 pm)
3. Bid submission Start Date From 15-07-2021 From 10.00 am
4. Bid Submission End Date 27-07-2021 up to 4.00 pm
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) 28-07-2021 at 11.00 am In the Office of Executive Engineer, Estates Division, 9-Polo View Srinagar
2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt credited to Major Head of account 0216 in favor of Executive Engineer Estates Division Srinagar and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR / pledged to the Executive Engineer, Estates Division, 9-Polo View Srinagar within two days after declaring the successful tenderer copy of GST Registration, copy of Registration /authorized dealership with renewal.
3. The date and time of opening of technical Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and Executive Engineer, Estates Division, 9-Polo View Srinagar (Tender receiving authority), 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 (tender receiving authority) Executive Engineer Estates Division Polo View Sgr.
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
5. The agency will be debarred for minimum period of two years, if:-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days after fixation of contract.
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
6.1 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.
6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" from any approved Vendor.
6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature.
No bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
8. A Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt credited to Major Head of account 0216 in favour of Executive Engineer, Estates Division Srinagar.
8. b. 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)
9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
10. All other terms conditions shall be the same as are laid in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT J&K.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Estates Division, Sgr.
DIPK-4763/21
No: - E-Tender/NIT/EDS/2793-03/2021-22 /T-1
Dated: -14-07-2021

Jammu And Kashmir Union Territory
Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NITS.NO.- (10) OF 2021-22 (E-TENDERING)
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF LT. GOVERNOR UNION TERRITORY OF J&K, E-TENDERS ARE INVITED ON ITEM RATE BASIS FROM APPROVED AND ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS REGISTERED WITH J&K STATE GOVT. CPWD/ RAILWAYS/ OTHER GOVERNMENTS/ UNION TERRITORY FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS/

S. No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (In lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Head of Account
01	Restoration of Sedow Check Mirzapora canal U/S school by way of cement concrete.	1.78	200	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
02	Removal of silt/ deepening widening of Mastpora Khul from RD 2500 M to 7000 M at spots.	0.50	100	05 days	DEE	2702-M&R
03	Removal of silt/ deepening widening of Mastpora Khul from RD 6000 M to 2500 M at spots.	0.50	100	05 days	DEE	2702-M&R
04	Plugging of breaches and cuts of Gadder canal at spots from RD 220 to 7500 M	1.00	100	08 days	DEE	2702-M&R
05	Construction of earthen channel for bhat Mohallah Karawa of Manul Zoura	0.89	100	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
06	Removal of slips from Manul Zoura canal from RD 2000 to 7500 M at spots	0.50	100	05 days	DEE	2702-M&R
07	Removal of slips from Manul Zoura canal from RD 0 to 2000 M at spots	0.50	100	05 days	DEE	2702-M&R
08	Construction of lining wall on Noori Khul branch of Town Khul	1.21	150	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
09	Construction of lining wall on Noori Khul at RD 1200 M near the land of Moham- mada Lateef and others	1.26	150	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
10	Construction of lining wall on Dhoobi Khul branch of Town Khul	2.96	200	15 days	DEE	2702-M&R

POSITION OF FUNDS: BUDGETARY PROVISION
ACCORD OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL: ACCORDED
1. THE BIDDING DOCUMENT CONSISTING OF QUALIFYING INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SPECIFICATIONS, DRAWINGS, SET OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND OTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN/ DOWNLOADED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE WWW.JKTENDERS.GOV.IN AS PER SCHEDULE OF DATES GIVEN BELOW:

	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14-07-2021 (04:00 PM)
01	Date of start of downloading.	14-07-2021 (05:00 PM)
02	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	15-07-2021 (10:00 AM)
03	Bid submission end date.	23-07-2021 (4:00 PM)
04	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	23-07-2021 (05:00 PM)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1. Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (tender inviting authority).
The first lowest bidder has to produce an amount of 3% of Advertised cost in the shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender Receiving Authority) within three days positively after opening of the tenders else his bid will be rejected and the 2nd lowest bidder will be called for the same.
2. The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender Receiving Authority).
3. The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.
4. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
b. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 days after fixation of contract.
5. Instruction to bidders regarding e-Tendering process:-
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b. 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.
c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para- 01.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
f. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).
No: 1867-89
Date: 14-07-2021
DIPK-4750/21
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division Shopian.

((Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir))
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL(R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
(Modified as per Circular No. A/Misc(2018)-III-895/Jt.Dt.22-12-2020
Issued by Finance Department).
NIT No.63/e-tendering/MD/2021-22/5401-21 DATED, 14-07-2021
For and on behalf of the President, of India, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In rupees)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of Completion (calendar days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Improvements of road by way of P/L of GSB course, WBM G-II in patches/stretches to Kanigund link road taking off from KM 4 th of Beeru Arizal road	2.88 lacs	200/-	20 days	DEE	District Sector
2	Improvements/Upgradation of road from PHC Mazhama upto House of Gh. Mohi-ud-din Wani by way of P/L of WBM G-I in patches/stretches and WBM G-II in full including cross drainage pipes at required spots.	2.51 lacs	200/-	20 days	DEE	District Sector
3	Construction of covered Central cement concrete drain from link road to H/O Noor Bhat, Bashir Khan and others at Dooru Budgam	3.00 lacs	200/-	20 days	DEE	District Sector

Name of the Project Authority:
1. Reference of Authorization Letter: _____
2. Arbitration Liability _____ Nil
3. Position of AAA/TS:- Accorded
4. Position of Funds:- Available.
1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 14.07.2021 4.00 PM
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents 14.07.2021 10:00 4.00 P.M.
3. Bid submission Start Date 14.07.2021 from 4.00 P.M.
4. Bid Submission End Date 28.07.2021 upto 4.00 P.M.
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) 29.07.2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
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 uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected under :-
Note: As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No.OM.No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under :-
1. 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.
2. The Cost of tenders should be collected by introducing e-challan/ or simply uploading a copy of necessary Treasury Challan/Receipt.
3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/ in favour of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender inviting authority).
4. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money deposit (EMD) as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).
5. The "1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
6. 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.
7. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam (tender receiving authority).
8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam.
No: 5401-21.
DATED: 14.07.2021.
DIPK-4744/21

Three Bus Boats Launched In Jhelum To Revive River Transport

Agencies

Srinagar: In a bid to revive river transport in the Kashmir valley, three bus boats have been brought from New Zealand to ply on the river Jhelum in Srinagar.

People would be able to take this boat ride from the Lasjan area of Srinagar to the interior of downtown. Jammu and Kashmir LG had pushed for this initiative with the tourism department. The department says that it will be the cheapest mode of transport.

"This is the revival of water transport in Srinagar. It will start next month. We have procured all the equipment. I think it can be the optimal utilisation of water resources and it will be one of the main means of transport in future. It will be way cheaper than road transport. We have a fleet of three boats and in future, we will procure more. All the decks are ready," said Imran Malik, Director of a private company.

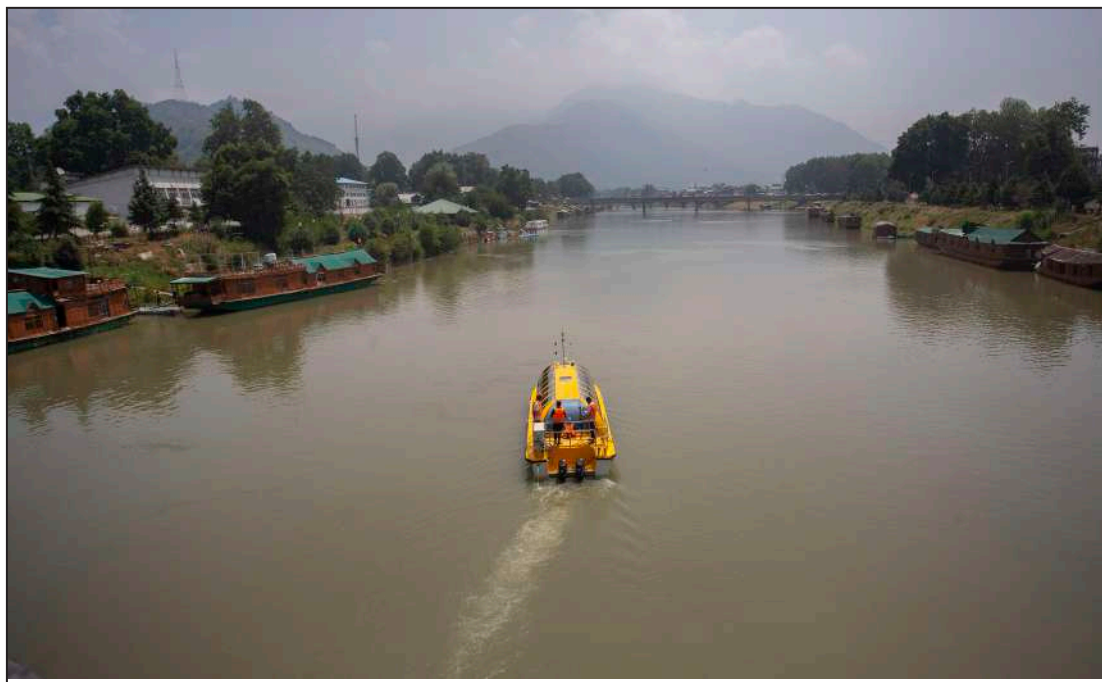
Each boat has 35 seats with air conditioning and the whole cover is made of glass. It will let the passengers enjoy

the view of Srinagar city and make it a memorable ride for them. The tourism department will promote it so that more and more people take this mode of transport while travelling in the city.

"The people of Kashmir will see this kind of boat for the first time. It has a capacity of 35 passengers including five crew members. The plan is that it will ply from Batawara to Veer Chattabal. This will have six stops. We are doing trial runs and then will open it for tourists. It's will complement the road transport. The roads are congested and if we get 5-6 of these in future this will help take the pressure off from road transport," said Abdul Hanan, manager of the firm.

The engineers of the boat have come from Mumbai and will be training the locals in case there are any technical issues with the boat.

"I am training local engineers so that if there is an issue, they can handle it. I am also telling them how to run this boat. If there is any issue ever then we can even take care of the problem remotely," said Bharat Gupta, Engineer.



Tourism department on Thursday launched three bus boats to revive river transport in Kashmir. KO Photo Abid Bhat

SMC Grants Permission For Construction Of Residential Flats On Wetland

- Following Public Outcry 'Permission' Put On Hold
- People Demand Anti-Corruption Bureau Probe

Agencies

Srinagar: The officials in Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) have bent the rules to permit construction of residential flats on 25 Kanals wetland in Srinagar's Peerbagh area.

The officials have issued permission for construction of eight blocks of residential flats on Nader Gund Peerbagh wetland without seeking the required No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Irrigation and Flood Control and Revenue departments.

Following public flak and inquiry by the Irrigation and Flood Control, the officials concerned in the corporation have now ordered the construction to be put on hold and directed to put the permission order in abeyance.

However, the public pressure is mounting over the administration and people in the locality are demanding action from LG's office against the officials of SMC, for allowing massive violation of laws.

The public has demanded a probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau as to how SMC officials have allowed construction in Abi Awal and wetland area.

Sources said that the Chief Enforcement Officer and other ground

staff are in connivance with the owners in allowing the construction even as SMC's concerned officials have put the permission in abeyance.

Joint Commissioner Planning said that no construction can take place when the Permission Order has been put in abeyance.

As per documents, the SMC has given building permission on the Survey numbers 270 271, 270, 272, 273 situated in Nadir Gund Peerbagh for construction of basement and six storey residential flats consisting of eight blocks.

The abeyance order states that the Survey number 270, 271, 272, 273, 269 as mentioned in the permission are falling in the wetland for which no NOC has been sought from irrigation and flood control department. "being highly unfortunate and apathy of extreme kind."

The Irrigation and Flood Control department's Executive Engineer (vide his/her letter no FSCDN/CS/94-98 dated 18/05/2) have asked the SMC that to stop the "menace" of illegal construction, the corporation should revoke the permission forthwith and new permission for construction and filling in the wetland may not be granted.

The order further says that the

25 Kanals of with Abi Awal land comes under the preview of Land Conversion Act as per Govt order no 138-REV (S) of 2016 and as such no procedure has been followed in the process of granting permission.

"...Whereas the master plan land used 2035 of the site being paddy field under agriculture and allied category and not residential and therefore an error has been made on this aspect too. Specifically, the existing use of this land / orchard and the patch is not in the build-up."

"Whereas it infers from the case file that applicant in connivance with revenue and municipal authorities has been able to obtain building permission without seeking NOC from Assistant Commissioner (Revenue/ Nazool) and Chief Engineer/ Executive Irrigation and Flood Control department."

"The building permission Order No: 4250 of 2019 Dated 16/10/2019 is hereby kept in abeyance/ on hold till further orders."

When asked about the flagrant violation of the rules by the SMC officials and the owners, the SMC Commissioner Athar Amir Khan told KDC nobody will be allowed to violate the laid down SMC laws. "Further action will be taken," he said. (KDC)

Adhere To Covid Guidelines, Being Lackadaisical Is Suicidal: DC Sgr

Agencies

Srinagar: The government on Thursday said that violation of Covid guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) amid the pandemic are suicidal, stating that elaborate arrangements have been put in place ahead of Eid-ul-Adha.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Muhammad Aijaz Asad said that a review meeting was recently held with regard to Eid-ul-Adha to ensure that the people don't face any hardships on the eve of this holy festival.

"Market checking is being conducted to check overpricing and other related issues for the wellbeing of the people," he said.

Asked about buying and selling of sacrificial animals, DC Srinagar said that the teams from the concerned departments have

been constituted to ensure that the rates fixed by the government are adhered to and no other violation takes place anywhere across the district.

Replying to a query about Eid rush amid the pandemic, he said that there is a need to understand that virus doesn't go for holidays, presuming it and doing away with the Covid guidelines will be suicidal.

"Whenever we take the virus lightly, we get trapped. It was observed that after the first wave, people presumed that the virus was over, but suddenly an explosion took place across the globe. As experts are predicting a third Covid wave, the SOPs have to be followed in spirit as the virus is in working mode 24*7, so we need to be more cautious," he said.

از نیابت چیئر مین با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی چیئر مین درجہ اول

مضمون درخواست منجانب: قادیان کھانڈے ولد محمد اکبر کھانڈے سے سائیکل چیئر مین اینٹ ناگ

برادر عطا علی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اور یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملی فیصلہ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ دھندلا میں کوشش پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	سالانہ آمدنی
01	گل محمد بٹ ولد غلام قادر بٹ	50 سال	زمینداری	40000
02	منیر باؤزید محمد بٹ	47 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	مینا گل دختر گل محمد بٹ	23 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	آفرید گل دختر گل محمد بٹ	20 سال	تعلیم	
05	اظہر گل دختر گل محمد بٹ	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اسٹور کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کنبہ یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معوجہ جات پیش کرے۔ یہ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت چیئر مین با اجلاس انگریز کمیٹی چیئر مین درجہ اول

مضمون درخواست منجانب: قادیان کھانڈے ولد محمد اکبر کھانڈے سے سائیکل چیئر مین اینٹ ناگ

برادر عطا علی RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈ اور یا سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملی فیصلہ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ دھندلا میں کوشش پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے اور سائل کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	حاجہ بی بی محمد اکبر	60 سال	عمر رسیدہ	
02	منظر احمد پیر محمد اکبر	32 سال	ڈرائیور	5000
03	جادو احمد پیر محمد اکبر	30 سال	دوکاندار	5000
04	قادیان احمد پیر محمد اکبر	26 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	فردوسہ احمد پیر محمد اکبر	26 سال	گھریلو کام	
06	انیسا منظر دختر منظر	3 سال	کس	

اسٹور کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کنبہ یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معوجہ جات پیش کرے۔ یہ معیار گذرنے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA نائب تحصیلدار

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Nabiza Akhter W/o: Abdul Hamid Kumar R/o: Wachi Shopian (Transferor) of LMV alto K10. Vehicle bearing registration



number JK04B - 4161. Chasis number 33966 Engine no. 51772 Model 2010. in favour of Shri.. Shabir Ahmad Shabir S/o. Ali Mohammad Kumar R/o Kumar Mohalla Wachi Shopian (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.1076 Dated 15/07/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

Whereas an application has been received by this office from one MrGh Mohammad Reshi S/o Mohd Ismail Reshi R/o Bumpthan Mir Bazar Anantnag owner of vehicle No JK03E 3325 for cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with M/S The Urban Co-Operative Bank Anantnag

and HPA cancelled with S.B.I Achabal Anantnag Now it is therefore notified for General information that objection it any to the purposed cancellation /endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Office of ARTO Anantnag.

Within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily Aftab /Alsafa News Papers.

101/8206/Mvd/Ang Dated : 15-07-2021

Assistant regional transport officer anantnag

RNA

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of Assistant Director (Public Relations)

Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura Srinagar

Notice inviting Fresh Short Term E-tenders

NIT NO: SIMS/HEE/E/ET/07 of 2021-22 Dated: 13-07-2021

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of J&K, E-tenders in two covers are invited from Registered Electrical contractors registered with competent Authority for following work:-

Name of the Work	Advertised Amount Rs 1.05/- Lacs	CDR Amount Rs 2100/-	Cost of tender document Rs 200/=	Qualifying Criteria
Replacement of Damaged Changeover Switch 800 Amp for CT, MRI & Cath Lab section in Main Sub-station at SKIMS Soura.				As envisaged in bidding document

1 Major Head of Accounts	M&R
2 Position of AA	Accorded
3 Technical Sanction	Accorded
4 Position of Funds	Committed
5 Start date of downloading Tender documents from website (www.jktenders.gov.in)	14/07/2021 (4.00PM)
6 Period for Receiving Bids online	From 15/07/2021 (4.00PM) To 26/07/2021 (4.00 PM)
7 Deadline for receiving original instruments of EMD & tender fee in the office of the "Chief Engineer" SKIMS Soura Srinagar – 190011 J&K.	27/07/2021 (2.00 PM)
8 Time and date for opening of pre-qualification bids	29/07/2021 (12.00 PM)
9 Time of Completion	10 Days

DIPK-NB-1784/21

SIMS 139/XEN/E/TN-07/2021-1122-29 Dated: 13-07-2021

Sd/- Executive Engineer Electric SKIMS Soura

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
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR

04 Zil Haj 1442

FAJR	3: 48
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9:26

This Day In History

- 1099 - City of Jerusalem is captured and plundered by Christian forces during the First Crusade
- 1205 - Pope Innocent III states Jews are doomed to perpetual servitude and subjugation due to crucifixion of Jesus
- 1207 - King John of England expels Canterbury monks for supporting Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton.
- 1240 - A Novgorodian army led by Alexander Nevsky defeats the Swedes in the Battle of the Neva
- 1307 Duke Henrik of Carinthia chosen as King of Bohemia
- 1381 John Ball, a leader in the Peasants' Revolt, is hung, drawn and quartered in the presence of Richard II of England
- 1410 - Battle of Grunwald (First Battle of Tannenberg, Battle of Zalgiris), one of Medieval Europe's largest battles during Poland-Lithuanian Teutonic War. Polish King Wladyslaw Jagiello and Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas defeat Teutonic Ulrich von Jungingen
- 1915 - The Austro-German forces launch an offensive along the Eastern Front
- 1918 - World War I: Second Battle of Marne begins
- 1923 - Italian parliament accepts new constitution
- 1940 - Physicist Donald Kerst becomes the first person to accelerate electrons using electromagnetic induction, reaching energies of 2.3 MeV, when his betatron device (for particle acceleration) becomes operational
- Event of interest: Event of interest
- 1941 - Howard Florey and Norman Heatley present freeze dried mold cultures (Penicillin)
- 1941 - Britain's MAUDE Report edited by James Chadwick approved, concludes an atomic bomb is feasible
- 1948 - US President Harry Truman nominated for another term (Philadelphia)
- 1955 - 18 Nobel laureates sign the Mainau Declaration against nuclear
- 1959 - The US steel strike of 1959 begins, leading to significant importation of foreign steel for the first time in United States history.
- 1961 - Spain accepts equal rights for men and women
- 1962 - Algeria becomes member of Arab League
- 1971 - US President Richard Nixon announces he will visit the People's Republic of China
- 1975 - Soyuz 19 and Apollo 18 launched; will rendezvous 2 days later
- 1991 - US troops leave northern Iraq
- 1992 - Pope John Paul II hospitalized for 3 weeks to have tumor removed
- 1992 - The Security Council of the UN examine violence in South Africa
- 1994 - Israel and Jordan agree to talks in Washington, D.C. on July 25th
- 1999 - Scientists uncover possible reason for SS Waratah's disappearance 100 years later: The SS Waratah was a luxury steamer which did not reach its destination in 1909, and no trace of the wreckage was ever found
- 2002 - A. P. J. Abdul Kalam is elected 11th President of India (results announced 18th July).
- 2002 - Anti-Terrorism Court of Pakistan hands down the death sentence to British born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and life terms to three others suspected of murdering Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl
- 2012 - 39 pilgrims are killed in a bus crash in Parasi, Nepal
- 2012 - A Russian Soyuz rocket with an international team launches for a mission to the International Space Station
- 2014 - 20 people are killed & 100 are injured after a train derails in Moscow
- 2014 - Israel announces it has officially voted to accept the ceasefire proposed by Egypt; Hamas reject, saying they were not consulted

From KO Archives

Hurriyat Wants Center To Set Date For Talks Initiative lies with Delhi: Umar

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Chairman of the moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Tuesday said that his group was ready to talk to New Delhi but was upto the latter to decide about the venue and the date for such a meeting.

Talking to reporters after an extra ordinary meeting of the Hurriyat Conference, Umar said that his party was ready to open a free and frank dialogue with New Delhi but added that initiative for this had to be taken by the centre. "We are willing to resume talks with the Prime Minister. If the government is serious about the dialogue process, it should fix the date and venue for the next round of talks," he said.

Umar also indicated that the separatists would not stick to their earlier demand that New Delhi issue a fresh invitation to them for talks, saying instead they were awaiting "a communication from Delhi that would indicate the date and venue of the proposed meeting" with the prime minister.

"We don't insist on a renewed invitation by the Indian government, but since the meeting is likely to be held in Delhi, the government must communicate to us the date and venue of such a meeting," he said.

If Manmohan Singh, however, "wants to talk with us in Kashmir, we can fix the date and venue.. In case the government cannot decide Hurriyat would be ready" to make arrangements, he said. Arguing that the Indo-Pak thaw and reconciliation process could "not bring lasting peace in the sub-continent" unless the Kashmir issue was resolved to the satisfaction of the people of the state, the separatist leader said the talks should be "Kashmir-centric".

He said that Hurriyat talks with the centre would be on the same pattern on which two rounds of talks were held with the erstwhile NDA government. The proposed talks, he said, would be aimed to find some amicable resolution of Kashmir, outside the ambit of the constitution and on the basis of triangular talks as the Hurriyat has been pleading for.

Umar disclosed that Hurriyat executive will be having a meeting with the migrant Kashmiri Pandits at Srinagar on July 19. The meeting will discuss the possible return of migrants to their respective homes, he said adding that Pandits were part and parcel of Kashmir's rich and glorious history and without them Kashmir was incomplete.

"We feel Kashmir is a political problem whose solution can only be found in accordance with the aspirations of the local people."

(Kashmir Observer, 15 July, 2005)

Saudi Smashes Fraud COVID-19 Testing, Vaccination Ring Ahead Of Hajj

Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has arrested more than 120 people suspected of supplying or procuring fraudulent coronavirus vaccine and test certificates, official media said Thursday, two days before a tightly controlled hajj.

The state-run SPA news agency said nine health ministry officials are among the accused, who have all pleaded guilty.

Some 60,000 Saudi residents with vaccine certificates will join this year's religious pilgrimage, the second time the gathering has been massively curtailed because of the pandemic.

The suspects in the fraudulent certificates case are alleged to have used social media to advertise their services.

These included changing infection status, vaccination status and whether one dose or two had been administered, SPA reported.

Twenty-one people -- nine Saudi citizens and 12 residents -- are accused of acting as intermediaries in the fraud.

Those accused of using the illicit services are 76 citizens and 16 residents.

Saudi authorities announced in July that two health ministry officials were among several suspects arrested in a similar conspiracy to change coronavirus data illegally.

A criminal investigation was begun into that case, but the number of suspects has not been disclosed.

More than 21 million coronavirus vaccine doses have been administered in the Gulf nation of 34 million people, according to health ministry data published on Thursday.

On Wednesday the ministry announced 1,226 new cases and 14 deaths, bringing the total number of infections to 504,960 and the cumulative death count to 8,020.

Only the vaccinated will be able to enter government buildings, educational establishments or entertainment venues or use public transport as of August.

And only vaccinated workers in both the public and private sectors will be allowed to return to the workplace.

'Freedom day' or 'Anxiety day'? England to end Covid curbs



Agencies

London: As England's so-called "freedom day" draws near, excitement at the impending end of Covid-19 restrictions is tempered by worries of rising cases and downturn fear among the vulnerable.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to move England to Step 4 - the end of legal lockdown curbs - on Monday.

That means the last remaining businesses still closed, including nightclubs, can finally reopen.

"At some point we've got to find a way to move forward," said Eugene Wild, co-founder of The Cause club in north London which has been shut since March 2020.

He favours testing people before clubbing, but fears another shutdown if things go badly. "I don't think we could go through this again and survive financially," he added, speaking at the 1,200-capacity venue, which will open right after midnight when the curbs end for a party called Adonis.

In the Netherlands, nightclubs opened for two weeks

before being closed again while Israel has also reimposed some restrictions as cases rose.

Johnson acknowledges that a wave of infections when restrictions end and more deaths are inevitable, but said worse harm would come from keeping the economy shut and a successful vaccine rollout has cut the number of serious cases.

Many scientists point to the more transmissible Delta variant, which has become dominant in Britain, as changing the calculation since the roadmap was laid out in February.

"It's not inevitable that you're going to have an exit wave... it's only inevitable if we're not going to do anything about it," Christina Pagel, professor of operational research at UCL, told Reuters.

"Delta has changed the equation, it's made it much harder to rely on vaccination to bring cases down on its own." Britain has the seventh highest death toll in the world but has seen two thirds of adults receive two doses of vaccine.



'We're In Early Stages Of 3rd Wave,' Warns WHO Amid Delta Surge

Agencies

Geneva: World Health Organisation (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Thursday warned the world about the 'early stages' of COVID-19 third wave amid Delta surge.

"Unfortunately...we are now in the early stages of a third wave", he said.

On Wednesday, the head of WHO said that Delta variant's spread, along with increased social mobility and the inconsistent use of proven public health measures, is driving an increase in both case numbers and deaths.

Recalling the sustained decline in COVID-19 cases and deaths that was being driven, in recent months, by increasing vaccination rates in Europe and North America, he sounded alarms over the fresh reversal of that positive trend, reported UN News.

Meanwhile, said Tedros, the virus is continuing to evolve, resulting in more transmissible variants.

"The Delta variant is now in more than 111 countries and we expect it to soon be the

dominant COVID-19 strain circulating worldwide if it isn't already," he said.

Last week marked the fourth consecutive week of rising cases of COVID-19 globally, with increases recorded in all but one of WHO's six regions. Deaths are also rising again, after 10 weeks of steady decline.

Tedros also drew the Emergency Committee on COVID-19's attention to the ongoing "shocking disparity" in the global distribution of vaccines, as well as unequal access to life-saving tools, reported UN News.

He reiterated his concern that inequity has created a two-track pandemic - namely, one track for countries with the greatest access to vaccines, who are lifting restrictions and reopening their societies, and a second track for those without vaccines access who are left "at the mercy of the virus."

Many countries still have not received any vaccines, and most have not received enough.

Tedros reiterated WHO's appeal for a massive push to

vaccinate at least 10 per cent of the population of every country by September, at least 40 per cent by the end of 2021, and at least 70 per cent by mid-2022.

Emphasising that vaccines alone will not stop the pandemic, he called upon countries to persist with a "tailored and consistent approach".

It means using the full array of available public health and social measures and taking a comprehensive risk management approach to mass gatherings.

"So many countries around the world have shown that this virus can be stopped and contained with these measures," he stressed.

To provide support, WHO recently issued updated guidance to facilitate a risk-based approach for opening.

The Agency is also reviewing options to digitalise the International Certificate for Vaccination and Prophylaxis, to support a harmonised approach for recording vaccination status, reported UN News.

China Weighs Risk And Reward In A Taliban-Led Afghanistan

Agencies

Beijing, China: The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and seemingly unstoppable march of the Taliban opens a strategic door to China that is laden with both risk and opportunity.

China abhors a power vacuum, especially on its borders, and maintaining stability after decades of war in its western neighbour will be Beijing's paramount consideration.

But if stability requires a Taliban-dominated government, an equal concern would be the support such an administration might provide to Muslim separatists in China's Xinjiang region.

Communist Party leaders in Beijing and the fundamentalist Taliban have little ideological common ground, but analysts say shared pragmatism could see mutual self-interest trump sensitive differences.

"For China, the risk does not come from who holds the power in Afghanistan, but from the risk of persistent instability," Fan Hongda, a Middle East specialist at the Shanghai International Studies University, told AFP.

Afghanistan shares only a small 76-kilometre (47-mile) border with China, at high altitude and without a road crossing point.

But the frontier is a big concern because it runs alongside Xinjiang, and Beijing fears its neighbour being used as a staging ground for Uyghur separatists from the sensitive region.

"China can deal with the Taliban... but they still find the Taliban's religious agenda and motivations inherently discomforting," said Andrew Small, author of The China-Pakistan Axis.

"They have never been sure how willing or able the Taliban really are to enforce agreements on issues such as harbouring Uyghur militants."

For Beijing, a stable and cooperative administration in Kabul would pave the way to an expansion of its Belt and Road Initiative into Afghanistan and through the Central Asian republics.



Former Pak Prez Mamnoon Hussain passes away in Karachi

Press Trust of India

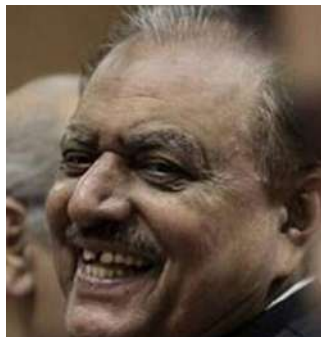
Islamabad: Former president of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain passed away here on Wednesday after a prolonged illness, according to his family and party leaders. He was 80.

Hussain, who was born in Agra in 1940 and migrated with his parents to Pakistan in 1947, served as the 12th President of Pakistan between September 2013 and September 2018.

The senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader was diagnosed with cancer in February last year and was under treatment at a private hospital in Karachi for some days where he breathed his last, Dawn newspaper quoted PML-N Sindh additional secretary general Chaudhry Tariq as saying.

President Alvi expressed sorrow over Hussain's demise, saying he shared the pain of his bereaved family. PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif also shared sadness over Hussain's death. "Today, we have lost a valued person who loved Pakistan and had a good character," a tweet by the PML-N president's account quoted him as saying.

"He was Nawaz Sharif's trustworthy, loyal and ideological companion. He steadfastly



stood by the party through all the highs and lows. His services for the country and the nation will be remembered for long," Shehbaz said.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi tweeted: "My deepest condolences on the passing of former President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain. May Allah grant his family the strength to bear this great loss."

A textile businessman from Karachi, Hussain was associated with the Muslim League through the 70s and 80s and remained an active member of the PML-N since its early days.

He was governor of Sindh from June to October 1999 when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government was overthrown by the then Pakistan Army chief, Gen Pervez Musharraf.

B O T T O M

'No smoking, no shaving': Taliban restore old rules in newly seized Afghan territory

Days after the Taliban captured a remote district in Afghanistan's north, they issued their first orders in the form of a letter to the local imam.

"It said women can't go to the bazaar without a male companion, and men should not shave their beards," said Sefatullah, 25, a resident of Kalafgan district.

The insurgents also banned smoking, he added, and warned that anybody violating the rules "will be seriously dealt with".

The Taliban are making huge advances across the country as they capitalise on the final withdrawal of foreign troops -- capturing districts, seizing key border crossings, and encircling provincial capitals.

In some areas, they are again introducing the harsh interpretation of Islamic rule that earned them notoriety until being overthrown by the US-led invasion that followed the September 11 attacks.

Last month, they took Shir Khan Bandar, a northern customs post that connected the country to Tajikistan over a US-funded bridge that spanned the Panj river.

"After Shir Khan Bandar fell, the Taliban ordered women not to step out of their homes," said Sajeda, who told AFP she worked in a local factory at the time.

"There were many women and young girls

doing embroidery, tailoring and shoe-making [...] The Taliban's order has now terrified us," she told AFP by phone.

A nurse checks the blood pressure of a patient for an antenatal care visit at a government-run maternity in Dand district of Kandahar province, Afghanistan, October 1, 2020. — AFP/File

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 according to a hardline interpretation of the Holy Quran.

Women were ordered to stay indoors unless accompanied by a male relative, girls were banned from school, and those found guilty of crimes such as adultery were stoned to death.

Men had relatively more freedom but were ordered not to shave, would be beaten if they didn't attend prayers, and were told to only wear traditional clothing.

Afghanistan is deeply conservative and some rural pockets of the country adhere to similar rules even without Taliban oversight -- but the insurgents have tried to impose these edicts even in more modern centres. 'Marry your daughters to the Taliban'

A statement purporting to come from the Taliban, circulated on social media this week, ordered villagers to marry off their daughters and widows to the movement's foot soldiers.

"All imams and mullahs in captured areas



should provide the Taliban with a list of girls above 15 and widows under 45 to be married to Taliban fighters," said the letter, issued in the name of the Taliban's cultural commission.

It brought back bitter memories of the edicts issued by the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice during the Taliban's first stint in power.

Keen to project a softer image this time around, they have denied issuing any such statement and dismissed it as propaganda.

"These are baseless claims," said Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the group.

"They are rumours spread using fabricated papers."

'Nobody can leave home at night'

But people in areas recently taken by the insurgents insist there is truth to the social media buzz.

In Yawan district on the Tajikistan border, the Taliban gathered residents at a local mosque after taking over.

"Their commanders told us that nobody is allowed to leave home at night," Nazir Mohammad, 32, told AFP.

"And no person -- especially the youths -- can wear red and green clothes," he said, referring to the colours of the Afghan flag.

Their orders didn't stop there.

"Everybody should wear a turban and no man can shave," said Mohammad.

"Girls attending schools beyond sixth grade were barred from classes."

The Taliban insist they will protect human rights -- particularly those of women -- but only according to "Islamic values", which are interpreted differently across the Muslim world.

For Sajeda on the Tajikistan border, just a few days of Taliban rule was enough -- and she fled south to the nearby city of Kunduz.

"We will never be able to work in areas under the Taliban," she said, "So, we left".

Dawn

Two Dead, Three Injured As Vehicle Falls Into Gorge In Uri

Observer News Service

Baramulla: Two persons were killed while three others suffered injuries in a tragic road accident in Zamoor Pattan area of Uri in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Eyewitnesses said that a vehicle fell into a deep gorge after the driver lost control over the vehicle, injuring five persons on board the vehicle.

The injured were identified as Mohammad Ismail son of Raj Mohammad, Jameel Ahmad son

of Mohammad Rafiq, Khadim Husasain son of Mohammad Ramzan, Mohammad Rafiq son of Din Mohammad and Gulshan Bano daughter of Rafiq Ahmad.

"Although all the injured were shifted to a local hospital for treatment, however, Mohammad Ismail succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital and Khadim Hussain succumbed minutes after undergoing treatment in the hospital," said Zulkarnan, a relative of the deceased.

The condition of other injured is stated to be critical.

Bandipora Resident Goes Missing In Punjab

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: A resident of Bandipora in north Kashmir has gone missing from Ludhiana city of Punjab.

The family of the missing person, Gulzar Ahmad Khan, on Thursday staged a protest demonstration in Srinagar seeking police intervention to trace a man who went missing from Punjab.

The family members said that they have already lodged a missing report at a police station after one of their members went missing in Ludhiana city of Punjab.

They said that he along with his wife was travelling towards the house of his in-laws in Bihar but

went missing during his stay in Ludhiana city.

Although his wife reached her home safely in Bihar, she informed the family and they lodged a missing report at the police station, Hajin.

Sameer Ahmad, one of the family members said that 38 years old labourer Gulzar Ahmed Khan, a resident of Chek Chandgerger, married to a woman from Bihar had gone to visit the house of his in-laws in Bihar along with his wife.

He added during his stay in Ludhiana, he lost contact with his wife and has been missing since then.

He further said that his wife after reaching Bihar informed the same to his parents and now a missing report has been lodged in this regard.

Ensure Timely Payment Of MGNREGA Wages: Dir RDD To Officers

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Director Rural Development Department (RDD) Kashmir, Tariq Ahmad Zargar Wednesday issued directions to officers of the department for ensuring timely payment of wages under MGNREGA adding that the same has become more significant during post lockdown times.

The Director made these remarks while chairing a meeting to take stock of developmental and wage employment works undertaken by RDD in the district, at Verinag, Dooru.

Emphasising on ramping up the pace of work, Zargar said that work completion within stipulated time frame is an important parameter associated with the development process which must be given due consideration.

Zargar directed the BDOs and field functionaries to conduct spot visits in their respective areas for monitoring the quality and standard of ongoing works. He also enjoined upon them to regularly participate in Social Audit Gram Sabhas besides promptly addressing the public grievances and complaints.

Work Proactively To Achieve Set Targets: DDC Kulgam Asks Officers

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Thursday chaired a meeting of officers to review the functioning of Rural Development Department, progress made under MGNREGA, 14th FC, SBM and B2V etc.

The DDC reviewed Block and Panchayat-wise performance made under various schemes and direct-

ed to expedite the pace of developmental works and complete the same within the fixed timelines.

During the meeting, the DDC directed to scale up the pace of verification of job cards and eliminate/delete inactive job cards.

He also directed the concerned to ensure no lapse in timely payments.

The DDC stressed to work proactively to achieve set targets within the stipulated time frame.

PDC Employee Injured In Kangan

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: A Jammu and Kashmir power development corporation (PDC) employee was injured due to electrocution while repairing a power line at his residence in Ganderbal on Thursday.

An official said that the employee Nazir Aad Lone (55) son of

Ghulam Rasool Lone, a resident of Panzin Kangan got electrocuted while repairing power line at his residence in Panzin.

He said that Nazir fell off the electric pole after receiving electric shock and got critically injured. He was immediately rushed to SDH Kangan for treatment, where from he was referred to SKIMS for further treatment.

SHD Casual Labourer Injured In B'pora

Observer News Service

Bandipora: A 37-year-old casual labour, working in Sheep husbandry department was critically injured after he fell from a mountain in Dardpora forest area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday.

An official said that a casual labourer Ghulam Mohammad Khan,

son Abdul Aziz Khan, a resident of Dardpora was critically injured after he slipped and fell from a mountain in Dardpora forests while performing his duty.

"Soon after the incident, the injured was evacuated by locals to a nearby health center wherefrom he was shifted to District Hospital Bandipora for specialised treatment," an official said.

Minor Boy Drowns in Hajin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The body of an 8-year-old boy drowned while taking bath in river Jhelum on Thursday afternoon in Asham Zoonipora area of Hajin in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Officials said that searches were jointly launched by SDRF, police

and locals immediately after the incident was reported by the locals.

They said that after an hour of searches, the boy Sajad Shabir Shiekh son of Shabir Ahmad Shiekh, a resident of Zoonipora, was recovered dead. Meanwhile, a police official said that the body was handed over to the family on conduct of necessary medico-legal formalities.

MMU Urges Govt To Lift Restrictions On Congregational Prayers Ahead Of Eid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: All constituent members of Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu and Kashmir Thursday asked the Government to lift restrictions on congregational Friday prayers in central mosques of J&K as the Covid positive cases have gone down across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, MMU — an amalgam of religious bodies of the state, said that on the advice of medical experts, parks, market places shopping malls, restaurants, hotels etc have been allowed to open with the condition of following Covid appropriate SOPs, similarly all central places of worship in Jammu and Kashmir, which include the historic Jamia Masjid Srinagar, Dargah Hazratbal Srinagar, Khanqah-e-Mu'ala, Imambarah Budgam, and other main mosques, shrines and imambarahs, that had been closed in view of the pandemic, should now be allowed to hold Friday



prayers and Eid-ul-Adha prayers adhering to strict Covid protocol.

Members of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema include Anjuman-e-Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar, Darul Uloom Raheemiya Bandipora, Muslim Personal Law Board Jammu and Kashmir, Anjuman-e-Shari'a Shian, Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadeeth, Jamaat-e-Islami, Karwaan-e-Islami, Ittehad-e-Muslimeen, Anjuman-e-Himayat-ul-Islam, Anjuman-e-Tabligh-ul-Islam.

Jamiat Hamdaniya, Anjuman Ulema Ahnaaf, Darul Uloom Qasmia, Darul Uloom Bilalia, Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam, Anjuman-e-Mazhar-ul-Haq, Jamiat Aima Wa Ulema, Anjuman-e-Imam-o-Mashaa'ikh Kashmir, Dar-ul-Uloom Naqshbandia, Dar-ul-Uloom Rasheedia, Ahl-e-Bayt Foundation, Madrasa Kanz-ul-Uloom, Karvaan Khatm-e-Nabuwat, and other religious, social and educational associations.

Govt To Create Entrepreneurial Ecosystem For Ex-servicemen, War Widows: Adv BK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Thursday assured support to ex-servicemen and war widows and said that the government is committed to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem for them across Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks during his inaugural address of a day-long conclave at SKICC organised by Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board for Empowering Ex-servicemen and War widows by establishing Micro Industrial units.

Lauding the efforts of J&K KVIB and Sainik Welfare Board for kick starting convergence schemes for ex-servicemen and war widows, Advisor who was Chief Guest on the occasion said that this conclave will usher into the next level wherein the participants will have a holistic outlook on self employment and new avenues of employment generation through wide range of schemes meant for Ex-servicemen and war widows.

The convergence schemes kick-started for the ex-servicemen and war widows will provide them with Self employment opportunities and will enhance entrepreneurial



culture in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The Advisor said in the process number of success stories will emerge which will attract more and more ex-servicemen towards these micro self-employment schemes.

Advisor directed the authorities that facilitation counters should be opened at district level where they will be provided with every kind of information and assistance necessary for applying for the schemes and would also give them insight into the procedural formalities to be completed for starting the venture. He was confident that this one day

conclave will benefit the ex-servicemen with the contents of various schemes which are placed in the basket for being taken up by them.

Advisor further said that a single window clearance system for the easing of the process should be adopted so that the ex-servicemen and war widows do not face any inconvenience or difficulty in completing the formalities for starting the venture. Advisor directed the officers to give a forward push to the programmes launched by adopting a pragmatic and prudent approach for the successful implementation of the schemes.

Choudhary Reviews Implementation Of High Density Plantation Scheme

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Horticulture and Agriculture Production Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary, Thursday chaired a meeting to review implementation of High Density Plantation scheme of Horticulture department in Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Secretary stressed upon the concerned officers to cover all the feasible areas under high density programme.

It was informed that an area of 800 hectare has been targeted to be covered in Kashmir division during current financial year under the programme. Principal Secretary asked

the CHOs for conducting awareness camps to educate the farming community regarding benefits of the scheme so that more and more farmers adopt the scheme. "This ambitious programme will go a long way in enhancing the quality and quantity of horticulture produce for doubling farmer's income", he maintained.

Jashn-e-Gurez...

Govt Intends To Develop Gurez At Par With Other Destinations: Div Com



GUREZ: Jashne Gurez, the festival to showcase the Gurez valley for all its recreational and adventure potential took off to a colourful start on Thursday. The festival was thrown open by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad and Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo, senior Police and Army officers, members of PRIs and a large number of tourists and local people were present on the occasion.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir said the Government intends to develop Gurez at par with other tourist destinations in Kashmir. He said the Gurez valley has huge potential to attract tourists which needs to be fully exploited.

The Divisional Commissioner appealed youth of Gurez to come forward and set up their tourism units which would give boost to local economy.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo said the Department has already placed Gurez, given its enormous tourism potential, on the promotional agenda and holding of the present festival is one of the components of this promotional scheme.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais said the successful

conduct of the festival was the result of close coordination between Tourism Department, district administration, Police and Army. He hoped with this coordination in future, Gurez would become a favourite tourist destination.

During the inaugural session, around 15 Departments had put up their stalls displaying the products generated locally. Local hotel owners had also put up their stalls depicting their services including food provided by them. A special feature of the festival was presentation of cultural items by various local groups particularly in Sheena, Dardi, Pahari and other local dialects.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir flagged off a contingent of students for the marathon. He also released a brochure depicting the tourism potential, recreational avenues and critical information about the place. He also distributed certificates among the youth who were trained at the local ITI in various hospitality trades.

Last evening a cultural programme was held at TRC, Dawar where local youth presented scintillating performances which were appreciated by the audience comprising many visiting tourists. The best performers were felicitated on the occasion.

DC Budgam Stresses For Self-reliance To Achieve Objective Of NRLM

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza Thursday stressed upon making NRLM a success across districts by ensuring effective implementation of NRLM.

At the outset, the District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM Shinera Sajad briefed the meeting about the tasks being undertaken by NRLM in the district.

She said that social mobilisation of rural women is undertaken through Gram Sabha besides meetings are convened on monthly basis to make rural women aware about the benefits of NRLM. She further added that savings of the SHG are pooled in one common bank account out of which funds are redistributed among women on a revolving basis.

The DPM further revealed that till date, 479 villages, 37735

households, 4258 SHGs have been covered under NRLM in Budgam, adding that besides Village level and Cluster level federations of SHGs are also in operation in the district.

The DC instructed that a big organization at Block Level federation should be set up for which all remaining villages and panchayats shall be brought under the ambit of NRLM at an earliest. He also emphasized upon social security benefits for rural women and in this regard, the DC instructed all concerned to act swiftly.

The DC also discussed various modalities and issues related to NRLM in the meeting including marketing facilities for products manufactured by SHGs and in this connection, a patch of land at various locations across district shall be identified and handed over to Cluster level federation for further economic activity.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

CORRIGENDUM to Nlet NO.12 OF 2020-21 DATED:-01-07-2021 for the work - Construction of Surface Drain at Main Road, Development of Parking Area and Front Road, Construction of Steel Canopy over main Gate and Other Allied Works in the Park developed under Srinagar Smart City Project at Bemina Bypass, Srinagar Issued under endorsement No.SMC/EELRWD/956-965 Dated:-01-07-2021.

Please read estimated cost Rs. 50.66 lacs (Rupees Fifty Lacs Sixty Six Thousand only) Instead of Rs. 58.66 lacs (Rupees Fifty Eight Lacs sixty Six Thousand Only) and time of completion 20 days instead of 30 days.

Item No.36 "Maintenance of Park for 18 Months by way of maintaining of turf, flower beds, toilet blocks, path, electric lighting, fencing and all other allied works complete in all respects including bush cutting, turf trimming/ mowing with lawn mowers, watering in turf and flower beds and plantation of various varieties of seasonal flowers for upkeep of garden beauty through the period." and Item No. 37 "Providing of Security Services for Watch & Ward, safety of assets of Green Space park and visitors as per standard procedure complete job for 18 Months by way of engagement of properly uniformed security guard both male/female with necessary light defence equipment for regulating visitors entry/exit complete job." are Omitted

S.No.22 (a, b & c) of Terms and Conditions of Nlet is Omitted

REST NO CHANGE

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No./SMC/EELRWD/1073-77

Dated:-13-07-2021.

DIPK-NB-1812/21

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER ANANTNAG

Whereas an application has been received by this office from one mr Bashir AHmad Rather S/o Ab Rehman Rather R/o Sehpora rampathri Kulgam owner of vehicle No JK03B 0827 for cancellation of Hire Purchase Agreement with J&K BANK HERMAN SHOPIAN and HPA cancelled with Now it is therefore notified for General information that objection it any to the purposed cancellation /endorsement of Hire Purchase Agreement shall be filled in writing in the Office of ARTO Anantnag.

Within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice in Daily Aftab /Alsafa News Papers.

No ARTO/ANG/2021

Dated : 28/06/2021

Assistant regional transport
officer anantnag

ma

اطلاع عام
میری آٹھویں جماعت پاس ڈسپارچ سرٹیفکیٹ گم ہوگئی ہے۔ اب اسکی ڈبلکٹنگ نکالنی مطلوب ہے
لہذا اس سلسلے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو ساتھ دن کے اندر راندر گورنمنٹ
مڈل اسکول نیلی پورہ ماگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی اعتراض قابل
قبول نہ ہوگا۔
المستتر:
ارشاد احمد ملک
ولد: غلام قادر ملک
ساکنہ: نیلی پورہ ماگام
sult

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
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K O V I E W

Jaishankar, Wang meet

India and China have once again agreed to resolve their border stand-off in Ladakh as prolonging the existing situation "was not in the interest of either side." A statement issued on Wednesday by the government following a meeting between Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi said that the conflict along the LAC in Ladakh between the two countries "was visibly impacting the relationship in a negative manner."

The foreign ministers met in Tajikistan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, an eight-nation regional grouping that primarily focuses on security and defence issues. Later, in a tweet, Jaishankar said he discussed "outstanding issues" with Wang and highlighted that "unilateral change of status quo is not acceptable."

Jaishankar has also called for "full restoration and maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas" as essential for development of Indian and Chinese ties. The foreign ministers have now agreed on "convening an early meeting of the Senior Military Commanders."

This is a welcome development after an over year-long stand-off that brought the armies of the two countries eyeball to eyeball. At times it appeared that the neighbours were on the verge of going to war. One such occasion was on June 15 last year when twenty Indian soldiers lost their lives in a bloody skirmish. There were other uneasy times as well when the two countries brought tanks to the border. But only the restraint and the dialogue could resolve the impasse. It was this dialogue that led to disengagement along Pangong Tso lake.

There are, however, three other major friction points which would need to be sorted out now. There has so far been no progress in the dialogue over the restoration of status quo ante in these areas. But there is hope that like Pangong Tso, the two countries would find a diplomatic solution to all the friction points along the Line of Actual Control, sooner than later.

The problem in the negotiations so far has been that China has been loathe to go back to the status quo ante and has asked for mutual withdrawal. The incursions in the first place have been staged by China and the communist giant is not ready to vacate it unless India also withdraws from a portion of the border on its side of the LAC. But New Delhi can hardly afford to do it, not least because it considers the area its own. Doing so will be politically costly for the BJP government at the centre which is already facing severe flak for vacating Kailash ranges as part of its Pangong Tso agreement. But through sustained negotiations they certainly can find a way out. For a peaceful neighborhood it's important that India and China reach a modus-vivendi

O T H E R O P I N O N

Prevent the Surge

The Covid data of the past two weeks is a sobering pointer to the persistence of the pandemic's second wave in several pockets of the country. The positivity rate remains more than 10 per cent in at least 37 districts of the Northeast, the infection graph has been rising in Kerala since June 27, and new hotspots have emerged in Maharashtra. At 5.5 per cent, last week's decline in the country's caseload was the lowest since the second wave peaked on May 9. There are concerns that crowded markets and tourist centres could incubate another countrywide surge of the disease. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi added his voice to messages of caution from the ICMR and IMA by flagging violations of Covid-appropriate behaviour at hill stations. His advice on being alert to early signals of a possible third wave must not be ignored by local administrations and the people at large.

Micro-containment strategies have been the responsibility of state governments for more than a year. Most states have, unfortunately, interpreted this remit in a narrow sense to impose lockdowns or similar emergency measures when faced with a rapid surge in cases. They have rarely summoned the resolve to act decisively against potential super-spreading events or censure business centres that pay short shrift to Covid protocols. Amongst the few noteworthy steps in this respect is the Delhi government's move to shut down markets where people do not observe physical distancing norms. The Uttarakhand government has also done well to call off the Kanwar Yatra which occasions a heavy movement of pilgrims in the country's northern states — the state was criticised for going ahead with the Kumbh Mela just before the second wave. Neighbouring Uttar Pradesh has, however, displayed less pandemic awareness, if not outright denialism. Its decision to press on with the yatra "with restrictions" has invited the Supreme Court's intervention. Taking suo motu notice of the PM's warning and this newspaper's reports on the conflicting positions of the two state governments on the Kanwar Yatra, the Court said that it was "disturbed" at "disparate political voices" on Covid safety. It has asked the Centre and the two states to file a response by Friday.

The Indian Express

The Dire Dearth

Absence of Women ECG Technicians in Government Hospitals

Raja Muzaffar Bhat

In the future, posts advertised for ECG technicians' should be reserved for women. Under National Health Mission (NHM), women technicians must be engaged at PHC or Sub District Hospital as well. The lack of female technicians must be addressed and the resolution must permeate all levels, right from the super specialty hospitals to Primary Health Centers (PHCs)



There is dearth of female ECG technicians in associated hospitals of GMC Srinagar and Jammu. The picture is similar in District and Sub District hospitals across Jammu & Kashmir. The number of women ECG technicians in J&K in Government run hospitals in J&K is therefore a cause for alarm. Many patients who are women, are forced to visit private diagnostic centers in search of women technicians. This is concerning female patients, as they complain that they feel humiliated and embarrassed when they are asked to undergo an Electrocardiograph (ECG) through a male technician. Reports in the media have often flagged this issue that women patients have raised on many occasions. Many have chosen to forego the procedure over this lack.

A large number of female patients visit the GMC Hospital and Super-Specialty Hospital Jammu daily. Data from last year suggests that more than 450 to 500 ECG tests are conducted in both hospitals daily. Out of these 400 to 500 patient's 30 percent are females. Many of these female patients are subjected to ignominy and humiliation as male ECG technicians conduct the ECG.

In hospital wards especially the emergency one, more than 300 ECGs are conducted daily and a majority of the patients happen to be females but most of the tests are conducted by the male ECG technicians. In new type Primary Health Centers (NTPHCs), Community Health Centers (CHCs) or even Sub District hospitals (SDH's), the situation is worse. The dearth seems to be even more dire as the lack seems to be more prominent in these.

Many places have reported cases of sexual abuse in the healthcare setup both, globally as well as locally. The infamous case of Larry Nassar, the American

Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) Imphal Meghalaya was sent to five-day police custody for allegedly sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl inside an ECG room. RIMS authorities later on terminated the services of the accused technician who was working in the hospital on contract basis. As reported by media, the girl's mother said her daughter was rushed to the casualty ward of RIMS following a complaint of dysentery and fever. The doctors advised for some tests to be done and accordingly they went to the Electrocardiography (ECG) room of the hospital. Mother of the little girl was not allowed to enter the room by male ECG Technician and was made to wait outside. After some time, when the mother of the patient entered the room, the girl told her that the technician had sexually abused her.

Even as there don't seem to be many reported cases of sexual abuse at the hands of male ECG technicians in Kashmir, this is hardly the true picture. The mechanics of our society is such that the lopsided power relations between men and women, inevitably discourage women from filing cases. This is because even when men do face legal punishments, the cost of reporting the case is paid more by the women who are subjected to multiple challenges at the hands of the society.

One such case of molestation in AIIMS is pertinent in understanding the nitty gritty of the issues.

The Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) New Delhi in 2012 dismissed a petition filed by a former Laboratory Technician of AIIMS namely Sanjeev Kumar. The petitioner while working as Laboratory Technician at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi was responsible for molestation of an unmarried lady on 19.01.2007 in one of the ECG Rooms of AIIMS. The technician was accused of making physical contact and advances with the female patient on the pretext of doing ECG testing.

The matter was initially inquired into by the Committee for dealing with complaints regarding Sexual Harassment of Women at AIIMS and the victim vide her letter dated 11.9.2007 confirmed her nonappearance due to reason that she being an unmarried girl and did not like to recall such a crime any more. An FIR was lodged in the matter and Mr Iqbal Singh, Sub-Inspector, Delhi Police vide his statement dated 9.4.2008 confirmed the incident. The Committee vide their report dated 23.5.2008 also held that Sanjeev Kumar guilty of charge. After considering the written representation dated 6.9.2010 the Director, AIIMS as the

Disciplinary Authority passed the order dated 22.11.2010 wherein the technician was dismissed from service. He later-on challenged his dismissal order before CAT New Delhi. The tribunal dismissed his petition and upheld the order of the AIIMS Director.

In our society where crimes against women are only increasing, women deserve comfortable spaces where they feel safe. When we have separate washrooms at all the public places for males and females or seats reserved in public transport for female commuters, isn't it the moral duty of the Government to make available enough number of female ECG technicians in Govt hospitals?

While making appointments for ECG technicians, the Government never bothered to reserve some of these posts for women. Not only is this important because we need women in healthcare to make women accessing health care feel safe but it is also pertinent because women are at a disadvantaged position and often find more barriers than their counterparts in securing work opportunities due to the inherent bias against them.

In fact, we must take proactive measures to train any qualified women to become an ECG technician as this skill can be mastered easily. Even female multipurpose health workers (FMPHW) or lab technicians working in Government hospitals can be sent for 2 to 3 months ECG technicians' course. This will ensure that the lack is resolved at all stages and the harm is mitigated immediately.

In the future, posts advertised for ECG technicians' should be reserved for women. Under National Health Mission (NHM), women technicians must be engaged at PHC or Sub District Hospital as well. The lack of female technicians must be addressed and the resolution must permeate all levels, right from the super specialty hospitals to Primary Health Centers (PHCs).

Moreover, the government must also ensure that private diagnostic centers also have women working as ECG technicians and that their registration is issued only after this is ensured. This is the only way for us to have all bases adequately covered.

This author has recently approached the National Commission for Women (NCW) as the Government hasn't taken the issue seriously in the past.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder & Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement



convicted sex offender, former USA Gymnastics national team doctor is just one well known example. In India too, many such cases have been reported. For instance, In October 2019, a laboratory technician of the Regional



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Horn Please!

Traffic Jams have become a new reality of life in Srinagar. Day in and day out, hundreds of vehicles are stuck in jams and lurch forward to reach their destinations. Unfortunately, it takes hours before these jams are cleared and even essential service(s) vehicles, such as Ambulances, navigate with great difficulty through them. Therefore, steps must be taken to reduce the occurrence of

jams in the city.

Before taking any steps, the authorities need to identify the potential causes of traffic jams in the city. It needs to be acknowledged that the number of vehicles entering the city is increasing as more and more people are purchasing them. However, the roads have not been widened or reconstructed to withhold such a volume of traffic. At several crossings, traffic lights are not functional, which leads

to great chaos. In the city centre, Lal Chowk, there are very few parking slots. On a busy day, people who are unable to find parking slots park their cars on roads running through Lal Chowk, thus, leading to jams. Nevertheless, the public should also be held accountable for these jams. People often drive vehicles on the wrong side of the road, overtake in a rush, which leads to traffic jams in the city.

To reduce traffic jams, both the

authorities and the public have a role to play. The authorities need to take into account the causes of jams, devise a plan and accordingly implement it. On the other hand, the public needs to understand that certain rules are necessary to follow while driving, and if they follow them, there may be fewer jams in the city.

*Suhail Ahmad Khan
skhan737662@gmail.com*

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

Mental Health First-Aid Depression

Wasim Kakroo

Major depression is one of the most frequent mental health problems in Kashmir. As per MSF report (2015), the proportion of the adult population in the Kashmir Valley suffering from symptoms of probable depression in 2015 was 41%, representing 1.6 million adults. Chances are that there might have been a substantial increase since then in the number of people developing symptoms of depression due to ongoing conflict and COVID-19 pandemics also might have caused an incline in the percentage of affected people. Depression, as opposed to transient emotions of sadness, is a complicated mental illness that continues for at least two weeks or indefinitely if not treated properly. Depression commonly hinders a person's ability to work, attend school, keep a daily routine, and have satisfying relationships. Depression, however, is treatable, and professional help is available for those suffering from it. A person having symptoms of depression, may battle with a variety of emotions on a daily basis, have pessimistic thoughts, act erratically, or abuse drugs or alcohol to handle the distress caused by depression. Some of the most significant side effects of depression are mental health crises such as suicidal ideation and non-suicidal self-injury. Mental health first aid (knowing how to assist a person who is depressed), which anyone can provide, can be helpful to treat these and other mental health emergencies and encourage people to seek professional care.

How do I know if Someone has Depression?

If you find that the person's mood, behaviour, energy levels, habits, or personality has changed considerably, consider depression as a possible cause. However, you should not attempt to diagnose the individual with depression because only a professional mental health professional can do so. Do not dismiss the signs you have observed as something that will go away of their own.

It is critical to learn about depression so that you can identify the signs and symptoms and assist someone who is developing depression. Take the time to learn about depression, including its causal factors, symptoms, and treatments, as well as what services are available in your region to deal with it such as the department of psychiatry in your local district hospital or professionals such as psychiatrists and/or clinical psychologists working in private. The knowledge base about depression can be developed by reading trustworthy material from reliable websites or in books, reading about or listening to other people's experiences with this mental illness, and getting guidance from individuals who have suffered and then recovered from depression.

Signs of Depression:

Although the degree of depression can range from feeling irritable to feeling suicidal, the following are some frequent symptoms that you may observe. You should feel worried, if the following symptoms persist and have an impact on the person's functioning.

- A very low mood
- Loss of enthusiasm and interest in previously pleasurable activities
- Lack of energy and weariness
- Feeling worthless or guilty when they are not at fault
- Frequent thoughts of death or suicide
- Difficulty focusing or difficulty in decision making
- Moving more slowly than usual
- Getting agitated and unable to sit at one place
- Sleeping less or sleeping excessively
- Poor or lack of appetite or eating excessively
- Changes in eating habits might result in either weight reduction or gain.

Each person is unique, and not everyone who is depressed will exhibit the classic signs or symptoms of depression. Many persons who suffer from depression may also suffer from other mental health issues such as anxiety or substance abuse problems. However, do not presume that any symptoms you have observed indicate that the person is depressed.

How should I talk to someone who may have Depression?

Contrary to popular belief, talk-



Depression is a bio-psycho-social problem and not the person's fault if they are depressed. It's pointless to advise someone to "snap out of it," or "get over it". This individual would do it if it was that easy for them. Do not tell the person that "it's all in their heads" or "they should offer Salah and read Quran and it will all end" or that they simply need to be more active or occupied

ing about depression improves rather than worsens the situation. If you suspect that someone from your acquaintance is depressed and in need of assistance, evaluate if you are the ideal person to contact them or whether someone else would be more suited. Inquire with the individual whether they are willing to speak with you or if they would prefer to speak with someone else.

Talk to the person and encourage him to speak if you feel you are the best person to talk to or if there is no one else to talk to.

Spend time with the individual and gently bring up your worries with them, such as mentioning that the person seems depressed today. Allowing the person to choose when to open up about his depression might be beneficial. However, if the individual does not begin a dialogue with you about their feelings, you should initiate the conversation.

It is critical to select a good time when both you and the other person are available to chat, as well as a private location where both of you feel comfortable. Let the person know you care about them and are prepared to assist them. Inquire if the person would like to talk to you about how they are feeling. Concentrate on how the individual is feeling and the changes you've seen over a period of time. If the individual says that he or she feels low or down, you should question how long they have been feeling that way and if they have told anybody else about how they are feeling.

When approaching the individual, be prepared for a wide variety of emotions (e.g., relief, apathy, anger). They may deny that they are going through changes in their mood, behavior, or everyday functioning. Remember that the person's thoughts, feelings, and beliefs reflect their own understanding of the world in that state of mental health, which you must accept without question. You should respect the person's interpretation of their symptoms.

Some individuals who have healed from depression may have a reemergence of their symptoms. Don't assume that the individual is unaware of depression; they, or someone close to them, may have suffered from it in the past. However, even if the individual has already experienced depression in the past, don't assume they'll be able to handle the present bout.

What can I do to Help?

Show respect and dignity for the person. Recovery must be driven by the individual for the most part, and you should avoid the urge to try to cure the person's depression or provide solutions to their issues. Each person's condition and requirements are distinct. It is critical to respect the person's independence while taking into account their ability to make decisions for themselves or whether they are in danger of hurting them-

selves. Unless you are worried that the individual is in danger of hurting themselves or others, you should also respect the person's privacy.

Provide emotional support and understanding on a regular basis. Even if you don't understand what the individual is going through, let them know you care and want to assist. Tell them how important they are to you, that they are not alone, and that you are here for them. It is more essential for you to be sincere in your care than it is for you to say all of the "correct things." Let the individual know that they are not alone, even though their experience is highly personal and traumatic. Taking the time to talk to or be with someone can often be enough to show them that someone cares. You should be sensitive, compassionate, and patient since the individual requires more assistance and understanding to help them through their illness. When helping someone who is depressed, it is critical to be persistent and supportive.

Irrational fears frequently overwhelm those suffering from depression, so you must be patient and empathetic while dealing with them. Even if the depressed person does not reciprocate, you should show kindness and attention to them. Even if it does not feel this way, keep in mind that your support is likely to be having a positive impact.

Encourage the depressed individual to engage in a conversation with you. Encourage the depressed person to express their feelings, thoughts, symptoms, and any other issues they are having. Examine how the person's symptoms influence their day-to-day life. If they say stress is an issue for them, encourage them to look for methods to minimize stress

It's critical that you know when to persuade the person to get professional help. When depression lasts for weeks and interferes with a person's ability to function in everyday life, professional treatment is required. Do not assume that the person's depression will go away on its own. Keep in mind that early treatment of depression is critical for the greatest results

in their lives. You may also inquire about recent events in their lives that may be influencing their feelings and behavior. Do not put pressure on a depressed person if he does not want to talk or have the energy to talk about how they are feeling. Let them know you're available to speak with them whenever they're ready. If the individual finds it difficult to express their feelings and ideas openly, offer an activity that will make it comfortable for them to do so, such as having a cup of tea or going for a stroll. You can also inform the individual about various options that helps them to speak with someone else, such as a telephone counseling service.

Listen attentively. You may help someone who is depressed by paying attention to them and without passing judgment. Acceptance, genuineness, and empathy are three important attitudes in nonjudgmental listening. Accept the individual as they are by putting aside any and all judgments you may have formed about them or their situation. Set aside any negative beliefs or reactions in order to focus on the requirements of the person you're assisting, and select your words carefully to avoid offending anybody; for example, even if you think the person is behaving lazily, you shouldn't say so to them. Body language that complements your verbal communication, such as telling the individual you accept and respect their sentiments while keeping an open stance and proper eye contact, can indicate authenticity to the person. Demonstrate empathy by showing that you have genuinely listened and comprehended the individual.

Have reasonable expectations for the individual. Accept the person for who they are and set reasonable expectations for them. Simple day to day home chores such as cleaning the house, paying bills, etc. may appear to be burdensome to the person. You should accept that the individual isn't "faking," "lazy," "weak," or "selfish," and you shouldn't pressure them to do things they feel they can't do.

Help the person recognize their abilities. If the individual is severely judging themselves (e.g., calling oneself a failure or a weak person), remind them of their strengths and praise any efforts they are making to improve their life. Let the individual know that having depression does not make them weak or a failure; even the most capable and powerful people may get depressed. Tell them you don't believe they're any less of a person.

Help the depressed person to believe that he or she will heal. Support the person by reminding them that, even if they don't believe it right now, they will feel better with time and treatment. Give the individual hope for a better future, and let them know that their life matters.

What isn't Helpful?

Depression is a bio-psycho-social

problem and not the person's fault if they are depressed. It's pointless to advise someone to "snap out of it," or "get over it". This individual would do it if it was that easy for them. Do not tell the person that "it's all in their heads" or "they should offer Salah and read Quran and it will all end" or that they simply need to be more active or occupied.

By suggesting the individual to 'put a smile on their face,' 'cheer up,' or 'lighten up,' you are trivializing their experiences. Trying to be optimistic (e.g., "You don't seem that awful to me") might be seen as dismissive or demeaning, and should be avoided.

Avoid labeling the individual with terminology that they may find stigmatizing, such as "pagal" (crazy) or "tensioni". Also, while speaking with the person, avoid using language that implies a possible diagnosis. Your job is not to diagnose the person.

Avoid using a patronizing tone of voice or excessively sympathetic looks of worry when talking to the person. Avoid being overly engaged or over-protective of the individual, but also refrain from completely abandoning them.

Avoid confrontation unless it is absolutely essential to keep the person from committing harmful or hazardous behaviors.

What if I have Problems Conversing with the Person?

Be patient and accept the person's responses as the best they have to offer at the time if they are not communicating properly (e.g., speaking slowly, less clearly than usual, or being repetitious). Make an effort to be as helpful as possible. Interrupting, criticizing, expressing irritation, or being angry or sarcastic should be avoided at all costs.

Try not to take any irritated or unpleasant behaviors personally and instead consider them as part of the disease. Make no conclusions regarding the source of the person's anger if they become enraged while talking. Maintain your composure while acknowledging the other person's anger and frustration. When assisting the person, however, do not tolerate abuse or jeopardise your own mental health.

Encourage the person to talk to someone else about their feelings if they don't feel comfortable talking to you. If cultural differences are preventing you from assisting the individual, talk to them about what is culturally appropriate and practical for them. Be open to change your verbal and nonverbal behaviors; for example, the individual may want a different degree of eye contact or more personal space. You can also contact a specialized mental health service.

Should I Encourage Them to Seek Professional Help?

It's critical that you know when to persuade the person to get professional help. When depression lasts for weeks and interferes with a person's ability to function in everyday life, professional treatment is required. Do not assume that the person's depression will go away on its own. Keep in mind that early treatment of depression is critical for the greatest results.

Discuss with the depressed individual and their caregivers how seeking professional help from psychiatrists and clinical psychologists can be beneficial and ask the individual and his family members whether they believe it would be beneficial to them. Discuss getting professional help in a way that normalises it, such as by describing it as a natural activity to do and explaining that mental health issues are common and treatable.

If they believe they need assistance, talk to them about the professional help that is available in their area and urge them to use them. If the person requires assistance, volunteer to assist them.

Encourage the individual to prepare a list of questions to share with the health professional at their initial session if they decide to seek professional treatment. If the individual wishes for you to accompany them to a doctor's visit, you must not fully take over since a person suffering from depression needs to make their own decisions as much as possible.

The author is a Child and Adolescent mental health counselor at IMHANS-K and can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com

Study suggests change in diet could lessen severity of headaches

Agencies

You might want to cut down on junk food as a new study showed how a change in diet based on certain classes of fatty acids decreased headaches in patients over a 16-week period. The findings of the study were published in the journal 'The BMJ'.

Migraine is one of the largest causes of disability in the world. Existing treatments are often not enough to offer full relief for patients. This study demonstrated an additional option patients can use in their effort to experience fewer migraines and headaches - a change in diet.

"Our ancestors ate very different amounts and types of fats compared to our modern diets," said co-first author Daisy Zamora, PhD, assistant professor in the UNC Department of Psychiatry in the UNC School of Medicine.

"Polyunsaturated fatty acids, which our bodies do not produce, have increased substantially in our diet due to the addition of oils such as corn, soybean and cottonseed to many processed foods like chips, crackers and granola," added Zamora.

The classes of polyunsaturated fatty acids examined in this study are omega-6 (n-6) and omega-3 (n-3). Both have important functions within our body but need to

be in balance, as n-3 fatty acids have been shown to decrease inflammation and some derivatives of n-6 have been shown to promote pain.

However, due to the amount of processed food consumed today, most people in the U.S. are eating substantially more n-6 and fewer n-3 fatty acids.

To see whether the amount of these fatty acids in a person's diet could impact pain from headaches, 182 patients currently diagnosed with and seeking treatment for migraines were enrolled in this randomized, controlled trial, led by Doug Mann, MD, professor of Neurology and Internal Medicine in the UNC School of Medicine.

In addition to their current treatments, patients adhered to one of three diets for 16 weeks: a control diet that maintained the average amount of n-6 and n-3 fatty acids that a person living in the U.S. consumes, a diet that increased n-3 and maintained n-6 fatty acids, and a diet that increased n-3 and decreased n-6 fatty acids.

Participants were provided with 2/3 of their daily food requirements, and were also given an electronic diary to record how many hours each day they had headache pain.

"Participants seemed highly motivated to follow these diets due to the amount of



pain they were experiencing," said Beth MacIntosh, MPH, RD, clinical nutrition manager for the UNC Metabolic and Nutri-

tion Research Core. "The results are quite promising," Zamora said. "Patients who followed either

diet experienced less pain than the control group. Those who followed the diet high in n-3 and low in n-6 fatty acids experienced the biggest improvement."

Participants reported fewer days a month with headaches, and some were able to decrease the amount of medication they needed for their pain. However, participants did not report a change in quality of life.

"I think this modification in diet could be impactful," Zamora said. "The effect we saw for the reduction of headaches is similar to what we see with some medications. The caveat is that even though participants did report fewer headaches, some people did not change their perception of how headaches affected them."

"This study specifically tested n-3 fatty acids from fish and not from dietary supplements," said study co-author Keturah Faurot, assistant professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and assistant director of the Program on Integrative Medicine. "Our findings do not apply to supplement use."

Zamora said the biochemical hypothesis of how certain fatty acids affect pain applies to a wide variety of chronic pain. She and her colleagues are currently working on a new study to test diet modification in other pain syndromes.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. GIRLS HR. SEC. INSTITUTE, AMIRA KADAL SRINAGAR

Phone: 0194-2313838
E-mail: ghssamirakadalsgr@gmail.com

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE



(UTBA ASHRAF KHAN)

We are deeply grieved to know about the sudden departure of UTBA ASHRAF KHAN, the student of class 11th science stream of our school. We the staff extend our heartfelt condolence to her bereaved family members and relatives. May her departed soul rest in eternal peace in the heaven. She will always remain in our hearts and memories.

Principal
GGHSS AMIRAKADAL

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders ((In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Civil and Sanitary Contractors registered with Govt. of J&K/ other union territories and CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	2.	3.	5.	6.	7.	9.	10.
11.	Renovation of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Block at North Campus.	16.21	1100/-	02- Months	14-07-2021 To 23-07-2021 (6.00 PM)	26-07-2021 (11.30AM)	"BEE" & "CEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.
NIT No:- F (E.Tend) (UCD) KU/ 23/21
DATED:-14-07-2021.

DIPK-NB-1826/21

Executive Engineer

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of Assistant Director (Public Relations) Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura Srinagar

Subject: - Cancellation of NIT NO. 04 of 2021-22 dated: 19-06-2021

Name of the work

Replacement of Damaged Changeover Switch 800 Amp for CT, MRI & Cath Lab section in Main Sub-station at SKIMS Soura.

The above referred NIT invited vide this office letter No. SIMS 139/XEN/E/TN-05/2021-22-701-10dated: 19-06-2021 is hereby cancelled due to Technical Reasons.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electric)
SKIMS, Soura

NO: SIMS 139/XEN/E/TN-05/2021/1090-93.
Dated: 12-07-2021

DIPK-NB-1824/21

Office of the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Budgam

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Email:- budgamdsho@gmail.com Tel.-01951-255229

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE (1)

Subject: Establishment of Sheep/ Goat Units in District Budgam under various Schemes for the financial year 2021-22.

Applications on prescribed format are invited from interested persons or sheep/Goat farmers of District Budgam for establishment of Sheep/Goat Units under various schemes for the financial year 2021-22, shown in Annexure "A" to this notification.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- > Date of commencement of issuance of application forms:16-07-2021
- > Last date of receipt of applications: 05-08-2021

HOW TO APPLY:

- > The application forms can be obtained from the following offices on all working days during office hours;
 - a) District Sheep Husbandry Office, Budgam.
 - b) All Sheep Development Block offices of this organisation.
- > Self attested copies of following documents are to be submitted with the application form
 - a) Aadhaar card b) Ration card c) Applicants applying under SC/ST category will necessarily have to submit Category certificate issued by competent revenue authority by/ before 30th August 2021 if not available on last date of receipt i.e; 05-08-21, failing which the applicant will not be considered under the reserve category quota.
 - > The application forms, duly filled in all respects along with necessary documents can be submitted through the concerned Sheep Development Block offices of the District up to 05-08-2021.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. Applicant must be within the age group of 18-60 years as on 01-07-2021.
 2. Mere submission of the form does not entitle the applicant to sheep unit.
 3. This office/designated committee reserves the right to cancel the application form/selection at any stage of the selection process if the application details/documents submitted by the applicant are found to be fabricated or misleading.
 4. Beneficiaries/households who have already availed benefit under any income generating scheme of Sheep Husbandry Department from last 5 years are not eligible.
 5. Applicants/Households selected in more than one scheme can avail benefit under one scheme only.
 6. More than one application under a particular scheme shall not be entertained from same house hold, which shall be verified by the copy of the ration card submitted by applicants.
 7. Persons who are Govt. Employees/Semi Govt. Employees/PSU Employees/Bank Employees are not eligible for the said schemes.
 8. The No. of units (Fresh) shall be subject to availability of funds.
 9. Applications of individuals who have been blacklisted by the Department in the past shall be rejected.
 10. The selection of beneficiaries shall be made through "Draw of lots" in presence of committee designated for the purpose.
 11. The acceptance of application for further course of action shall be subject to techno feasibility report of the concerned authorities.
 12. The selected beneficiary shall have to submit an affidavit duly attested by First class Magistrate as per the prescribed format.
- For more information kindly visit the office of undersigned, call on 01951-255229 or Email at budgamdsho@gmail.com

No: DSHOB/Tech/Units/2021-22/
Date:

DIPK-4702/21

Sd/= District Sheep Husbandry Officer
Budgam

ANNEXURE (A)				
Integrated Sheep Development Scheme:				
S. No	Scheme/Component	Salient features	Eligibility	Terms and conditions
I	Establishment of Sheep/Goat unit of 25 Ewes/Does on participatory mode.	1) Livestock supplied free of cost. 2) Retrieval of equivalent livestock from female progeny in phased manner. 5 Sheep/Goats to be retrieved from the beneficiary every year from 3 rd year onwards for next five years. 3) The progeny to be retrieved must be 1.5 to 2 years of age with a minimum body weight of 25kg. 4) The total cost of the unit includes insurance cover for the first year	5) Any individual/group of individuals /self-help group/ cooperative. society/ farmers producer organization (Efforts will be made to cover 20% SC/ST and 10% women beneficiaries) 6) Applicant must have sufficient land holding, infrastructure, fodder/grazing and manpower resources available to maintain the unit on organized pattern.	7) The Selected beneficiary Shall be provided unit after executing an agreement (as per prescribed format) to the effect that beneficiary will return 5 ewes/does per year out of the progeny to the department as the case may be from 3rd year for next 5 years. 9) Will submit a guarantee statement as per prescribed format. 10) 3. Nominate the dependent who will be responsible for continuation of the scheme in case of death of the beneficiary.
II	Establishment of Sheep/Goat units on 50% subsidy mode (25-200 ewes/does)	11) Sheep/goat unit would mean a unit of minimum 25 Sheep/goats. 12) Subsidy is fixed for one unit of 25 sheep/goats. However, if an entrepreneur sets up multiple units (max. limit being 8) of 25 sheep/goats, he/she will be entitled to subsidy accordingly, in multiples, available for single unit of 25 sheep/goats. 13) 50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of 1 lac whichever is less per unit (25 Sheep/goat) and a maximum subsidy ceiling of Rs 8.00 lac for 8 sheep/goat units. 14) The beneficiary can opt for loan facility after submitting form in office of the U/sd, depositing 10% marginal money and subsidy amount in that case shall be released to lending bank as backend subsidy.	15) Any individual/group of individuals /self-help group/ cooperative. society/ farmers producer organization (Efforts will be made to cover 20% SC/ST and 10% women beneficiaries) 16) Applicant must have sufficient land holding, infrastructure, fodder/grazing and manpower resources available to maintain the unit on organized pattern.	17) The Selected beneficiary Shall be provided unit after he/she will submit guarantee statement as per prescribed format.
III	Establishment of shearing units (Comprising of one shearing machine, one genset and shearing accessories /spares)	19) Shearing units would mean a unit Comprising of one shearing machine, genset and shearing spares required to undertake the activity. 20) The beneficiary can purchase the shearing equipment from any registered company/authorized dealer /distributor/sole manufacturer within or outside Union Territory of J & K. 21) Once the beneficiary has procured the Shearing unit, 50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a maximum ceiling of 0.75lac per unit whichever is less will be released in favour of the concerned beneficiary. 22) The beneficiary can opt for loan facility after submitting form in office of the U/sd, depositing 10% marginal money and subsidy amount in that case shall be released to lending bank as backend subsidy	Any individual of District Budgam trained in Machine Sheep Shearing (MSS) or intending to undergo training in MSS.	23) The machine equipment should be certified as per requisite safety/quality standards and subsidy shall be released as fixed per unit by the department regardless of the price after the specifications prescribed are met.

2) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY)			
Scheme/component	Salient features	Eligibility	Terms and conditions
I) Establishment of Sheep/Goat Units on Participatory mode. (Fresh/Retrieval)	25 Sheep/Goats shall be provided to the beneficiary free of cost, and from 3 rd year of establishment the department shall retrieve 5 Ewes/does per year from the beneficiary for the next five years. The progeny to be retrieved must be 1.5 to 2 years of age with a minimum body weight of 25kg.	Unemployed youth, marginal/ small farmers with less livestock holding having: Minimum wherewithal viz, land, shed, livestock etc. Experience/knowledge of Sheep/goat farming Desire to undergo mandatory training in livestock management & record keeping at one of the departmental sheep breeding farms for one week.	The Selected Beneficiary: Shall be provided unit after executing an agreement that he/she will not sell the basic livestock up to five years, abide by the rules and regulations guide lining the scheme and return 5 Ewes/Does per year out of progeny to the department as per specifications from 3rd year for next five years. Will submit guarantee statement as per prescribed format. Nominate the dependent who will be responsible for continuation of the scheme in case of death of the beneficiary.
II) Establishment of Sheep Units under Backyard Sheep farming. (Fresh/Retrieval)	10 Ewes shall be provided to the beneficiary free of cost, and from 3 rd year of establishment the department shall retrieve 2 Ewes per year from the beneficiary for the next five years. The progeny to be retrieved must be 1.5 to 2 years of age with a minimum body weight of 25kg.	Gujjars and Chopans having meagre livestock (10-15 Sheep) , requisite infrastructure and associated with rearing of livestock.	The Selected Beneficiary: Shall be provided unit after executing an agreement that he/she will not sell the basic livestock up to five years, abide by the rules and regulations guide lining the scheme and return 2 Ewes/Does per year out of progeny to the department from 3rd year for next five years. Will submit guarantee statement as per prescribed format. Nominate the dependent who will be responsible for continuation of the scheme in case of death of the beneficiary.

Consumers Expect Fall In Income, Savings Due To High Fuel, Commodity Prices: Survey



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Rising prices of fuel and essential commodities amidst the Covid-19 pandemic have hit the finances of the people, with a majority of consumers surveyed foreseeing a decline in their income as well as savings during the fiscal, according to a survey.

The survey participants also want the government to reduce duty on petrol and diesel by as much as 20 per cent.

As many as 70,500 responses were received from participants across 382 districts for this survey.

Consumers in most parts of the country are paying more for the same list of essentials and grocery items they spent in the last three months from what they paid before during the year and 2020.

The prices of items like edible oil, soap, shampoo have risen by 4-20 per cent, according to a survey conducted by community social media platform LocalCircles.

The 'Mood of the Consumer' survey was aimed at understanding how many more people paid to purchase vegetables in comparison to December 2020 to February 2021 or before the second wave of the pandemic as well as change in people's monthly household expenses in the last three months.

According to the survey, 65 per cent of the households said they paid 25-100 per cent higher prices this year for vegetables in comparison to December to February.

Vegetable prices witnessed an increase as many vegetable mandis across the states were hit by lockdown and restrictions till May, followed by increase in petrol and diesel prices.

As many as 79 per cent households said their monthly grocery

expenses are fetching less quantity for the same or more money they spent during December to February.

In June, India's consumer price index based retail inflation hovered above RBI's comfort level at 6.26 per cent. While, the wholesale price index based inflation stood over 12 per cent.

While, 47 per cent of the consumers expect that the uncertainty related to Covid may last 6-12 months in their household budget planning. As many as 49 per cent felt their average household savings will reduce in 2021-22 in comparison to 2019-20, the survey said.

A similar question LocalCircles asked consumers in May 2020 survey, 46 per cent of consumers were expecting their savings to decline. This percentage has increased marginally to 49 per cent of consumers now expecting their savings to decline in the financial year 2021-22 given the intensity of the 2nd wave of COVID-19.

On fuel price hike, 76 per cent of the consumers said they want the government to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel, with the majority of them the duty to be cut by as much as 20 per cent.

In April-May when several states observed lockdown-like restrictions, the fuel price increased 15 times. In Delhi, petrol is priced over Rs 101 while in Mumbai, the price has crossed Rs 107 a litre.

Among others, states like Rajasthan now have petrol and diesel priced at Rs 112 and Rs 102 a litre, respectively.

"76 per cent of Indian households want the government to reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel as immediate relief. Of whom, the majority want it to be reduced by 20 per cent," said the survey.

Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked Again

NEW DELHI: Petrol price on Thursday was hiked by 35 paise per litre and diesel by 15 paise, pushing rates to a new high across the country.

Petrol in Delhi now costs Rs 101.54 a litre and diesel Rs 89.87 per litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

The increase comes after rates stayed mute for three days. Petrol price was last hiked on July 12, on a day when diesel rates had seen its first reduction in almost three months. The increase on Thursday neutralised the 16 paise price cut in diesel on July 12.

Domestic fuel rates are benchmarked to international oil prices as India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs. International rates have surged since last month on a rebound in consumption.

The relentless price increase has pushed petrol rates above the Rs 100-a-litre mark in most places in 15 states including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar and Punjab and at a

couple of districts in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Rates are also above the sensitive Rs 100 per litre level in four Union Territories including Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Diesel, the most used fuel in the country, is above that level in some places in Rajasthan, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

Fuel prices differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes such as value-added tax (VAT) and freight charges.

Since taking over as the new oil minister last week, Hardeep Singh Puri has been courting oil-producing nations to convey India's concern over high prices. He spoke to his counterpart in Qatar on July 10, and on Wednesday dialled the UAE Energy Minister.

"Conveyed my desire to work closely with the UAE and other friendly countries to bring a sense of calm, predictability and realism among other suppliers in the energy market to make it more affordable for consumers," Puri tweeted after speaking to UAE minister Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber. PTI

HDFC Bank Named 'Best Bank in India' at Euromoney Awards 2021

Agenceis

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank has been adjudged 'Best Bank in India' at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2021. The Bank has won this coveted honour for the 3rd consecutive year.

In its editorial, the magazine writes, "HDFC Bank has a track record going back decades of generating exceptional growth while not putting a foot wrong on the credit side. These skills were put to the test during a pandemic that has already gone through a series of waves in India, hitting its worst in May."

A first of its kind in the global financial publishing industry, the awards were introduced in 1992. The awards are based on year-round monitoring of market share and customer-satisfaction data compiled by Euromoney's industry-leading surveys. In the 29 years of the Euromoney Awards' existence, the bank – founded in 1995 – is humbled to have been

bestowed the prestigious recognition of "Best Bank in India," for 14 years.

This year, Euromoney received a record number of submissions from banks in our regional and country awards programme that covers more than 50 regional awards and best bank awards in 100 countries.

In its awards issue, the magazine further writes, "Despite the intense crisis, HDFC Bank lodged an 18.51% increase in profit after tax to Rs311 billion (\$4.26 billion) in the year to March 31, 2021, while lifting deposits by 16.34% (that flight to quality in action) and assets by 14.14%. As of March 31 the tier-1 ratio stood at a more than healthy 17.6%, while the gross non-performing loan ratio barely nudged up to 1.32% from 1.26% in pre-pandemic times. That will almost certainly get worse in due course, but if you had to count on one bank to come through it all with resilience, it is this one."

Govt Intends To Develop Gurez At Par With Other Destinations: Div Com

Gurez Festival Takes Off To A Colourful Start

KO NEWS DESK

GUREZ: Jashne Gurez, the festival to showcase the Gurez valley for all its recreational and adventure potential took off to a colourful start here on Thursday.

The festival was thrown open by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, P K Pole.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad and Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo, senior Police and Army officers, members of PRIs and a large number of tourists and local people were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir said the Government intends to develop Gurez at par with other tourist destinations in Kashmir. He said the Gurez valley has huge potential to attract tourists which needs to be fully exploited.

The Divisional Commissioner appealed youth of Gurez to come forward and set up their tourism units which would give boost to local economy.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo said the Department has already placed Gurez, given its enormous tourism potential, on the promotional agenda and holding of the present festival is one of the components of this promotional scheme.

Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Dr. Owais in his address said the successful conduct of the festival was the result of close coordination between Tourism Department, district administration, Police and Army. He hoped with this coordination in future, Gurez would become a favourite tourist destination.



The festival has been conceived by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with District administration, Police and Army to showcase the adventure and recreational potential of Gurez in terms of trekking, camping, mountaineering, cycling etc. and to attract tourists to spend few days in the picturesque valley.

During the festival, events like car rally, trekking, marathon, cycling, painting competition, self defence, local sports like kabaddi besides cultural activities are being held.

During the inaugural session, around 15 Departments had put up their stalls displaying the products generated locally. Local hotel owners had also put up their stalls depicting their services including food provided by them. A special feature of the festival was presentation of cultural items by various local groups particularly in Sheena, Dardi, Pahari and other local dialectic.

Local people in large numbers and many visiting tourists visited the stalls and evinced keen interest

in the local products put on display.

Earlier on his arrival, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir was given a traditional reception at the venue. He flagged off a contingent of students for the marathon. He also released a brochure depicting the tourism potential, recreational avenues and critical information about the place. He also distributed certificates among the youth who were trained at the local ITI in various hospitality trades.

Last evening a cultural programme was held at TRC, Dawar where local youth presented scintillating performances which were appreciated by the audience comprising many visiting tourists. The best performers were felicitated on the occasion.

On the sidelines of the festival, Director, Tourism, Kashmir met several deputations of local stakeholders and youth who intended to set up their units.

The Director Tourism impressed upon them to come forward and assured all possible support from the Department.

Cultural Unit of DIPR organises Cultural Programme At Kashmir Haat

KO NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Cultural Unit of Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Kashmir, today organized a Cultural programme at Kashmir Haat during ongoing Craft Mela.

The 15 day Craft Mela has been organised by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handlooms, implemented in collaboration with Information Department JK and was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, Manoj Sinha on 10th July.

The event is aimed at promoting the footfall at the Kashmir Haat and to give boost to the local products.

Making the exhibition multi-dimensional and colourful, artists of Cultural Unit performed many folk items.

All the artists took the audience into their spell through their melodious and mesmerizing songs. Besides, young artists from valley also performed various folk items and light music to entertain the visitors.



Meanwhile Cultural officer Kashmir, Tavheed Ahmad Mir said that events like these help the participating artists to showcase their talent besides motivate others to come up front and show their hidden potential.

He said, in order to nurture the inherent potential that each and every young artist has a virtual platform will be given to youth to showcase their talent through a Talent Hunt-Kashmiri culture event, which will commence after Eid ul Adha.

Mastercard Barred From Adding New Customers In India



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred MasterCard from acquiring new customers (debit, credit or prepaid) from July 22 for not complying with data localisation requirements.

In a statement, the central bank said that MasterCard is required to advise all card-issuing banks and non-banks to conform to these directions.

"Notwithstanding lapse of considerable time and adequate opportunities being given, the entity has been found to be non-compliant with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data. This order will not impact existing customers of MasterCard," the RBI statement said.

The RBI, through an April 23 order, had imposed similar restrictions on American Express Bank- ing Corp and Diners Club International Ltd from on-boarding new domestic customers onto their card networks from May 1.

Mandatory data storage

The central bank had made it mandatory for banks to store all the data relating to payment systems in India. For the foreign leg of the transaction, if any, the data could also be stored abroad, if required. The data includes end-to-end transaction details, information collected, carried and processed as part of the message/payment instruction.

Further, they were also required to report compliance to the RBI and submit a Board-approved System Audit Report conducted by a CERT-In empanelled auditor within a set timeline.

MasterCard did not comment on the RBI action.

The RBI action may benefit homegrown payment gateways especially those running on the UPI platform. Market experts said that there won't be any impact on consumers as banks can switch to Visa or RuPay for issuing cards. Existing MasterCard users can continue to use their cards.

GST Officials File 8,000 Cases In ITC Frauds Worth Rs 35,000 Crore



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: In a nationwide crackdown against tax evasion, GST officials booked 8,000 cases in ITC frauds worth Rs 35,000 crore during FY21, which helped it to improve GST collection. "During the financial year, 2020-21 the CGST zones and the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) have booked about 8,000 cases involving fake ITC of over Rs 35,000 crore.

During the financial year, 426 persons including 14 professionals such as CAs, lawyers and masterminds, beneficiaries, directors etc were arrested," the Revenue department said in a statement. The ministry had launched a nationwide special drive against fake GST invoice scams on November 9, 2020, and is still ongoing. The ministry noted that the drive against fraudulent GST invoices slowed down over the past two three months due to the Co-

vid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns and restrictions.

However, it has once again picked up pace with gradual lifting of lockdown and improved Covid-19 situation in different parts of the country, and the department has resumed efforts in co-ordinated action at national level.

"In this nationwide drive against unscrupulous entities, Directorate General of GST Intelligence and CGST zones under CBIC have during the current financial year detected more than 500 cases involving 1,200 entities and arresting 24 persons. The number of arrests made by officers of CBIC is one of the highest in recent times," it said.

The ministry informed that CBIC officers are employing latest IT tools and digital evidence, as well as collecting information from other government departments to catch the fraudsters. It also warned that the crackdown will be intensified in the coming week.



Maruti Suzuki Launches New Variant of Alto, Priced at Rs 3.80 lakh

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Thursday announced the launch of a new variant of its entry-level small car Alto, priced at Rs 3.80 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

The new variant comes with aero edge design, dual-tone interiors, high-fuel efficiency, and latest safety features

"Maruti Suzuki India Ltd today announced the launch of the new Alto VXI+ which offers SmartPlay Studio a 17.8 cm touchscreen infotainment system, enabled with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto," the country's largest car maker said in a filing to the BSE.

The variant comes with BS-VI compliant engine and delivers a high fuel efficiency of 22.05 km/l, it added. Alto VXI+ will be available with enhanced safety features like dual front airbags, reverse parking sensors, speed alert system and seat belt reminder for both driver and co-driver, it said.

"The new Alto VXI+ with the smart play studio is tailor-made to offer a unique technology-driven experience to our customers. Alto VXI+ also carries forward the legacy of the Alto which is India's best-selling car for 15 consecutive years," Maruti Suzuki India Ltd Executive Director (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava said.

WPI Inflation Eases To 12.07% In June; Food, Crude Prices Soften



Agenceis

New Delhi: The wholesale price-based inflation eased marginally to 12.07 per cent in June as crude oil and food items witnessed some softening in prices. However, WPI inflation remained in double digit for the third consecutive month in June, mainly due to a low base of last year. WPI inflation was (-) 1.81 per cent, in June 2020.

Snapping the five straight months of uptick, the wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation in June softened as prices of food articles and crude oil eased, even though manufactured products

hardened.

"The annual rate of inflation is 12.07 per cent for the month of June, 2021 (over June, 2020) as compared to -1.81 per cent in June 2020. The high rate of inflation in June 2021, is primarily due to low base effect and rise in prices of mineral oils viz petrol, diesel (HSD), naphtha, ATF, furnace oil etc, and manufactured products like basic metal, food products, chemical products etc as compared the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

Inflation in fuel and power basket eased to 32.83 per cent during

June, against 37.61 per cent in May.

Inflation in food articles too eased to 3.09 per cent in June, from 4.31 per cent May, even as onion prices spiked. In manufactured products, inflation stood at 10.88 per cent in June, against 10.83 per cent in the previous month.

The RBI in its monetary policy last month kept interest rates unchanged at record lows and committed to maintain an accommodative policy stance to support growth.

Retail inflation remained above the RBI's comfort level of 6 per cent for the second straight month at 6.26 per cent in June, data released earlier this week showed. PTI

Drone Destroyed

other sensitive locations with anti-drone facilities which were recently acquired.

Meanwhile, the Army fired on a Pakistani quadcopter after it tried to venture into the Indian territory along the Line of Control (LoC) here, official sources said on Thursday.

The quadcopter was spotted by the alert Army troops in Pallanwaka sector around 9 pm on Wednesday, they said.

The sources said the quadcopter returned to the Pakistani side when the troops opened fire at it to bring it down.

It was basically sent for surveillance of the area, they said.

On Wednesday, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel opened fire at a flying object after they spotted it near the International Border in the Arnia sector of Jammu and Kashmir, a senior official said.

On July 2, a quadcopter from Pakistan tried to enter Indian territory along the International Border from Arnia sector but retreated after it was fired at by the personnel of the BSF.

In what was the first instance of militants deploying drones to strike vital installations, two bombs were dropped at the IAF station in Jammu city in the early hours of June 27, causing minor injuries to two personnel.

Authorities in various districts, mostly in border districts in Jammu and Kashmir, have banned the storage, sale or possession of drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles.

Govt Issues Draft

country has been reduced to six in the draft 'Drone Rules, 2021' in comparison to 25 forms mentioned in the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021, the aviation ministry's statement said.

Industry body Drone Federation of India (DFI) commended the Centre's "bold" decision to liberalise the drone policy -- even after the Jammu incident -- by having a balanced approach between the economic benefits and security concerns.

The fee for registration and approval has been reduced to nominal levels and de-linked from the size of the drone under the draft rules, the ministry said.

The draft rules have also abolished the requirement of various approvals, including certificate of conformance, certificate of maintenance, import clearance, acceptance of existing drones, operator permit, authorisation of R&D organisation and student remote pilot licence, it said.

The Drone Rules, 2021, once notified, will supersede the UAS Rules, 2021, which came into force on March 12.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the draft rules mark a "stark shift" from the UAS Rules, 2021.

"Drones are bringing the next big tech revolution around the globe with reduced costs, resources and time taken for operations. It is upon us to ride on the new wave and facilitate its uptake, especially among our startups," he said on Twitter.

No flight permission, according to the draft rules, will be required up to 400 feet in green zones and up to 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.

The draft rules have also prescribed easier process for transfer and deregistration of drones.

The draft rules have been built on a premise of trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring, the ministry stated.

No pilot licence will be required for micro drones (for non-commercial use), nano drone and for R&D (research and development) organisations, the draft rules said.

Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries and a drone promotion council will be set up to facilitate drone-friendly regulatory regime in the country, according to the draft rules.

The last date for public to submit their comments on the draft rules is August 5.

The draft rules also stated that there would be no restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.

Digital sky platform will be developed as a business-friendly single-window online system.

"There will be minimal human interface on the digital sky platform and most of the permissions will be self-generated," the draft rules added.

In a statement, DFI said it is encouraging to see that the regulations are formed with a balanced approach with an understanding of the economic benefits that drone technology brings while addressing the safety and security concerns of the country.

The DFI has companies like Asteria Aerospace, Quidich Innovation Labs, AeroMicroUAS, Aarav Unmanned Systems and Indrones, as its members.

Smit Shah, director, DFI said, "The Ministry of Civil Aviation's decision to liberalise the drone policy even after the recent drone incidents in Jammu showcases the government's bold approach to promote the use of drones and focus on the development of counter-drone technology to address the threat posed by rogue drones."

"We appreciate the ministry's initiative of liberalising the drone industry and will continue to extend our support towards making India a global drone hub," he added. (PTI)

LG Inaugurates

is committed to ensuring time-bound completion of developmental projects to ease the life of citizens.

"Decade long overdue upgradation of power infrastructure is being done in a sustained manner. We are eliminating the legacy of delays. Languishing projects hanging for long are being completed in record times," Sinha said, as per official spokesperson.

"Electricity has been considered as a basic human need and hence it has been given priority in policy making and economy management. In spite of the ever-growing demand for power and availability of immense natural sources for energy generation in J&K, the infrastructure was not augmented in a way commensurate to meeting the demand," he added.

The LG, as per official spokesperson assured the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir that the administration is continuously working towards their needs and a long-term strategy is being implemented on the ground to ensure 20-22 hours of continuous electricity like other parts of the country.

"The capacity augmentation of the Barn Grid station which is being inaugurated today should have been done in 2012 itself because in the same year it was targeted that the capacity of this grid station would be increased to 480 MVA by installing additional capacity of 160 MVA. Now, this important power project has been completed in record 119 days despite Covid pandemic which has been hanging for 9 years. This project will immensely benefit the remote areas of Poonch, Rajouri, Akhnoor, Jaurian, Reasi and the adjoining areas of Jammu," Sinha said.

"These are the reforms the UT Government has brought in the work culture in J&K. I would like to congratulate all the officers and engineers of the Power Department for this," he added.

Citing the example of Sawalkot project which was planned to be built in 1984 and was expected to generate 1856 MW of electricity, the LG said that it also remained like a dream.

"This project was hanging for 36 years, which has been given the green signal this year," he said, adding "I am deeply grateful to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, whose priority is to make the lives of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir better."

Outlining the efforts made by the government to meet the aspirations of the people, the LG, as per official spokesperson said that during the last 11 months, we have made ground-breaking reforms to fulfill the expectations of the people with full zeal.

"Moving away from the old system, we have executed 35 power projects today, which also include many transmission and distribution projects, thus strengthening the system and management capacity of the entire Jammu division," Sinha said.

"There is no shortage of hydro resources in Jammu and Kashmir. We have a generation capacity of 14,867 MW of electricity, but in the last 70 years we were able to generate only 3504 MW. With our determined efforts, we will be able to generate additional power of 3498 MW in the next 4-5 years. With the rapid pace of development, where it took us 70 years to reach, we will reach there in just 5 years," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, speaking on the occasion complimented the department on completion of the new projects. He called upon the officers to move towards digital platforms for efficient service delivery, besides making objective efforts to achieve better demand side management.

"Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department gave a detailed briefing about the newly inaugurated power projects and new e-services of the Power department. He outlined broad reforms and steps being undertaken by the department to upgrade the power infrastructure in the region," he said.

Cellphones Seized

been seized from them, they said. Some more items have been recovered as well, reports said.

The team are conducting further searches and questioning inmates and jail staff about how mobiles and SIM cards reached inside the complex, they said.

Second Covid

He said that the second Covid wave has not ended yet, although its severity and number of positive cases have slumped.

Dr Singh said that the change in the behavior of people regarding the observance of CAB and related SOPs is highly apprehensive. He asked people not to violate CAB besides not to lower the guard as 2nd Covid wave continues to infect people.

He advised people to wear face masks, maintain social distance at every place, use sanitizers and avoid gathering or rush. He also impressed on maintaining proper ventilation at home and isolation of infected members in a family.

While cautioning against inappropriate behavior, he said disregard to SOPs will be very dangerous as it will help new emerging Covid variants to spread and infect people.

He said new wave can emerge at any time and the non-observance of

SOPs provides time to virus for mutation and formation of new variants. The mutation increases infection and contagious power of the virus which may increase the chances of death of an infected person.

"If people follow Covid protocol, then the third wave can be avoided", said Dr Hardeep.

He further said that double dose vaccination is a defense against Covid infection.

"Any person who is fully vaccinated has the least chance of getting ill with corona virus" he said and added that if any such person gets infected still the patient has nothing to worry as those patients will recover at home.

Dr Singh asked people to get vaccinated to defeat the virus and save precious lives.

J&K Sees 203

said that Srinagar reported 42 cases, Baramulla 15, Budgam 11, Pulwama 6, Kupwara 12, Anantnag 9, Bandipora 13, Ganderbal 19, Kulgam 2, Shopian 0, Jammu 11, Udhampur 7, Rajouri 16, Doda 3, Kathua 0, Samba 1, Kishtwar 6, Poonch 5, Ramban 3 and Reasi 22.

Moreover, they said, 358 more COVID-19 patients have recovered—161 from Jammu Division and 197 from Kashmir Valley. So far 312890 people have recovered while 4361 others have succumbed to the virus, leaving active cases at 2104 in J&K—850 in Jammu and 1254 in the Valley.

There was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today and thus the cumulative number of confirmed cases remained at 32 in J&K.

J&K's Healthcare

the emergency patient care system, ensure better clinical management, besides adding to the available bed capacity catering to more patients, observed the Lt Governor.

"Saving precious human lives by substantially improving the health infrastructure on a continuous basis is Government's top priority", the Lt Governor asserted.

Healthcare infrastructure in the UT has been transformed in the last 11 months. With timely interventions, we have created a greater capacity in J&K to treat Covid and non-Covid patients leading to better management of patients, he added.

I hope the new facilities inaugurated today will further complement Government's efforts in providing quality treatment to the patients, said the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor called for putting all-out efforts to further improve the functioning of health institutions by optimum utilization of available resources for providing better healthcare services to all.

After the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor took a round of the various sections of the new health facilities at both the venues and inspected the medicare services being made available to the patients.

The Lt Governor also interacted with medical staff present there and asked them to provide the best healthcare services to the visiting patients.

Costing Rs 11.50 cr, the new Emergency Block having 64 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and 32 Beds for Emergency Department of Medicine has been established to accommodate more patients for providing specialized treatments in modern emergency & accidental services. The new Block shall be provided with 4800 LPM capacity Oxygen Generation Plant.

Court Rejects

development, the court also said that it would begin hearing arguments on the charges filed against Para from Friday.

This is the second time in the last five months that the court has rejected Para's bail application.

Dismissing the bail plea in February, the court had said the charges against him were "grave, serious and heinous in nature" and that a preliminary analysis of evidence collected till then showed he was allegedly aiding militancy in Jammu and Kashmir in the garb of a politician.

In the 19-page order, the special court had rejected the argument that Para was a budding politician and said "a perusal of the CD file transpired that in the garb of a politician, the petitioner had been playing an active role in funding the militants and had also been demanding arms and ammunition against payment by misusing his position".

Para was detained by the Criminal Investigation Department (Kashmir) and brought from Jammu on a transit remand, after his release by an NIA court on January 9. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had arrested Para on November 25 in a separate case related to militancy.

The counsel for Para claimed that his client had managed to win the District Development Council elections while in the custody of the NIA, which alleged that he had paid Rs 10 lakh to Naveed Babu, a militant of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen, for "managing" the 2019 parliamentary elections in south Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police last month filed a chargesheet against Para in a case related to the alleged nexus between politicians and militant groups in the union territory.

Para has been chargesheeted by the Criminal Investigation (Kashmir) wing

of the Jammu and Kashmir's CID under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act dealing with waging war against the country and threatening peace.

The CIK had filed a case last year against unknown politicians and others based on "reliable and confidential sources" who said some political functionaries were misusing their power and helping militants.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police had also carried out an Internet Protocol Detail Records (IPDR) analysis of Para, the PDP youth wing president, to probe allegations that he was in touch with secessionists and militants across the border.

The IPDR helps track the details of a call or message generated by a phone device and includes details like the number from which the call was made, destination port, start and end date and time.

In March this year, Para was chargesheeted by the NIA and it was alleged he had paid Rs 5 crore to the Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani for keeping Kashmir in turmoil after the death in 2016 of Burhan Wani, commander of Hizbul Mujahideen militant group

In January this year, Para was granted bail by the NIA court, which said there was no reference to him in the original, as well as the supplementary charge sheets presented in July and October last year respectively.

However, he was arrested by the CIK wing in the case related to nexus between mainstream politicians and secessionists, and continues to be in jail since then. His bail was rejected by the NIA court in Srinagar.

Ethanol Blended

sell has been blended with 10% ethanol, Kashmir based petrol pumps haven't placed such types of advisories informing people about the petrol quality.

"There are two categories of Petrol fuel, one is the E5 (Super/Premium Petrol) where the ethanol blended with petrol is only up to 5%, so all the old model vehicles are to be run on this petrol and then we've the E10 where the ethanol blended with petrol is 10%, this is specifically for the new model vehicles. But because of the Government's failure in creating awareness among the people, the E5 category vehicles are being filled with E10 petrol and as a result, the vehicle breaks down," an expert told Kashmir Observer.

He further added, "Unless the people are not fully aware about the use of this 'ethanol blended Petrol', vehicles in Kashmir will keep on breaking down."

KVPDA had earlier published an advisory and requested consumers to take preventive measures and demanded that they should not be held responsible for any kind of loss to the vehicles.

"We'd requested people to check the fuel tank of their vehicles for any water content present in the fuel tank and get it cleaned," Ahmad said.

But contrary to the Association's claim, the car owners have a different story to narrate.

"My vehicle broke down only after I filled it with petrol," said Aman Malik, a student whose vehicle had broken down because of the same ethanol blended petrol.

"It was only after a mechanic checked my vehicle that I came to know that there was some problem with the petrol that had damaged the fuel line of my vehicle."

"Tell me, who is to be blamed for this, the administration or the Fuel stations," he questioned.

Amid this blame game, an official from the Legal Metrology Department, on the basis of anonymity, said that the department has received several complaints from the people about the breakdown of their vehicles but not all the cases had seized to drift because of the ethanol presence but few fuel tanks of those vehicles were found to have water presence.

"So, there are chances that these fuel stations are selling an under quality petrol but we also cannot ignore the ethanol fact. He further added that the department is looking into the matter and will soon come up with final results," he said.

Day-Picnicks

on weekend days (Saturday & Sunday)," said Bhupinder Kumar, District Magistrate Baramulla in an order.

The order, he said, has been issued to contain the spread of COVID-19 disease at the tourist destination.

"Only Vaccinated persons or persons possessing Negative Test Report of RAT/RTPCR conducted within 48 hours shall be allowed to enter tourist destination Gulmarg," he

said, adding, "Only tourists who have pre booking of Hotels, Guest Houses, Huts etc. shall be allowed on weekend days (Saturday & Sunday)."

The deputy commissioner asked Enforcement squads to impose fine of Rs 1000 on person(s) found roaming without masks.

A Lawyer's Women

committees established or being established in each of these places.

However, more important than the scores of responses he has been receiving over the RTIs he filed, Badrul has noticed an unusual yet interesting major phenomenon in the responses he got this year.

"Most of the responses show a new sexual harassment committee has been constituted in these institutions in late January such as from 25th or in the month of February and March," he claims.

The fact that most of these grievance redress committees have been established only after his second and third consecutive RTIs, has instilled self-confidence in the new lawyer and has inspired him to remain steadfast on the social cause he has chosen to fight for.

"In addition to the newly established committees, many old committees have been updated and upgraded to big scale and are functioning in a better state," he adds.

When the first response came, the legal practitioner expected things to remain concentrated only in Srinagar. "I expected things to remain confined to my district or to Kashmir valley, but it spread out like fire in the entire region. What surprises me the most is that the major developments came from Jammu province," he recalled.

From Secretariat to the Railways, every department responded to the plea of Badrul Duja and either updated the old committees or constituted new ones.

Today, thanks to the efforts of the young lawyer, sexual harassment committees have been constituted in many crucial places across the Jammu and Kashmir. Places such as Directorate of Hospitality and Protocol, Jammu and Kashmir Estate Department, State Tax Department, Directorate of Libraries and Research, Directorate of Forensic Science, Directorate General of Prosecution, Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, and the J&K SC, ST & BC Development corporation, etc have now got a grievance committee each for the timely disposal of any issue if raised.

Apart from these high-ranking government institutes, there have been several government degree colleges in many districts of the erstwhile state that have now established these sexual harassment committees.

"The best part, as an outcome of my query, is that many committees were there that were lying defunct because of the retirement of its member," Badrul says. "However, with my RTI, the superior authority over these committees got back into action, and have now revised and revamped their existing yet defunct committees."

This activism is coming at a time when Kashmir is witnessing rise in sexual predator cases. Many districts have witnessed a surge in crime over the last decade. Cases registered under 354-A were 186 in Bandipora, 45 in Srinagar, 38 in Shopian, and 23 in Reasi. While these are the reported case, there's

a general belief that an absolute majority of such cases go unreported in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I'll be compiling all these responses and will PIL for the same," Badrul says with firmness.

Already, the practicing lawyer forced the education department to amend laws to reduce the load of school bags for school children, by filing a PIL back then in 2016.

"RTIs are the only way ahead to achieve anything meaningful from a government institution. RTIs like mine compel these public institutions to implement the order of Supreme Court and various governments on the ground level; something they don't do otherwise," Badrul says.

"All I want is just a safe and secure workplace for women and it is possible only when sexual harassment committees are established across private and public workplaces all across our state."

CDS Visiting

The visit to the forward areas in twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch comes at a time when infiltration attempts by Pakistan have increased and drones are being used to drop weapons along LoC in these sectors.

Man Carrying

report said that besides some goods, Rs 10 lakh were recovered from the man.

"He was detained for questioning and his vehicle has been seized," sources said.

Sources said that police had inputs that the said cash was meant to be used for drug trafficking and other anti-India activities.

KU Faculty Told

direction of Higher Education Department.

"All the teachers/faculty members shall ensure to seek prior approval of the authorities as no Post facto sanction of leave for higher studies or for foreign visit on private affairs can be granted," reads the order.

It further reads that all the teachers/faculty members shall ensure to submit a copy of their Property Statement within 30 days positively in the office of the Assistant Registrar Kashmir University.

3 Militant Associates

on the basis of a specific input, a police spokesperson said. The trio, he said, were working for LeT outfit and in order to further their activities were providing fake sim cards for the militants.

The police spokesperson further claimed that the trio were in contact with LeT militant Shakir and operational commander Babar, both of whom are presently in Pck. Babar, he said, had tasked the module for surveillance of police, security forces and political functionaries in the area.

"Babar had also promised the trio the supply of three AK rifles in coming days so that they could formally join the terror ranks. They were further tasked to carry out weapon snatching till the consignment of weapons could be smuggled in and delivered," he said

"In this regard case FIR number 26/2021 U/S,468, 471, 120B,IPC 7/25 Arms Act was registered in PS Argam and further investigation is going on," he added.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
J&K State Emergency Operation Centre,
 Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction
 Hari Niwas, Gupkar Road, Srinagar
 Website: www.jksdma.org email: jkseoc1070@gmail.com

No: SEOC/HN/50/2021

Dated: 14.07.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Safety tips to be followed while swimming.

With the rise in temperatures, many people, particularly children prefer to swim in rivers, nallas, dams or lakes. Unless precautions are taken, while swimming, it can result in drowning. The general public, including parents, are requested to kindly adhere to the following safety tips, while swimming, so that drowning incidents can be prevented and precious lives saved:

DO'S	DON'TS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect the water body properly, before swimming. Always enter the water slowly, with feet first. Always swim parallel to the shore and not away from it. Enter the water, where adequate supervision and rescue cover is available. Be aware of the underwater hazards. Elders should keep a constant visual contact, with children when they are swimming. A responsible adult should always be nearby, who knows how to swim. Keep a rope, life jacket, life buoy or improvised floatation device, like car-tube, available, for rescue purposes. Learn First Aid, you might save someone's life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't venture into the water, unless you know swimming. Don't swim alone, especially if you are not an experienced swimmer. Don't dive into the water or push someone, into the water. Never jump from higher levels into the flowing stream, river or dam. Don't swim, if you have any ailments. Don't enter fast flowing water. Never swim under bridges, dams or water bodies that are under construction. Don't exhaust yourself while swimming, as it can lead to drowning. Don't swim at confluence of two rivers or streams, as the current may be faster, with dangerous under-currents, which is difficult, even for experienced swimmers. Don't swim during thunderstorm and lightning

These guidelines are also available on the official website www.jksdma.org.
Issued in public interest by J&K State Emergency Operation Centre
DIPK-4811/21

Suhail Ahmad: The Kupwara Batsman Yearning To Play For J&K



Agencies

HANDWARA: 24-year-old Suhail Ahmad Bhat of Kupwara district has been hitting scintillating sixes and fours since he took a bat in his hand.

The right handed powerhouse has been mesmerizing his spectators across the frontier district with his breathtaking scores.

The young lad has scored 14 centuries so far in the local cricket leagues at all of the cricket fields in the district and yearns to play at the Jammu and Kashmir State level.

"From my childhood, I have liked to play and score runs like Sachin Tendulkar, Brain Lara and Shahid Afridi. I wanted to be a combo of style and hitting. Watching all these top batters smashing bowlers across the field has given me the strength and skill to play the ball," Suhail told Kashmir News Service (KNS), donning a white jersey.

The young boy from Mawer area of Handwara tehsil in Kupwara district has played one magnificent innings after another in district level competitions like the JKCA League, Bangus Valley League, Chinar League Bakiaakar.

Recently, he scored 128 runs against Kupwara at Galizoo Kupwara ground in the Angel T-20 Trophy at Kulangam in Handwara.

"I have much ahead to go and

many milestones to cross in order to reach the level of top cricketers of the State. I yearn to play for JK and then for India," he says. Suhail is flexible in his batting position and is equally competent at opening the innings or batting in the middle order. He can also tweak the ball if needed, as he is more than a handy bowler at the domestic level.

"I want to play in leagues like IPL and others to learn more skills and get as much exposure in the game. Rubbing shoulders with big names gives you confidence and lifts up the spirit," he says.

"IPL sets the platform for you where international big names are watching you. From there I want to play in the national team. I am working hard to achieve this milestone," he says.

What youngsters like Suhail lack are the cricket coaches and academies in Kashmir Valley.

Scant sports infrastructure is available only in Srinagar city and aspiring players like Suhail don't have the facilities at their districts.

"Kupwara is a frontier district and neglected almost in all sectors. For sportsmen like me there is nothing to hone our skills with. Stadia are less and no turf available where a player can compete or practice. Government must chin in to provide us infrastructure so that we can practice and sweat out to achieve our goals," he added.

Narinder Batra Says IOA Officials In Tokyo Happy With Arrangements



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Batra on Thursday said the IOA officials who have landed in Tokyo ahead of the Olympic Games have found the facilities to be very good and some "dining hall issues" have also been resolved for the contingent.

"From India Chef de Mission Mr B P Baishya, Dy Chef de Mission and COVID Liaison Officer Dr Prem Verma, Contingent Doctor and additional CLO Dr Arun Basil and Jt Director Indian Olympic Association Mr George arrived in the Games Village on 14th July," Batra said.

These officials will receive the first batch of the Indian Contingent of 90 in the Village, when it lands in Tokyo on July 18.

"I was informed by Dy Chef de Mission that the stay arrangements at the Games Village are very good and the Dining Hall issues, as India is one of the 14 Countries with extra conditions, also stand resolved," Batra added but did not elaborate the details of the resolution.

The Indian athletes will have to undergo three days of hard quarantine after arriving in Tokyo and the IOA had raised concerns about how their meals would be managed during the time. The athletes will also have to go through rigorous testing during the Games.

The mega-event is being held from July 23 to August 8 under strict health safety protocols and sans crowds amid the raging pandemic.

Tokyo, on Wednesday, recorded more than 1,000 cases for the first time since January.

IOC guidelines for medal ceremony: Participants to wear mask all times, no group photo on podium

Athletes, presenters and volunteers will not pose for group photographs and wear masks on the podium during Tokyo Olympics medal ceremonies, the International Olympic committee said on Thursday, announcing a series of health-safety measures keeping in mind the COVID-19 pandemic.

That athletes and medal presenters would be required to wear masks was made clear in the guidelines released in June.

Athletes at the Tokyo Olympics will also have to put their medals around their own necks.

According to the new guidelines, additional podium modules will be placed between gold and silver medalists and gold and bronze medalists to allow for social distancing.

"All the presenters will be vaccinated, and there will be only one IOC member and one International Federation representative at each event."

"A series of changes have been approved in order to respect the Tokyo 2020 health measures, with the aim of making the experience safe for everyone involved while also preserving the essence of this unique moment, when Olympians savour and celebrate the pinnacle of their sports career," IOC said in a statement.

COVID Scare For Team India As Pant, Staff Member Test Positive, 3 Others In Isolation

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant and throwdown specialist Dayanand Garani tested positive for COVID-19, while three others were placed in precautionary isolation as the dreaded virus hit the Indian cricket team ahead of next month's Test series against hosts England.

Bowling coach Bharath Arun, reserve wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha were put in isolation for having come in contact with Garani along with standby opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, whose inclusion had raked up a recent storm. Garani's COVID report came this morning.

It is learnt the Arun, Easwaran and Saha have all tested negative but have to follow the UK Government's Health Safety Protocol.

All five are currently in London while the rest are reaching Durham this evening after reassembling from a 20-day break. London to Durham is a five-hour bus journey.

Pant and Saha could both miss the practice match scheduled to start on July 20 against a combined county side. In that case KL Rahul will keep against Combined Counties.

A BCCI source confirmed that Pant has been in isolation for the past

eight days. He is, according to the source, asymptomatic at this point.

"He is in quarantine at an acquaintance's place and won't be travelling with the team to Durham on Thursday," he said without divulging when the 23-year-old will join the squad.

However, he is likely to undergo a COVID-19 test in the next couple of days. The rest of the squad, sans Pant and the injured Shubman Gill, left for Durham on Thursday from London.

Gill had sustained a leg injury earlier this month and the young batsman had left the team's bubble. The development comes close on the heels of BCCI secretary Jay Shah sending an e-mail to the Indian contingent, warning it about the rising cases of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom.

The break was given to the players after the World Test Championship against New Zealand, which the team lost last month.

"Yes, one player has tested positive but he has been in isolation for the last eight days. He was not staying in any hotel with the team, so no other player has been affected," BCCI Vice President Rajiv Shukla told PTI.

"As of now no other player has tested positive. Also you must be aware our secretary Jay Shah has

written a letter to all players to maintain protocols," Shukla added.

It is understood that Pant has been afflicted by the Delta variant which has led to rising number of cases in England.

He was seen attending a Euro championship match last month and had even posted pictures on his social media accounts.

He underwent a test after experiencing low grade fever.

Shah, in his letter, told the players to "avoid" crowded places as Covishield, the vaccine which has been given to the team, only provides protection, not full immunity against the virus.

In fact, Shah's letter had specifically stated that players should avoid going to the Wimbledon and Euro Championships, both of which recently concluded there.

The Indian team is due to take on England in a five-match Test series starting August 4. It will play a practice game starting July 20 as a build-up to the high-intensity series.

The India-England showdown marks the beginning of the second cycle of the World Test Championship.

Recently, the England team too was hit by the virus and was forced to field an altogether different XI in a limited-overs match against Pakistan.

JKFA Professional League: J&K Bank, Hyderya Sports Win Matches

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two matches were played on Thursday in the ongoing JKFA Professional League 2021 at the Synthetic Turf TRC in Srinagar.

In the first match J&K Bank XI defeated Real Kashmir FC (R) by one goal to nil. Aakif Reshi of J&K Bank scored the only goal of the match in the 55th minute. Nirdosh Sagotra of Bank XI was declared man of the match.

The 2nd match was played between SCFA XI and Hyderya Sports FC. A 6:30 pm kick off, the match was played under flood lights of the TRC ground.

In the 19th minute of first half, Mehraj of Hyderya Sports scored the first goal of the match. Hyderya then consolidated their lead in the 75th minute with a goal from Numair. Hyderya eventually won the match with a 2 goals to nil margin. Mehraj of Hyderya Sports was declared man of the match.

Two matches of the Pro League will be played today. The first match at 4:00 pm will be played between Shaheen FC Jammu and Downtown Heroes FC while the 2nd match will be played between Kashmir Aveng-



ers FC and Lonestar Kashmir FC at 6:30 pm under the flood lights.

The Professional League 2021 is being organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Football Association (JKFA) in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

Badamwari KO Tournament

3rd match of the Badamwari Knockout Football Tournament 2021 was on Thursday played between Lone Star FC and Madina Sports FC in which Lone Star defeated Madina

Sports by 2 goals to nil. Adil from Lone Star FC was declared Man of the Match for his brilliant performance.

2nd Edition Anantnag Champions KO Football Tournament 2021

JKFA has invited DFA Anantnag affiliated clubs and football teams to participate in the 2nd Edition Anantnag Champions Knockout Tournament 2021. The competition is slated to start from August 3 and will be played at the Sports Stadium, Anantnag.

2 Runners Dropped From Kenya Olympic Team Over Doping Tests

Agencies

NAIROBI: Kenya was forced to drop two runners from its Olympic team just over a week before the Tokyo Games because they haven't taken the required number of out-of-competition doping tests, an official said on Thursday.

That has given 1,500-meter world champion Timothy Cheruiyot a last-minute place on the squad.

Kenya also hasn't decided if steeplechase world and Olympic champion Conseslus Kipruto will be on the team and able defend his title in Tokyo.

Kipruto dropped out of the race at the national trials last month after two laps and is out of shape, while he is also facing a criminal case in Kenya having been charged last year with statutory rape. He is released on bail.

Kenyan team officials will meet to make a late decision on Kipruto's inclusion. Cheruiyot is now a strong contender for gold in the 1,500 in Tokyo after setting the world-leading

time this year and winning back-to-back Diamond League titles in Stockholm and Monaco this month. He wasn't initially on the Kenya team after finishing fourth at the trials.

Cheruiyot will replace 18-year-old Kamar Etiang, who surprised to finish second at the trials in a personal-best time. But Etiang hasn't met doping regulations that require Kenyan athletes to take at least three out-of-competition tests within 10 months of a major championship.

The tests have to be at least three weeks apart. Those rules are enforced on Kenya because the country is considered high risk by the World Anti-Doping Agency after a large number of doping cases in recent years.

"It's really unfortunate that Etiang had to be dropped, Kenya Olympic team general manager Barnaba Korir said. We have explained this to the athlete and he has understood the situation we are in."

Another runner, United States-based 400-meter hurdler Moitalel

Mpoke Naadokila, was also taken off the team because he hasn't met the doping test requirements.

This year, Kenya has largely avoided the many doping scandals that marred its buildup to the last Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and placed severe scrutiny on the country's celebrated distance runners. Race walkers Samuel Gathimba and Emily Ngii also won't be going to Tokyo after their qualifying times at the Kenyan trials weren't certified because there wasn't a World Athletics official from outside the country present, Korir said.

He said the Kenyan team tried to arrange for Gathimba and Ngii to compete at an event in Spain to qualify but weren't able to arrange that in time because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Kenyan newspaper the Daily Nation reported that Gathimba and Ngii have refused to leave the Kenyan team base in Nairobi until the reasons for their exclusion are explained to them.



Gokulam Kerala FC To Represent India In AFC Women's Club Championship

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has nominated Gokulam Kerala FC to represent India in the AFC Club Championship 2020-21, following the postponement of the Indian Women's League.

The winners of the Women League competes in the tournament but since it will not be held, the national federation nominated the champions of the fourth edition.

AIFF secretary Kushal Das, in a letter to AFC general secretary Dato Windsor John wrote: "We would like to inform you that after having a discussion with the local or-

ganising committee (Odisha Sports), AIFF has decided to postpone the 5th edition of the Hero Indian Women's League (HIWL) for a few months keeping in mind the monsoon, and an expected third wave of infections."

The 5th edition was originally supposed to be held in Bhubaneswar by Odisha Sports in close coordination with AIFF. But it had to be postponed owing to the second wave of the pandemic which hit hard.

Keeping the options open, the League Committee, had taken a decision to conduct it later in a proposed new window subject to health parameters.

WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

India Avoid Pakistan To Host Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Australia In 2nd Edition



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India will once again not play Pakistan in the second cycle of World Test Championship with three away tours lined up in the next two years, starting with the England series next month.

As per rule, each of the nine nations in the World Test Championship calendar play against six nations of their choice and in the 2021-2023 cycle, India will play Sri Lanka instead of West Indies, whom they played in 2017 during the inaugural edition.

While the August 4 start of the five-Test series against England kicks off India's WTC campaign, they will also tour South Africa between December 2021 to January 2022 and an away series against Bangladesh in November 2022.

The biggest series apart from England away Tests will be the marquee four Tests against Australia at home between September and early November next year.

India will host New Zealand in November this year for two Test matches and Sri Lanka will be hosted in February-March 2022 after the away tour of South Africa.

The ICC on Wednesday also officially confirmed that teams will be awarded standardised 12 points for a win, four for a draw and six for a tie during the second cycle.

The ICC further said that per-

centage of points won will be used to determine the standings.

Earlier, each Test series carried a value of 120 points which led to certain inequality in the table as a team winning a Test in a two-match series got 60 points compared to five-game series where a Test win is valued at 24 points.

ICC Acting Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said the changes were made to simplify the points system while taking learnings from the disruption last year.

Apart from the India-England series, the Ashes later this year will be the only other five-match affair in the second cycle which will end in June 2023. Australia's tour of India next year is the only four-Test series in the upcoming cycle.

India captain Virat Kohli said after losing the inaugural WTC final to New Zealand, he expects his side to regroup with "new energy" in the new cycle.

"It was great to have played the final of the ICC World Test Championship against New Zealand in what was a memorable contest. Not just the final, we saw the determination of players throughout the first edition of the championship," Kohli said.

"The following of cricket lovers too was great to see, and I am sure they will all be waiting eagerly for the second edition. We will regroup with new energy for the next cycle starting with our series against England."

Barcelona's Refusal To Play In Jerusalem Forces Israeli Club To Call Off Match



Agencies

JERUSALEM: The owner of Israel's Beitar Jerusalem soccer club said Thursday that he called off a friendly match with international powerhouse Barcelona over its refusal to hold the event in contested Jerusalem.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 war, annexed it in a move not recognized internationally, and considers the entire city its capital. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, and the city's status is one of the thorniest issues in the decades-long conflict.

Beitar Jerusalem owner Moshe Hogege said he was forced to cancel the planned Aug. 4 match "with great sadness" because he refused to give in to what he said was a "political" demand.

"After I received the contract to sign and discovered the unequivocal demand that the game not take place in the capital city, Jerusalem, and several other demands that I didn't like, I slept with a heavy

heart, thought a lot and decided that above all else I am a proud Jew and Israeli," Hogege wrote on Facebook. "I cannot betray Jerusalem."

Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion expressed support for the decision, saying teams that intend to "boycott" Jerusalem should be barred from Israel altogether.

"Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Israel and the decision to boycott it is not a professional, sporting or educational decision," he said in a statement.

There was no immediate comment from Barcelona.

Beitar Jerusalem is the only major Israeli soccer club to have never signed an Arab player, and its hardcore fans have a history of racist chants. Hogege, who purchased the team in 2018, has vowed to combat racism and sideline the club's anti-Arab fans.

Earlier this month the Palestinian Football Association sent a letter of protest to Barcelona over the planned game in Jerusalem.

Sami Abou Shehadeh, a Balad party lawmaker in the Israeli par-

Ex-minister Arun Shourie Moves SC Against Sedition Law



Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Former Union minister Arun Shourie on Thursday moved the Supreme Court asking for the sedition law to be declared unconstitutional as it has come to be "heavily abused" and cases are being filed against citizens for "exercising their freedom of speech and expression".

Significantly, the petition was filed on the day when a bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana expressed concern over "enormous misuse" of the law and asked the Centre why it was not repealing the provision used by the British to "silence" people like Mahatma Gandhi to suppress freedom movement.

The bench agreed to examine the pleas filed by Editors Guild of India and a former major general, challenging the constitutionality of the law, and said its main concern was the "misuse of law".

The Section 124-A (sedition) under the IPC is non-bailable provision and it makes any speech or expression that "brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in India" a criminal offence punishable with imprisonment up to three years to a life term and fine.

Shourie's petition claimed that "the definition of sedition (Section 124-A of IPC) was vague and incapable of accurate appreciation by the common citizen and the law enforcement agencies/police".

The petition, filed by advocate Prashant Bhushan on behalf of Shourie and NGO Common Cause, claimed that sedition was a colonial law which was used expressly to sup-

press dissent by the British in India.

"Sedition has come to be heavily abused with cases being filed against citizens for exercising their freedom of speech and expression on the basis of the literal definition that is available to law enforcement authorities on the statute books," it said.

The petition said that the interpretation accorded to Section 124-A of Indian Penal Code, by the Supreme Court in 'Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar' matter in 1962 was "not understood or appreciated by the police which continues to register cases against citizens who are exercising their right to freedom of speech and expression".

"By the time the courts step in to apply the interpretation of Kedar Nath to the facts of the cases, the citizens have already been deprived of their liberty," the petition said.

It added that after India became a democracy, this law was challenged as being violative of fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India in Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar matter in 1962.

Even though the provision was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1962, the position of law has hence changed and the matter requires reconsideration, it said.

"In such circumstances, it is submitted that this court needs to revisit the judgment of Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar, and strike down Section 124 A of Indian Penal Code, as being violative of Articles 14 (equality before the law), 19(1) (a) (freedom of speech and expression) and 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution of India," the petition said.

Jaishankar Meets Afghan Prez in Tashkent; discusses situation in Afghanistan

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Tashkent and discussed the fast-evolving situation in Afghanistan in the face of withdrawal of US forces from the country. Jaishankar said he reiterated India's support for peace, stability and development of Afghanistan.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of a multilateral connectivity conference.

"Pleased to call on President @ashrafghani. Discussed the current situation in and around Afghanistan. Reiterated our support for peace, stability and development of Afghanistan," the external affairs minister tweeted.

Jaishankar travelled to Tashkent after a two-day visit to Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe where he attended a crucial meeting of the foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

The foreign ministers of the SCO countries extensively deliberated on the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan triggered by the Taliban's attempts to expand its influence in that country following

the withdrawal of the US forces.

The US has withdrawn majority of its forces from Afghanistan.

Afghanistan witnessed a series of terror attacks in the last few weeks as the US aimed to complete the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan by August-end, ending a nearly two-decade of its military presence in the war-ravaged country.

In his remarks at the SCO meeting on Wednesday, Jaishankar said that the future of Afghanistan cannot be its past and the World is against seizure of power by violence and force.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar were among those who participated at the meeting.

In Tashkent, Jaishankar also held talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart A K Abdul Momen.

"Happy to meet with Bangladesh FM Dr AK Abdul Momen on the sidelines of the Tashkent Connectivity Conference. A good opportunity to review the progress in our ties, including its connectivity aspects," Jaishankar tweeted. PTI

83% Of Engineers In India Want To Switch Jobs Amid Pandemic: Survey

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: About 83 per cent of engineers in India are looking for a change of job amid the ongoing pandemic, but the majority relies on free learning resources even though there is no guarantee of learning or of a job, revealed a survey.

The survey, by IP-driven incubation lab BridgeLabz, was conducted over 1000 people to find out how the pandemic has affected the professional growth of engineers.

It showed that while most want a job change, only 21 per cent are enrolled in any kind of structured course for upskilling.

As per the survey, about 58 per cent of the respondents were fresh graduates and are still looking for a job. More than 50 per cent of respondents feel work-from-home post-pandemic has not affected their professional development.

However, about 75 per cent of



the respondents did not receive any promotion or appraisal amid the pandemic.

"Maximum number of engineers want to switch jobs but they clearly need upskilling through a structured programme that delivers what it promises - a development job! The current workforce of engineers is not suitable for present day tech-based jobs, a reason for more engineers looking for a job after completing graduation," said Narayan Mahadevan, Founder of BridgeLabz, in a statement.

Moon 'Wobble', Rising Seas To Cause Flooding Surge: NASA Study



Agenceis

Upcoming natural changes in the Moon's orbit - a so-called Moon "wobble" - coupled with rising sea levels caused by climate change could lead to record flooding on the Earth in the coming years, a recent study by the United States space agency NASA and the University of Hawaii has found.

The record flooding is projected to begin in the 2030s and last 10 years, according to the study, which focused on the phenomenon's effect in the US.

There were 600 floods from high tides in the US in 2019, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That number is expected to increase by several times into the 2030s, according to the study, which was published in the Nature Climate magazine. The flooding is projected to occur in clusters that could last for a month or longer.

While the high tide flooding in question involves less water and is often considered less damaging

than floods caused by hurricane surges, "it's the accumulated effect over time that will have an impact", Phil Thompson, an assistant professor at the University of Hawaii and lead author of the study, said in a statement.

"If it floods 10 or 15 times a month, a business can't keep operating with its parking lot under water. People lose their jobs because they can't get to work," he said. "Sleeping cesspools become a public health issue."

The so-called Moon "wobble" is not a new phenomenon. It was first reported in 1728 and is part of an 18.6-year natural cycle. During the first half of the cycle, the Earth's regular tides are suppressed. During the second half, the tides are amplified, according to NASA.

The Moon is currently in the amplification half of its cycle, already causing increased flooding along many coasts, a result of high sea levels caused by climate change, according to NASA.

Another decade of rising sea levels will have severe conse-

quences when the Moon is again in the amplification half of its cycle, the researchers found, resulting in a surge in flooding on all US mainland coastlines, Hawaii and Guam and sparing only far north coastlines like Alaska.

Researchers studied 89 tide gauge locations in coastal regions across US states and territories, astronomical cycles and the likelihood of tide-affecting phenomena to make the projections, which stretch to 2080. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, in a statement, said the research is crucial to allow coastal areas to prepare for the more flooded future.

"The combination of the Moon's gravitational pull, rising sea levels, and climate change will continue to exacerbate coastal flooding on our coastlines and across the world," he said.

"NASA's Sea Level Change Team is providing crucial information so that we can plan, protect, and prevent damage to the environment and people's livelihoods affected by flooding."

India Has Highest Number Of Unvaccinated, Under-Vaccinated Kids Worldwide At 3.5 Million: UNICEF

Agenceis

New Delhi: India has the highest number of under-vaccinated or unvaccinated children worldwide at 3.5 million, an increase of 1.4 million from 2019, amid the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, the UNICEF said.

It also noted that over 3 million "zero-dose children" in 2020 lived in India.

At nearly 4.4 million, South Asia recorded the highest number of children having failed to receive any routine vaccination in the past ten years, in 2020.

"More than 3 million of these 'zero-dose children' in 2020 lived in India," the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) said in a statement.

Globally, UNICEF said the data



shows that just 10 countries account for 62 per cent of all under- or unvaccinated children globally.

"India—particularly hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic—had the highest number of unprotected children worldwide at 3.5 million, an increase of 1.4 million com-

pared with 2019, when the number of unprotected children was 2.1 million," the children's body said.

Unprotected children are those who are unvaccinated (no vaccine) or under-vaccinated (incomplete vaccination), that is, any child who has not received any or few doses of

Job Applications Of Many Gen Z Aspirants Rejected Or Cancelled During Second Covid Wave In India: Report

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The pandemic has adversely affected careers and education plans of India's youth and job applications of a significant number of Gen Z aspirants, those below 24 years, were rejected or cancelled during the second Covid wave, says a LinkedIn survey.

On World Youth Skills Day 2021 on Thursday, LinkedIn launched the 'Career Aspirations Gen Z India' survey that captures the sentiment and outlook of Gen Z professionals in India towards jobs, internships, skilling, and networking opportunities.

LinkedIn commissioned research firm GfK to conduct the survey, which was done in June. It focuses on insights of 1,000 Gen Z students and professionals in the age group of 18 to 24 years. As per the survey, 72 per cent students and 65 per cent Gen Z Indians were professionally impacted during the second wave of Covid.

The study shows that nearly 70 per cent of Gen Z job applicants did not get a positive response after waiting for long periods while a similar proportion said their applications were either cancelled or delayed indefinitely.

Gen Z Indians cited 'fewer opportunities', followed by 'slower recruitment' and 'higher competition' as the top three reasons affecting their job search today. Other barriers in pursuing job opportunities include lack of guidance for skilling and increased familial responsibilities due to Covid.

Around 72 per cent of the students stated that internship opportunities had also greatly reduced during the pandemic's second wave. Among those who are currently employed, 32 per cent of Gen Z Indians experienced a pay cut while 25 per cent lost a job opening because the company cancelled the job role due to the pandemic.

The second wave of Covid has



disrupted the education plans of nearly 75 per cent students and Gen Z Indians. In fact, 40 per cent of those with higher academic aspirations have postponed or cancelled their plans due to safety concerns, financial constraints, and travel restrictions.

"Such is the disruption that every fifth (20 per cent) Gen Z Indian is now pivoting to a different learning program than originally planned," the report said.

"As one of the youngest nations in the world, India's future of work will be driven by Gen Z professionals, whose new-age skills can revitalise our economic recovery. But 70 per cent of Gen Z Indians had their job applications rejected due to hiring challenges during the pandemic," said Ashutosh Gupta, India Country Manager, LinkedIn.

Employers must treat this as a distress call to urgently re-imagine how they hire and develop talent to prevent young professionals from being left behind, Gupta added.

As upskilling and collaboration have become workforce essentials in today's challenging professional landscape, every second Gen Z professional (51 per cent) wants employers and leaders to make skill-based hires today.

"Skills are the currency for workforce transformation and the only viable solution to tackle the evolving workforce dilemma," Gupta said. — PTI

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