

Government of
Jammu & Kashmir

WELCOMES

Shri Amit Shah

Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs
and Minister of Cooperation

**PRIME MINISTER'S
DEVELOPMENT
PACKAGE**

October 2021
21 PROJECTS COMPLETED

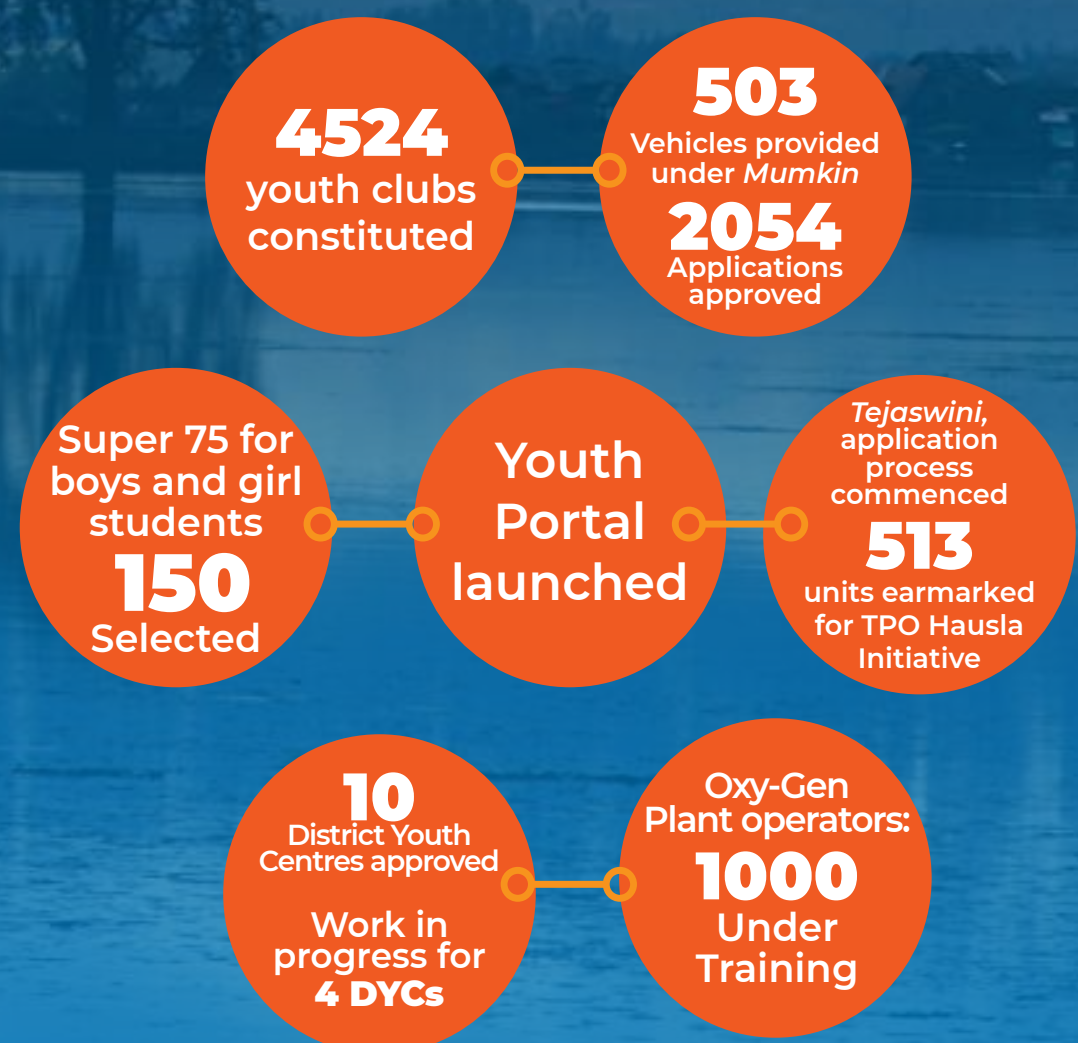
- Rambagh Flyover Completed
- Qazigund-Banihal Tunnel Completed
- Jhelum Flood Mitigation Project (Phase I) completed
- IIT Jammu starts functioning from own campus

**9 more likely to
be completed by
the end of 2021-22
and 22 projects by
2022-23**

- Work on AIIMS Jammu started
- Ring Road Jammu to be completed by March 2022

PMDP Accelerated
**-Expenditure increased from 26% in
June 2018 to 60.26% in October 2021**

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2

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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RNA

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از نیابت گڈول با اجلاس جاویدا احمد حکیم صاحب تحصیلدار انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دیجاوئل
درخواست منجانب: مختار احمد گوجر یوئلڈ ولڈ مصرا ساکنہ اڈ حال
بغرض حصول ST سر فیکٹ -
اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملمندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سر فیکٹ دفتر بذمیں
پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن
کا کنڈیڈ بڈیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام محدود لیت	پیش	امدانی
۱۔	مختار احمد گوجر یوئلڈ ولڈ مصرا	زمینداری	امدانی
۲۔	عابدہ بی بی زونجھد مصری	گھریلو کام	زمینداری
۳۔	عاصف احمد	زمینداری	امدانی
۴۔	نعیمہ	گھریلو کام	زمینداری
۵۔	شیمہ	زیر تعلیم	گھریلو کام
۶۔	سایہ	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈیڈ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی
اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔
معیاد اڈر نے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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درخواست منجانب: اختر علی گوجر یوئلڈ ولڈ نظام یوئلڈ ساکنہ اڈ حال
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نمبر شمار	نام محدود لیت	پیش	امدانی
۱۔	اختر علی بکروئلڈ ولڈ محمد مصرا	زمینداری	امدانی
۲۔	فاطمہ بی بی زونجھد اختر علی	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام
۳۔	کونڈیڈ اختر علی	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام
۴۔	نذراقت ولد اختر علی	زیر تعلیم	زیر تعلیم
۵۔	ریانت ولد اختر علی	زیر تعلیم	زیر تعلیم

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈیڈ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی
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کا کنڈیڈ بڈیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام محدود لیت	پیش	امدانی
۱۔	گلزار احمد گوجر یوئلڈ ولڈ محمد مصرا	زمینداری	امدانی
۲۔	ملکیہ بی بی زونجھد مختار احمد	گھریلو کام	زمینداری
۳۔	الطاف احمد	زمینداری	امدانی
۴۔	اشفاق احمد	زیر تعلیم	گھریلو کام
۵۔	الفت	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام
۶۔	آرباء	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام
۷۔	رشانہ	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈیڈ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی
اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔
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کا کنڈیڈ بڈیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام محدود لیت	پیش	امدانی
۱۔	محمد مصری گوجر یوئلڈ ولڈ نظام یوئلڈ	زمینداری	امدانی
۲۔	سونی بیگم زونجھد مصری	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام
۳۔	شیرینہ	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام
۴۔	سفیہ	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈیڈ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی
اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔
معیاد اڈر نے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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از نیابت گڈام

درخواست منجانب: وسیم رمضان پرے ولڈ محمد رمضان پرے ساکنہ وڈ گام

بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ سر فیکٹ بکن نیلوفر رمضان۔

اشتہار بمبراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

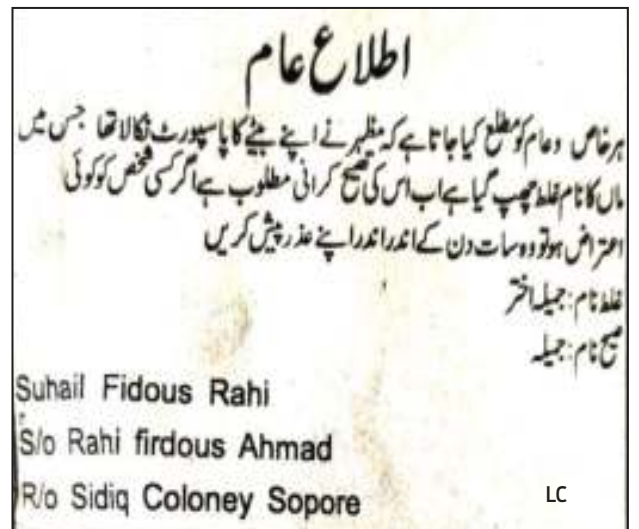
معاملمندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنٹ سر فیکٹ دفتر
بذمیں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے
کہ ساکن کا کنڈیڈ بڈیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام محدود لیت	پیش	امدانی
۱۔	وسیم رمضان پرے ولڈ محمد رمضان	مزدوری	امدانی
۲۔	سارہ بیگم بیوہ محمد رمضان	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام
۳۔	روینہ بانو دختر محمد رمضان	زیر تعلیم	گھریلو کام
۴۔	نیلوفر رمضان دختر محمد رمضان	گھریلو کام	گھریلو کام

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنڈیڈ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر فیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی
اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔
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kmt

نائب تحصیلدار۔



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

No:-

Date:-

(FINAL NOTICE)

Bukhari Engineers (SHG),
G/L Syed Showkat,
S/o Syed Saif-ud Din
R/o Soibugh,
Regd. 11013/Kmr of 2017

Subject:- Construction of cement concrete channel and raising lining wall of Kha Khul
Magam near Baba Mohalla.
Reference:- This Office 2nd Notice No. 5574-76 dt:- 16-10-2021.

- Whereas the allotment for execution of the subjected work has been issued to you vide this office allotment No. 04 of 05/2019.
- Whereas, notices were served to you to resume the work but till date you have failed to start the work.
- As per the conditions of the NIT you were supposed to complete the work within stipulated time.
- As the work is of urgent nature and needs to be complete within the stipulated time.

Now you are given the final opportunity to start the said work within 04 days positively failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost, as this office can't wait further in view of urgency of work. In case of failure to start the work, you will be recommended for black listing.

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division,
Ompora Budgam.

DIPK-11168/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.

No:-

Date:-

(FINAL NOTICE)

M/s Shah Brothers,
Prop. Ajaz Ahmad Shah & Brothers,
S/o Abdul Rahman Shah,
R/o Haji Bagh Budgam,
Regd. SE/R&B/SB-B-587/2017-18

Subject:- Construction of concrete lining wall on preg khul from Army Camp to Gur Mo-
halla at spots.
Reference:- This Office 2nd Notice No. 5549-51 dt:- 16-10-2021.

Whereas the allotment for execution of the subjected work has been issued to you vide
this office allotment No. 82 of 10/2021.
Whereas, notices were served to you to resume the work but till date you have failed to
start the work.

As per the conditions of the NIT you were supposed to complete the work within stipu-
lated time.

As the work is of urgent nature and needs to be complete within the stipulated time.

Now you are given the final opportunity to start the said work within
04 days positively failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost,
as this office can't wait further in view of urgency of work. In case of failure to start the
work, you will be recommended for black listing.

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division,
Ompora Budgam.

DIPK-11166/21

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Quote!

I can resist everything except temptation

— Oscar Wilde

NEWS DIGEST

OGW Held In Baramulla: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Farooq Ahmad Malik was arrested by a joint team of police, army's 161TA and the personnel of CRPF 53 battalion. **More On P10**

3 Killed After Load Carrier Overturns

JAMMU: Three people, including two children, were killed and four others injured when a load carrier turned turtle in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said. A private load carrier, carrying seven people from Srinagar to Arnas, overturned on reaching Chaklas around. **More On P10**

Elderly Man Falls Into Open Drain, Dies

SRINAGAR: An elderly man from south Kashmir's Awantipora died on Saturday after falling into an under-construction drain in Natipora area of this capital city. 72-year-old Peerzada Ghulam Mustafa died after falling into an under-construction open sewage canal, which was filled with water in the Harnambal. **More On P10**

No Fresh Corona Cases In Ladakh

LEH: No fresh COVID-19 cases were recorded during the past 24 hours in Ladakh, where three patients recovered from the infection, bringing down the active cases in the Union Territory to 40, officials said on Saturday. Ladakh has registered an overall tally of 20,896 cases since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. Among them, **More On P10**

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'We're Heartbroken': Snow-Buried Apple Orchards Numb Kashmiri Growers

Auqib Javeed

Arshad Ahmad along with his two brothers was on his toes before autumn once again ended prematurely in Kashmir.

The untimely snowfall as warned by Kashmir's Horticulture Department broke the brothers into tears. Hours before the calamity, they were frantically pruning branches of their apple orchard.

But despite the advisory asking growers to speed up harvesting, Arshad said it was an uphill task in the face of the recent non-local workforce departure from Kashmir.



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

The apprehensions of a large-scale damage to the crop and trees came true on Saturday when the snow and rain lashed higher areas of Kashmir including South Kashmir's Shopian where Arshad lives.

"We are heartbroken," Arshad told Kashmir Observer. "This untimely snowfall has devoured our harvest once again."

On October 23, Kashmir's higher reaches received fresh snowfall while rains lashed plains—bringing the temperature further down in the valley.

An official in the Meteorological Department informed us that there's a possibility of more rains and snow till Sunday.

Behind the downpour, the MeT official said, is the western disturbance. "The weather conditions would start gradually improving from the afternoon of October 24 and the dry weather is expected to continue till November 02, 2021," the weatherman said.

In a last-ditch attempt to save his fruit-laden orchard from bad weather, Arshad had gathered over half a dozen people including his relatives and friends to harvest the crop. But the untimely snowfall spoiled all his efforts. "The problem was that over 60 percent of **More On P10**

...Delimitation, Elections, Statehood

Shah Lays Down J&K Roadmap

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored after the delimitation of constituencies and assembly elections.

In his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after its special status was scrapped in 2019, Union Home Minister said instances of terrorism and stone-pelting have reduced since the abrogation of Article 370.

The Union Home Minister's visit to the Valley comes at a time when the centre faces a major security challenge in the wake of targeted civilian killings that triggered an exodus of migrant labourers and Kashmiri Pandits. The visit also comes amid rising incidents of militancy including



Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday met family of CID Inspector Parvaiz Ahmad Dar, who was shot dead by militants in Nowgam in June this year.

the longest military operation in Poonch that has claimed the lives of nine soldiers, including two

officers. Immediately after his arrival here Shah discussed the security situation at **More On P10**

Reviews Security Situation

Earlier after arriving in Srinagar, Shah drove straight to meet the family of a police officer killed by militants. He later chaired a meeting to review the security situation in the Valley. He was received at the technical airport here by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and advisor Farooq Khan. Shah offered his condolences to the family and handed over documents of appointment to a government job to Ahmad's widow, Fatima Akhtar, on compassionate grounds, a home ministry official said. "Today visited the family of martyr Parvaiz **More On P10**

KASHMIR HAS SEEN A NEW BEGINNING -- from fear, terrorism, corruption, and family-based politics to peace, development, and prosperity. Terrorism has reduced, stone-pelting has become invisible.."

J&K Reports 80 Recoveries, 72 New Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 80 recoveries of coronavirus infected people, while 72 fresh cases of virus were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, 80 more coronavirus infected patients have recovered in the Union Territory—4 from Jammu and 76 from the Valley during the last 24 hours. During the same time, they said, J&K reported 72 new cases of virus—9

Int'l Flights Resume From Srinagar Airport

Amit Shah Flags Off Flight With 159 Passengers On Board



Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Wadia group-run airline Go First on Saturday commenced its direct

passenger services to Sharjah in the UAE from Srinagar, becoming the first domestic carrier to provide direct international connectivity **More On P10**

Inaugurating Flights Cosmetic Steps: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurating international flights and medical colleges were cosmetic steps that will not address the actual problem in Jammu and Kashmir. She said ideally the home minister's visit should have been preceded by a follow up on assurances given to leaders of the union territory **More On P10**

Snowfall, Heavy Rains Wreak Havoc In Kashmir

3 Killed By Mudslide In Pulwama, Banihal Highway Closed; Power Supply Affected



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three members of a nomad family were killed and another critically injured on Saturday due to the fresh spell of snowfall and heavy rain cutting off the Valley from the rest of the world

besides causing widespread destruction to horticulture, and plunging many parts of Kashmir into darkness.

The snowfall and rains, which started late on Friday night, triggered a mudslide that hit a tent set up by nomads in Noorpora **More On P10**

450 Vehicles Stranded On Banihal Highway

Zaid Bin Shabir

Over 450 vehicles, including trucks laden with essential commodities, passenger vehicles and small private cars are stranded along the Srinagar-Jammu highway that was closed for traffic on Friday morning due to the landslides triggered by heavy overnight rains. According to the officials, landslides and shooting stones occurred at vulnerable areas along **More On P10**

ON OCTOBER 24, LIGHT TO MODERATE RAIN is expected at many places. Due to the weather system, the MeT has already warned that there could be disruption to both air and highway traffic besides drop in day temperature.



DAY 13 Poonch Operation Continues Despite Bad Weather

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Despite inclement weather, the counter-insurgency operation continued for the 13th day on Saturday in the forest belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts where nine army personnel were killed in two separate attacks by hiding militants last week, officials said.

Two more suspected people were detained for questioning as the joint search parties of army and local police moved cautiously in the dense forests of Mendhar and Surankote in Poonch and nearby Thanamandi



FILE PHOTO

in Rajouri to track down the hiding militants, they said. An army official said a major part of the forest was cleared

over the last 12 days and now the search area is restricted to an area housing a number of natural caves. There was no **More On P10**

'There'll Be No Celebrations' Heavy Downpour Hits Kashmiri Weddings

ZAID BIN SHABIR

SRINAGAR: The inclement weather has forced scores of families in Kashmir to put-off the wedding celebrations as the downpour submerged countless residential houses and left a trail of destruction, especially in south Kashmir districts on Saturday.

Dozens of families that had a scheduled wedding for the next two days have informed their invited guests through Facebook, that 'there will be no marriage celebrations scheduled for next two days'.

Among these dozens of distressed families, the Wani family of Qazigund had to shoot



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

an emergency message on Facebook updating people about the cancellation of their son's

and daughter's wedding. "Salaam. Dear loved ones, I'm sorry to inform you that

the marriage ceremony of the son and daughter of Mohd Amin Wani R/O Umar colony of Qazigund which was scheduled on 23/24 of October has been cancelled due to the bad weather. Please accept our apologies with regards to this unfortunate matter," a family member of Wani's posted on Facebook.

Kashmir Observer received several reports from different areas of south Kashmir, especially Shopian that a lot of people have suffered huge damages as hundreds of apple laden trees have been damaged due to the untimely downpour of snow. Several of these **More On P10**

Iconic Week Carnival Commences In Srinagar

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Marking the beginning of Iconic Week being organized by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism department, Mayor Srinagar, Junaid Azim Mattu, on Saturday inaugurated “Spirits of J&K” a sufi festival at SKICC Srinagar.

Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Sarmad Hafeez, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Assad, Director Tourism Kashmir, Dr G N Itoo were present on the occasion.

On the occasion, programme “Aghaaz-e-Nishast”, a discourse on mysticism, was organized in collaboration with the Academy of Art Cultural and Languages. Also, a mystic gallery was set up where traditional artifacts and manuscripts and



rare copies of Quran and Bhagwat Gita besides rich Sufi literature, 19th century copper, brass ware and musical instruments

were showcased.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mattu stressed on preservation of both physical and cultural

heritage of J&K collectively for the posterity adding that “success of nation depends on what we inherit from ancestors and what we pass on to our next generations.”He said that J&K has rich cultural treasure and there is no parallel to it in the entire world adding that there is need to understand the importance of valuing our heritage and make it part of day to life.

Deliberating on the importance of such events, Mayor emphasized on holding more fiestas like sufi festivals on poets, sufi culture and literature in Srinagar.

Sarmad Hafeez, who presented a vote of thanks, said that the Iconic Week is being organized to promote J&K as all season tourist destination. He said that during the weeklong celebrations a variety of programmes showcasing

our art, culture, food, artifacts, manuscript and religious tourism shall be held at various tourist destinations across J&K. He added that the government shall also organize sufi festivals at 75 virgin tourist destinations for tourism promotion.

During the festival, panelists including Dr Darakshan Andrabi, Chairman Waqf Development Committee, Dr Afaq Aziz, Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem and Dolly Tikoo presented a sufi talk lecture on mysticism/ sufism.

Vusat Iqbal and Satish Vimal moderated the programme.

“Peer- Waer” a documentary on “A journey through Mystic Kashmir” was also presented on the occasion.

Later, the panelist and other guests were felicitated and presented mementos.

DIAL-EMMA



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

This Day in History

- 1260 - Qutuz, Mamluk Sultans of Egypt (1259-60), is assassinated by Baibars, a fellow Mamluk leader, who seizes power for himself
- 1260 - The spectacular Cathedral of Chartres is dedicated in the presence of King Louis IX of France; now a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- 1360 - The Treaty of Brétigny is ratified at Calais, marking the end of the first phase of the Hundred Years' War.
- 1531 - Bavaria joins Schmalkaldic League
- 1596 - Battle at Kerestes: Ottoman beat Austria-Hungary & Germany
- 1601 - Johannes Kepler succeeds Tycho Brahe as imperial mathematician to Emperor Rudolph II
- 1648 - Treaty of Westphalia ends The Thirty Year's War in the Holy Roman Empire; Switzerland's independence recognized
- 1656 - Treaty of Vilnius: Russia & Poland sign anti-Swedish covenant
- 1681 - Earl of Shaftesbury accused of high treason in London
- 1795 - 3rd Partition of Poland, between Austria, Prussia & Russia
- 1812 - Napoleonic Wars: The Battle of Maloyaroslavets takes place near Moscow.
- 1861 - First US transcontinental telegram is sent (from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.)
- 1909 - Italy and Russia sign the Racconigi Pact in which both nations promise to support the status quo in the Balkans
- 1917 - Battle at Caporetto: German & Austria smash Italian army
- 1924 - Nobel prize for physiology or medicine awarded to Dutchman Willem Einthoven "for his discovery of the mechanism of the electrocardiogram"
- 1930 - A bloodless coup d'état in Brazil ousts Washington Luís Pereira de Sousa, the last President of the First Republic.Getúlio Vargas then installed as "provisional president."
- 1932 - British government signs trade treaty with USSR
- 1938 - US forbids child labor in factories
- 1942 - Second day of battle at El Alamein: British infantry
- 1944 - US aircraft carrier Princeton sinks at Philippines
- 1945 - Charter of United Nations comes into effect
- 1946 - Netherlands & Indonesia sign cease fire
- 1952 - Arab Liberation Movement becomes only political party in Syria
- 1957 - The USAF starts the X-20 Dyna-Soar program.
- 1958- USSR lends Egypt 400 million rubles to build Aswan Dam
- 1969 - Hanif, Mushtaq & Sadiq Mohammad start their only Test Cricket together
- 1975 - Turkish diplomat shot dead in Paris
- 1980 - Great Britain performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1980 - Iraqi troops occupies Khorramshar
- 1984 - Intelsat 5 re-enters Earth's atmosphere 5 months after it failed
- 1986 - Great Britain drops diplomatic relations with Syria
- 1994 - Bomb attack on opposition in Sri Lanka, 55+ killed
- 1998 - Launch of Deep Space 1 on comet and asteroid mission
- 2009 - First International Day of Climate Action, organized with 350.org, a global campaign to address a claimed global warming crisis.
- 2012 - Libyan militias capture Bani Walid resulting in 130 civilian deaths
- 2016 - Suicide bomb kills 61 and injures 117 at a police training academy in Quetta, Pakistan, ISIS claims responsibility



HIJRI
CALENDAR

17

RABI
-UL-
AWWAL

1443

PRAYERS

FAJR
5: 19
ZUHR
12: 15
ASR
4:09
MAGRIB
5:50
ISHA
7:11

JVC's Ground Floor Inundated, Lift System Also Goes Out Of Gear



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid incessant rains, the ground floor of JVC Hospital in Bemina has got water-logged even as several low lying areas in outskirts of summer-capital Srinagar are witnessing inundation.

GNS received several calls from attendants at JVC Hospital who unequivocally maintained that ground floor of the hospital

has got inundated even as more water was seeping into the compound area.

They said that presence of water inside the hospital building and its premises have made it highly difficult for them to move around. “We are unable to procure the required medicines”, an attendant said.

Another attendant said that the lift system at the hospital has

also gone defunct. “The lift system isn’t working at the hospital, making it even more difficult to move”, he said.

When contacted, Medical Superintendent JVC Hospital Dr Shifa Deva said that water has got accumulated inside the hospital compound. “This is low lying area and water does enter the hospital every time it rains heavily”, she told GNS.

“Men and machinery are on job to remove the water,” she said, adding, “It will recede when rains stop.”

Regarding the lift system, the Medical Superintendent said the lift system is not working from yesterday as the mother board has developed some snag. “We have asked for a (mother) board from outside and the issue will be possibly fixed soon.”

“We are on it and will do every possible thing to help the patients”, she further said.

Meanwhile several low-lying areas including HMT, Zainakote, Bemina and other adjacent areas are reportedly witnessing deluge like situation amid incessant rains. (GNS)

6 WHEN CONTACTED, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT JVC Hospital Dr Shifa Deva said that water has got accumulated inside the hospital compound. "This is low lying area and water does enter the hospital every time it rains heavily", she told GNS.

Govt Teachers Allowed To Teach In Pvt Coaching Centres: Associations

AGECIES

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir has yet again ignored the High Court directions by restricting the coaching centres from recruiting government teachers for tuitions, teachers associations said on Saturday.

The fresh order issued by the Director School Education had asked the private coaching centres to ensure that no government employee is imparting teaching in their coaching centres and warned the owners of strict action if they failed to follow the dictate.

The order, according to teachers, is the clear violation of the high court orders that has already allowed the government teachers to undertake tuitions with the rider that they shall not undertake the tuitions two hours before the opening of the schools and two hours after closure of the schools.

The order was issued after several Chief Education Officers had banned teachers from private tuitions.

Several associations of teachers have alleged that the fresh order is yet another attempt to put teachers and government at loggerheads to each other despite the issue has been resolved by the division bench of JK High Court.

They alleged that clerical staff at DSEK in conveyance with some influential private coaching centre run by the owners which are non-residents of UT deliberately doing this mischief for their own ulterior motives.

They said the clerical staff at DSEK over a period of time has developed a strong bonding with these coaching centres thereby using their influ-

ence to put government teachers at loggerheads with each other.

The associations appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Director School Education to probe the nexus between officials of DSEK and coaching centres.

They said the transfer policy adopted by the government has not been implemented in DSEK as the officials are posted at DSEK from past many years including teachers on deputations thereby developing ulterior motives over the period of time.

In September this year a division bench of JK High Court allowed government teachers to undertake tuitions with the rider that they shall not undertake the tuitions two hours before the opening of the schools and two hours after closure of the schools.

The directions were passed after the counsel appearing for the petitioners of Anantnag district submitted that similar petition, involving same subject matter stands allowed by the court where under the circular issued by the Chief Education Officer, Pulwama, was under challenge which was quashed by the court.

The petitioners have also assailed the government order issued on January, 15, 2021, whereby the Committees are being constituted to implement the said circular in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Education Act (Chapter IV, Clause 24).

Meanwhile, Director School Education Kashmir Tasaduq Hussain Mir said that he is stuck at Pahalgam due to snowfall and disconnected the call without any further comment on the issue—(KNO)

Judicial Academy Orgainses One-Day Workshop On Gender Sensitization

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The J&K Judicial Academy today organized a one-day Workshop on “Gender Sensitization in Crimes against women, Imparting training to eliminate Social bias” for Judicial Officers, Public Prosecutors/ APPs, Medical Officers and Police Officers overseeing/supervising investigation of Kashmir province.

The workshop was organised under the noble vision of Justice, Pan-kaj Mithal, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief J&K Judicial Academy) and inspiring guidance of Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Chairman, and other Judges of Governing Committee of J&K Judicial Academy.

Speaking at the event, Chairman, Committee for Judicial Education & Training, Justice Thakur said ‘the imbalance of power equality among women and men has resulted in the patriarchy in history but in modern human society half of the population cannot be made invisible, marginalized and discriminated’.

He said, ‘Modern society which lays emphasis on human rights, freedom, justice and equality cannot accept discrimination and crimes against women’. He also highlighted the role of judiciary in ensuring justice to victims of domestic and workplace crimes and sexual harassment.

On the occasion, the former Judge, Nirmaljit Kour presented a detailed overview during which she talked about crime cases against women of different nature, upbringing of boy and girl children equally in the family, Empowerment of women, befitting conduct of officers, POCsO Act and issues.

Dr Shazia while presenting opening remarks said that Gender Sensitization in crimes against women is a very sensitive and fragile issue that is very close to our heart where the society in its composite genesis needs to find the root causes of crimes against women and address the stereotypes existing in the society.

Two-Day Multidisciplinary Int’l Conference Held At SKUAST-K

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Two days Multidisciplinary International Conference on “Applied Statistics in Biological, Agricultural, Social and Medical Sciences” was held at Faculty of Fisheries, Rangil Ganderbal, SKUAST-K.

In the conference, more than 150 researchers participated in the conference across the globe and 48 scholars presented their papers via oral/poster form.

According to a statement issued to the news agency the researchers shared their findings in the form of paper and poster presentations in various technical sessions organized.

Vice-Chancellor SKUAST J&K Prof. J. P Sharma formally inaugurated the conference. The conference was organized by Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat



I N THE CONFERENCE, MORE THAN 150 researchers participated in the conference across the globe and 48 scholars presented their papers via oral/poster form.

(Head, Division of Social Sciences, FoFy). The organizer introduced the audience to the conference programme. Prof. Massarat Khan Dean Faculty of Fisheries delivered

the Welcome address, Prof D.S Hooda, Former PVC, was the guest of honor and Vice Chancellor Prof. J.P Sharma SKUAST J&K was Chief Guest for the day.

From KO Archives

Police Uncover Body Of ‘Western Hostage’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR : The hostage drama involving four western tourists today took a new turn after police claimed that it uncovered the remains of a body that could be one of the four missing since being kidnapped in 1995.

The remains were exhumed from a graveyard in Dooru village in Anantnag district, a senior police officer said.

The officer, who declined to be identified, said the grave had been located following information from a militant arrested in connection with the 1995 kidnappings from Kapran village on 17th of this month.

“It is too early to say anything yet, but we have recovered some bones which will be sent away for DNA testing,” he said. Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, Americans

Donald Hutchings and John Guilds, as well as Dirk Hassert from Germany and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, were seized by armed gunmen in July 1995. Childs managed to escape, while Ostro was beheaded by his captors.

The other hostages are still officially listed as missing, although any hope of finding them alive has long disappeared.

The authorities are likely to tread very carefully with the latest discovery. Last year, police claimed that they had discovered the body of Paul Wells fell apart when

DNA tests showed no match with the Briton’s relatives.

(Kashmir Observer, October 24, 2000)

HC Quashes PSA Detention Of Budgam Man

AGENCIES

BUDGAM: The High Court on Friday quashed the detention of a man from central Kashmir's Budgam district who was booked under the Public safety Act (PSA) in the year 2020.

Quashing the detention of Gulzar Ahmad Bhat of Warpora, Budgam, a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said further custody of the detainee should be regulated in accordance with the orders of the court of the competent jurisdiction in connection with a criminal case registered against him.

Bhat was booked under the PSA in terms of an order dated 14 February 2020 passed by the District Magistrate Budgam.

Bhat, through his counsel Wajid Hasib, had challenged the detention order on various grounds including the one that he was already in custody in connection with an FIR registered with the Police Station Budgam and the detaining authority had not spelt out the compelling reasons for detaining him under preventive de-

tention laws.

"There has been non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority as the grounds of detention are more or less a Xerox copy of the dossier," Hasib argued.

"In the instant case, it is clear from the record that the dossier and the grounds of detention contain almost similar wording which shows that there has been non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority," the court said, adding the detention order was unsustainable.

The court quashed the detention order citing the Supreme Court order that the ground of detention and the dossier, if in similar language, go on to show that there had been non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority.

"It is also a settled position of law that a person involved in a criminal case can be detained under the provisions of preventive detention laws provided there are compelling circumstances for doing so. Otherwise the order of detention becomes unsustainable," the court said.

DC B'Pora Reviews RDD Works Under Capex Budget

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: DC Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on Saturday reviewed the progress of works being executed by the Rural Development Department proposed under District Capex Budget (DCB) 2021-22.

The meeting reviewed the estimation, tendering and allotment status of all works including DDC/ BDC/ PRI grants. It also discussed detailed proposals under the District Capex Plan, 2021-22.

While reviewing the progress on framing of estimations, the officials informed that all major DDC works, BDC works and PRI works have been tendered so far while work is in progress to tender out other works.

Officers informed that RDD has targeted to complete 1915 works this year out of which 820 works have already been completed so far.

It was given out that Rs 529 Crores have been earmarked for the financial year 2021-22 with major thrust on Jal Jeevan Mission (51%), PMGSY (21%), Rural development Department (8%), Education and Health (8%), etc.

The DC said that 3316 works

have been targeted for completion for the financial year 2021-22 which includes 114 Water supply schemes, 24 PMGSY works, 23 Urban Development Works, 13 works of Education, 07 Hospitals, 13 Roads, 09 Irrigation Schemes and 1875 MGN-REGA Works.

He sought details from the heads of departments including Rural Development department, Health, JKPDCL, R&B, Jal Shakti and other sectors about the approved works, tendering status, status of estimations and progress of ongoing projects/works.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that district administration is committed to ensure all developmental projects/works are completed within a set timeline.

While deliberating on the development plan of the current year, Dr Owais said the government has taken up the water supply issue as a priority area and under Water Security Plan water supply shall be provided to each household with 51 per cent budget being invested in the sector. He said 45000 HHs shall be provided 100 percent FHTC (functional Tap Connections) under JJM.

12 Rescued From Mughal Road Amid Snowfall

AGENCIES

POONCH: Authorities here on Saturday afternoon rescued 12 persons, who were stuck near Pir Ki Gali on Mughal road, which has been closed by the authorities in wake of the snowfall.

Those who were rescued include shopkeepers and workers of a shrine, located at Pir Ki Gali, officials told KNO.

Officials said that Mughal Road had been closed in the intervening night of Friday-Saturday and 12 persons were stuck near Pir Ki Gali after which rescue operation was launched by police, Army, traffic police and Mughal road authority.

They said that the people who rescued from the spot have been shifted to a nearby Army camp and are being sent to their homes.



Abid Bhat/KO

Political Parties Demand Compensation For Affected Farmers

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Various political parties, including NC, Congress, Apni Party, and CPI (M), on Saturday demanded immediate compensation to the farmers whose fruit crops were destroyed due to early snowfall in Kashmir Valley.

NC's Members of Parliament Muhammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi in a statement asked the divisional administration of Kashmir to come to the rescue of people in the upper regions of north, south and central Kashmir, where inclement weather and heavy downpour have taken a heavy toll on the lives of people.

They said the heavy snowfall in the upper reaches has severely damaged the vegetative and fruit bearing parts of the orchids.

"No sooner the weather condition improves, the divisional administration should constitute revenue teams and deputes them to access the losses incurred by orchardists so that the quan-

tum of the compensation is worked out and distributed among the affected immediately," they said.

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari expressed concern over the losses incurred by the orchardists due to the unseasonal heavy snowfall.

"The government must act speedily to reach out to these orchardists whose hopes have been crushed due to this inclement weather conditions. They must be provided with appropriate compensation besides giving them an extension in loan moratoriums, if any," Bukhari said.

CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami also demanded immediate compensation to the affected growers.

"The government must depute expert teams to assess the losses especially in South Kashmir which has been the worst hit," the CPI (M) leader demanded.

Shameema Raina Senior vice-president Mahila Con-

gress J&K also demanded the same from the government.

Advocating for relief to the farmers, Raina also demanded an estimate of the losses. All our agriculture and horticulture sectors are greatly hit by the bad weather. She requested the administration to come forward to support and help the affected families.

Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement (JKPM) Vice President Solicitor Syed Iqbal Tahir said that the untimely snowfall, gusty winds and incessant rains have caused huge damages to crops and orchards in various districts of South Kashmir especially in Kulgam and Shopian districts.

A large number of fruit bearing trees are reported to have suffered damages due to unseasonal snowfall, witnessed in several parts of Kashmir valley. Reportedly 50% fruit crop was yet to be harvested in twin districts of Shopian and Kulgam. There should be immediate assessment of losses suffered by the orchardists.

Union MoS Education Devi On 2-Day Pahalgam Visit

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: Union Minister of State for Education, Annpurna Devi arrived on a two day visit to Pahalgam on Saturday.

The Union Minister interacted with beneficiaries and took stock of ground level implementation of various centrally sponsored welfare schemes. She appreciated the efforts of frontline workers in dissemination of benefits to the public.

She underlined the commitment of the Central Government towards progress and prosperity of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The MoS laid stress on timely delivery of public services to the people and prompt redressal of grievances.

Assuring various delegations of the timely solution to the demands, the Union MoS informed the delegations that



education to the last mile is the utmost priority of the Government as it plays a pivotal role in strengthening democracy.

The Union Minister distributed sanction letter for dairy units, wheelchairs and hearing aids among specially-abled persons and golden cards among beneficiaries of Sehat Scheme.

The Minister also interacted with officials from handicrafts and handlooms, Industries, Health and Medical Education, RDD/NRLM, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries departments and also interacted with local

artisans.

The MoS visited HSS Pahalgam and e-inaugurated the school website of HSS Brakpora. She also e- inaugurated building blocks of HSS Mir Dantar and HSS Fura. She interacted with the students and listened to their suggestions for making the teaching process more interactive. She also felicitated the meritorious students.

DDC Chairman Yasin Gorsi, DDC Anantnag Piyush Goyal, ADDC Anantnag, Director Education Kashmir, BDCs and other officials of district administration were present on the occasion.

Compensate Affected Orchardists: KVFGDU Writes To LG

J&K Kisan Tehreek vows to implement crop insurance scheme



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: After suffering huge losses due to the untimely snowfall, the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers cum Dealers Union (KVFGDU) has written to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and demanded compensation for the affected fruit growers.

Pertinently, the fruit growers have suffered huge losses on Saturday after parts of Kashmir received untimely snowfall.

"The undersigned would like to apprise your goodself that the untimely heavy snow and rainfall have damaged and destroyed apple crop in all fruit orchards of the Valley particularly in Kulgam and Shopian districts of south Kashmir and north and central Kashmir as well," reads the letter of KVFGDU to LG.

"In fact the harvesting of apple crop is nowadays in its full swing and the 'A Grade' of Delicious Quality type of Apple bearing plants were under harvesting and 50% of 'A Grade' type of apple crop was still on plants and yet to be harvested in Kulgam and Shopian in directs of South Kashmir and 30% in central and north Kashmir," it adds.

"It is unfortunate that the untimely heavy snow and rainfall has also been one of the 'worst' experiences for the Horticulture sector with unbearable losses to Valley Based Fruit Growers/Dealers who are otherwise

also suffering heavy losses since the last several years due to one or the other reason," it adds.

The KVFGDU in the letter said that since there is no mechanism to measure the exact quantum of losses, but losing the basic parameters, they peg the recent losses due to untimely heavy snow and rainfall to the Horticulture Sector in crores of rupees.

Meanwhile, J&K Kisan Tehreek in a statement issued to KNO demanded relief for orchardists affected by incessant rains and unseasonal snowfall.

General Secretary, J&K Kisan Tehreek, Ghulam Nabi Malik demanded immediate relief to the orchardists whose fruit and trees suffered damages due to incessant rains and untimely snowfall across the valley especially in south Kashmir.

Malik called for a comprehensive compensation for these affected orchardists. "The government should immediately depute teams to assess the losses and provide adequate compensation to these affected orchardists," he said.

He questioned the non-implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme, saying that the orchardists and peasants will have a sigh of relief if the scheme is implemented. Malik demanded that the government should purchase the remaining crop through NAFED at good price to avoid distress sale of the crop.

Add Hazard Vulnerability Clause In Tender Docs: Govt

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The J&K government has directed departments to include the Hazard Vulnerability information clause in tender documents with regard to construction-related activities to reduce the vulnerability and increase in resilience in the built environment.

A circular in this regard has been issued by the Department of Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Jammu and Kashmir, which states that the directions have been passed months after the Government of India had communicated to enhance the resilience of UT of Jammu & Kashmir by including Hazard Vulnerability information in all construction-related activities.

The official document reads that with its unique topography and unique geo-climatic conditions the UT of Jammu & Kashmir is exposed to natural catastrophes traditionally.

"Even today the natural hazards like floods, droughts gale winds and earthquakes are not a rare or unusual phenomenon in the while the vulnerability varies from region to region, a large pan of the UT is exposed to such natural Wards which often turn into disasters causing significant disruption of socio-economic life of communities leading

to loss of life and property", it reads.

The circular reads, "Accordingly, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred under Disaster Management Act 2005 it is hereby impressed upon all concerned departments to include the clause in tender documents annexed to this circular prepared by Building Materials, Training and Promotion Council (BMTPC) in order to reduce the vulnerability and increase resilience in the built environment."

The clause states, "Vulnerability Atlas of India (VAI) is a comprehensive document which provides an existing hazard scenario for the entire county and presents the digitized State/UT-wise hazard maps with respect to earthquakes, winds and floods for district-wise identification of vulnerable areas. It also includes additional digitized maps for thunderstorms, cyclones and landslides".

The clause added, "It is mandatory for bidders to refer Vulnerability Atlas of India for multi-hazard risk assessment and include the relevant hazard proneness specific to project location Mille planning and designing the project in terms of which include Seismic Zone (II to V) for earthquakes, Wind velocity (Basic Wind Velocity: 55, 50, 47, 44, 39 & 33 m/s)."

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

(Short Term)

GIST of E-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS/2021-22/164/e-tendering

Dated:-21-10-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No
1	2	3	4	5	6
Servicing of 02 No. 750 KVA DG Sets (Cummins make) at Govt. Super Specialty Hospital, Srinagar.	2.84	200	05	50-MCS of 2021, Dt: 22-09-2021	MED/K/TS/103, Dt: 18-10-2021
Repairs/Servicing of 750 KVA DG Set at Super Specialty Hospital, Srinagar.	5.62	500	05	50-MCS of 2021, Dt: 22-09-2021	MED/K/TS/103, Dt: 18-10-2021
Repairs/Servicing of Air Conditioners of various capacities at Govt. Dental College/Hospital, Srinagar.	6.16	500	05	235-GDC of 2021, Dt: 25-09-2021	MED/K/TS/102, Dt: 18-10-2021

- The Tender document 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 from 21-10-2021 (18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 22-10-2021 (10.00 hrs) to 30-10-2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 30-10-2021 (16.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

No: MHCHD/TS/5795-5802
Dated: 21-10-2021
DIPK-11152-50

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDCI KASHMIR 190018

Web Site: www.pmmppddjk.org, Tele/Fax: 0194-2493881, email: epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. SE/Proc/18/2021-22

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCI Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle, KPDCI Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers for Purchase of 33KV, METAL OXIDE GAPLESS POLYMER LIGHTNING ARRESTERS as detailed below for the requirement of KPDCI as under:

S. No	Material Description	F.O.R ECSD Srinagar
1.	33KV. METAL OXIDE GAPLESS POLYMER LIGHTNING ARRESTERS.	(No's) 311 No's

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document	22.10.2021; 10:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	12.11.2021; 14:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	24.10.2021; 10:00 Hrs to 27.10.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	27.10.2021; 11:00 Hrs to 12.11.2021; 15:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	27.10.2021 in the office of Chief Engineer Planning and Procurement Bemina Srinagar.
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	15.11.2021; 14:00 Hrs.
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local firms of J&K and Rs.1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand Only) for firms outside J&K (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Declaration form as per SBD. The bid Security shall be (2018)-III-895/J Dated 22.12.2020. as per D.O No.: 09/04/2020-PPD Dated 12.11.2020 of Govt Of India endorsed by Govt Of UT of J&K Vide No: A/Misc

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Procurement (KPDCI)

DIPK-NB-4446/21

KASHMIR

OBSERVER

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Twitter Talks

"Early Snowfall is proving devastating for the people of Shopian. Heart wrenching to see a year's hard work being washed away. Snow is destroying the apples as well as the apple trees"

@Habeellqbal

"Tourists, K diaspora, KPs should stop calling untimely sheen (snowfall) in #Kashmir as something to be happy about. It's devastating. Ain't no mubarak! Ask those whose livelihood is affected, their orchids devastated"

@MaqboolMajid

"3 words.
Lower
Your Gaze"

@Inameofallnames

Covid-19 Vaccine: 100 Crore Shots Done, But Can't Vax Eloquent



The government deserves credit for having administered 100 crore Covid-19 shots within 10 months of kicking off the national vaccination effort. More so, given India has relied, almost entirely, on vaccines produced indigenously. However, amidst this achievement, we must not lose sight of the larger picture. A significant proportion of those currently eligible to receive vaccines—those above 18—remains un-inoculated; more than 25 crore people have not received even a single dose, a fourth of the eligible population.

At the average-rate of first-dose inoculation for the week ended October 20, India will manage to cover less than half of this, or 11.3 crore, people by end-December. To be sure, the pace of vaccinations may have slowed due to the festive season and may recover substantially post Diwali. But building pace will be critical. Data from CoWin also shows that the uptake in the above-45-years age group has been higher than that in the 18-44-years cohort. While this could be attributed to the phased rollout, the vaccination has been open to all for long enough now for the youngsters to have caught up with the older recipients. Given the strong inventory of vaccines with the states—government data shows, this shot up from 46 million to 89 million between mid-September and mid-October—this indicates demand-side problems. With 70% of the adults covered, if indeed a lack of demand is stalling the effort to reach all adults by the end of the year, then it is clear India may have a large vaccine hesitancy problem. To that end, the government must pull all plugs to convince people of the need to get vaccinated; vaccine mandates for certain activity, with strict enforcement, may help.

The other big concern is that full vaccination (two doses)—

and Covid taskforce chief DR VK Paul has just reiterated how critical this is to the fight against the pandemic—is still low. Only 21% of the population (less than a third of the eligible population) has received both doses. This will surely pick up as first-dosers complete the mandated minimum gap between the doses. However, as per the ORF Vaccine Tracker, frontline workers—for whom (along with health workers) the vaccination efforts started much earlier—report only a 78% second-dose cover as on October 19. Similarly, the 18-44 years age group, for whom vaccinations were allowed from May 1, report only 18% second dose coverage. While vaccine supply could have been a problem in the early weeks, this hasn't been an issue for the last couple of months.

What the government also needs to figure out is vaccine coverage for those below 18—constituting 30% of the population. While Covaxin and Zydus Cadilla's vaccine candidate have been recommended for approval, most experts feel vaccination for a substantial chunk of minors may not be necessary. It could be that the really young—Covaxin trials cover different cohorts in the 2-18-years group—may not need vaccination. However, the older ones in this group, especially 14-years plus, some of whom may even have some form of employment that is associated with high exposure risks, need to be covered. To achieve this, the government needs to strategise well in time. Meanwhile, the second wave showed us the kind of damage that mutations can cause; the Delta variant was more virulent and possessed higher infectivity. To that end, India can't afford sluggish monitoring of variants; more so, given how such discovery could be crucial to future vaccine-research.

Financial Express

Ind vs Pak Match



THE FIRST TEST MATCH OF THE 1998-99 SERIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN drew to a close with a dramatic ending as the latter won it by a measly margin of 12 runs. However, even then, the crowd gave a standing ovation for the triumphant visitors who, in turn, returned the favor by conducting a victory lap

Nasir Khuehami and Younus Rashid

THAT rare occasion is inching closer; cricket teams of India and Pakistan face each other in the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 on October 24. Emotions on both sides are running high as people across South Asia eagerly wait for the biggest sports event in the region. But cricket is not just a game in this part of the world, it carries emotions, especially for people living in arch rival countries India and Pakistan. So, whenever India and Pakistan come face-to-face on a cricket field, politics follows, or in some special cases precedes the events itself.

The same is happening right now as the big event nears. Calls for cancellation of the match are already growing. This is done in retaliation of recent spate of killings in Kashmir. However, there are still some sane voices who say sports should not be mixed with politics and the proposed match should go ahead. Showing support for a particular sportsman or a team shouldn't be seen as an act of fandom at all.

Ideally, your support for a particular team should not be tagged to your politics or ideology. Let sports remain what it is meant to be: a universal joining force for people of diverse cultures, communities, languages, religions, regions etc. But, unfortunately a few anti-social elements are hellbent to communalise this sporting event.

Cricketer after all is a gentleman's game. Besides, India and Pakistan haven't held any bilateral series since 2012-13 and whenever they get to play against each other, it automatically becomes a big deal for fans. No doubt it is hard to detach nationalistic sentiments attached to cricket, particularly in India and Pakistan. But no harm in trying either. Unfortunately,

Dear Kashmiri Students, Hold Back Your Emotions

GAMES AND SPORTS ARE NOT JUST MEANS OF amusement but they teach us brotherhood and peace. These events must promote brotherhood and harmony, not violence

tunately, it is the political relationship between India and Pakistan that defines everything else including cricket. Things got worse since right wing sentiment rule the roost. They have bonded together politics and sports in such a manner that separating them now is a daunting task for anyone. In this charged up atmosphere around cricket, one often place becomes its natural victim: Kashmir.

The sentiments of the people of Kashmir particularly of young seem to often ravaged in this sphere. So, the current high volt tension is a litmus test for Kashmiris, especially the youngsters who get hounded for liking a particular sports player or a team!

Where the problem starts for Kashmiri Students

There is a long list of incidents where Kashmiri students were being beaten, harassed or booked whenever there was a Ind Vs Pak clash. It is insane to beat students just because they cheered for a particular country or a team. Their support for a team should not be seen as their endorsement for a political ideology. We should respect each other's likes and dislikes and allow everybody the chance to entertain and enjoy the way they want.

My request to Kashmiris students would be to not let your emotions overwhelm you for a cricket match. Think about your family and career. Be mature and respect everyone. You matter, your career matters. Take a cup of tea and enjoy the game in silence. You have to realise that the upcoming match is taking place in the backdrop of a highly

charged up and politicized environment created by politicians and sections of the media. India is witnessing growing intolerance and hate against Muslims and Kashmiris. Stay lowkey.

Past in the Post-Ind Vs Pak Matches

On 5th March 2016, Around 67 Kashmiri students were expelled from Swami Vivekanand Subharti University in Meerut Uttar Pradesh after they cheered for Pakistan during a cricket match.

The local students and other Hindu friends shouted slogans and thrashed them for cheering the Pakistani team. They went on rampage, vandalised the rooms of students, damaged the hall, broke laptops, abused and beat up a few others, hurled fits of abuse. The police later booked Kashmiri students under sedition.

After sending students back home, there was an angry reaction in the valley. It triggered protest and demonstration. On 27th August 2014, 12 students of a private engineering college in Punjab were injured after being beaten by non-Kashmiri students over cheering for Pakistan in a cricket match, later the college was closed for 3 weeks.

Similarly, on 2nd April, Kashmiri students were thrashed by their friends inside university premises after India lost to West Indies in a T20 cricket match. They were later arrested and booked under FIR by Police. After series of attacks on Kashmiri students in mainland India, Varasity Officials and other Indian parliamentarians categorically told that if they wish to cheer and yell for Pakistan they should go, study and

complete their degrees in Pakistan.

Over 60000 students from Jammu and Kashmir are presently pursuing their Professional and non-Professional courses in different universities and colleges in Indian states. Many parents in Kashmir would be worried. Some have recalled their children for some days to avoid any unpleasant incident, ahead of a clash between two arch-rivals. They know political connotations and feelings attached to this match and game are very serious. They have fear of assault, torture, sedition, even arrests. There is a sense of anxiety among them that a silly game can put their lives in danger.

Series of family requests ahead of the match

Ahead of this high voltage game, between the two countries who always remain in news nationally and internationally, parents are making frantic calls to their children advising them to remain away from cricket watching venues or any crowds spaces and not to write provocative things on Social Media that adds fuel to the fire. There is anxiety and unease among parents for just a cricket match. They are calling their wards to make sure that they are safe.

All Kashmiri students pursuing studies outside in Indian states should please be patient and keep calm and control emotions during the match. Students should enjoy the game with the true spirit of a sportsman.

The larger message of sports-manship

Games and sports are not just means of amusement but they teach us brotherhood and peace. These events must promote brotherhood and harmony, not violence.

Games become bridges for nations, be it Cricket or Football. Hatred, bigotry, narrow-mindedness, and prejudices are unethical to the spirit of sports-manship. We should see sports as sports, and shouldn't link it with nationalism or politics. Even opponents commend the good performers of the opposite team on the field. Even cricketers don't have any rivalry within the field or outside. They capture pictures, share composite culture, care about each other and their families.

There are so many examples of such nature when a Centurian, a hard hitter is cheered by the fellow team after he is bowled out and returns to the pavilion. People love Kohli across the border for his cricket or those who love Babar Azam on this side aren't necessarily anti-nationals. Cricket has been unnecessarily politicized. The majority of the people in India have absolutely no idea who their football stars are when the game is far more popular than cricket.

Kashmiris studying in India shouldn't give the system and apparatus a chance to scapegoat them as criminals.

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

What Is Driving Asia's Technological Rise?

JONATHAN WOETZEL

S HANGHAI – Asia is a technological force to be reckoned with. Over the last decade, the region has accounted for 52% of global growth in tech-company revenues, 43% of startup funding, 51% of spending on research and development, and 87% of patents filed, according to new research by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI). How did Asia get here, and what lessons does its success hold for the rest of the world?

Of course, Asia is not a monolith, and technology gaps within the region remain significant. India, for example, has fewer large tech companies than other major economies. Still, four of the world's top ten technology companies by market capitalization are Asian.

China, home to 26% of the world's unicorns (startups valued at \$1 billion or more), leads the way in tech entrepreneurship in Asia, though it still relies on foreign inputs in core technologies. By contrast, advanced Asian economies like Japan and South Korea have large tech firms and a significant knowledge base, but relatively few unicorns. Asia's emerging economies still invest relatively little in innovation, but they do provide growing markets for the goods and services produced by Asia's tech leaders.

Against this background, Asian countries have had to make a virtue out of collaborating to overcome fragmentation and close technology gaps. And they have made considerable progress in recent years. Notably, they have invested heavily in regional tech startups – about 70% of such investment comes from within Asia – and robust regional technology supply chains.

While Asia's technology supply chains continue to be reconfigured as they develop, the shifts have occurred largely within the region. (For example, the region's developed economies and China have expanded invest-

ment in emerging economies' manufacturing sectors.) This went a long way toward supporting Asia's relative resilience during the COVID-19 crisis. The just-signed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership could foster even closer intraregional ties.

Collaboration among countries is only part of the equation. Asian governments have also worked with local tech companies to advance goals in domains like renewable energy and artificial intelligence. During the pandemic, such partnerships have been essential to South Korea's track-and-trace strategy, and to national health QR-code programs in China and Singapore. Asia is also developing new models for collaboration across digital ecosystems to help enterprises and societies share resources and information more effectively. To be sure, Asian economies may find it difficult to catch up and compete in some well-established technology sectors – such as semiconductor design or operating system software – where others have a commanding market position. But there is no denying Asia's tremendous progress in new technologies, often facilitated by its existing strengths in manufacturing and infrastructure.

For example, more than 90% of the world's smartphones are made in Asia. So, the region's economies have focused significant innovative capacity in this area, such as to design mobile application processors and develop new types of hardware. Last year, the Chinese company Royole released the world's first



flexible smartphone. Early this year, Samsung went a step further, launching the first foldable smartphone with a foldable glass screen.

Similarly, Asian firms have capitalized on the region's well-developed infrastructure to establish themselves at the cutting edge of 5G development and deployment. Of the five companies that hold the majority of 5G patents, four are Asian. Likewise, the region's strong position in next-generation electric-vehicle batteries – more than half the world's patents for solid-state batteries were filed in Asia – resulted from leveraging its existing strengths.

New opportunities are also opening up for Asia. While the region's consumer markets are expanding and digitizing rapidly, there is still a great deal of room for growth and innovation in consumer-facing technologies.

Similarly, Asia can expand its role in the growing market for digital information-technology services, such as big data and analytics, digital legacy modernization, and "Internet of Things" system design. After all, the region has a huge pool of tech talent: India alone produced three-quarters of the world's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduates between 2016 and 2018.

Vulnerability to the effects of climate change, from deadly heatwaves to large-scale flooding, is also driving progress in the region. Asia already has the largest share of installed renewable capacity – 45% – compared to 25% in Europe and 16% in North America. The International Energy Agency expects that

ASIA'S RAPID EMERGENCE AS A global technological leader

over the last decade is a testament to the power of collaboration. And yet, in much of the world, the tide is turning toward isolationism and protectionism – a trend that will sap potential in many cutting-edge sectors

share to rise to 56% in 2040. With the support of investments in R&D and new infrastructure, Asia stands to make its mark on the world with technological solutions to climate risk. Asia's rapid development as a global technological leader over the last decade is a testament to the power of collaboration. And yet, in much of the world, the tide is turning toward isolationism and protectionism. Indeed, after years of relative openness, rising trade barriers threaten to disrupt global flows of technology and intellectual property.

This will sap potential in many frontier sectors. According to MGI's simulation, \$8-12 trillion of economic value could be at stake by 2040, depending on the quality and level of technology flows between China and the rest of the world. Many high-tech markets – including electric vehicles, battery storage, and advanced displays – depend on Asian investment and market growth to achieve global scale.

Asia is likely to continue to forge ahead with its technological development. But to make the most of its progress – and the strides that have been made elsewhere – enhancing technological collaboration within, and among regions, remains a priority for Asia and the rest of the world.

UN Fears ‘Mass Atrocity Crimes’ In Northern Myanmar

Agencies

United Nations: The United Nations has said it fears a greater human rights catastrophe in Myanmar amid reports of thousands of troops massing in the north of the Southeast Asian country which has been in chaos since a February coup.

UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar Tom Andrews, who was presenting the findings of an annual human rights report on Myanmar to the UN General Assembly on Friday, said he had received information that tens of thousands of troops and heavy weapons were being moved into restive regions in the north and northwest.

More than 1,100 civilians have been killed in the country's bloody crackdown on dissent and more than 8,000 arrested since the coup, according to a local monitoring group.

"These tactics are ominously reminiscent of those employed by the military before its genocidal attacks against the Rohingya in Rakhine State in 2016 and 2017," Andrews added.

In 2017, about 740,000 Rohingya fled Myanmar's Rakhine state after security forces launched a clampdown that the UN has said may amount to genocide.

Andrews urged countries to deny Myanmar's military the money, weapons and legitimacy it



The findings, he said, also indicated that the military government had engaged in probable crimes against humanity and war crimes.

"We should all be prepared, as the people in this part of Myanmar are prepared, for even more mass atrocity crimes. I desperately hope that I am wrong," said Andrews.

desired, citing a prisoner release earlier in the week as evidence that pressure was working.

On Monday, Myanmar's military chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing announced the release of more than 5,000 people jailed for protesting against the coup.

2 Pak Policemen Killed In Clashes With Banned Radical Party In Lahore

Agencies

Lahore: At least two Pakistani policemen were killed on Friday in clashes with supporters of a banned radical Islamist party, which has previously

Mazhar Hussain, a second police official, said protesters had hurled petrol bombs at officers when they moved in to clear the protest.

"The mob also used sticks and pelted police with stones," he said.

The TLP has said it will not



called for the expulsion of the French ambassador.

More than 1,000 people gathered in the eastern city of Lahore, blocking roads and demanding the release of the Tehreek-Labbaik Pakistan leader, Saad Rizvi.

Rizvi was arrested in April, when Pakistan's government outlawed the party in response to violent anti-France protests.

"Two police constables were killed today in the line of duty during clashes," Rana Arif, a spokesman for Lahore police, told AFP.

end protests or enter into talks with the government until their leader is released.

Supporters have threatened to move in convoys towards the capital Islamabad, where police have closed off roads with shipping containers.

The TLP has waged an anti-France campaign since President Emmanuel Macron defended the right of a satirical magazine to republish cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed - an act deemed blasphemous by many Muslims.



Saudi women take part in a cycling race to mark World Obesity Day celebration in Riyadh's Princess Nourah University. (AFP Photo)

Pompeo reveals Saudi conditions to normalise ties with Israel

Agencies

Washington: Former US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, revealed on Saturday that Saudi Arabia wants the US to adopt a tougher stance against Iran in order to normalise its ties with Israel.

"I'm convinced there will be many more countries joining the Abraham Accords and, one day, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will as well," Pompeo said in an interview with the Telegraph.

He added: "There are a couple other pieces to the puzzle that they need to see—they need to see strong American leadership, they need to see an America that they know will support them, most particularly with respect to the challenge presented by Iran."

Pompeo claimed: "The Biden



Those aren't the conditions that breed the capacity for nations to make such an historic decision to enter an agreement such as the Abraham Accords

Administration within weeks had Iranian rockets flying into

Israel from the Gaza Strip and today, this week for sure, you have Iranian missiles flying from Yemen into Saudi Arabia.

"Those aren't the conditions that breed the capacity for nations to make such an historic decision to enter an agreement such as the Abraham Accords."

Pompeo was part of the US administration which brokered Abraham Accords, which saw four Arab countries normalise ties with Israel—the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

At the time, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, said that the Kingdom remained open to fully normalise ties with Israel on the condition of a Palestinian State and a peace plan between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

US intel warns China could dominate AI, gain military edge

Agencies

Washington: United States officials issued new warnings Friday about China's ambitions in artificial intelligence and a range of advanced technologies that could eventually give Beijing a decisive military edge and possible dominance over health-care and other essential sectors in the US.

The warnings include a renewed effort to inform business executives, academics and local and state government officials about the risks of accepting Chinese investment or expertise in key industries, officials at the National Counterintelligence and Security Center said. While the centre does not intend to tell officials to reject Chinese investment, it will encourage efforts to control intellectual property and implement security measures.

National security agencies under President Joe Biden's administration are making an aggressive public push against China, which some officials have called the greatest strategic threat to the US. The Biden administration has simultaneously tried to ease some tensions with Beijing that date from the administration of former US President Donald Trump and seek common ground

on trade and climate change.

Beijing has repeatedly accused Washington of fearmongering about its intentions and attacked US intelligence for its assessments of China, includ-



ing allegations that Chinese leaders have withheld critical information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Under President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government has stated its goals to create profitable technologies in robotics and other fields in plans known as "Made in China 2025". The US Department of Justice in recent years has returned several indictments alleging theft of sensitive US information on behalf of China, including vaccine research and autonomous vehicle technology.

The counterintelligence centre's acting director, Michael

Orlando, told reporters in a rare briefing Thursday that the US "can't afford to lose" ground to China in several key areas: artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology.

Orlando noted that Chinese businesses and academics are beholden to the Chinese Communist Party and are required to serve the party's interests.

"Although we've been saying this for year after year, people are not digesting this," he said.

Orlando declined to say whether the US should enact tougher restrictions or outright bans on Chinese investment in certain sectors, saying his role was not to suggest policy.

But the counterintelligence centre holds regular briefings with private industry and academia while recognising that industries and universities may still want to seek students, experts and investors from China, Orlando said. He would not name companies with which the centre has met.

The centre's officer for emerging and disruptive technologies, Edward Yu, noted the investment of Chinese companies in US and European biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

Outcry As Israel Labels Palestinian Rights Groups ‘Terrorists’

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel has issued a military order designating six prominent Palestinian human rights groups as "terrorist organisations", in a move swiftly condemned by the Palestinian Authority, rights groups, and the United Nations.

The Israeli Ministry of Defence claimed on Friday that the groups were linked to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a left-wing movement with a political party, as well as an armed wing that has carried out deadly attacks against Israelis.

The ministry said the humanitarian groups "constitute a network of organisations active undercover on the international front on behalf of the Popular Front." They are "controlled by senior leaders" of the PFLP and employ its members, including some who had "participated in terror activity", it said.

It also accused the groups of serving as a "central source" of financing for the PFLP and of having received "large sums of money from European countries and international organisations," without elaborating.

The designated groups include Al-Haq, a human rights group founded in 1979, the Ad-dameer rights group, Defence for Children International-Palestine, the Bisan Center for Research and Development, the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees and the Union of Agricultural Work Committees.

The PA condemned what it said was an "unhinged assault" on Palestinian civil society.

"This fallacious and libellous

slander is a strategic assault on Palestinian civil society and the Palestinian people's fundamental right to oppose Israel's illegal occupation and expose its continuing crimes," it said.

The US Department of State spokesperson Ned Price said his office had not been given advance warning of the designation.

"We will be engaging our Israeli partners for more information regarding the basis for the designation," Price said on a telephone briefing with reporters in Washington.

"We believe respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and a strong civil society are critically important to responsible and



responsive governance," he said. 'Appalling and unjust'

In a joint statement, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch noted that the military order "effectively outlaws" the activities of the six groups.

As a consequence, Israeli security forces are authorised to close the groups' offices, seize their assets and arrest and jail their staff members. Funding or even publicly expressing support for their activities is also prohibited.

'Thousands of Hazaras evicted from homes by Taliban in Afghanistan'



Taliban members drive along a road in the center of Kabul on October 14, 2021. (photo by AFP)

Agencies

Kabul: Thousands of people have been forced from their homes and land by Taliban officials in several provinces across Afghanistan in what appears to be collective punishment, illegal under international law, the Guardian reports.

According to the British daily, the Taliban and associated militias forcibly evicted many Hazara families as well as people associated with the former government, from five provinces including Kandahar, Helmand and Uruzgan in the south, Daikundi in the center, and the northern province of Balkh.

Since August, when the Taliban came to power, many of the people have been told by the group to leave their homes and farms, it said.

In many cases, they were told to leave with just a few days' notice and without any opportunity to prove their legal ownership, it added.

Some were reportedly told that if they did not comply with orders to leave, they "had no right to complain about the consequences".

According to the paper, the Taliban are forcibly evicting Hazaras and others on the basis of ethnicity or political opinion to reward Taliban supporters.

The evictions come just before winter, which in much of Afghanistan brings extreme cold, and in the middle of the harvest, which rural families rely on to pay off a year of debts and stock up on food for the year ahead.

NEWS MAKERS

WASHINGTON: The US is welcoming tens of thousands of Afghans airlifted out of Kabul but has disclosed little publicly about a small group who remain overseas: dozens who triggered potential security issues during security vetting and have been sent to an American base in the Balkan nation of Kosovo.

Human rights advocates have raised concerns about the Afghans diverted to Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo over the past six weeks, citing a lack of transparency about their status, the reasons for holding them back and the question of what might become of any who can't be cleared to come to the US.

"We are obviously concerned," said Jelena Sesar, a researcher for Amnesty International who specialises in the Balkans.

"What really happens with these people, especially the people who don't pass security vetting? Are they going to be detained? Are

Secrecy shrouds Afghan refugees sent by US to base in Kosovo



they going to have any access to legal assistance? And what is the plan for them? Is there any risk of them ultimately being returned to Afghanistan?" The Biden administration says it's too soon to answer some of these questions, at least publicly, as it works feverishly to resettle the Afghans who were

evacuated following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August.

The lack of public information has made it a challenge for those who closely track the fate of refugees.

"There's not a lot of transparency in terms of how the security check regime works," said Sunil Varghese, policy director for the International

Refugee Assistance Project.

"We don't know why people are being sent to Kosovo for additional screening, what that additional screening is, how long it will take."

So far, more than 66,000 Afghans have arrived in the US since Aug 17, undergoing what the government portrays as a rigorous security vetting process to screen out national security threats from among a population that includes people who worked as interpreters for the American military as well as their own country's armed forces.

Of those, about 55,000 are at US military bases around the country, where they complete immigration processing and medical evaluations and quarantine before settling in the United States.

There are still 5,000 people from the evacuation at transit points in the Middle East and Europe, according to the Department of Homeland Security, which is managing the effort known as Operation Allies Welcome.

A New Law In China Will Cut Homework, Tutoring Pressure On Students

Agencies

Beijing: China has passed an education law that seeks to cut the "twin pressures" of homework and off-site tutoring in core subjects, the official Xinhua news agency said on Saturday.

Beijing has exercised a more assertive paternal hand this year, from tackling the addiction of youngsters to online games, deemed a form of "spiritual opium", to clamping down on "blind" worship of internet celebrities.

China's parliament said on Monday it would consider legislation to punish parents if their young children exhibit "very bad behaviour" or commit crimes.

The new law, which has not been published in full, makes local governments responsible for



ensuring that the twin pressures are reduced and asks parents to arrange their children's time to account for reasonable rest and exercise, thereby reducing pressure, said the agency, and avoiding overuse of the internet.

In recent months, the education ministry has limited gaming

hours for minors, allowing them to play online for one hour on Friday, Saturday and Sunday only.

It has also cut back on homework and banned after-school tutoring for major subjects during the weekend and holidays, concerned about the heavy academic burden on overwhelmed children.

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: STFC India Meritorious Scholarship Programme 2021

Description: Shriram Transport Finance Company (STFC) Limited has announced the scholarship programme to provide financial assistance to students from underprivileged families of commercial transport drivers. Under this program, selected students will receive multi-year scholarships for professional studies after Class 10 and Class 12.

Eligibility: Students currently enrolled in Diploma/ITI/Polytechnic courses, or Graduation/Engineering (3-4 year) programmes may apply for this scholarship, if they have scored at least 60% marks in Class 10 and Class 12. Applicants must come from the family of a commercial transport driver with an overall family income of less than INR 4 Lakhs per year.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will receive INR 15,000/- for ITI/Polytechnic/Diploma studies (for 1 year), and up to INR 35,000/- per year (max. 4 years) for graduation/engineering studies

Last Date to Apply: 15-11-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SIMD4

Scholarship Name 2: IIT Roorkee Chemistry Department Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) 2021

Description: IIT Roorkee Chemistry Department Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) 2021 is a research opportunity offered to Ph.D. degree holders. The selected candidate is required to work on a project entitled - "Chemical Proteomic Approach to Identify Small Molecule Covalent Inhibitors to Target Protein-Protein Interactions in BCL-2 Proteins".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates who hold a Ph.D. degree in chemistry (Chemical Biology)/ Biotechnol-



ogy/ Biochemistry and have recently submitted their thesis.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 60,000 per month

Last Date to Apply: 06-11-2021
Application mode: Online and Offline applications by post to - The Head Department of chemistry, India Institute of Technology Roorkee Roorkee- 247667 Uttarakhand, India Email: venkatesh.v@cy.iitr.ac.in (and copy to chem.t@iitr.ac.in and head@cy.iitr.ac.in
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RPF2

Scholarship Name 3: Ericsson Empowering Girl Scholarship Program 2021

Description: Ericsson invites applications from meritorious girl students cur-

rently studying in the 2nd year of Engineering (IT/CS) or MBA program from anywhere in India. The scholarship is meant to support meritorious girl students coming from underprivileged sections of the society.

Eligibility: The applicants must be currently studying in the 2nd year of engineering (IT/CS) or MBA program at reputed colleges in India. Applicants must have scored at least 6.5 GPA or equivalent marks in the previous final examination. Annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 6,00,000.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 75,000 per year
Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2021
Application mode: Online applications only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EEGS2

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Provisional Selection List of candidates for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing Course-2021.
Reference: Notification NO.106-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15-10-2021.

NOTIFICATION No: 114-BOPEE of 2021
DATED: 22-10-2021

In pursuance of notification NO.106-BOPEE of 2021 dated 15-10-2021, the Board conducted physical round of counselling of eligible candidates who had applied for admission to Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing course 2021 on 22-10-2021 at BOPEE Office, Srinagar/ Jammu simultaneously. The candidates who participated in the said counselling and have been allotted seat / Colleges as per their merit-cum preferences are hereby provisionally selected for admission to the said Course in various Private colleges of Union Territory of J&K as per the Annexure "A" to this notification which is available on website of the Board www.jkbopee.gov.in only. The candidates are advised to report to their respective allotted Colleges/ Institutions w.e.f. 23-10-2021 to 01-11-2021 (03.00 PM) along with following documents:-

1. Marks Card of 10+2 class.
 2. Marks Card of GNM Course.
 3. Registration Certificate issued by JK Paramedical Council.
 4. Domicile Certificate
 5. Date of Birth certificate (10th class)
 6. Medical fitness certificate,
 7. A Male Nurse, trained before the implementation of new integrated course besides being registered as a Nurse with J&K Paramedical Nursing Council, shall produce evidence of training approved by India Nursing Council for a similar duration in lieu of midwifery in any of the areas such as O.T. Techniques, ophthalmic Nursing, Leprosy Nursing, T.B. Nursing, Psychiatric Nursing, Neurological and Neuro Surgical Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Cancer Nursing, Orthopedic Nursing,.
 8. Any other certificates/ documents as required by the College authorities.
- It shall be sole responsibility of the colleges / Institutions concerned to ensure proper check and verification of documents before the candidate is allowed for admission and in case of any discrepancy in the requisite documents is found the same shall be positively reported to the Board for further course of action under rules. The candidates are advised to report to the allotted Colleges/Institutions up to 1st November-2021 positively and in case any candidate fails to join his/ her allotted seat(s) /College shall not be eligible to participate in the second up-gradation/ allotment round of counseling under any circumstances. In order to complete admission process within the prescribed cut-off date (01-11-2021) the Colleges/ Institutions shall keep their admission counters open even on holiday/ off days and designate Nodal Officers to facilitate the candidates to complete their admission process well in time. However, the candidates should in their own interest avoid waiting for the last day to complete admission formalities as such delay has the potential of causing hardships to the candidates only. The Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions are advised to furnish the shortfall, if any, to the Board through e-mail helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / jakbopee@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com on 1st of November-2021 (05.00 PM) positively.

Note:
1. The admission of the candidates is purely provisional and shall be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidate proves to be false/ fabricated, and action as warranted under Law shall be initiated against such candidates.
2. The reservation to various reserved categories including sports category is applicable in government run colleges / institutions only and not in private colleges / institutions.
3. The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified in e-Information Brochure/ Notifications/ Notices issued by the Board from time to time.

E&OE
No. BOPEE/Exam-16/2021 Dated: 22-10-2021
DIPK-NB-4439/21

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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Sr. Aquaculture Engineer(XEN)
Fisheries Deptt Suleiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar (J&K)

Telephone No 0194-3513051 e-mail:- sraquaengineer@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tenders
FRESH E-NIT No 24 OF 2021-22

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited by Sr.Aquaculture Engineer(XEN), Fisheries Department J&K Srinagar by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and the eligible registered Contractors registered with J&K Government,CPWD,Railways & other Central/State Governments of the classes mentioned here under in strict accordance with conditions noted below.

S. No	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Contract	Class of Document	Cost of Tender	Time of opening of bid	Time of completion
02	Balance work of Watch & Ward Hut at Fish Farm Balpora Shopian	Rs 5.50 lacs	C&D	Rs 300/-		30-10-2021 at 10:00 AM	One Month

Position of AA= Accorded Position of Funds = Available
(Languishing Projects)
The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in under ASH/Director Fisheries /Engineering Wing as per the schedule of dates given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-10-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21-10-2021 from 2:00 pm to 29-10-2021 upto 4:00 pm
3	Bid submission Start Date	21-10-2021 from 2:00 pm
4	Bid submission End Date	29-10-2021 upto 4:00 pm
5	Date & Time of opening Bids (Online)	30-10-2021 at 10:00 am In the Office of the Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN) Fisheries Deptt Suleiman Complex Dalgate -Srinagar

Sd/
Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN)
Fisheries Department
Srinagar

No:SAE/D/2021-22/954-58 Dated:-21-10-2021
DIPK-11159/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B ELECTRIC DIVISION SGR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 147/e-tendering of 2021-22/R&B DATED: - 23.10.2021

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rupees/lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.	Time of completion	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1	Renovation Of Electrification Bone marrow lab in IPD Block of S.M.H.S Hospital Srinagar.	1.67 lacs	200.00	05 days	30.10.2021	"A" class Electrical

1. 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:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-10-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23/10/2021 10.00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	23/10/2021 from 10.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	30/10/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30/10/2021 at 6.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Srinagar

02. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division , Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
03. All Bidders has to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below) . The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of adv. Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
04. Bidder must read term/condition in tender document carefully.
AAA/TS = Accorded
Position of Funds = Available

DIPK-11196/21

Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division
Srinagar

No.147/e-tendering/ERB/3103-3110

Email address:- exenmcddmscgr@gmail.com Contact No. 0194-2503097

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SRINAGAR.

Abstract of N.I.T NO:CDM_E_07_OF_2021-22
DATED:- 20-10-2021

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two-Cover system (Technical and financial) on Turnkey basis from Registered, Resourceful, Reputed and Experience firms/ contractors for execution of below mentioned work:-
Accord of Administrative Approval: SMC/Plg/2021-22/925-34 Dated:- 07-09-2021
Head of A/C: Capex Budget 2021-22 (City Grants)

Position of Funds: Available

S. No.	Name of Work	Advt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable)	Time of Completion
1.	Upgradation of Dewatering Station Moomin Abad Tengpora.	215.00	Bid Declaration Form	Rs.3000.00	05 Months

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), 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:-

01.	Period of downloading of bidding documents /sale of tender documents.	21-10-2021 from 10.00 A.M
02.	Bid submission start date	25-10-2021 from 10.00 A.M
03.	Bid submission end date	09-11-2021 upto 6.00 P.M
04.	Date & time of opening of Cover Ist (technical) bids on line.	10-11-2021 at 02.00 P.M OR Any other subsequent date convenient to the opening authority.
05.	List of Documents to be uploaded:- i. Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Bank receipt. The amount should be deposited in the official account in J&K Bank, A/C No. CD/0367010200000068, Branch: Tankipora, IFC Code: JAKA0TANKKEE ii. Scanned copy of Bid Declaration Form duly attested against Earnest Money Deposit iii. Scanned copy of Valid GST Registration/PAN Card. iv. Scanned copy Technical specifications sheet v. Scanned copy Experience certificate. vi. Scanned copy of audited balance sheet and profited and loss account for last 05 financial years.	
07.	Bid Opening Authority	Supdg. Engineer Drainage Circle SMC Srinagar

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in upto said bidding schedule with Digital Signature and no bid will be accepted in physical form.
The Superintending Engineer Drainage Circle SMC Srinagar reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders or any tender in part or whole without assigning any reasons thereof.
The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of tech. bids.
The successful bidder has to deposit an amount equal to 3% of the allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of F.D.R pledged to the Superintending Engineer Drainage Circle SMC Srinagar before issuance of formal allotment order and the same shall be retained till completion of work and checking the performance of the equipments upto expiry of DLP.
The performance security is implemented as per the Finance Department Circular No.A/Misc(2018)-III-895/J Dated:- 22-12-2020
All other terms and condition shall remain same as laid down in the PWD form No. 25.
For further details, terms and conditions log on www.jktenders.gov.in

NO:CDM/1673
Dated:- 20-10-2021

DIPK-11164/21

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SRINAGAR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SPECIAL SUB DIVISION TANGDAR

Snow Tender Notice No: 46 of 2021-22

For and on the behalf of the L.Governor of J&KUT the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar hereby invites sealed tenders valid for 90 days affixed with Rs: 5/- (Rupees five) Stamp for the snow clearance of snow during the winter of 2021-22 of the roads and building mentioned here under from the registered eligible/experienced PWD contractors of all classes having a sufficient equipment and main power. The tenders should be addressed to Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B)Circle Baramulla/Kupwara which should reach in his office at Baramulla on or before 29.10.2021 upto 2pm.
The tender documents can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar subject to production of valid registration card/Tin/Pin against cash payment of Rs 200/-

S no	Name of road	Length in km	E money	Class of contract	Time of completion	Cost of TD	HA
	Stage 1st						
1	Gomal Budwan Road	3.50	2000/-	All classes	2 days	200/-	3054 snow
2	Hajinar Link Road incl Dumba	1.00					
3	Bagh Bella Chowan Mohallah Road	0.50					
4	Gomal Bagh Bella via BSF camp Road	1.00					
5	Tangdar Inner Linkks(Sulaman,Gomal, Link road,Somu Stand ,Bukhayan)	7.00					
6	Khowerpura. Quari Road.	1.00					
7	Tangdar Hajitra via Gabar Road	16.00					
8	Neeti Top Churkunji via Kona Gabra Road	5.00					
9	Kona Gabra Pathan gali Road incl Churanwali tere Road	3.00					
	Total	38.00					
	Stage 2nd						
1	Nachain Dar Mohallah Road	1.00	2000/-	All classes	2 days	200/-	3054 snow
2	Chamber Yari ban Road	0.50					
3	Constt of Haran to Karanoo Road	5.00					
4	Const. of Dildar Karma road via village Batliyan	6.00					
5	Const. of Batpora Kursi Chota road	4.00					
6	Constt/ Up Gradation of Jamia Masjid Kandi Tangdar Road via vil Jada	6.00					
7	Kandi Jada Road	6.00					
8	Tadd Manday Road Upto Gabra	3.00					
9	Jamia MasjidBhta Mohallah Mugaldara Road	1.00					
10	Dhani Qazi Mohallah Upper Tadd Road	2.50					
11	Const./upgrd of Dhani Tad upto Prada Pandov incl. Surmapadi road	8.00					
	Total	43.00					

DIPK-11129/21

Executive Engineer
Spl Sub Div Tangdar

LG's Advisor For Immediate Assessment Of Loss To Orchards In Valley

DG Horticulture visits snow hit orchards of Shopian, Pulwama

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, acting swiftly towards tackling emergent situation arisen due to untimely snowfall in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, deputed Director General, Horticulture, Kashmir, to South Kashmir, the worst hit part of the Valley, for personal monitoring of loss assessment there.

Advisor asked the DG to deploy requisite field staff in South Kashmir's snow-storm affected apple orchards to assess the damage caused to trees and fruits there furnishing the report and recommendations in this regard at the earliest.

DG has been directed to personally visit the affected areas and depute the staff for damage assessment in other areas also which have been affected by the untimely heavy snowfall in the Valley.



ABDUL BHAU/KO

Advisor Khan also asked the Principal Secretary, Horticulture, to ensure regular monitoring of the whole exercise besides extending all possible support to the affected orchardists.

Meanwhile, the Director General (DG) Horticulture, Kashmir, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat conducted an extensive tour of various places of district Pulwama and Shopian.

During the tour, the DG visited various orchards particularly those located

at the most affected areas of district Shopian viz. Zawora, Badrihama, Pinjora, Aglar, Balpora, Kanipora, Ganapora, Shirmal, Keegam, Kellar etc.

The DG expressed his sympathy with the affected orchardists and assured them of all possible help.

He advised the farmers to continuously monitor their orchards and shake the trees regularly, so that the snow does not accumulate on the trees.

He instructed the field functionaries to closely monitor the situation and be on guard in view of the incessant rain and snowfall. He further directed the field functionaries to assess the losses and report accordingly.

As per initial reports, approximately 10 percent of damage has been reported from snowfall affected areas till today evening.

Meanwhile, the Department of Horticulture Kashmir had already issued the weather advisory following the weather predictions made by the MET Department.

For the convenience of orchardists, a helpline No. 0194-2311484 has been established at the Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir.

The DG was accompanied by Joint Director Horticulture, Kashmir and concerned Chief Horticulture officers along with field functionaries.

JKEDI Steering Committee clears 49 cases of aspiring entrepreneurs



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), on Saturday held its 80th Steering Committee under the Himayat/Term Loan Scheme of National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

The meeting was chaired by Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director, JKEDI at Sempora, Pampore campus of JKEDI.

As many as 39 cases of the candidates trained by the Institute under Himayat Self Employment Scheme (HSES) and 10 candidates trained under NMDFC were placed before the steering committee for its consideration and necessary approval. All the cases were approved for the soft loan facility under the Term Loan scheme of NMDFC, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

An amount of Rs. 2.69 crores as appraised cost for these 49 cases of Self-employment/Entrepreneurship was approved by the steering committee, which

includes the term loan component of 78.838 Lakhs and working capital of 190.86 lakhs.

These cases were approved for various activities under Services, manufacturing, Trading, Handicrafts and Agri Allies sectors undertaken by the candidates across all the districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

It was decided during the meeting that emphasis shall be given to priority sectors, besides focus shall also be laid on High Employment Potential Sectors (HEPS) under the schemes being implemented by JKEDI.

During the meeting Director JKEDI called for speedy disbursement of the soft loans in favour of the candidates whose cases have been approved after they complete the legal formalities so that they are able to start their business ventures.

Waseem Ahad, In charge Centre for Startup Finance, Zahid Ali Dar, Incharge Himayat Scheme and officers of the concerned verticals of the Institute participated in the meeting.

Petrol Price Up Rs 36 A Litre, Diesel 26.58 In Less Than 18 Months



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Petrol and diesel prices were hiked for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday by 35 paise per litre, pushing the total increase in rates on petrol to Rs 36 per litre and on diesel to Rs 26.58 since early May 2020 when taxes on the two fuels were raised to record levels.

Petrol in Delhi now costs Rs 107.24 a litre and diesel comes for Rs 95.97, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. The latest increase that follows the unrelenting hike in international oil prices has pushed pump rates across the country to their highest-ever levels. While petrol is above Rs 100-a-litre-mark in all major cities, diesel has crossed that level in more than a dozen states.

The total increase in petrol price since May 5, 2020 decision of the government to raise excise duty to record levels now totals Rs 35.98 per litre. Diesel rates have during this period gone up by Rs 26.58 per litre.

The government had raised excise duty on petrol

and diesel to mop up gains that would have otherwise accrued to consumers from international oil prices crashing to as low as USD 19 per barrel. While international prices have since recovered to USD 85, excise duty has remained at Rs 32.9 per litre on petrol and Rs 31.8 on diesel.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday equated demand for cutting excise duty to 'axing one's own feet', saying such levies funded government schemes to provide free COVID-19 vaccines, meals and cooking gas to millions amid the pandemic.

"I think this simplistic political narrative we get in India (that), 'prices have gone up, why don't you reduce your taxes'... so every time price goes up due to something else, it says you axe your own feet in the process," he had said late on Friday.

He was asked a question on whether the government would cut taxes, which make up for 54 per cent of the price of petrol and over 48 per cent of diesel, to ease the burden on consumers.

Power ministry announces rules to ensure sustainability of sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The ministry of power has announced new rules to sustain economic viability of the sector, ease financial stress of various stakeholders and ensure timely recovery of costs involved in electricity generation.

The ministry notified rules for the sustainability of the electricity sector and promotion of clean energy to meet India's commitment towards climate change, a statement said.

Investors and other stakeholders in the power sector had been concerned about the timely recovery of the costs due to change in law, curtailment of renewable power and other related matters.

The rules notified by the ministry of power under Electricity Act, 2003, are in the interest of the electricity consumers and the stakeholders, it added.



The rules include Electricity (Timely recovery of costs due to Change in Law) Rules, 2021. The other rule is Electricity (Promotion of generation from renewable sources of energy by addressing Must Run and other matters) Rules, 2021.

The ministry explained timely recovery of the costs due to change in law is important as the investment in the power sector largely depends upon timely payments.

"At present, the pass through under change of law takes time. This impacts the viability of the sector and the developers get financially stressed. The rules would help in creating investment-friendly environment in the country," it stated.

Impact Of Prevailing Weather Conditions On Agri Sector Reviewed

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Amid fluctuating and unpredictable weather conditions, the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Saturday asked all the Chief Agriculture Officers of the Division to ensure that all the necessary measures are taken to educate the farmers regarding various steps to be adopted while dealing with the present weather situation.

Speaking during an emergency meeting with the Joint Directors and Chief Agriculture officers of Kashmir Division to review the impact



of prevailing weather conditions on the Agriculture sector, the Director said farmers need moral support in addition to technical guidance under prevailing conditions in order to tackle the situation that emerged from the present scenario.

He asked the officers to as-

sess the situation and maintain digital records of the impact of the present weather scenario on the agriculture sector. He also highlighted the importance of devising a strategy vis-à-vis the upcoming rabi season so that the losses caused due to recent rainfall/snowfall could be

compensated to some extent.

The Director asked the officers to mobilize the field staff for on-farm training programmes for farmers and special impetus should be given to weather oriented situation management. The farmers should be well equipped with adequate technologies with respect to cope up with the scenario emerging out of unprecedented weather conditions, he added.

The Director called upon the officers to work with close coordination with the allied department so that the farmers interests could be served under all circumstances.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD,
ZUM-ZUM COMPLEX, RAMBAGH , SRINAGAR. | (www.jkssb.nic.in)

Subject:- Final Selection List of District Cadre posts of Class IV Item No. 36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44 & 45 Advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2020 under PM Package for Kashmiri Migrants and Non-Migrant Kashmiri Pandits.

NOTIFICATION

1.

Whereas, the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction vide Indent No.280/PS/Secy/DMRRR dated 01-10-2020 forwarded the indent / requisition for making recruitment to the following posts as per the details indicated against each:

Post / item no	Cadre	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	TOTAL
Class IV-36	Srinagar	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-37	Budgam	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-38	Bandipora	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-39	Baramulla	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-40	Kupwara	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV -41	Ganderbal	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV -42	Pulwamna	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV -43	Shopian	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-44	Kulgam	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-45	Anantnag	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Total		280	50	50	20	20	60	20	50	550

2.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) vide Advertisement Notification No. 03 of 2020 dated 01.12.2020, advertised the posts mentioned above as per the category-wise break up given hereunder, for inviting online applications from the eligible candidates; and,

Post / item no	Cadre	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/IB	RBA	PSP	EWS	TOTAL
Class IV-36	Srinagar	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-37	Budgam	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-38	Bandipora	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-39	Baramulla	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-40	Kupwara	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV -41	Ganderbal	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV -42	Pulwamna	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV -43	Shopian	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-44	Kulgam	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Class IV-45	Anantnag	28	5	5	2	2	6	2	5	55
Total		280	50	50	20	20	60	20	50	550

3.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted Computer Based Test (CBT) for selection of candidates to the aforementioned advertised post vide Notice No SSB/Secy//Mig/2770-78 dated 10-03-2021 for the post of Class IV Item No. 36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44 & 45 from 29th March to 25th April 2021 in multiple shifts/sessions; and

4.

Whereas, it was notified for the information of the registered candidates that Normalization procedure based on equated percentile scores shall be applied for determination of ranking of the candidates; and

5.

Whereas, based on the performance of the candidates in the aforesaid Computer Based Test, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) vide Notification No. SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/3556-64 dated 22.04.2021 published the result/score sheet of the candidates; and,

6.

Whereas, due to surge in COVID-19 cases across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and rapidly changing circumstances, lockdown restrictions including social distancing norms and health considerations, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) deemed expedient to seek documents of candidates for verification through 'online mode' and accordingly, vide NotificationNo.SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/3820-30 Dated:18-05.2021, instructed the candidates figuring in the merit in the ratio of 1:2 to the number of advertised posts, to furnish their documents for verification through "Online Mode" in Phase- I; and,

7.

Whereas, keeping in view the requirement to have adequate number of eligible candidates available for filling all requisitioned vacancies / posts, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) decided to call additional candidates for Document Verification in Phase - II, vide Notification No.SSB/COE/Mig/2021/5280-89 Dated: 30.07.2021;in Phase III vide notification No.SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/5795-5804 dated 24-08-2021 & in Phase IV vide Notification No. SSB/Secy/Mig/2021/6222-30 dated 21-09-2021 ; and,

8.

Whereas, in the meanwhile the JKSSB analyzed the available data of candidates called for document verification in four phases as mentioned hereinabove, and observed that there is overwhelming repetition of candidates called for document verification in respect of the advertised posts which would eventually lead to figuring of same candidates in Select Lists pertaining to various advertised posts and thus, leave significant number of posts unfilled/vacant and the process of filling the aforementioned posts was not getting completed.; and,

9.

Whereas, it was noted that such a scenario would defeat the very purpose of setting in motion the selection process for the advertised posts given the fact that lot of effort and time is consumed in conducting sensitive and mammoth exercises like holding of examination, and that the candidates also have to undergo lot of fret and fever, while preparing for any competitive examination; and

10.

Whereas, the selection process under PM Package for Kashmiri Migrants for 6000 posts have been going on since 2012, and after repeated advertisements, the selection process for aforesaid posts could not be concluded in a time bound manner ,primarily due to non-availability of eligible candidates; and

11.

Whereas, having regard to the above, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board after due consideration took a decision to seek preferences for different advertised posts from the candidates figuring in the merit in the ratio of 1:7 so that adequate chunk is available to fill maximum vacancies without repetition; and

12.

Whereas, vide Notification No. SSB/COE/Mig/2021/5398-5406 Dated: 07.08.2021, the Jammu Kashmir Services Selection Board called upon all candidates figuring in the merit in the ratio of 1:7 of the seven categories of advertised posts, viz., Sub-Inspector, Assistant compiler, Field Assistant III, Field Supervisor Mushroom, Assistant storekeeper, Depot Assistant, and Class IV to furnish online preferences from 8th August to 12th August, 2021 and again preferences were sought from additional candidates vide notification No. SSB/COE/Mig/2021/6341-49 dated 24-09-2021 for the posts viz. Field Assistant III, Field Supervisor Mushroom, Assistant storekeeper, Depot Assistants , and Class-IV w.e.f 25-09-2021 to 28-09-2021; and

13.

Whereas, the Government Order No. 10-DMRRR of 2019 dated: 06.03.2019 issued by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction provides for treating of all unfilled reserved category posts except RBA, referred to recruitment agencies, as Open Merit posts in respect of Hon'ble Prime Minister's Package for Relief and Rehabilitation of Kashmir Migrants; and

14.

Whereas, while preparing the Final Select List for the posts of Class IV Item No. 36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44 & 45 of aforesaid advertisement notification, due to non-availability of candidates in the respective reserved categories, the following post are de-reserved to fill all the advertised posts in accordance with the provisions of aforesaid Government order ;and

S.no	Name of post	Number of posts De-reserved	Remarks
1	Class IV	161	AL:C/IB =20; EWS=39; SC=49; ST=15; OSC=18; PSP=20

15.

Whereas the prescribed qualification for the Class IV posts is " minimum Matric and maximum 12th" and to ensure adherence to the said prescribed qualification candidates were called to furnish an Undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit duly sworn before 1st class Judicial Magistrate to the effect that ;

(i)

He/she is possessing the minimum qualification of Matric and Maximum of 10+2 and he/she is not possessing the higher qualification than that is prescribed for the post on or before the last date of submission of application form i.e 25-01-2021.

(ii)

If at any stage of the selection or later on, it has been found that he/she is possessing higher qualification than what is prescribed for the post, his/her candidature shall be cancelled ab-initio, without service of any notice to him/her and that he/she shall have no claim for the post.

16.

Whereas the JKSSB received information through various sources that some candidates despite being graduate and above are furnishing wrong affidavits with the intention of gaining employment in the afore said class IV posts ;and

17.

Whereas , the JKSSB also deemed it expedient to verify the data available with it , in respect of candidates called for document verification for determining of eligibility with reference to prescribed qualification ;and

18.

Whereas 158 candidates were found by the Board possessing higher qualification than prescribed in the Advertisement Notification and all such candidates notified as Annexure "C" have been declared not eligible as per rule governing the field and in accordance with judgment rendered by of Hon'ble CAT in an identical matter in the case O.A. 61/517/2020 titled N.K. Tripathi and 19 other applicants VS state and others .

19.

Whereas ,the Provisional Selection of the candidates was notified vide this office No:- SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/ 6917-26 Dated: 09 -10-21 and the concerned candidates were informed to report within seven days Before the for any sort of grievance; and ,

20.

Whereas, the J&K Service Selection Board received the representations which were examined by the Selection Committee . The recommendations made by the Selection Committee were placed before the Board in its 191st Board Meeting held on 18-10-2021 and after threadbare discussions, all the representation were disposed off in accordance with the rules governing the subject on merits ; and ,

21.

Now, therefore, in view of the above:

(i)

The Final Selection List along with allocation of Districts of the candidates selected for the post of Class IV Item No. 36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44 & 45 advertised vide Notification No. 03 of 2020 dated 01.12.2020 and Waiting List is hereby notified as Annexure – "A" and "B" respectively of this notification.

(ii)

The selection list shall be subject to outcome of any writ petition (s) pending in any court of law of the competent jurisdiction.

(iii)

Formal recommendation to the concerned Indenting Department shall be made separately.

22.

It is further notified that:

(a)

If at any later stage it is found that the candidate figuring in the aforesaid Selection List is possessing lower/higher than the prescribed qualification with reference to relevant cut off date, or has secured selection through misrepresentation/ furnishing false affidavit, he/she will be himself/ herself responsible and his/her candidature shall be cancelled ab-initio without any further notice. The candidate shall also be liable for criminal prosecution in terms of judgements rendered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

23.

Further , the result of the appellants in LPA No.169/2020 titled Bhopinder Singh Jamwal and others V/S UIOI & others and petitioners in WPC No 137/2021 titled Meghna Koul and another V/S UIOI & others. WPC no 245/2021 Rajeshwar singh and others has been kept in sealed cover in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Jammu and Kashmir High Court directions .

By order.

No:-SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/7250-59
Dated:- 21-10-2021
DIPK-11132/21

Sd/-
(SachinJamwal) , JKAS
Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board .

GO FIRST Introduces Direct Service From Sgr To Sharjah

Srinagar: GO FIRST (formerly known as GoAir), Saturday achieved a milestone in Jammu & Kashmir by becoming the first airline to start direct international connection and direct international cargo operations from Srinagar, thus strengthening its expanding international network.

Operated by an Airbus A320neo, the maiden GO FIRST flight G8 1595 departed Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport In Srinagar at 18:00 hours and arrived in Sharjah at 21:00 hours. GO FIRST will operate four flights every week between Srinagar and Sharjah.

The inaugural flight was flagged off by Hon'ble Home Minister, Amit Shah from the Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport in Srinagar with a full complement of passengers in presence of Lt Governor



Manoj Sinha and other dignitaries. Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia has conveyed his presence through online presence from New Delhi.

The introduction of direct flight to Sharjah will boost trade and tourism between Srinagar and the UAE. As an early bird offer passengers can book flights to Sharjah at

just INR 5000/-. Booking passengers can log in to www.flygofirst.com or can use the mobile app. UAE and Srinagar are popular as holiday destinations, and GO FIRST flights will meet the demand for convenient travel options. The new services will also support growing trade and investment links with both Srinagar and Sharjah.

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

'We're Heartbroken':

the apple crop was still green," Arshad said. "It would at least need 20 more days for a full bloom."

Like last year, the early winter in Kashmir has once disrupted the gains of horticulture —the biggest industry in Kashmir and the backbone of the J&K economy. Nearly 22 lakh metric tonnes of apples are exported from the valley annually.

However, the people in the industry got alarmed on October 19, when Kashmir's Horticulture Department asked the apple growers to speed up apple harvest.

The advisory came in the backdrop of the India Meteorological Development (IMD)'s warning saying that a fresh western disturbance approaching the region could result in heavy snowfall and rains from Friday.

The IMD warned that heavy snowfall could lead to damage to the apple orchards and temporary disruption of traffic along major highways in hilly areas.

Advising that the apple growers should prune trees and ensure proper drainage in their orchards, Ajaz A. Bhat, Director Horticulture, Kashmir, said, "People should not panic but start working to save their orchards and crops."

But even as the advisory was shot hours before the snowfall, the Kashmiri orchardists termed it "senseless and absurd". They argued that it was impossible to complete the harvest within a few days.

"How was it possible to go for pruning with over 50 percent of the crop still on trees?" Arshad said.

Apart from pruning, the Horticulture Department had requested apple growers to spray urea fertilizers on apple trees as a damage-control method.

Mobilised by the advisory, the growers were on the desperate job before they woke up to the 'chilling scenes' on Saturday.

As the pictures and videos of damaged apples and trees went viral on social media, it once again made people lament over the lost harvesting season in the valley. Among the worst sufferers were the orchardists from Apple Town, Shopian.

Reports reaching Kashmir Observer said that orchards in Herpora, Sedow Chekh, Kellar, ReshNagri, Inam Sahib and other adjacent hamlets have suffered damage in the snowfall.

In these southern parts of Kashmir, the heavy snow damaged the branches, and even uprooted trees in some areas. Many growers were either seen clearing snow from their apple trees or praying for the calamity to end.

"We would harvest apples till the 15th of November when the crop would be in full bloom," Mushtaq Malik, who owns over 40 kanals of apple orchards in Shopian, told Kashmir Observer.

"Unfortunately, this untimely snow has come as a disaster for us."

Malik, who is also president of Shopian Trust Association, said that before the snow calamity, the growers were pleased with the 'fruitful season' this year.

"Even the fruit decay was very less, but this snow caused massive damage at the last moment," Malik rued.

Keeping the losses incurred upon the orchardists due to untimely snow in view, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCC&I) has urged the administration for the early assessment and compensation.

"As the inclement weather came much earlier than usual, many of the orchardists were still busy with harvesting and had not done trimming of the trees due to which a lot of trees have got damaged. This has plunged the stakeholders into despair and gloom," the KCC&I said.

In a letter addressed to LG Manoj Sinha, Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Association, has also expressed their anxiety over the untimely heavy snow.

"50 percent of 'A grade' Delicious type crop was still being harvested especially in Shopian and Kulgam and 30 percent in Central and North," the association said.

"The trees were laden with ripe fruit and the stakeholders whose livelihoods are associated with the industry were expecting good returns. However, due to damage, the hopes have been dashed to ground. This is one of the worst experiences of the horticulture sector which pumps the GDP of Kashmir."

In view of the damage, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan has directed Director General Horticulture to personally supervise the assessment process vis-à-vis loss to orchards and fruit in South Kashmir.

"Advisor Farooq Khan has also asked the Principal Secretary Horticulture department to

monitor the exercise regularly and all the possible support be provided to orchardists," an official said.

While the officials have admitted that most apple orchards have suffered damage due to the bad weather, the growers fear heavy damage if snowfall continues.

"We're praying that this snow calamity should end now," Arshad said. "If it continues like this, then we are doomed."

Shah Lays Down

a high-level meeting.

In his address to members of youth clubs at SKICC here, Shah said the revocation of Article 370 is "irreversible".

Defending the communication blockade and curfew following the August 5, 2019 move, Shah said they were a "bitter pill" meant to save lives.

Kashmir was under curfew for months and witnessed the world's longest internet shutdown after August 5, 2019.

"There was a lot of criticism about why there is curfew, why there is internet shutdown. I will answer. First I want to ask a question. For 70 years, three families ruled here. Why were 40,000 people killed in Kashmir? Do you have an answer?"

At SKICC meet Shah sought the support of the youth of Kashmir in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vision of a peaceful and developed" J&K and reiterated that the delimitation process will be completed, despite local parties' opposition, followed by the conduct elections and later the restoration of statehood.

"Elections will happen. (Politicians from Kashmir want that the) Delimitation be stopped. Why? Because it hurts their politics. Now nothing will stop in Kashmir. Delimitation will happen, followed by elections and then restoration of statehood so that the youth of Kashmir get opportunities. I had said that in the parliament also. And, this is the roadmap. I came here to make friends with the Kashmiri youth," Shah told the gathering of youth.

Shah said the government in Jammu and Kashmir has decided to form a youth club in every panchayat and Rs 25,000 will be provided to every such club. The minister said that "transparency and corruption-free governance" Jammu-Kashmir has witnessed since 2019 is the pillar of the region's development. "Would it be possible without abrogating Article 370?"

The government had abrogated Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. It had also bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

Our projects for Jammu and Kashmir are multidimensional. It promotes education and skill development, as well as economic assistance. We've also promoted sports and tourism," he said.

He said no one can obstruct development in Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that strict action will be taken against those who want to disrupt the peace and harmony in the union territory.

"Kashmir has seen a new beginning -- from fear, terrorism, corruption, and family-based politics to peace, development, and prosperity. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir have strengthened this change. Terrorism has reduced, stone-pelting has become invisible...I want to assure you that strict action will be taken against those who want to disrupt the peace and harmony of Jammu and Kashmir. No one can obstruct development here. It is our commitment," Shah said.

Slamming the earlier regimes in the erstwhile state, Shah said, "What did the previous governments give to Jammu and Kashmir in 70 years? 87 MLAs, 6 MPs and 3 families... Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it possible that about 30,000 elected representatives in the Panchayat elections, who are serving the people today. Post-independence, the Government of India helped Jammu and Kashmir, but the poverty, unemployment did not go away, infrastructure did not develop. Now poverty is going from here, people are getting employment opportunities."

Reviews Security

Ahmad Dar and paid tributes to him. I and the nation are proud of his bravery. Jammu and Kashmir Police is making all efforts to realise the vision of PM Modi for a new JK," Shah said in a tweet later.

After going to Nowgam, Shah reviewed the security situation and steps taken to combat terrorism in Kashmir Valley, particularly following the targeted killings of civilians, mostly non-local labourers and minorities.

During the meeting, held at the Raj Bhavan here, the home minister was briefed on steps

taken to eliminate terrorism from the union territory and counter-infiltration measures by the security forces, officials said.

The meeting was attended by top civil administration officials, including the lieutenant governor and senior security officials from the Army, CRPF, police and other agencies, they said.

In preparation for the visit, Jammu and Kashmir Police detained around 900 people from different parts of Kashmir valley. Those detained include mostly youth whom police called "former stone pelters", relatives of militants and alleged "over ground workers" of militant outfits.

The police have also imposed an unofficial ban on the plying of two-wheelers, especially in Srinagar city. Cops have confiscated hundreds of two-wheelers, even those for which riders produced all necessary documents.

Snowfall, Heavy

in the Tral area of Pulwama district, leaving three persons, including two women dead, and one critically injured, officials said.

The nomads belonged to Reasi district in the Jammu division, they added.

The officials said moderate snowfall was recorded in Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Shopian and Gurez areas of the Valley.

Minamarg and Drass in Ladakh also received snowfall since Friday night, they added.

The officials said light snowfall was reported from some areas in Pulwama and Kulgam districts, while some areas in the plains, including summer capital Srinagar, received sleet.

They said Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district received about five inches of snowfall from the morning till 2.30 pm, while Sonamarg resort in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district recorded seven inches of snowfall.

The snowfall has caused extensive damage to apple orchards in some areas of the valley, especially in Shopian and Kulgam districts in south Kashmir where most of the horticulture produce was yet to be harvested.

Meanwhile, Srinagar and other plains of the valley received moderate to heavy rainfall since Friday night, the officials said.

The rainfall has caused water-logging in many areas of the city.

A meteorological department official here said that there was moderate rainfall over plains and light to moderate snow was observed over middle and upper reaches during last 12 hours upto 0830 hours today. It was raining and snowing at most places when this report was filed.

Regarding rainfall and snow recorded upto 0830 hours, he said highest rain was observed over Qazigund (58 mm), Kokernag (50mm) and Banihal (48mm).

Srinagar, he said, recorded 31.6mm, Kupwara 9.6mm, Pahalgam 43.2mm, Gulmarg 23.8mm, Jammu 12.8mm, Batote 23.2mm, Katra 33.8mm Bhaderwah 8.1mm and Kathua 0.0mm.

He said moderate snow was also observed over Gulmarg (6.4cm), Pahalgam (5.6cm), Shopian, Zojila, Drass, Zanskar, Gurez (upto 15 inches) and other higher middle reaches.

"Currently it is raining over plains of Kashmir and Jammu and snowing over middle and upper reaches," the official said. "This system will likely persist during next 8-10 hours and gradual decrease thereafter."

He said there would be significant improvement in the weather from October 24 afternoon and weather is expected to be dry till November 2.

As per the forecast there will be widespread moderate rain in the plains and snow over higher and middle reaches on Oct 23. On October 24, light to moderate rain is expected at many places.

Due to the weather system, the MeT has already warned that there could be disruption to both air and highway traffic besides drop in day temperature.

450 Vehicles Stranded

the 270-km Srinagar-Jammu highway on Friday due to incessant overnight rains, prompting the authorities to suspend both way traffic on the strategic road link, connecting Kashmir with rest of the country.

The officials said that the highway was blocked at several places between Nashri and Banihal, including Cafeteria Morh and Sita Ram Passi between Maroog and Kela Morh due to landslides, mudslides and shooting stones triggered by overnight rains.

"Since morning, we have been working continuously to throw open highway for traffic. Our men and machinery are making hectic efforts. However, the incessant rains and shooting stones are hampering our operations."

Senior Superintendent of Police (highway), Shabir Ahmad Malik told Kashmir Observer.

Malik, who is supervising the clearance operation, said that 450 vehicles, including trucks laden with essentials, passenger and light motor vehicles were stranded at various places along the highway.

"Until rain stops, this road will not be thrown open. And I doubt if the road will be through for traffic tomorrow because of the inclement weather," he said.

According to officials, the stranded traffic will be allowed to move towards their destinations once the road becomes motorable again.

Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Mussarat Islam also inspected the road clearance operation at various places along the highway and took stock of provisions made for providing meals and night shelter to stranded passengers at RAHAT Centres.

The DC directed executing agencies to depute adequate men and machinery to clear landslides instantly and make the road traffic worthy, an official spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, which connects the valley to Jammu division through Shopian-Rajouri axis, was also closed by the unseasonal heavy snowfall from Friday night.

J&K Reports

from Jammu and the remaining 63 from the Valley, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 331566.

In the Valley, officials said Srinagar reported 34, Baramulla 13, Budgam and Kupwara 6 each, Ganderbal 2, and one case each of coronavirus in Anantnag and Bandipora districts. No cases were reported from south Kashmir's Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported 4, Doda 3 and Poonch two new cases of Covid-19. No new cases were reported from the seven districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Ramban and Reasi.

Meanwhile, the death toll due to coronavirus remained 4429 in J&K —2175 in Jammu and 2254 in Kashmir, as no fatality was reported on Saturday.

First Int'l Flight

from the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir. Over 159 passengers boarded the flight that took off from Srinagar International Airport on Saturday evening. Union Home Minister Amit Shah flagged off the inaugural Srinagar-Sharjah flight, reviving the direct airlin between Kashmir and the UAE after 11 years.

Shah flagged off the flight virtually from the Raj Bhawan here.

The first international flight from the Srinagar airport to Dubai was started on February 14, 2009 by Air India Express, but the once-a-week service was discontinued due to a low demand.

Go First, formerly known as GoAir, is the first airline to start direct international connection and direct international cargo operations from Srinagar.

Director Airport Srinagar Kuldeep Singh told Kashmir Observer that the flight took-off at 6:30 PM and 159 passengers, mostly Kashmiris were on board.

Singh said that the flight was scheduled to land in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at around 9 pm IST.

"Four flights between Srinagar and Sharjah will be operated in a week," he said.

The development is seen as a boon as it is expected to provide relief to hundreds of Kashmiri travelers who are working in the Middle East.

"The introduction of the direct flight to Sharjah will boost trade and tourism between Srinagar and the UAE," the airline said in a statement.

It is offering a special ticket price of Rs 5,000 on the flight to Sharjah.

"The UAE and Srinagar are popular as holiday destinations and Go First flights will meet the demand for convenient travel options. The new services will also support the growing trade and investment links with both Srinagar and Sharjah," the airline said.

"Having been in operation here for over 15 years, we at Go First share a special relationship with the region and are committed to its growth. We are delighted to be the first airline to connect Jammu and Kashmir with the UAE and it bears testimony to our commitment to the region.

"We believe that this connectivity will be pivotal in bilateral exchange of trade and tourism between the two regions," Go First's chief executive officer Kaushik Khona said.

The direct flights from Sharjah will offer seamless connections to Srinagar and beyond to Chandigarh, Delhi, Jammu, Leh and Mumbai and vice versa.

Go First is the only airline appointed for the cargo movement of the horticultural, perishable and agricultural produce of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Products, a state-owned company, the airline said.

Meanwhile, Genestrings Diagnostic has established a rapid PCR Covid testing centre at the Srinagar airport as all passengers travelling to the UAE are required to carry a negative Covid test report obtained less than four hours before the departure of the flight.

"After the success of India's first COVID-19 testing laboratory at New Delhi International Airport in September 2020, Genestrings is elated to add another feather to its cap by setting up Jammu and Kashmir's first RAPID PCR testing lab at the Srinagar airport," Gauri Agarwal, founder and director of Genestrings Diagnostic, said.

She said the state-of-the-art laboratory at the Srinagar airport was set up in just five days.

"Passengers are required to report six hours prior to departure and the reports will be handed over to them in 30 to 60 minutes from the time of sample collection," she added. (With PTI inputs)

Inaugurating Flights

during the all-party meeting convened by the prime minister in June this year.

"HM inaugurating international flights from Srinagar & laying foundation of new medical colleges isn't new. Half a dozen medical colleges were sanctioned by UPA gov(ernment) & are functional now. Post Article 370 abrogation & an engineered crisis, J&K has been thrown into chaos," Mehbooba said in a series of tweets.

She said the Union government should address the real problems to provide a sense of relief to people.

"This crisis is of GOs making & instead of reaching out they opted for cosmetic steps that don't address the actual problem. Ideally, HM's visit should have been preceded by following up on PM's assurances post the all-party meeting," Mehbooba said.

"CBMs such as lifting the siege that J&K has been put under since 2019, releasing prisoners, ending the harassment people here face on a daily basis, taking tangible steps to revive the economy esp(pecially) horticulture would have provided a sense of relief," she added.

Contrary to that, prior to Shah's visit, 700 civilians were detained, booked under the Public Safety Act and many shifted to jails outside Kashmir, the former chief minister alleged.

"Such oppressive steps further vitiate an already tense atmosphere. 'Normally acrobatics' are in full swing while reality is denied & obfuscated," she said.

Poonch Operation

contact with the militants after the initial gunfights on October 11 and October 14. The search area was expanded in search of the militants, the official said, hoping to conclude the operation with the clearance of the natural

caves within a day or two depending on the weather conditions.

Higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, including Peer Ki Gali along Poonch-Shopian road, experienced first moderate snowfall, while the plains were lashed by heavy rains since Friday night, resulting in appreciable drop in the day temperature.

The officials said strict surveillance is being maintained by the security forces on the suspected locations, using hi-tech drones.

Two suspected improvised explosive devices were destroyed by the army search parties in Bhata Durian forest of Mendhar, where the locals were asked not to venture out of their homes on Tuesday as a safety measure with the troops advancing into the dense forest.

The operation in the forest areas in the twin border districts commenced on October 11 when militants ambushed a search party killing five soldiers, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), in Surankote forest of Poonch before another gunfight in nearby Thanamandi on the same day.

The militants fled both the places after the encounters.

On October 14, the militants struck again and killed four soldiers, including a JCO, in Nar Khas forest in Mendhar as the security forces extended the cordon and search operation to neutralise the fleeing militants.

Drones and helicopters were pressed into service to assist the marching troops, including para-commandos, in the jungle spread over nearly 8 km x 2 km area at a distance of four km from the Line of Control, the officials said.

The entire forest belt is still under tight security cordon to neutralise the militants, the officials said, adding the area is mountainous and the forest is dense, making the operation difficult and dangerous.

The officials said two people, who were working as porters with the army, were detained from Mastandhara in Surankote area for questioning, taking the total number of detained people to 12.

Earlier, 10 people, including two women, were detained in Bhatta Durrian and adjoining areas for allegedly providing logistic support to the militants.

They said a militant lodged at Kot Balwhal jail in Jammu is also being questioned.

Meanwhile, the traffic between Mendhar and Thanamandi along the Jammu-Rajouri highway remained suspended as a precautionary measure for the eighth day on Saturday in the wake of the ongoing operation.

Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region have witnessed a rise in infiltration attempts since June this year, resulting in the killing of nine militants in separate encounters.

Heavy Downpour

families had to cancel their scheduled marriages in order to save their orchards.

"I, Ali Mohd Sheikh R/O BaghiBuchroo want to inform all relatives, near and dear ones who were invited to the marriage ceremony of my daughter scheduled on 23rd and 24th of October 2021, that due catastrophic weather, the invitation to all stand cancelled. However, simple Nikah will be performed as per schedule," Sheikh updated on a local news web platform.

Pertinently, the weatherman has forecasted rains and snowfall to continue till Monday with heavy snowfall predicted for Sunday.

"The real winter is yet to arrive in the valley but this untimely snowfall has forced many people to cancel their weddings in the district because almost all of them are farmers and they cannot bear the losses caused by this downpour," Aasim Manzoor, a resident of Shopian told Kashmir Observer. "They have even postponed the Nikah ceremony so that their family can participate in harvesting apples."

OGW Held In

from Kitchama and one hand grenade, two pistol magazines and 16 live rounds were recovered from him, a police spokesperson said Saturday.

Malik, he said, is an over-ground worker of active militant Hilal Ahmad Sheikh of Shrakwara, Kreeri.

The police spokesperson further said that a case under sections of Indian Arms Act and UA (P) Act has been registered at the Police Station Sheeri and further investigations are in progress.

3 Killed After Load

7.30 am when its driver lost control of the vehicle, the officials said.

They said three people -- Banoo Bibi (42), her five-year-old son Murshid Ali and nephew Mohammad Imran (11) -- died on the spot.

Four others, including a 50-year-old woman and an eight-year-old boy, sustained injuries in the accident and have been shifted to a hospital, the officials said.

Elderly Man Falls

area of Natipora, reports said. The deceased was a resident of Awantipora who had visited her daughter in Natipora.

Mustafa's son said that the family got to know from locals about the death of his father, who was in water for hours.

"Yesterday two kids were about to fall in this drain but somehow managed to save themselves, and before that a sumo fell in the same canal which is still stuck there," locals said.

"As nobody was taking this route, no one got to know about the incident for hours before his dead body was found in the water," they said. "The contractors or the workers who were working on this drain should have put up a sign or red flag for awareness." (KNO)

No Fresh Corona

208 persons -- 150 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- succumbed to the disease.

The officials said 1,548 people were tested for COVID-19 in the twin districts on Friday, but all the reports were found negative.

However, they said three Covid patients were discharged from a hospital in Leh on Friday, taking the number of those recovered to 20,648.

With this, the number of active cases in Ladakh dropped to 40, which included 39 in Leh and one in Kargil, the officials said.

IND VS PAK CRICKET

Dear Kashmiri Students, Hold Back Your Emotions



Nasir Khuehami &
Younus Rashid

SRINAGAR: That rare occasion is inching closer; cricket teams of India and Pakistan face each other in the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 on October 24. Emotions on both sides are running high as people across South Asia eagerly wait for the biggest sports event in the region. But cricket is not just a game in this part of the world, it carries emotions, especially for people living in arch-rival countries India and Pakistan. So, whenever India and Pakistan come face-to-face on a cricket field, politics follows, or in some special cases precedes

the events themselves.

Unfortunately, it is the political relationship between India and Pakistan that defines everything else including cricket. Things got worse since right-wing sentiment rule the roost. They have bonded together politics and sports in such a manner that separating them now is a daunting task for anyone. In this charged-up atmosphere around cricket, one often place becomes its natural victim: Kashmir.

The sentiments of the people of Kashmir particularly of the young seem to often be ravaged in this sphere. So, the current high volt tension is a litmus test for Kashmiris, especially the youngsters

who get hounded for liking a particular sports player or a team!

Where the problem starts for Kashmiri Students

There is a long list of incidents where Kashmiri students were being beaten, harassed, or booked whenever there was an Ind Vs Pak clash. It is insane to beat students just because they cheered for a particular country or a team. Their support for a team should not be seen as their endorsement of a political ideology. We should respect each other's likes and dislikes and allow everybody the chance to entertain and enjoy the way they want.

Our request to Kashmiris students would be to not let emotions overwhelm you for a cricket match. Think about your family and career. Be mature and respect everyone. You matter, your career matters. Take a cup of tea and enjoy the game in silence. You have to realise that the upcoming match is taking place in the backdrop of a highly charged-up and politicized environment created by politicians and sections of the media. India is witnessing growing intolerance and hate against Muslims and Kashmiris. Stay lowkey.

Past in the Post-Ind Vs Pak Matches

On March 5, 2016, around 67 Kashmiri students were expelled from Swami Vivekanand Subharti University in Meerut Uttar Pradesh after they cheered for Pakistan during a cricket match.

The local students and other Hindu friends shouted slogans and thrashed them for cheering the Pakistani team. They went on a rampage, vandalised the rooms of students, damaged the hall, broke laptops, abused and beat up a few others, hurled fits of abuse. The police later booked Kashmiri students under sedition.

READ the FULL REPORT on kashmirobsrver.net

Sunday Blockbuster Awaits Kohli's India & Babar's Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: The most sought-after megastars of the current generation are primed to show their might against a bunch of enigmatic cricketers as India and Pakistan engage in an ICC T20 World Cup face-off, something that transcends the 22-yard strip.

The sensitive nature of cross-border relationship between the neighbours has led to minimal sporting engagements and cricket has always become the vehicle of one upmanship for the fans on both sides.

In terms of numbers, India have an all-win record against their arch-rivals in the T20 World Cup since its inception in 2007.

Incidentally, all the



matches were won under MS Dhoni. Yet, this is a match that everyone awaits in the global event -- the fans because of its novelty factor, the ICC and the broadcasters for filling up the coffers. Everyone is invested in it emotionally, like the fans, or materially, like the other stakeholders.

It could be Kohli, who would love to get over his

mediocre run of form in a match that always carries a posterity value or Shaheen Shah Afridi could tail one into KL Rahul's pads first up to set it up for Pakistan.

It could be Mohammed Rizwan, who might just launch into Mohammed Shami or it could be Suryakumar Yadav, who could play a reverse flick off Hasan Ali.

Barcelona Can't Be Afraid Of Madrid In 'Clásico': Koeman

AGENCIES

MADRID: Barcelona can't be afraid of Real Madrid when the teams meet in the first "clásico" of the season this weekend, Ronald Koeman said Saturday.

It will be the first clásico since Lionel Messi departed from Barcelona, which has been struggling on and off the field since then.

"We have to play without fear," the Barcelona coach said. "We have to show that



we can win and that we will be motivated to win from

the start."

Barcelona was off to a tough start but picked up two straight victories for the first time this season ahead of Sunday's clásico at the Camp Nou Stadium.

It defeated Valencia in the Spanish league last weekend and Dynamo Kyiv on Wednesday in a crucial victory that kept alive its chances of avoiding elimination from the Champions League's group stage for the first time in two decades.

Azam Reveals 12-Man Pak Squad, Kohli Refrains

Shoaib Malik in, Sarfaraz Ahmed out



AGENCIES

DUBAI: Pakistan captain Babar Azam has announced a 12-man squad for Sunday's T20 World Cup 2021 clash with India in Dubai.

Addressing a press conference in Dubai on Saturday, Azam named the shortlisted dozen men, from whom the final playing eleven will be picked.

From the 15-man complete squad, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Mohammad Nawaz and Sarfaraz Ahmed did not make the cut.

The 12 men who remain in contention are Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Asif Ali, Shadab Khan (vc), Imad Wasim, Hasan Ali, Shaheen Afridi and Haris Rauf.

Azam vowed his team would not think about Pakistan's poor record against India when they meet. Exuding confidence, Azam stressed that the past is irrelevant to his players.

"To be honest, what has passed is beyond us," Azam said during the press conference, the AFP reported.

"We want to use our ability and confidence on the day of the match so that we can get a better result. Records are meant to be broken."

The captain admitted it would be a match full of intensity, saying that "the matches between Pakistan and India are always full of intensity so we need to

perform well in all three departments of the game."

"The boys are excited to play the World Cup and we have a crucial match on Sunday. A winning impact is necessary and then we will go match by match," he added.

The captain also said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had shared his experiences with the team.

"The prime minister met us before our departure and shared his experiences of the 1992 win and told us to play aggressive and fearless cricket against India."

'Pakistani team is strong'

India captain Virat Kohli, however, did not announce the team for Sunday's match.

He said the Pakistani team was strong and had always been a strong team. "We will have to play our best cricket to beat Pakistan," Kohli added. The Indian captain said the team did not think about past records or what had happened in prior World Cup matches between the two countries.

He also spoke about the Covid-19 standard operating procedures in place and said the bio-secure bubble was a "genuine issue".

"[We] realise that cricket has not been played for a long time but players' [health] is very important." Kohli said that there should be consideration for the players as well in future cricket events.

SAD DEMISE

It is informed with profound grief that Ghulam Nabi Zargar S/o Late Ghulam Mohammad Zargar, of Shoragari Mohalla, Nawab Bazar Srinagar, left for heavenly abode on 23.10.2021. His Rasmī Charum will be observed at his ancestral graveyard near Lalmanto Masjid Shoragari Mohalla on 26.10.2021 at 11.00 AM. In grief:

Family and friends
(Contact Nos. 7298625304, 7006285110)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my motor cycle bearing Regd No: JK01AG3836 Chassis No. MD2A12DYXJCM62203 Engine No. DJYJCM14051 Modle name. Now I have applied for the dupliat of the same if anybody having any objection may contact RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all the concerned that the Written Examination for the post of Junior Assistant advertised vide Advertisement Notice no. 03 of 2019 will be held on 27.10.2021. The detailed Centre Notice, Roll number slips and Examination instructions shall be issued by the Directorate of Admissions & Competitive Examinations, University of Kashmir. Applicants are advised to visit the University website for further instructions and updates from time to time.

List of candidates being provisionally allowed to appear in the Written Examination is uploaded on the University website at www.kashmiruniversity.net under sub-link Recruitment. Candidates shortlisted for appearing in the Computer Type Test/Skill Test shall be subject to determination of their eligibility. Mere appearance in the written test shall not qualify the examinees to appear in the Type Test.

No.:KU/Rec/JA Notice/21
Dated: 20.10.2021
DIPK-NB-4451/21

Sd/- Assistant Registrar
Recruitment

J&K Win Practice Match Vs Delhi In Super Over

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K senior Men's cricket team on Saturday defeated Delhi in a practice T20 match played at Feroz Shah Kotla Ground in New Delhi.

Delhi won the toss and chose to bat first, making 154 runs. J&K's Mujtaba Yousuf picked up 4 wickets. In response the J&K batters fell like a deck of cards. Only Shubham Khajuria (38) and Ian Dev Singh (27) made meaningful contribution.

With just 1 wicket in hand, J&K crawled to 154 runs to tie the match. And the game went to a super over.

Abdul Samad (11) and Manzoor Dar (9) helped J&K reach 21 runs in the super over.

The Delhi team fell agonizingly short again as they lost the match by 1 run. With Abid Mushtaq giving away 20 runs in the super over.

The practice match is a series of games J&K cricketers are going to play before beginning their Syed Ali Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy campaign from November 4.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM Subject: Installation of Snow Stopper on Road Side. CIRCULAR

It is for information of the general public of the town Budgam Particularly owners of residential and commercial structures situated at road side the snow of the ROOF TOPS gets accumulated on the road even after clearance of snow by the Department/ District Administration as it has been observed during the last year Municipality has faced difficulties in clearance of Snow to avoid such difficulties during the snow clearance in future. It is hereby impressed upon all the residential / commercial owners facing tow road side to install SNOW STOPPER on the ROOF TOPS of the structure within 20 days from the date of the issuing of this Circular. Falling which the action as warranted under rules shall be initialed against the defaulters and the damage caused if any will be risk and responsibility of owners of the residential house/commercial structures.

No: MC/BUD/3922-27
Dated: 21-10-2021
DIPK-NB-4470/21

Chief Executive Officer
Municipal Council
Budgam

We Value our - Employees
We care for our - Pensioners

NORTHERN RAILWAY PENSION ADALAT & UMID CARD CAMP FOR PENSIONERS on 15th December 2021

Pension Adalat and UMID CARD Camp for Pensioners will be held all over Northern Railway i.e., Northern Railways Headquarters office (Baroda House, New Delhi) and all Divisional Headquarters on 15th December 2021.

The last date of receiving the application for PENSION ADALAT is 15.11.2021

Pensioners -

- Retired from HQs Office, Northern Railway may send their representations to Dy. CPO/HQ Northern Railway for Pension Adalat;
- Retired from Divisional office and Offices under the control of DRM may send their representations to Sr. DPO of the respective Division for Pension Adalat;
- Retired from Workshops, may send their representation to Sr. DPO of the Division in whose territory the Workshop is located, for Pension Adalat.

The representation for PENSION ADALAT should, however, be addressed to Dy.CPO (HQ)/Sr.DPO/Dy.CPO & SPO (Workshop) as the case may be. The envelope carrying the representation should be super-scribed - PENSION ADALAT - 2021

Addresses of Dy. Chief Personnel officer (HQ) Northern Railway, Head Quarters office and Senior Divisional Personnel Officer of Divisional Head Quarters are mentioned as below.

Dy. Chief Personnel Officer (HQ) Northern Railway, Headquarters office, Baroda House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110001	Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager Office, Northern Railway, Hazrat Ganj Lucknow-226001
Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway Station Road, Firozpur Cantt- 182001	Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Northern Railway, Rail Vihar, Ambala Cantt, Ambala-133001
Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager's office, Northern Railway State Entry road, New Delhi - 110055	Senior Divisional Personnel Officer, Divisional Railway Manager office, Northern Railway, (Near Railway Stadium) Moradabad - 244001

< UMID CARD Camp for Pensioners on 15.12.2021 >
Pensioners should come along with : Latest PPO as per 7th CPC, Latest Pension Slip issued by bank, RELHS Medical Card, Self Signatures, Aadhar Card of Self and dependent family members, PAN Card of Self and dependent family members and Passport Size Photographs of Self and dependent family members



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Life Expectancy In India Dropped By 2 Years Due To COVID-19: Study



Agenceis

MUMBAI: The COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the lives of people worldwide, has also caused a drop in the life expectancy in India by almost two years, a statistical analysis by scientists of the city-based International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS) has revealed.

The analytical report, which points out the drop in life expectancy at birth in both men and women due to the pandemic, has been published in a journal 'BMC Public Health' recently. IIPS professor Suryakant Yadav has authored the report.

"The life expectancy at birth in 2019 was 69.5 years for men and 72 years for women, which came down to 67.5 years and 69.8 years, respectively, in 2020," the report said.

The life expectancy at birth is calculated on the basis of the average number of years a newborn is expected to live if mortality patterns

at the time of the birth of the infant remain constant in future.

The study undertaken by professor Yadav also included a factor termed 'length of life inequality' and found that COVID-19 has claimed maximum lives of men in the age group of 39-69.

"The 35-79 age group had excess deaths caused by COVID-19 in 2020 as compared to normal years and it is this group that has contributed immensely to the drop," Ms Yadav said.

This study was conducted to look at the burden repercussions of the COVID-19 on mortality patterns in the country.

IIPS director Dr KS James said, "Every time we are affected with some epidemic, the life expectancy at birth figures dwindle. For instance, after the HIV-AIDS epidemic in African nations, the expectancy had dropped. Once it was brought under control, the life expectancy recouped as well."

Big New COVID Wave Unlikely But Too Early To Say India In Endemic Stage: Scientists

Agenceis

India is unlikely to see a Covid wave like the devastating second one unless there is a new immune escaping variant but the lower number of cases does not necessarily mean the pandemic is now endemic, several experts said on Friday.

Giving hope and also injecting a note of caution as the festive season peaks with Diwali just days ahead, they said a dipping Covid graph is only part of the picture and pointed to factors such as the mortality rate, the need for a larger vaccination cover and examples of countries such as UK where numbers are again rising.

A day after India reached the milestone of 100 crore Covid vaccine doses, virologist Shahid Jameel said vaccination rates have improved significantly but more needs to be done.

I am not sure we are in the endemic state yet As we celebrate this (100 crore) landmark, there is still some distance to go. We are going towards endemicity, but are not there yet, Jameel, a visiting professor at Ashoka University in Haryana, told PTI in an email interview.

He also noted that daily confirmed COVID cases in India have been decreasing slowly over the past three months from about



40,000 per day to about 15,000 per day now.

According to Union Health Ministry data on Friday, there were 15,786 new COVID-19 cases, marking 28 straight days of a daily rise of less than 30,000. The death toll climbed to 4,53,042 with 231 deaths.

Jameel, one of India's best known virologists, also pointed out that the mortality rate in the country remains steady at about 1.2 per cent.

This tells me that the vaccine coverage in India still needs to increase, he added.

A disease is described as endemic when it continues to be present within a given geographical area but its impact is manageable.

There have been some confused claims about this recently Low cases for some time do not necessarily mean endemicity. It is

possible that endemicity is close in some parts of the country, but the data needed to confirm this is not easily available, added Murad Banaji, senior lecturer in mathematics at UK's Middlesex University who has been closely tracking India's Covid graph and has done several model studies.

For example, we do not know how many current infections are occurring amongst people who have been vaccinated or infected before, Banaji told PTI.

He added that nobody knows what an endemic future would look like or what levels of Covid to expect. What is likely is that measures to control transmission will still be needed for some years to come.

Epidemiologist Ramanan Laxminarayan concurred, saying there can be periodic flare-ups even with an endemic disease as is being observed in the UK.

NCB 'Misinterpreting' WhatsApp Chats To Implicate Me In Drugs Case: Aryan Khan to HC

Agenceis

Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, in his plea in the Bombay High Court seeking bail, has said the NCB was "misinterpreting" his WhatsApp chats to implicate him in the case of seizure of banned drugs aboard a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast earlier this month.

Aryan Khan, currently in jail, on Wednesday moved the HC after a special court rejected his application for bail. The HC will hear his bail plea on October 26.

In his appeal in the HC against the special court order, Aryan Khan said the Narcotics Control Bureau's "interpretation and misinterpretation" of the WhatsApp chats collected from his mobile phone was "wrong and unjustified".

The 23-year-old claimed no contraband was recovered from him after the NCB raided the ship and maintained he has no connection with any of the other accused in the case except Arbaaz Merchant and Aachit Kumar.

So far, the anti-drugs agency has arrested as many as 20 people in connection with the case.

The appeal further said the WhatsApp chats that are being relied upon by the NCB are "ex-facie (on the face of) it of a

period prior to the incident".

"By no stretch of imagination can those purported messages be linked to any conspiracy for which the secret information was received," it said.

"The interpretation of the WhatsApp messages is that of the investigating officer and such interpretation is unjustified and wrong," the appeal said.

Aryan Khan also questioned the special court's contention, while refusing him bail, that since he is an influential person he may tamper with evidence in the case if released from custody.

"There is no presumption in law that merely because a person is influential, there is likelihood of him tampering with the evidence," the appeal said.

Aryan Khan was arrested on October 3 by the NCB along with his friend Arbaaz Merchant (26) and fashion model Munmun Dhamecha (28). The trio is presently in judicial custody. While Aryan Khan and Merchant are lodged at the Arthur Road prison in central Mumbai, Dhamecha is at the Byculla women's prison.

A special court, designated to hear cases related to the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), refused to grant them bail noting that "they were part of the conspiracy".

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4 Bhk- 120 SY- Pehlwan Chowk, 4th and 5th floor (No lift) ₹ 38 L with only bike parking

AA12

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AA13

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AA15

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