


# KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

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## NEWS DIGEST

### Female Student Found Dead In Ganderbal

**GANDERBAL:** A female student of Central University of Kashmir (CUK) likely suffocated to death in her hostel room in Saloora, officials said. Officials said two female students, hailing from Poonch district, were on Sunday found unconscious and shifted to District Hospital Ganderbal where doctors declared one among them as dead. The deceased was identified as Shahnaz while another identified as Ziyaan, whose condition **● More On P11**

### Three Held With Heroin In Jammu

**JAMMU:** Three suspected drug peddlers were arrested with 31 grams of heroin here on Sunday, police said. The bike-borne suspects Arvind alias Ajay Kumar, Davinder Singh and Ankit Koul were intercepted in the Janipur area for checking, a police official said. The search of the trio led to the recovery of heroin. They were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, police said. (PTI)

### Ladakh Reports 13 Fresh COVID-19 Cases

**LEH:** Thirteen people tested positive for COVID-19 in Ladakh, taking the overall tally to 21,311, officials said on Sunday. Of the 224 active cases, Leh has 213 and Kargil 11, the officials said. Ladakh has so far registered 212 Covid-related deaths with 154 in Leh and 58 in Kargil since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. The officials said 1,559 persons were tested for COVID-19 in **● More On P11**

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## Retrieving Muzaffarabad Next On Agenda: MoS Singh

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday said that retrieving Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) is next on the government of India's agenda.

Addressing the 'Mirpur Balidan Diwas' programme dedicated to PcK displaced persons here, Jitendra said the leadership which has the capacity and the will to abrogate Article 370, also has the capacity to retrieve PcK from the "illegal occupation of Pakistan."

Speaking as the chief guest, the minister said the partition of the South Asian subcontinent was the greatest tragedy in the history of mankind and added that while India suffered the tragedy of partition, Jammu and Kashmir suffered the second tragedy of losing out a part of the erstwhile state to Pakistan.

"Retrieving Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is next on the agenda," Jitendra said.

He said it was always



believed and said that Article 370 would never be abrogated but under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this was made possible and in the same way the resolve to retrieve PcK would also be accomplished.

Jitendra, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, said, retrieving PcK is not only a political and national agenda, but also a responsibility towards the respect for human rights because "our brethren in PcK are living in inhuman conditions" and have been mercilessly denied even basic amenities like healthcare and education.

He said the then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took over the responsibility of accession of over 560 princely states at the time of independence and successfully accomplished it but he was kept out of J&K because Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wanted to handle J&K at his own level.

Even after Pakistan attacked J&K in the autumn of 1947, Nehru was hesitant to send Indian forces to Jammu and Kashmir and it was only after empathic intervention by Sardar Patel that the first contingent of Sikh Regiment landed in Srinagar, said Jitendra, who is Lok Sabha member **● More On P11**

## BSF To Fortify Defences Along LoC With Steel

Press Trust of India

**B**order Security Force locations along the Line of Control (LoC) will be getting a steel makeover as the paramilitary force embarks on a major project to fortify defences and enhance living facilities for troops along this sensitive high-altitude

frontier with Pakistan.

These deployments are called forward defence locations (FDLs), and the border force guards, either jointly with the Army or independently, over 430 kilometres of the total 772-km-long LoC that falls in Jammu and Kashmir. The FDLs are located in extreme forward snow-bound or dense **● More On P11**

## Broken PHE Pipe Causes Mudslide On Highway

Press Trust of India

**JAMMU:** A mudslide triggered by a leaked water pipe of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department blocked the busy Panjtiirhi-Sidhra road connecting the city with the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Sunday, prompting the agency concerned to press its men and machines to restore the vital link, officials said.

The road was blocked around 4.30 am following which the Public Works Department (PWD) launched a road clearance operation, the officials said.

They said the PHE department rushed a team to repair the water pipe meant to supply tap water to several **● More On P11**

## PM Modi For 'High-Power Police Tech Mission'

Press Trust of India

**LUCKNOW:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called for the setting up of a high-power police technology mission under the leadership of the Union home minister to adopt future technologies for grassroot policing requirements.

Addressing the valedictory session of the 56th conference of DGPs and IGPs here, the prime minister also sought an analysis of all police-related incidents and developing case studies to make it an institutionalised learning mechanism.

He called for constituting a high-power police technology mission under the



leadership of the home minister to adopt future technologies for grassroot policing requirements, an official statement said.

Citing the importance of technology in the lives of the general public, Modi gave examples of CoWIN, the online platform for COVID-19 vaccination, **● More On P11**

## People Appointed On Merit 'For First Time': LG Says, Let's Lay Foundation For Dignified Society

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In this month's episode of "Awaam ki Awaaz" radio programme, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the people must strive to create a society full of self-respect and dignity.

Sinha said several "landmark decisions" taken by the administration was "steering people's empowerment, taking J&K towards new heights of development and prosperity."

For the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said, "7,000 recruitments have been done on merit basis, in a transparent manner, which is a living example of how corruption-free, transparent and just system contributes to the progress of the marginalized class."

Sinha said another major decision taken by the administration was the one-time age relaxation in the recruitment exam for the



post of Sub-Inspectors in the police and the increase in the number of seats.

The administration has recently also launched a public outreach campaign targeting the distribution of 58 Lakh Golden cards aimed at ensuring greater coverage with easy access to affordable healthcare facilities to poor families from rural backgrounds.

Sinha said: **● More On P11**

## J&K Records 165 New Covid Cases No Deaths Reported

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir recorded 165 fresh COVID-19 cases on Sunday, taking the infection tally to 3,35,368, while no death due to the virus was reported in the past 24 hours, officials said.

Twenty-three of the new cases were from the Jammu division and 142 from the Kashmir division, the officials said.

They said Srinagar district recorded a maximum of 45 fresh COVID-19 cases, followed by Baramulla district which registered 35 new infections. The number of active cases stands at 1,701 while the count of recoveries has reached 3,29,206, the officials said. The death toll from the pandemic remained unchanged at 4,461.



## HYDERPORA SHOOTOUT

## Were Militants Really Present? Mehbooba Asks

### Former Chief Minister Leads Protest March To Raj Bhawan

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday said there were doubts whether there really was a militant who the police claim was killed in the Hyderabad alleged encounter.

"They (police) say there was a militant. Where is the killed militant? We have not seen the body or the face of the fourth person who was labelled as a militant.



We have doubts whether there really was a militant or whether they killed the three civilians

unnecessarily," she said. The PDP president flanked by her daughter Iltija **● More On P11**

## Wife Joins Army 3 Years After Soldier Husband's Death In Encounter

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The widow of an army trooper killed in an encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam in 2018 was on Saturday commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Indian Army.

Soon after the passing out parade, pictures of Jyoti Nainwal, widow of Nayak Deepak Nainwal, along with her two children in black ceremonial uniforms went viral on social media.

The Press Information Bureau also tweeted a video of Jyoti in which she says: "He gifted us a life of pride... which we, I am trying to carry forward. I'd like to thank my husband's regiment. They stand with me at every step and treat me

like a daughter. For brave women, I'd like to become a mother not for 'jann' (birth) but for 'karm' (deed), and whatever I live for, will be a gift to my children."

Her Husband was hospitalized for 40 days before succumbing to injuries sustained to his spine and chest during the firefight with militants on April 11, 2018.

He died at Army's RR Hospital in New Delhi.

33-year-old Jyoti completed her training at the Officers' Training Academy in Chennai while her two children were being looked after by her family.

She was among the 29 women cadets of the SSC (W)-26 and the 124 male cadets of the SSC-112 Courses to **● More On P11**

## 4 Govt Teachers Sacked For Unauthorized Absence

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has terminated the services of four teachers for their unauthorized absence.

The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in four separate orders said that the employees were found absent unauthorizedly and their services were removed.

According to one of the DSEK orders, a teacher (Name Withheld) remained unauthorizedly absent from her legitimate duties with immediate effect from September-25-2015.

"The teacher was provided

enough opportunities to resume her duties, which she failed to do so; and the issue was placed before the designated committee in its meeting held on 07/06/2021," it reads.

It also states that after examining the case, the committee decided to initiate a process for termination of her service being unauthorizedly absent from her legitimate duties and has completed more than 05 years continuous absence.

"Pursuant to the decision passed by the Designated Committee, a final show cause notice was served to the absconding teacher in September-2021 **● More On P11**

Vol:04 Issue:08

October 2021

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# Scientists Key In On Brain's Mechanism For Ability To Learn Fine Motor Skills

Agencies

According to a new study, there are specialised cells within the neural circuitry that cause complex learning in songbirds and have a compelling resemblance to a type of neural cell as well which leads to the development of fine motor skills in the cortex of the human brain.

This research by the scientists at Oregon Health and Science University has been published in the 'Nature Communications Journal'.

"These are the properties you need if you want to have a male song that's precise and distinct so the female can choose which bird she wants to mate with," said co-senior author Henrique von Gersdorff, PhD, senior scientist at the OHSU Vollum Institute.

"You need a highly specialized brain to produce this," he added.

Benjamin Zemel, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow at OHSU, is the lead author and conducted most of the challenging electrophysiology work involved in using thin brain slices and single-cell recording.

The study revealed that a particular group of neurons express a set of genes that modulated sodium ion channel proteins. These ion channels generated electrical signals used for communication between cells in the nervous system. In this case, the as-

semblage enabled neurons to fire repetitive spikes - known as action potentials - at extremely high speeds and frequencies as the bird sang.

The study described "ultrafast spikes" that only lasted 0.2 milliseconds - compared with most action potential spikes that lasted a millisecond or more.

Further, the findings suggested new avenues for understanding the mechanism in various aspects of human behaviour and development that involved fine motor control.

Researchers said that the assemblage of neurons and ion channels involved in the male zebra finch's singing closely resembled a similar assemblage of neurons known as Betz cells in the primary motor cortex of the human brain.

Among the largest known brain cells in humans, Betz cells have long and thick axons that can propagate spikes at very high velocities and frequencies. As such, they are thought to be important for fine motor skills involving hands, feet, fingers and wrists.

"Think of a piano player," said co-senior author Claudio Mello, M.D., PhD, professor of behavioural neuroscience in the OHSU School of Medicine.

"They're thinking so fast, they have to rely on memories and actions that are learned and stored. Playing the guitar is the same



thing," Mello added.

Mello, a behavioural neuroscientist who has relied on the zebra finch as an animal model, has known Von Gersdorff socially for 20 years. Over lunch one day in the cafeteria, Mello popped open his laptop and showed a brain image of a young male zebra finch at an age just before he could sing, followed by a second image revealing a telltale subunit of proteins that had materialized after the bird was old enough to begin singing.

"Something remarkable was happening in

a period of just a few days," said von Gersdorff, an expert in electrophysiology and the biophysics of neurons.

"I said, this is exactly the protein we've been studying in the rodent auditory system. It promotes high-frequency spiking," he added.

Mello said that the new study deepens scientific understanding of the mechanism involved in learning fine motor skills.

"This is a very important model, and we think this new study has broad potential," he said.

The fact that these same motor circuit properties are shared by species that diverged more than 300 million years ago speaks to the strength of the discovery, von Gersdorff and Mello said. Researchers said the neuronal properties they discovered in the male zebra finch may become optimized for speed and precision through convergent evolution.

It also suggested mechanisms that may be involved when the connection goes awry. Von Gersdorff said that it's possible that some gene mutations affecting these Betz cells may cause relatively mild effects such as stuttering, which can be overcome by learning, whereas other mutations could have more pronounced effects, such as those involved in progressive disorders such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION  
DIVISION SRINAGAR,  
NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)**

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail ld: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

**Sub:- Extension in bidding time for this office Short Term e-NIT No. 24 OF 2021-22, Dated: 3009-2021 for below mentioned work/s:-**

**Part 1:- Rectification to be carried out to 100 HP ATS Starter at Lift Irrigation Station Noorbagh.**

**Part 2:- Rectification to be carried out to 100 HP ATS Starter at Lift Irrigation Station Gundiroshan.**

**Part 3:- Rectification to be carried out to 50 HP ATS Starter at Lift Irrigation Station Kreshibal.**

**Ref:- 1. JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's:-**

**2021\_IFC\_141988\_10, 2021\_IFC\_141988\_11,  
2021\_IFC\_141988\_12**

**2. This office Extension notices 1 to 2 and two retender notices already issued for the subject works. Due to no response for above mentioned sub-parts to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work/s, the critical dates are once again extended as under:-**

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	24/11/2021 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	25/11/2021 at 1400 hrs

**Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain unaltered as laid down in the original e-NIT. No. MIDS/Ts/ 3864-69**

**Dated:- 20-11-2021  
DIPK-13127/21**

**Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical  
Irrigation Division, Srinagar**

## Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)

(A J&K Government Undertaking)  
2nd floor, Sanat Ghar building Bemina Srinagar  
e-Mail: grmmksicop@gmail.com

**Dated: 17-11-2021  
CORRIGENDUM**

e-NIT No.: 24aa-SICOP (GMM) of 2021 Dated 26.06.2021  
Work Name: - Rate Contract for Wooden Joinery.  
Due to changes in units of BoQ, the above mentioned e-NIT is re-tendered.

**DIPK -NB-5180**

**Sd/-  
General Manager (M&A)  
SICOP Kashmir**

## Government Of Jammu And Kashmir Municipal Council Anantnag

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**"SAY NO TO SINGLE USE PLASTIC (SUP)  
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It is for the information of general public of Anantnag town, that sale and use of Polythene carry bags/ Single use Plastic (SUP) and allied products of less than 75 microns has been banned by the Govt, and is an offence which attracts penalty and imprisonment. Less than 75 micron thickness polythene does not find disposal in open, resulting insanitary conditions and being non- biodegradable causes many other environment problems. In order to curb the menace of Single Use Plastic, the Government vide G.S.R.57(E) & SRO-231 dated 26.03.2019, has also banned non- biodegradable disposal items such as disposal plates, disposal cups, bowls and tumblers, disposal spoons, forks and knives and the use/ storage/ manufacturing/ trading etc. of such banned items is an offence which also attracts penalty and imprisonment. Accordingly, the citizens of town Anantnag, are requested to "Say No" to Polythene carry bags and shun the use of all such plastic items having less than 75 micron thickness, as it is illegal and detrimental to human health and environment, and use eco-friendly Alternatives

MC/ANG/21/7404-07

Dated: 17-11-2021

DIPK -NB-5165

**Chief Executive Officer,  
Municipal Council, Anantnag**

### NAME CHANGE

I, Nisar Ahmad Handoo, S/O: Late Ghulam Ahmad Handoo, R/O: Aund Masjid, Khanyar Srinagar, have changed my daughter's name from Anusha Nisar to Myra Nisar, for all future purposes. Anybody having any objection can contact on my number 9149452470 within 14 days.

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## Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.

**Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited**

Email: [xen.ed1st@gmail.com](mailto:xen.ed1st@gmail.com) Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

### e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 107/EDI, dt:17-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1<sup>st</sup>, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	Creation of 100KVA, 6.6-11KV/433V Double ratio Substation alongwith HT network at Bari Lane, Naaz Enclave Panthachowk.	6.25

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	17.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	25.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	17.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs to 25.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	26.11.2021 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Demand Draft Only]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Self Declaration by the Executing Agency/Firm regarding EMD as per Govt. Order

DIPK-NB-5185

**Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division 1<sup>st</sup>, Srinagar**

## Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar. Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Email: [xen.ed1st@gmail.com](mailto:xen.ed1st@gmail.com) Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

### e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 103/ EDI, dt: 15-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1st, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	HT/LT Improvement at various locations of Sub Division Nishat.	2.83

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	16.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	30.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	16.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs to 30.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	01.12.2021 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Demand Draft Only]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Self Declaration by the Executing Agency/Firm regarding EMD as per Govt order

DIPK-NB-5173

**Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar**

## Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.

**Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited**

Email: [xen.ed1st@gmail.com](mailto:xen.ed1st@gmail.com) Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

### e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 104/ EDI, dt: 15-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1<sup>st</sup>, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	HT/LT Improvement at various locations of Sub Division Dalgate.	1.78

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.

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iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	16.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs to 30.11.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	01.12.2021 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a>
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Demand Draft Only]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Self Declaration by the Executing Agency/Firm regarding EMD as per Govt order

DIPK-NB-5174

**Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division 1<sup>st</sup>, Srinagar**



## KP's Offer Puja at Shadipur Sangam, Take Holy Dip

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Members of Pandit community and non local Hindus offered prayers and bathed at the confluence of the Jhelum and the Sindh Rivers in Shadipora area of Srinagar district on Monday.

Braving sub-zero temperatures, devout Hindus offered floral tributes and chanted religious hymns at a local temple which is situated on Sangam (confluence) of the Jhelum and Sindh Rivers.

"We also offered prayers at the Wayil bridge and took the holy dip in the Sindh stream", said a devotee.

"After the prayers and the holy dip we had 'Darshan' of the Mata at the Khir Bhawani temple", said one of the devotees from Andhra Pradesh.

The devotees said the practice will continue for 10 days till the end of this month.

They also said that due to the pandemic, the devotees could not perform the ritual last year.

## UGC NET centers devoid of any heating arrangements

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Despite freezing cold in Kashmir valley, no examination centre for UGC NET held on Sunday had kept heating arrangements for the aspirants.

Thousands of aspirants today appeared in NET exams in Srinagar centers but no centre kept heating arrangements for candidates.

Although the candidates pay fee for examination and other miscellaneous expenses at the time of application, the centers along with the UGC siphon off the money without providing heating arrangements in Kashmir.

Dozens of candidates told news agency, that no centre kept heating arrangements for them during the cold which froze their hands while writing the computer based exam.

"It was very difficult to fill the computer based OMR sheet or write on rough papers due to the freezing cold. We pay

the money but in return get nothing, not even a glass of water," candidates said.

"No centre had kept heating arrangements despite the cold temperature in the Valley due to winter," they said.

The National Eligibility Test (NET) is conducted on behalf of University Grants Commission (UGC) for determining the eligibility of Indian nationals for the Eligibility of Assistant Professorship, Junior Research Fellowship or both, for Indian Universities and Colleges.

Until June 2018, the NET was conducted by CBSE in 84 subjects in 91 cities across the country. Thereafter from December 2018 onwards, the UGC- NET is being conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The candidates said that NTA and UGC should first assess the centres and allot only those centers which can provide heating arrangements for Kashmir during winter. (KDC)

### TECHNICAL SNAG AT ZAINAKOTE

## Power supply to remain affected in 5 city grid stations

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Power supply will remain affected to areas fed from five grid stations due to technical snag at transmission level in one of the 150MVA transformer banks of 450MVA Zainakote Grid Station, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited said here on Sunday.

Chief engineer distribution KPDCL said that the power supply to areas fed from following Grid Stations shall re-

main partially affected during today evening and intervening night hours of 20th and 21st November.

"However, men and machinery of JKPTCL Kashmir are putting all efforts for speedy restoration and rectification works. In this connection," he said.

Meanwhile, as per the notice power supply will remain affected to five grid stations including Grid Station Rawalpota, Grid Station Wanganpora, Grid Station Bemina, Grid Station

Zainakote, Grid Station Pattan and Grid Station Magam.

"Areas to remain affected include Rawalpota, Sanat Nagar, Barzulla, Humhma, Parraypora and adjoining areas, Soura, Hawal, Zadibal, Nawakadal, Safakadal and adjoining areas, Karan Nagar, Qamarwari, Bemina, Batmaloo, Barthana, Parimpota and adjoining areas, HMT, Omerabad, Zainakote, Narbal, Sharifabad and adjoining areas Pattan and adjoining areas Magam, Beerwah and adjoining areas," reads the notice.

## NC delegation visits families of slain Altaf Bhat, Dr Mudassir Gul

KO News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani on Sunday visited the families of slain civilians Muhammad Altaf Dar and Dr Mudassir Gul.

He was accompanied by Central Zone President Ali Mohammad Dar, party leader Saif ud Din Bhat, Block President Amira Kadal Rafiq Illahi, YNC District President Bilal Ahmad and functionaries.

Sharing the grief of the families, the delegation prayed for strength to them in their hour of loss.

Nasir also sought a fast track probe into the

killings in a transparent manner and rehabilitation of the kin of the deceased on a fast track basis. "The jinxed fate of our valley has snatched numerous innocents. There are numerous such untold stories where parents have lost their beloved children, daughters & sisters have lost their brothers; mothers their sons. Such incidents only leave a trail of suffering behind," he said.

On the occasion he extended condolences and sympathies with the bereaved family on behalf of the Party President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah to the bereaved.

## PDP holds meeting at Habba Kadal constituency

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** People Democratic Party constituency incharge habba Kadal Arif Laigaroo on Sunday held a meeting with the people of area in Habba kadal and deliberated upon several issues.

During the meeting various issues to strengthen the party were discussed and prevailing circumstances were Center of the meeting. Laigaroo during the meeting said that election was not a priority and a sense of security to masses was the need of the hour.

He urged the authorities to shun subjugation and start a meaningful dialogue so lives in future are saved.

The PDP asked the people to strengthen the party and have organised campaigns against social evils that included drug abuse in society.

Laigaroo urged them to keep a tab on youth in their respective area and work for betterment of society. He expressed anguish over prevailing circumstances in Kashmir and prayed for return of long lasting peace. **KNS**

### DIAL-EMMA



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

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

### RAILWAYS



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

### HIGHWAY STATUS



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

### This Day in History

- 498 - St Symmachus begins his reign as Pope replacing Anastasius II
- 845 - First King of all Brittany, Nominos defeats Frankish King Charles the Bald at the Battle of Ballon, near Redon
- 1220 - Frederick II crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by Pope Honorius III
- 1346 - Street fights in Utrecht, Hollandsgezinde Gunterlingen statements
- 1497 - Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope on way to first voyage from Europe to reach India
- 1683 - Purcell's "Welcome to All the Pleasures" premieres in London
- 1699 - Treaty of Preobrasjensku Denmark, Russia, Saksen and Poland divide Sweden
- 1707 - Prince Johan Willem Friso sworn in as viceroy of Friesland
- 1714 - King Karel XII leaves Turkish captivity to return to Sweden
- 1794 - Strasbourg Alsace-Lorraine, prohibits circumcision and wearing of beards
- 1809 - Peregrine Williamson of Baltimore patents a steel pen
- 1830 - Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- 1864 - American Civil War Battle at Griswoldville, Georgia, ends after 650 casualties
- 1864 - Union General O Howard orders plunderers be shot to death



HIJRI  
CALENDAR

16

RABI  
ULSANI

1443

### PRAYERS

FAJR  
5:41

ZUHR  
12:14

ASR  
3:50

MAGRIB  
5:30

ISHA  
6:50



सत्यमेव जयते

# Government of J&K WELCOMES

## Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs



on

### her visit to

## Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

on

### Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2021



**J&K Bank**

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## Union Cabinet Likely To Clear On Wednesday Bills For Withdrawing Farm Laws



### Agenceis

The Union Cabinet is likely to take up for approval on Wednesday the bills for withdrawal of the three farm laws, sources in the government said.

These bills shall then be introduced in the forthcoming session of Parliament, they added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Friday announced

on the occasion of Gurupurab the government's intention to withdraw the laws in the interest of the nation.

The Winter Session of Parliament would commence from November 29.

Demanding the withdrawal of the laws, agitating farmers sitting at three sites on Delhi's borders since November last year have said they will stay put till Parliament repeals them.

## With Concessions Still Suspended, 4 Crore Elderly Forced To Travel On Full Fare Since Mar '20



### Agenceis

**NEW DELHI:** Almost four crore senior citizens have been forced to pay full fare for their travel since the railways suspended their concessions due to the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020, a RTI has revealed.

In a reply to a query filed by Madhya Pradesh-based Chandra Shekhar Gaur, the railways has stated that between March 22, 2020 and September 2021, 37,850,668 senior citizens have undertaken journeys on trains.

During this period, train services remained suspended for several months due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown. The concessions, which were suspended from March 2020, have remained suspended to this day.

In the case of senior citizens, while women are eligible for 50 per cent concession, men can avail 40 per cent in all classes. The minimum age limit for a woman is 58 and a man is 60.

Over the last two decades, railway concessions have been a much-discussed topic with multiple committees recommending their withdrawal. As a result of this in July 2016, the railways made elderly concession optional while booking tickets.

In July 2017, the railways enabled the elderly to even give up their partial or full concession through the "give it up" scheme.

"The thing is that the concession given to us was significant and is a huge help for those that cannot afford it. Senior citizens in many homes are treated as an extra, with no income of their own. These concessions helped them to get around.

"Those who can have given up their concessions also. With regular train services running, at

least the senior citizen concessions should be restored. Most elderly cannot afford to pay full fares," said Tapas Bhattacharya, a retired private sector employee, who is travelling to Kolkata with his wife, also a senior citizen, next week said.

In a letter last month, Madurai MP Su Venkatesan appealed to the Union railway minister to restore passenger concessions for their railway journeys stating that it was necessary for the elderly in a country where 20 per cent live below the poverty line.

"My parents haven't seen their grandchildren for more than two years. This year also they didn't come as they cannot afford the tickets without concessions. It is also too much for me to pay. They used to come every year to Delhi and spent six months here," said Subhash Singh, a security guard working in a highrise in Noida, whose parents are both senior citizens and stay in Bihar.

In fact, according to a CAG report of 2019, the response to the 'give it up' scheme from the senior citizen passengers was not very encouraging. The report said that out of total 4.41 crore senior citizen passengers, 7.53 lakh (1.7 per cent) passengers opted to give up 50 per cent concession and 10.9 lakh (2.47 per cent) passengers gave up 100 per cent concession.

The railways, over the past ten days, have restored some of its services that it suspended in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. This includes the removal of the "special" tag from trains which brought down the prices of tickets and restarted the service of serving hot cooked meals.

However, the decision on restoring concessions and providing bedrolls is still pending. PTI

# Leading Scientist Fukuyama Predicts End Of US Hegemony

### Agenceis

A renowned American political scientist has predicted the end of the US hegemony, with a deeply polarized society affecting the country's foreign policy. In an article published recently on The Economist's special 2022 outlook issue, called The World Ahead 2022, Francis Fukuyama, a senior fellow at Stanford University, said the United States suffered a humiliating defeat when it withdrew from Vietnam in 1975, but it regained its dominance within little more than a decade.

The peak period of American hegemony was recorded between the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the financial crisis of 2007-09, he added.

"The height of American hubris was the invasion of Iraq in 2003, when it hoped to remake not just Iraq and Afghanistan (invaded two years before), but the whole Middle East. America overestimated the effectiveness of military power to bring about deep political change, even as it underestimated the impact of its free-market economic model on global finance. The decade ended with its troops bogged down in two counterinsurgency wars, and a financial crisis that accentuated the inequalities American-led globalization had brought about," Fukuyama explained.

He also noted that the biggest policy debacle of US President Joe Biden's administration in its first year has been its failure to plan adequately for the rapid



collapse of Afghanistan.

The US military led the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 in what it proclaimed was a war on terror meant to eradicate the Taliban.

Twenty years on, in mid-August this year, the Afghan government and military collapsed in the face of the Taliban's swift advances on the ground, which many attribute to a hasty withdrawal of US-led occupation forces from the South Asian state.

"Mr Biden has suggested that withdrawal was necessary in order to focus on meeting the bigger challenges from Russia and China. I hope he is serious about this... In 2022, the administration needs to redeploy both resources and the attention of policymakers to deter geopolitical rivals and engage with allies," the political commentator said.

He further referred to polarization within the American society, saying it started over conventional policy issues like taxes and abortion, but has since metastasized into a bitter fight over cultural identity.

The COVID-19 pandemic, he added, served America's divisions, with social distancing, mask-wearing and vaccinations being seen not as public-health measures but as political markers. Meanwhile, Fukuyama stressed that the world has been reverting to a more normal state of multipolarity, with China, Russia, India, Europe and other centers gaining power relative to America.

"Yet in truth, the end of the American era had come much earlier. The long-term sources of American weakness and decline are more domestic than international. The country will remain a great power for many years, but just how influential it will be depends on its ability to fix its internal problems, rather than its foreign policy," he said.

"The United States is not likely to regain its earlier hegemonic status, nor should it aspire to. What it can hope for is to sustain, with like-minded countries, a world order friendly to democratic values. Whether it can do this will depend on recovering a sense of national identity and purpose at home."

## Cyber Thugs Are Back With WhatsApp Video Calls Showing Porn Clips

### Agenceis

A 35-year-old professor from the University of Delhi recently received a video call on Facebook Messenger from an anonymous number. To his horror, a nude girl appeared on the other side. Before he could disconnect the call, cyber criminals made a quick video of the professor watching the porn clip, and the harassment began.

"It was around 2 a.m. when I received a call from an unknown person on Facebook Messenger. When I received the call, I saw a nude girl on the other end. I disconnected the call immediately. However, before I could figure out what exactly happened, I received a few screenshots of my video call on Messenger," a shaken professor told IANS on the condition of anonymity.

Starting to panic, he immediately blocked the user. After an hour, the professor got an audio call where another man asked him to pay Rs 20,000 via a digital payment app within five minutes, else he would post these screenshots on Facebook for his friends and family community to see.

"I was nervous and deactivated my Facebook account. Nothing happened after that night to date but I'm still worried," he said. Such anonymous video calls on WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger are growing in India and the relevant authorities are unable to stop such activities.

According to cyber experts, in a reminiscence of Jamtara-type

mobile frauds, the notorious gangs of Mewat region have resurfaced, extorting money from people by blackmailing them with such WhatsApp video callings.

The gangs operate in the Mewat region of Haryana. Further, Bhiwadi, Tijara, Kishangarh Bas, Ramgarh, Laxmangarh in Alwar and Nagar, Pahadi and Govindgarh in Bharatpur also are the main areas where these cyber thugs are operating from.

In October, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police claimed to have arrested the mastermind of an interstate sextortion gang from Rajasthan's Bharatpur.

According to police, the gang led by Nasir (25) has been indulging in extorting money from reputed persons after blackmailing them with their obscene pictures and videos.

At least 36 gangs have been busted and 600 accused arrested by Alwar police in the 'sextortion' case.

In the pandemic, there has been a surge in such activities. Cybercriminals run recorded porn videos, and then send your recording back to you, asking for money which could be anywhere from Rs 10,000 to over a few lakh.

"If denied, they threaten to share your porn-watching video in your social media circles and the mental harassment begins afterwards," independent cyber security researcher Rajshikhar Rajaharia told IANS.

A Delhi-NCR based journalist faced the same situation

this month when he received a WhatsApp video call and saw a nude girl.

Surprised as well as confused, he immediately disconnected the call. He later received some screenshots as well a video recorded from the person who called him.

"The person told me that he is going to send these videos to everyone on social media and asked me to pay Rs 23,000 immediately to delete the video. I blocked him but then, I started getting calls from unknown numbers asking me to transfer the money. I blocked them and turned off my phone for a few hours," the journalist told IANS.

He later did not receive any more calls.

According to Rajaharia, if you do not give in to their demands immediately, there are chances that they won't share your porn video with others, as doing this will invite trouble for them if the person goes to cyber police with their contact details.

"However, the victims must quickly contact the cyber branch of police in their respective areas. When you receive an anonymous call, do not pick it immediately. Try to find out the identity of that anonymous person via SMS or WhatsApp chat first, and then check if that person belongs to your known circle of acquaintances or not," the cyber expert advised.

"Even if you have taken the anonymous WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger video call, switch off or cover your camera," he added.

## Samajwadi Party Fears Farm Laws Will Be Brought Back After Assembly Polls

### Agenceis

The Samajwadi Party, on Sunday, expressed apprehension that the three contentious farm laws will be brought again after the 2022 assembly elections, citing the statements made by Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and BJP MP from Unnao Sakshi Maharaj on the laws.

Mishra and Maharaj told reporters on Saturday that the laws can be brought again, if needed.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Centre will repeal the three farm laws after the nearly year-long agitation by a section of farmers, mostly from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Farmer leaders said the protesters will stay put at border areas of Delhi until the Centre formally repeals these laws in Parliament and indicated their stir for a statutory guarantee of MSP and withdrawal of the Electricity Amendment Bill will continue.

In a tweet in Hindi, the Samajwadi Party charged, "It is absolutely clear that their heart is not clean, and after the elections, the bills will be brought again. Occupying the constitutional posts, Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra and BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj have said that the BJP government may bring the bill for farm laws."

"This is the truth of those tendering false apologies to farmers. The farmers will bring a change in 2022," the SP said in the tweet.

Mishra on Saturday said in Bhadohi that efforts were made to make the farmers understand the provisions of the farm laws, and positive aspects, but the farmers were demanding the withdrawal of the three farm laws and were protesting against them. Eventually, the government felt



that the laws be withdrawn, and if there is a need to make the laws again, it will be done.

"The farmers were continuously demanding that the farm laws be withdrawn, and it was done in a very civilised manner. It is a good step and appropriate decision," Mishra said.

Speaking to reporters in Unnao on Saturday, BJP MP Maharaj said, "Bills are made and repealed. They will come again, and will be made again. It hardly takes any time (Bills to bante rehte hai, bigarhte rehte hai...vaapas aajaenge, dobaraara ban jaayenge...koi der nahi lagtee hai). But, I would thank Modiji that he displayed a big heart, and he chose the nation over laws. And those whose intentions were wrong, those who had raised slogans of Pakistan zindaabad and Khalistan zindabad, they have got a befitting reply."

He also categorically stated there is no connection between the announcement of repealing of the farm laws and the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections 2022.

"In the UP 2022 assembly elections, the BJP will cross the 300 mark in the (403-member) UP legislative assembly. In India, there is no substitute for Modi and Yogi Adityanath. Their magic will stay," he said.

## Congress Asks PM Modi To End 'Silence' On Chinese 'Intrusion' In Arunachal

### Agenceis

The Congress on Sunday accused the BJP government of deception and deliberate distortion over alleged Chinese intrusions in Arunachal Pradesh and questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" on the issue.

The opposition party also accused the BJP of giving lessons on national security to the entire country while digressing from addressing the serious issue that affected India's integrity and sovereignty.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi shared satellite images to claim that China has built another village six to seven kilometres inside Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh with over 60 structures.

He also claimed that the Chinese president had visited a few kilometres north of this spot a few days ago. The Congress leader demanded that Prime Minister Modi address the issue and tell the nation about steps he is taking in this regard.

"We condemn the prime minister's silence. It is culpable. It is a negative eloquence which we can do without. It is inexcusable," he told reporters.

There was no response from the government on the issue.

The Congress has been attacking the government consistently over its handling of border tensions with China.



"We don't understand this definition is national security, where you berate, browbeat, intimidate the whole country on national security issues and keep silent on this kind of things," Singhvi said, claiming the prime minister never said a word "on the January 2019 and September-October 2021 intrusions".

"It is a sad case of deliberate distortion, digression and diversion on an issue affecting India's integrity and sovereignty," he alleged, hitting out at the BJP government.

The satellite images shared by Singhvi, sourced from some professional websites, purportedly show images of the same spot in Arunachal Pradesh in April 2019 and then in September 2021 with around 60 structures or habitats built up.

He also cited a statement of BJP MP Tapir Gao from Arunachal Pradesh made in Parliament over a year ago where he alleged that the second Doklam will be in Arunachal.

He said the BJP should at least listen to its MP, if not the opposition party.

### NEWS MAKERS

## 'Imran Khan Is My Elder Brother,' Says Sidhu

### Agenceis

Congress' Punjab unit president Navjot Singh Sidhu on Saturday called Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan his 'bada bhai' (elder brother) during a trip to Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara across the border to spark a fresh controversy with the remark drawing condemnation from the BJP, AAP and also within the opposition party.

Sidhu visited the revered Gurdwara Darbar Sahib and offered prayers and stressed on "opening of a new friendship chapter" and trade between the two countries, days after India early this week reopened the visa-free Kartarpur corridor for Sikh pilgrims.

But Sidhu's description of Imran Khan ruffled feathers in India with even his senior party colleague Manish Tewari taking



a swipe at the Punjab Congress chief, saying the premier is the "cat's paw" of the Pakistan deep state that "drones" arms and narcotics into Punjab and sends terrorists to Jammu and Kashmir.

When Kartarpur Corridor Project Management Unit CEO Muhammad Latif welcomed the former Test cricketer at the zero point and extended best wishes to him and his

delegation on behalf of the prime minister, Sidhu was effusive in his praise for his ex-cricketer rival.

"Imran Khan is my elder brother. I am greatly honoured. He (Khan) gave us a lot of love," Sidhu is heard saying in a purported video that has gone viral.

Sidhu later dismissed the criticism by the BJP.

"Let BJP say whatever they

want...," Sidhu told reporters at the border point in Gurdaspur when asked for his response to the BJP's attack on him.

Sharing the video, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya tweeted, "Rahul Gandhi's favourite Navjot Singh Sidhu calls Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan his 'bada bhai'. Last time he had hugged Gen Bajwa, Pakistan Army's Chief, heaped praises. Is it any surprise that the Gandhi siblings chose a Pakistan loving Sidhu over veteran Amarinder Singh?"

Responding to a media query on Sidhu's utterances, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the country should be paramount for public representatives.

"It is expected that the country should be paramount for all public representatives, whether they say their point in the house or outside," he told reporters in Jaipur.

## Madhya Pradesh: Labourer's Hand Chopped Off After He Sought Pending Wages

### Agenceis

A 45-year-old labourer's hand was chopped off allegedly by his employer when he asked for his pending wages in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district, an official said on Sunday. Three persons were arrested.

The incident occurred at Dolmau village, under the Sirmour police station's jurisdiction, about 40km away from the Rewa district headquarters, on Saturday, police said.

The victim, Ashok Saket, who belongs to a scheduled caste, had earlier worked as a labourer in construction work for Ganesh Mishra in Dolmau village, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shiv Kumar Verma



said. Verma said that Mishra was allegedly dilly-dallying paying the pending wages.

Saket, a resident of Padri village, and another person met Mishra on Saturday to resolve the matter. However, a heated argument broke out between them, following which Mishra and others allegedly attacked

Saket with a sharp weapon and severed one of his hands.

The accused tried to hide the severed arm nearby, which was traced later, the ASP said.

Police rushed the labourer to the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital where a team of doctors reattached the severed hand after surgery, he said. The condition of the victim, however, is critical due to excessive blood loss, he said quoting doctors.

Police arrested Mishra and his brothers, Ratnesh Mishra and Krishna Kumar Mishra, under section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, an official said.



## Cong Workers Motivated Want To Ensure BJP's Defeat In J&K: Mir

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** In an attempt to downplay resignations by dozens of senior party leaders from their posts over an "ineffective leadership" in Jammu and Kashmir, Pradesh Congress chief G A Mir on Sunday said the party cadre is united and motivated to ensure that the BJP is uprooted next year. Mir was leading a dharna as part of the Congress' ongoing nationwide Jan Jagran Abhiyaan' in Udhampur district against the BJP-led central government for allegedly fleecing the common man through "tax terrorism" and playing the "politics of hatred".

Spelling trouble for the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir, four former ministers and three ex-legislators among dozens of leaders considered loyal to senior leader Gulam Nabi Azad resigned from party posts re-

cently, saying they have not been provided an opportunity to be heard on party affairs in the union territory.

"The entire party cadre is united and motivated right now and wants to ensure that the BJP is uprooted in 2022," Mir said, addressing the gathering.

He said the people of the union territory have rejected the BJP and have acknowledged the Congress.

"We are out to find silent Congress workers in every village and invite them to strengthen the party to give a democratic government whenever assembly elections are held in J&K," Mir said.

He said the party was making the public aware about the "ill-conceived" policies of the BJP-led government which has caused inflation, unemployment and has created hardships for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## IUST's Journalism Dept Celebrates World Television Day

Noted Expert Prof. Arbind Sinha Delivers Special Lecture

Observer News Service

**AWANTIPORA:** On the occasion of the World Television Day, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) organized an online interactive session Sunday, which was attended by scores of participants including media academicians, media professionals, scholars and students from across the country.

The online event was organized to revisit the journey of television as a path-breaking innovation in communication technology and its relevance as a dominant form of mass media in contemporary media landscape.

Speaking on the occasion, the expert speaker, Prof Arbind Sinha, an expert of Development communication who is counted among important figures in the introduction of television for development communication in India expressed his views about the importance and relevance of television as a dominant mode of mass media. While tracing the introduction and growth of broadcast television in India, Prof Sinha stated, "The beginning of television in India came as a vibrant technical impetus to the development communication and the rapid spread of broadcasting to the remotest parts of the country had a robust impact on the inclusive socio-economic development."

Commenting about television as a technological innovation in the field of development journalism in the country, Prof. Sinha said, "The era when television broadcasting started in India, none would have imagined that the medium which was perceived as a community medium for education and awareness would end up being in our pockets on digital gadgets". He noted that digital modes are simply technological advancements in communication and television will continue to dominate the information landscape.

Prof. Sinha, however, admitted that currently, television as a mass medium has lost its ideal sense of direction under the corporate and political influences, globally. He stated that such strong corporate influences have led to intense production of the content due to demands for higher revenue but at the same time have led to the degradation in the quality of content.

Responding to the questions about current opportunities in the field of television broadcasting, Prof Sinha advised the media students to look for career options in domains concerning development journalism and rural market.

"Governments, International Organizations and NGOs require

professionals for effective mass communication for implementing their programmes and policies which makes it a fertile ground for aspiring media professionals", Prof Sinha added.

Associate Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Munejah Khan, while speaking on the occasion invoked the phrase coined by the Canadian communication theorist Marshall McLuhan "medium is the message" and stressed on the need to educate students about the nature and source of content while engaging with abundance of news content on mushrooming news channels. She appreciated the department's efforts in organizing such an engaging and interactive event.

Earlier Head of the Department, DJMC Dr. Mujeeb Liyakat, while expressing his views on television as a mass medium and the importance to celebrate World Television Day during the welcome and inaugural address said, "The reason behind celebrating this day is not only revisit the journey of television as a pathbreaking technological innovation in mass media but also to recognize its ever-increasing role as a tool to carry on with journalism for development." He further added that the Covid-19 situation has taught us that how mass mediated communication proved determinant in sensitizing people against a horrible pandemic. "In contrast to print and digital modes of communication, television continues distinguishes itself as a powerful medium by nurturing community-like feeling among the audience in a society," Dr. Mujeeb added.

Dr. Mujeeb further stated that scholars and professionals in the field must draw from the existing theoretical concepts associated with television in relation to development communication which according to him are instrumental in conceptualizing the role of television as a significant mass medium.

Sr. Assistant Professor DJMC and Session Moderator Dr. Monisa Qadiri, underlined the significance of television as a medium particularly its role in politics, development and even in conflicts like Vietnam and Gulf war in her introductory remarks. She further noted the potential of television in political communication and campaigns that has been seen from the first televised US Presidential debates right from their beginning in 1960".

Dr. Qadiri, who is also the Media Advisor to VC further stated, "Given the grassroot possibilities through television, media researchers must attempt a deeper and critical engagement towards understanding the new paradigms and nuances in the contemporary 24\*7 television news culture."



**A MAN BURNS FALLEN CHINARA** tree leaves to make charcoal, which is used by people for heating in harsh winters.

## Cold Conditions Continue In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Cold conditions continued in Kashmir on Sunday as the minimum temperature settled below the freezing point across the Valley, officials said.

The meteorological department has forecast mostly dry weather for the week.

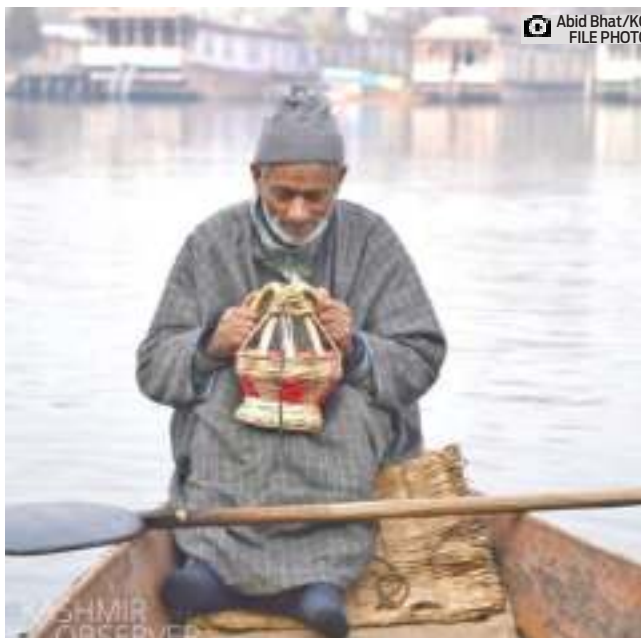
The valley witnessed sub-zero minimum temperature on Saturday night and the mercury was two to three degrees below normal for this part of the season at most places, the MeT officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday night, slightly up from minus 1.5 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The officials said Pahalgam at minus 4.2 degrees Celsius was the coldest recorded place in Kashmir.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low



of minus 3 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag registered a low of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius.

The MeT Office predicted the

weather will most likely remain dry over the week ahead.

However, there is possibility of light snow over extreme north Kashmir parts on November 24, it said.

## Over Dozen Doda Girls Quit Studies Amid Drinking Water Shortage

Press Trust Of India

**BHADERWAH:** More than a dozen tribal girls have left their studies midway in the last two years in a remote hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district amid severe shortage of drinking water there.

The Chenara village falls under Misrata panchayat in Bhaderwah sub-division -- 57 kms from the Doda district headquarters -- and is inhabited by Below Poverty Line (BPL) Gujar population. It is reeling under severe water crisis since the last two years due to the drying up of natural water resources caused by scanty rainfall.

The girls claimed that the non-availability of water forced them to quit school even as an official said that the village would be covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) soon.

However, it will take some time to implement the project and provide potable water to the villagers, the official added.

According to villagers, the women folk, especially girls, are forced to travel through a dense forest for miles every day to collect water for themselves and their cattle. On several occasions, they return with unhygienic muddy water and have to spend a lot of energy to make it drinkable, they said.

"I have a passion for studies and with great difficulty, I managed to study till the 12th standard. However, I quit studies last year for the sake of my family as I have to collect water every day



and I was not getting enough time for studying," 18-year-old Rubina Bano, one of the girls said.

Bano said girls like her have no option but to quit studies as they have to spend hours every day on locating and fetching water from far off areas.

Corroborating her views, 16-year-old Fatima said due to lack of time for studies, she appeared twice for her eighth standard exams but could not clear them on both the occasions.

"The reason for my poor performance was largely because I was spending hours every day on fetching water instead of studying. I do not want to write the exam again as I don't believe that I would do any better this time around," she said.

She said getting a day's supply of water means multiple trips to the natural springs.

A local resident, Abdul Rashid Gujar, said when piped water supply is not given to homes, the burden of fetching it falls disproportionately on women and children, especially girls.

"The given circumstances

have taken a serious toll on the education of girls as at least 15 of them have quit their studies in the last two years," said Gujar, whose daughter Nazia was in the fifth standard but dropped out of school recently.

He said the girls spend around eight to 10 hours daily on fetching water which is a colossal waste of their valuable time.

Bibi Begum (45), another local resident, said they want their daughters to go to school but having access to potable water is the top priority as "we have to save our lives and the lives of our cattle." "In our village, we are worried about how and from where to collect water for marriage ceremonies or if someone dies," she said.

Meanwhile, district youth president of the J&K National Panthers Party Rashid Choudhary claims to have accompanied various delegations from the village to different government offices to sort out the issue, but accused the Jal Shakti Vibhag of giving the villagers a cold shoulder.

## Jammu Doc Gets Award For Low-Cost Treatment

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A senior Jammu and Kashmir doctor was presented an international award for low-cost interventional pain management and treatment on Sunday at a conference on recent advances in pain across the globe.

The International Conference on Recent Advances in Pain (ICRA-PAIN) 2021 was held from November 19 to 21 on a 3D virtual platform, official statement said.

Inaugurated by Union minister Jitendra Singh, the conference was the first international pain conference to be held virtually from Jammu and Kashmir in which 134 international and national eminent faculties joined

to share their experiences in the field of pain and palliative care medicine, a spokesperson said.

The conference was organised by the Daradia Pain Foundation (DPF) and the Interventional Pain and Spine Centre (IPSC), he said, adding that 578 delegates attended it.

Dr Rohit Lahori, pain and palliative care specialist at a premier government hospital in Jammu, was awarded with the International Award for Low Cost Treatment for Interventional Pain Management for 2021, the spokesperson said.

The theme of this year's conference was expanding horizons of pain medicine" and present day role of pain physicians.

## Man Arrested For Duping Jammu Bizman Of Rs 70L

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A suspected fraudster was arrested from Delhi for allegedly duping a Jammu businessman of Rs 70 lakh three years ago, police said on Sunday.

The accused, Saleem Qureshi of Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, was arrested by a special team of the Jammu and Kashmir Police from Delhi's Mundka, a spokesperson said.

He said Jagdish Raj Sharma of Old Janipur area of Jammu lodged a written complaint on May 16, 2019, claiming that he was cheated by Qureshi.

As per the complaint, Qureshi contacted Sharma in September 2015 at his shop and gave him a proposal to purchase fruits from

him in bulk for selling them at wholesale markets outside the union territory, the spokesman said.

He said initially, the accused made some payments to the complainant but when the balance accumulated to Rs 70 lakhs, Qureshi stopped coming to Jammu and Kashmir and also threatened him.

Accordingly, a case was registered in May 2019 and police teams were deputed to Uttar Pradesh but the accused could not be traced, the spokesman said.

After a long hunt of three years, the accused was finally arrested from Delhi and has been remanded to police custody for further investigation, the official added.

## Arrest Dumping Of Undesirable Effluents Into Tawi River: Div Com



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A senior government official in Jammu has called for an ambitious project to arrest the dumping of undesirable effluents into Tawi river during a review meeting held on the progress of various ongoing sewerage network projects and new plants proposed for the city.

Jammu Divisional Commissioner Raghav Langer directed the agencies to categorise their targets with respect to number of households, effluent volume and nallahs (streams) to be tapped after seeking a detailed stage-wise progress on each individual portion of the city's sewerage network, officials said on Sunday.

The officials said Langer expressed concern over the dumping of undesirable city effluents into Tawi river and asked the agencies concerned to design the ambitious project to check the hazard at the earliest and set separate targets on the project for its right and left banks.

The meeting was informed that roughly 40 per cent of the projected number of households and its population on the right bank of the river has been linked with sewerage lines and the projects for saturating the rest of the population are under preparation, the officials said.

They said a total of 293 kilometres of sewerage network has been laid on the right bank in

parts of Jammu East and Jammu West areas (Zone I&II), while a total of 55,000 households have been tapped till date under the ongoing projects.

There are a total of 13 nallahs draining into the river on the right bank and the departmental officials apprised the Divisional Commissioner that about Rs 500 crore shall be required to fully tap them and create a complete network to fully cover all households on the right bank of the city, the officials said.

They said NBCC was reprimanded for not being able to complete the balance 1,850 household connections under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) or languishing sector schemes and deadline of January 15, 2022 was set for the same.

The officials said work on a sewerage scheme costing Rs 51 crore is under progress through the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) on the left bank of Tawi, in which five nallahs are to be tapped.

Work on a four million litres per day (MLD) sewage treatment plant is complete while another sewerage network is progressing at a very slow pace, the officials said.

The UEED was directed by the Divisional Commissioner to invoke a penalty clause on the contractor and get work executed at the risk and cost of the defaulting contractor, they said.

## Security Situation Reviewed In Pulwama

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Maintaining that the synergy among the forces is the key to thwart any nefarious designs of the enemies of the nation, a senior police officer of south Kashmir range on Sunday directed officers to adopt professional approach while dealing with counter insur-

gency operations.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police, south Kashmir range, Abdul Jabbar visited district Pulwama and chaired a review meeting pertaining to security scenario, anti-militancy operations, law and order, anti-drug mafia drive and other issues related to day-to-day policing at the district police

lines, a police spokesperson said Sunday.

He said senior police officers of the district attended the meeting in which various issues related to security scenario, status of crime and various aspects of policing besides, public oriented plans were discussed.

"DIG SKR Anantnag appreciated the efforts of police

in Pulwama for maintaining law and order in the district. During the meeting, he also reviewed the overall security situation, counter insurgency operations and measures taken to contain the spread of Covid-19 in the district," the police spokesperson said.

Jabbar, he said, laid stress on strengthening the police-public relations, service ori-

ented policing which will help in gaining the confidence and trust of general public.

"DIG emphasised upon the officers to adopt professional approach while dealing with counter insurgency operations. He also said that the synergy among the forces is the key to thwart any nefarious designs of the enemies of the nation," he added.

## Two week-long Aarogya Sevak, Sevika training conducted near LoC in Macchal

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** A two-week-long Aarogya Sevak and Sevika training concluded on Sunday at Kamkari Village near the Line of Control in Macchal Sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara District. As per the press release from PRO Defence Srinagar, during this training, local villagers were trained in all possible medical emergencies, use of medical equipment and use of CPR as a life-saving mechanism.

This training is an endeavour on part of the Indian Army to skill equip selected villagers in providing first aid and basic medical treatment to the villagers, the release read. Kamkari village over the last couple of years has witnessed numerous medical projects undertaken by the Army unit including awareness camps, distribution of medical equipment to persons trained to handle medical emergencies, regular medical check-up camps and regular visits by Indian Army doctors to all villagers, the press statement said.



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K O V I E W

Winter Calling?

THE Jammu and Kashmir tourism department has offered discounts to tourists as “a Diwali gift,” to draw them to the Valley. A 40 percent slash has been announced on the rates of hotels and houseboats. This is expected to bring more tourists to Kashmir much like the onset of winter did last year when a large number of tourists visited the region, aided by the successive heavy snowfall. According to reports, there is currently 50 percent occupancy in hotels in Kashmir and it could enhance going forward. The union home minister Amit Shah on his last week’s visit to the Valley said that from January to March this year the number of tourists stood at 1.13 lakh as against 36,000 tourists that visited in 2020.

The tourism department has already taken several measures to ensure that the fear of the Covid-19 contagion doesn’t scare away the visitors. According to government data, so far over 80 percent of its tourism service providers have been vaccinated and are safe to welcome travellers from far and wide. Over the last several months, the Government has also been in the process of identifying new tourist destinations to accommodate more tourists and offer them more places to visit.

Upcoming six months would be crucial. There are expectations that the arrivals will pick up as a result of the snowfall which is a novelty for most Indians. The tourism players, however, would be wary about the apprehended resurgence of Covid-19 which could act as a spoilsport.

To be sure, the Covid-19 pandemic has played both a beneficial and a baneful role: though the disease stopped the inflow of tourists to Kashmir during lockdowns, it also made it possible that more and more tourists come to the region. The ban on international travel ensured that Kashmir became a preferred destination for the tourists across the country. Had the second Covid-19 wave not intervened, the last winter’s tourist rush would have continued into the summer also.

But things seem to be looking up again. The international travel remains largely banned. Though the abating pandemic has given confidence to the union government to relax Covid-related restrictions and reopen its borders to foreign travelers, the country has only granted tourist visas to travelers arriving on chartered flights. If Covid-19 remains under control, the facility will be extended to those arriving on commercial flights from 15 November. But the uncertainty on this score offers hope that this winter too, the Valley would witness more tourist arrivals. The tourism sector forms 6.8 percent of Kashmir’s GDP and employs around 2 million people. So, it is critical that we have another bumper tourism winter.

OTHER OPINON

Step Back & Forward

BECAUSE the farmers are the people, despite all efforts by senior ministers, the ruling establishment’s army of trolls and spinmeisters to paint them as the “Other” — as puppets of the propagandist Left or as Khalistanis, as anti-national and pampered tractor-borne elites stalling reforms, peddlers of anarchy, or as the PM himself called them, “aandolanjeevi”. Today, the Modi government has done well to acknowledge that laws are not as good as their enforcement by state machinery, but only as good as their capacity to win people’s trust — a well-timed upending of the thesis proposed only days ago by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. The Centre’s farm laws were a much-needed attempt to address the stasis in agriculture by ensuring that farmers get the right price for produce, and have the freedom to sell where they want to. But, as this newspaper repeatedly underlined, the crisis began with the way in which the reforms were pushed through. The government brought them in through ordinance, amid a pandemic, and then turned away from the popular clamour that rose on the back of farmers’ insecurities about their perceived pro-corporate tilt, when it was not unleashing police on the protesters. The inconclusive 11 rounds of talks with farm union leaders were initiated too late. By that time, the farmers’ movement had dug its feet well into the ground in farms and households across Punjab and Haryana. The court’s intervention also misread the agitation — to a political problem, the solution had to come from politics.

The government’s retreat may have been a response to the approach of another round of state elections. These include Punjab, where the BJP is in a lonely corner, and UP, where the mowing down of four farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri had created possibilities of a spillover of the farm issue into the electoral campaign. Or it could be that the government had to heed a larger message that the mostly peaceful farmers’ mobilisation had brought to Delhi’s door — even a party that thrives on polarisation cannot afford to range “us” against “them, the farmers”. The farmer is much too evocative and resonant a symbol. Even in an industrialising economy and urbanising country, it belongs to the very centre of the national imagination. The message is also this: No government at the Centre, even one that revels in a majoritarian politics, can let a minority like the Sikhs, the majority in a border state where victory against a separatist movement has brought a hardwon peace, feel disrespected.

In the end, it is not important why the government retreated. It is important that it knows that in a democracy, winning a majority is not enough. It is only the beginning of the work of governance, which calls for persuasion. Pushing economic reforms, especially those that upend long-held assumptions, needs hard work and humility. Neither self-serving lectures nor flaunting Lok Sabha numbers will do. With the PM promising that laws which began as an ordinance will be laid to rest in Parliament, it’s a good day for democracy.

Indian Express

Liberal International Order: Infallible or Impaired?

Suhail Ahmad Khan

WHEN the Soviet Union was on the brink of disintegration, political scientist Francis Fukuyama declared the end of history and victory of liberalism. In his famous essay, The End of History?, he argued, “ what we may be witnessing is not just the end of the Cold war or the passing of a particular period of postwar history, but the end of history as such: that is, the endpoint of mankind’s ideological evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government.” It was an expansive claim to make as the interwar period (1919-1939) had already revealed the shortcomings of liberal internationalism. During that period, liberal internationalism had led to the rise of Germany and subsequently to the Second World War. Three decades have passed since Fukuyama declared the victory of liberalism, and it is safe to say that he was wrong. Today, the liberal international order is in retreat due to the results it has produced.

Several core liberal values inform the liberal international order, and prominent among them are (1) individual rights, (2) free trade, and (3) institutionalism. These three values are contingent on each other since individual rights are essential for free trade, and institutions or rules are necessary to safeguard both individual rights and liberal markets. Under the liberal international order, it is expected that more and more countries will comply with standard international rules, and in the long run, will adopt twin political concepts of liberalism and democracy. Thus, the aim is to increase the number of liberal democracies in the international sphere. Liberal democracy, according to American journalist Fareed Zakaria is “a political system marked not only by free and fair elections, but also by the rule of law, a separation of powers, and the protection of basic liberties of speech, assembly, religion and property.” For decades, many have considered the US the leading liberal democracy and the protector and promulgator of the liberal international order, but this may not be entirely true.

The US, it is argued, renewed the liberal international order after the end of the Second World War. Liberal theorist of international relations, John Ikenberry, in his essay The End of liberal international order? argues that “ for seven decades the world has been dominated by a western liberal order.” It suggests that liberal values informed the US-led order during the bipolarity of the Cold war (Ikenberry uses Atlantic Liberal order for the same). However, if the international order led by the US had liberal underpinnings then it is difficult to explain why the US fostered good ties with Communist China during that era, toppled several democratically elected governments, improved relations with dictatorial regimes, such as the Shah of Iran, and armed the so-called fundamentalist groups like the Taliban. In essence, only under a realist framework can these acts be explained. In his essay Bound to Fail: The Rise and Fall of Liberal International Order, John Mearsheimer—a realist scholar of international relations, argues that the order led by the US during the Cold war was “neither international nor liberal. It was a bounded order that was limited to the West and was a realist in its all-key dimensions.” Essentially, it means that via this bounded order, the US and its allies wanted to pursue their ends by any means possible, liberal or illiberal alike. Moreover, it underscores that the liberal international order cannot emerge under a bipolar or multipolar political system, as under such circumstances, strategic competition undermines almost every liberal value. Thus, as realist scholars of IR argue, the liberal international order can only sprawl when the political system is unipolar, and the hegemonic power is a liberal democracy.

Indeed, when the international system was unipolar, and the hegemonic power was a liberal democracy (the US), the liberal international order sprawled. The years between the disintegration of the USSR and the global financial crisis of 2008 were the “golden years” of the liberal international order. The US, both passively and aggressively, spread liberal values, the liberal ethic attracted large masses around the world, and liberal economics progressed. As Ikenberry writes, “at the end of the Twentieth century, liberal democracies dominated the world—commanding 80% of the global GNP.” However, this “golden period” also led to the rise of China, and Russia regained its geopolitical status. With this, the US



“The liberal international order underpinned by liberal principles is not as extraordinary as the West often puts it. The order’s quest to remake the world with the help of liberal democracies may bear desirable outcomes for a short period, but in the long run, it produces self-defeating results. The assumption made by many liberal proponents that liberal values will hold centre stage in most societies has fallen flat during the current crisis

lost its hegemonic position, the international system became multipolar, and eventually, the liberal international order faced a crisis. As such, the current challenges to the order is due to the results it has produced.

During the golden years of the liberal international order, one of the ideas that emerged among the liberal circles was liberal interventionism. By virtue of liberal interventionism, liberal states would intervene in the internal affairs of other nation-states to promote liberal principles. Liberal interventionism was put to effect by the US and its allies in the Iraq war. On the pretext of ensuring world peace, the US invaded Iraq, toppled Saddam Hussein’s regime and caused the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians. The US invasion also gave birth to terrorist factions, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which have caused much destruction to Iraq. Not only has ISIL left Iraq devastated, but the group which was a result of the US’s actions has led to anti-Muslim bigotry in the West. Other than Iraq, the US also intervened in Libya to promote democracy, which resulted in a decade long crisis in the country. Undoubtedly, the results that liberal interventionism has produced has led many people to adopt anti-liberal views and staunch support for their own cultural/national values. However, the adoption of specific national values is also a result of another liberal phenomenon, interconnectedness.

The interconnectedness between different nation-states is essential to ensure free trade, and the phenomenon operates through the flow of capital and people between these states. For many years, almost every individual enjoyed equal rights in most liberal states. However, more recently, the clash of values among different groups has led to a sudden surge of right-wing groups in liberal states, which has further led to xenophobia and the undermining of liberal values. France provides the best example of this phenomenon as there is an evident clash of values between French Muslims and French Secularists. The French government has adopted

several measures to force the former to comply with French ideals and principles. Thus, national values have been given precedence over liberal ones. Conclusively, interconnectedness has fueled parochial nationalism and disregard for individual rights.

The clash of values has also proved detrimental to the growth of liberal democracies in non-western societies. Non-western societies view liberal values as a European product and the result of its certain socio-historical realities. According to Hamza Tzortzis, a Muslim researcher, “ the claim by some liberal ideologues is that Liberalism is universal; however, there are some philosophical issues with this line of thought. Firstly it is a logical fallacy to take something specific and make it general.” As such, there is a rejection of western liberal values in many non-western societies. And any superimposition of liberal values backfires as people tend to adopt more anti-liberal attitudes. With rising illiberal attitudes, the liberal international order cannot survive for long.

The liberal international order underpinned by liberal principles is not as extraordinary as the West often puts it. The order’s quest to remake the world with the help of liberal democracies may bear desirable outcomes for a short period, but in the long run, it produces self-defeating results. The assumption made by many liberal proponents that liberal values will hold centre stage in most societies has fallen flat during the current crisis. In essence, liberal political ideology is as strong as any other ideology. Only during a crisis can any ideology’s weak theoretical and philosophical underpinnings be identified, and nowadays, liberalism is revealing its own weaknesses.

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

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Don’t Ring the School Bell Yet

RECENTLY, the Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) asked the government to reopen the schools that have been shut for two and a half years. They argued that J&K was adequately vaccinated and it was safe to open schools now. They also highlighted how, in Kashmir, schools have functioned sub optimally since 2019.

While the associations concerns aren’t misplaced, they seem too optimistic. Ever since the second wave of covid-19, Kashmir has witnessed two significant spikes in covid-19

cases. Both times, stringent lockdowns were imposed in micro containment zones and that was how they were contained. Srinagar still gets more than 50 cases of Covid-19 everyday. Many civil society members have also raised alarms owing to a increase in SOS calls. Similarly, health care workers have also cautioned India. They believe that even when it is remarkable that India has vaccinated 27% of its population, the numbers shouldn’t make us too optimistic. Even in countries with a very high level of vaccination such as UK, covid-19 cases have seen a

spike. While spike doesn’t necessarily mean increase in fatality rate as well but it might not make much of a difference that 27% of people in India are vaccinated. It is very likely for India to witness a third wave of covid-19. Infact, there are reports that an advisory for booster shots may also be in the offing.

J&K has managed to give 68% of its adult population both the doses of covid-19 vaccine and Srinagar has performed quite well in terms of vaccinating its population. Even then it doesn’t seem like a good idea to open schools just yet especially in the

avoidable months of winter. Winter months don’t allow scope for ventilation and in schools, ventilation is a must to avoid the spread of covid-19.

Besides, many families are erratically vaccinated. The young aren’t vaccinated and run the risk of bringing covid to their households.

We’re two years into the pandemic now and have learnt navigating and adjusting with it adequately. Let’s not rush. We can wait for more clarity and a better time to go back to schools.

Hameem Qureshi



# Nasrullah: Life and Times of Kashmiri Activist

From exposing an erring J&K High Court Chief Justice to fighting pitched battles for student welfare, a downtowner became privy to many tumultuous events in Kashmir with his 600-odd petitions in the fifty-long years of activism.

Zaid Bin Shabir

His pessimist idea of societal apathy aside, Nasrullah's PIL has perhaps created a new hope of existence for major wetlands of the valley. His petitions on conservation of Chandhara wetland in Pampore and Narkara wetland in Budgam have proved triumphant in creating a "protection" for these wetlands. His other PIL ensured conservation and cleanliness drive of the Gilsar Lake

The serenity of the Chinar-dotted Syedpora locality in Srinagar is getting wasted by the strong stench emanating from the nearby Achan dumping yard. The bad air makes it some infested industrial area—driving departures as well as distress sales.

But while natives sound disgruntled about it, a septuagenarian stenographer of yore sporting cap and goggles is fighting the rot with his activism.

However, in the neighbourhood's pale dliveless, Nasrullah's environmental crusade—including unearthing many buried water springs of Srinagar—is hardly making any whisper around.

Inside his office, where he helps people with judicial documentation, Nasrullah's godfather-driven dialogue delivery makes him one of the rare old-timers who pitched battles with the powers of the day. That upfront nature, with which he stirred up a storm against the Chief Justice of J&K High court in 1984, is still there at the supposed senile age.

Perceived as an active antagonist, Nasrullah always remained at the forefront—raising and objecting certain questionable decisions of the state, that were termed "partial" in nature.

On the heels of the armed upheaval build up in the valley, the activist became the pen and policy for the Judicial Employees Association, which within a period of twelve months evolved to achieve the status of a confederation—Employees and Workers Confederation.

But the growing "bureaucratic paperwork" in the state later denounced Nasrullah's activism as too idealist and quite convincingly wrote him and his confederation off, while taking major decisions for the valley without entertaining their fact-findings. This hardly discouraged the defiant downtowner.

Later, when the government introduced a brazen suspension order in the state, Nasrullah was the first person to voice his concern which turned out to be his formal jump into Kashmir's activism arena and also created one of the underrated moments in the dusty archaics of Kashmir.

When Jagmohan came as a "nurse orderly" in 1990, he suspended five government employees—including the then Tourism Secretary to the Government Naehm Akhtar, Power chief Abdul Hameed Matoo, General Manager of J&K Bank Abdul Rasheed Mubarki, Director Handicrafts, Muzaffar and M D JK Cements, Tajamul—for their "threat to state" activities.

"Our first demand was quite clear," Nasrullah recalls the historic protest with a rapt clarity, "immediate reinstatement of five suspended employees."

It was at the same time when Dr. Abdul Ahad Guru, a renowned Kashmiri medic with a certain political affiliation was booked under Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act (TADA) and jailed.

Amid the protest, Nasrullah contested the charges that were framed against Dr. Guru and concluded, 'the charges framed by the state against the celebrated cardiologist were highly objectionable'.

"His trial was vitiated and that was what motivated our second demand — Dr. Guru's early release. And if failed to do so, then the Jagmohan regime would have to suffer serious repercussions."

His band of protesters marched the valley roads undeterred and started challenging the standing institutions of the state for days. It was perhaps the same resilience that fuelled the protest for seventy-two consecutive days.

Amid the growing massacres and mass movement of employees in the valley, Jagmohan was removed from Raj Bhavan and replaced by Girish Chandra Saxena. "If Jagmohan was a political hard-nut, then Saxena's was a security strategist," Nasrullah reckons.

After Jagmohan's unceremonious farewell, Saxena had to deal with an unprecedented situation where Kashmir's civil secretariat was shut down. Employees who had never taken part in anti-government protests were protesting and the



traditional darbar-move had to be cancelled.

But soon, Nasrullah received a sensational volunteerism prize. The Saxena government reinstated the five suspended employees, quashed Dr. Guru's TADA and freed him from confinement.

"One must understand that it isn't the days of protest that matters but what matters is the unity of people standing against the wrongdoings of any individual or a group," Nasrullah says with a bleak smile. "And it becomes impossible for any regime



But more than his anti-government policy campaign, Nasrullah created a name as an environmental activist

to target the united group."

But Nasrullah's sensational "action/reaction" activism didn't just end or start there.

In 1984, he was the first petitioner who had shot a writ petition to Supreme Court's Chief Justice, Yeshwant Vishnu Chandrachud, asking him to set up an enquiry into the alleged employment scam by the then J&K High Court Chief Justice, Adarsh-Sen Anand, a local from Jammu.

Nasrullah's vocal advocacy against Anand created rage in the Justice's Jammu hometown.

"That protest against Anand was quite a landmark," he says. "He had appointed nine people, all from Jammu and perhaps his relatives, in Government jobs, without issuing any public advertisement about the job openings. As a person belonging to judiciary, I had understood it quite early that Anand had toyed not just with everyone in Kashmir but even with his own Jammu people."

Fearing protests, Anand wanted his associates to keep the fly-by-night Nasrullah and his band in check. His paranoia was deep rooted in the realisation of how his own clansmen—with whom he had toyed by issuing government jobs without considering them—were trying to adhere to Kashmir's policy of a vocal uprising against infringement.

As the judicial rebellion against Anand started disseminating in the valley, he faced ire in his hometown. "The strike by Judiciary members against Anand kept on thriving and within a few days, I along with other protesting members went to Delhi to meet several parliamentarians including Communist Party of India's leader, Indrajit Gupta," Nasrullah recalls.

A few days later, when the anger against Anand peaked in the valley, Gupta filed an impeachment motion against the erring justice in the Supreme Court of India. The apex court ordered an enquiry bench of three judges to look into the matter and announce a verdict at the earliest.

"Our struggle against Chief Justice Anand wasn't just remarkable because of the unity of judiciary members from Kashmir and Jammu, but it was also a landmark in my career because my struggle to bring down an authoritative person proved worthwhile," Nasrullah says.

Later, when Anand tried to challenge the Supreme Court's order, Nasrullah's in-place writ petition saved the day. In his writ petition, Nasrullah had concluded that "Anand's career was a 'cock and bull' story and that he had no constitutional basis to uphold a Judge's stature".

By a fortnight after the impeachment was filed against Anand, the three Supreme Court Judges—Justice Kuchay, Justice Motilal Bhat and Justice Razvi—announced their verdict against their tribesman, Anand.

"The three-bench jury declared that accused justice was to be transferred from J&K High Court within six weeks of the order," Nasrullah recalls the Supreme Court's verdict. "It was because of our mass movement that Anand's powers were so downgraded, leaving aside a professional job, he couldn't even appoint a 'chaprasi' on his own."

Standing vocal against malpractices, is what Nasrullah, 72, has been doing throughout his five decade old public life. He's mostly known for his Public Interest Litigation (PIL) pleadings against red-tapism.

Born in 1949, in a humble family from Zoonimar area of Srinagar, Nasrullah completed his schooling from Islamia High School before earning his graduation in Commerce from Islamia College. His active campus played a huge role in shaping his activism.

"Activism should always come from the inside," he says. "And that was the case with me. I always wanted to do activism."

Out of campus, he grew more as a political activist than a government employee campaigner. And for that he paid through his nose.

Soon after joining the Judiciary as a stenographer in 1967, he faced threats for being a vocal critic and campaigner against the prevailing red-tapism in the "authoritative" administration of the valley. Perceived as a sparkplug, he was shortly sidelined.

In 1971, when he was dramatically transferred from Baramulla to Poonch, Nasrullah filed a petition demanding an explanation from government for his transfer. "I didn't ask them to transfer me back, but I wanted to know the reason behind my transfer," he says.

It was his first ever jibe against the government —

"because demanding an explanation against a transfer order hasn't ever been recorded before that."

One of the major highlights of his activism career came in the early days of the armed upheaval when he was taken as one of the hostages to a hideout in Bataloo. His vocal activism had fared on militant radar.

On reaching the hideout, the hostages—the government employees—were asked to remain tight-lipped until 'Bab' came.

Things soon turned out to be interesting when "Bab" arrived at the scene. It was Kabir Sheikh, Hameed Sheikh's father. Hameed was the proscribed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front's founding member.

"You idiots...how dare you bring them here?" Kabir Sheikh had yelled at the young guns as per the activist. "This man and his team's activism are known to all." In pre-militancy days, Kabir and Nasrullah would regularly see and greet each other near Hotel Standard.

"Activism, especially in Kashmir, comes with a price," Nasrullah says. "For one you're a hero and for others you're a threat. Perhaps, as an activist, Kashmir's 1990s political turmoil explains it quite aptly."

By the time of his retirement as a Chief Administrative Officer in 2007, Nasrullah had become an activism-hardened campaigner. He kept fighting for some crucial issues.

In 2012, when rot surfaced in the much-touted Prime Minister's Scholarship for Kashmiri students, Nasrullah left for Delhi to fight the case of the "deprived" students. Through his friend, Ahmed Patel, he managed a meeting with Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh.

"Singh calmly heard all the grievances and made some angry calls to ensure the scholarship for Kashmiri students released on priority basis," the activist says. "Unlike the present day government, Congress politicians knew the art of dealing with activists."

But more than his anti-government policy campaign, Nasrullah created a name as an environmental activist. By aiding hundreds of petitions filed on environment conservation, especially the wetlands of Kashmir, Nasrullah won many landmark cases in the High Court of J&K.

One of the accolades that Nasrullah received in recent times was the apex court decision on conservation of Hokersar wetland—that had languished with pollution for the last two decades.

Besides providing free legal aid to people supporting his "Conserve environment" cause, he had been providing free of cost documentation to the "weaker" sections fighting courtroom battles against the rigid regime.

"As a society that depends upon nature, we've failed to understand the importance of why the environment needs to be conserved," says Nasrullah. "Getting old is the second biggest surprise of my life, but the first, by a mile, is our unceasing no sense of environmental conservation."

In fact, Nasrullah attributes his over 600 PILs to the grave state of affairs in Kashmir including encroachment and destruction of wetlands. "For us, streams are our own property," he says. "That shows what meager eco-sense we carry. This environment is a National wealth and we've no right to hurt it."

His pessimist idea of societal apathy aside, Nasrullah's PIL has perhaps created a new hope of existence for major wetlands of the valley. His petitions on conservation of Chandhara wetland in Pampore and Narkara wetland in Budgam have proved triumphant in creating a "protection" for these wetlands. His other PIL ensured conservation and cleanliness drive of the Gilsar Lake.

But he's still nostalgic about the times when he was an activist by day and a stenographer by night. Back then, as Delhi discreetly sent a Trehgam man to gallows in Tihar, he spearheaded a band of administrative protesterson Srinagar streets.

"Those days a person instituted as a junior assistant in any government department would retire only as a junior assistant," he says. "I wanted to change that and that's why led a protest march against it."

The struggle that started in 1984 finally ended in 2003—when the service rules were changed. It only vindicated Nasrullah's stand and made him the activist for a reason.

The author is a special correspondent at Kashmir Observer. He tweets @Zaidbinshabir



# Cultural groups can be revealed by people’s laughter: Study

Agencies

According to researchers from the University of Amsterdam with international colleagues, it has been observed that people can infer someone's cultural group from their laughter.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Philosophical Transactions B'. The study included Dutch and Japanese producers of laughter and listeners. Listeners could detect whether a laughing person is from their own or another cultural group by only hearing a brief laughter segment. Spontaneous laughter was rated as most positive by both groups.

Laughter is a strong nonverbal vocalisation, which is frequently used to signal affiliation, reward, or cooperative intent, and often helps to maintain and strengthen social bonds. An important distinction is between spontaneous and voluntary laughter.

Spontaneous laughter is typically an uncontrolled reaction, for instance to hilarious jokes, and includes hard-to-fake acoustic features. Voluntary laughter is produced by purposefully modulating vocal output, for



instance for a preening boss, reflecting a more deliberate communicative act like conveying polite agreement.

Recent research suggests that we are better able to identify individual speakers based on voluntary laughter than on spontaneous laughter. Voluntary laughter, being produced with greater vocal control, would encode more reliable information about the producer.

Furthermore, emotional expressive styles like laughter systematically differ across cultural groups. These differences are notable to listeners,

making perceivers more accurate in recognising emotions from vocal expressions produced by individuals from their own cultural group as compared to others.

Researchers from the University of Amsterdam with international colleagues build on this work and examined whether laughter type influences the identification not only of individuals but also of groups. Specifically, they tested if it holds true that group membership is easier to identify from voluntary than from spontaneous laughter. They

furthermore explored how the perceived positivity of laughter differs between the two types of laughter across cultures, with the expectation that spontaneous laughter might sound more positive. In their study, the researchers employed laughter clips that were spontaneously or voluntarily produced by Dutch and Japanese individuals. Dutch (n = 273) and Japanese (n = 131) participants listened to these decontextualised laughter clips and:

1. Judged whether the laughing person was from their cultural in-group or an out-group

2. Judged whether they thought the laughter was produced spontaneously or voluntarily

3. Rated the positivity of each laughter clip

Analysing these data, the authors find that listeners were able to detect group membership from both spontaneous and voluntary laughter, and equally well. Spontaneous laughter was rated as more positive than voluntary laughter across the two cultures, and in-group laughs were perceived as more positive than out-group laughs by Dutch but not Japanese listeners.

# Covid lockdown in India didn't cut air pollution as much as thought: Study

Press Trust Of India

Air quality in India did not improve as much during the first COVID-19 lockdown as originally thought, according to a study which found that ozone levels increased even as other pollutants decreased.

The researchers at York University in Canada noted that observational data shows air pollution in India decreased drastically in the first COVID-19 lockdown last year when emissions from vehicles naturally declined.

However, they noted that blue skies and an absence of visible smog can be deceiving and hide pollutants that could potentially cause health issues.

The study, published in the journal Environmental Science: Processes and Impacts, found that some air pollutants didn't drop nearly as much as first thought and even more surprising was that ozone levels increased even as other pollutants decreased.

The air looked much cleaner, but that allowed more sunshine to get through, creating conditions for ozone (O3) to increase up to 30 per cent, according to the researchers.

"Our research shows the decline in local emissions had less influence on the decrease in air pollutants than first thought," said Leigh Crilley, a postdoctoral researcher at York University.

"To accurately quantify the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on air pollutant levels, meteorology and atmospheric chemistry needs to be considered in addition to emissions," Crilley said.

The study focussed on nitrogen oxides (NOx), fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and O3, as well as meteorological factors within two cities in India – Delhi and Hyderabad – during the start of the first lockdown, from March 24 to April 24, 2020.

Air pollution is a known health risk and India has some of the worst air pollution globally resulting in a disproportionately high level of mortality and disease, the researchers said.

It is estimated that air pollution exposure, particularly PM2.5, resulted in the premature death of 1.27 million people in 2017, they said.

The researchers used hourly data from air quality monitoring stations for levels of PM2.5, NOx and O3, and hourly meteorological

and visibility data.

They compared that data to the same dates from the previous three years to evaluate changes due to the lockdown. When only taking observational data into account, NOx and PM2.5 levels fell by up to 57 per cent and 75 per cent respectively, the researchers said.

However, when meteorology was factored in, those percentages fell to less than 8 per cent for PM2.5 and between five and 30 per cent in both cities, while O3 increased, they said.

The researchers found that local sources of emissions, such as vehicles and the burning of fuels, had less influence on air pollution levels than regional emissions sources, while weather events and atmospheric chemical processes contributed independently to air pollutant levels.

"We demonstrate that regional sources, such as rural and agriculturally based emissions, that may have been less affected by the lockdown, have a significant influence on PM2.5 levels in Delhi and Hyderabad after weather-normalisation," said Cora Young, Associate Professor at York University.

# ‘Stroke might be initial sign of cardiovascular disease among some smokers’

Agencies

Death from a heart attack or stroke may be the first cardiovascular disease (CVD) event in some people who smoke cigarettes and CVD is the leading adverse health effect among smokers, according to new research.

The findings of the study were published in the Journal of the American Heart Association, an open-access journal of the American Heart Association.

Decades of research links cigarette smoking to premature death caused by cardiovascular disease and other diseases such as lung cancer. According to the American Heart Association's Heart and Stroke Statistical Update 2021, more than 480,000 US adults die each year from cigarette smoking.

Despite increasing awareness about the health benefits of quitting smoking, more than 34 million adults in the United States still smoke cigarettes.

"There is often more awareness and concern about cancer as a result of smoking than heart disease, so we wanted to better define the

risks of smoking-related to different types of cardiovascular disease and, most importantly, to cardiovascular death," said lead study author Sadiya S. Kahn, MD, M Sc, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of cardiology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago.

Khan added, "In our analysis, even after adjusting for deaths not related to the heart, such as those due to lung cancer, we found that fatal or non-fatal events related to cardiovascular disease are more likely to occur among people who smoke."

The researchers pooled data from nine long-term cohort studies in the US to evaluate multiple lifestyle factors as well as cardiovascular and other health outcomes. The analysis included data from 106,165 adults (50.4 per cent women; 16.2 per cent Black adults; 50.1 per cent cigarette smokers) between the ages of 20 and 79, who were free of cardiovascular disease at the start of the studies.

The new analysis categorized participants by smoking status (either yes or no, self-reported at study enrollment); age (young: 20

to 39 years of age; middle-aged: 40 to 59; and older: 60 to 79); and sex.

Using the combined data, researchers estimated the number of years lived with and without cardiovascular disease according to smoking status and then examined the association between smoking and cardiovascular events after accounting for death from other diseases such as lung cancer. Adjustments were made for age, race, body mass index (BMI), blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

The follow-up time for study participants ranged from 10 to 25 years.

The biggest differences in risks and in deaths between the participants who smoked and those who didn't smoke occurred during middle age. The analysis found:

1. Middle-aged women who smoked were nearly twice as likely as non-smoking women to have a fatal CVD event as their first sign of CVD.

2. Middle-aged men who smoked had a 79 per cent chance of having a fatal CVD event as their first sign of cardiovascular disease - about 1.5 times more likely compared to middle-aged men who did not smoke.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Anantnag

Telephone/ Fax 01932-222559 email id: xenmedang@gmail.com

TENDER DOCUMENT

(Abstract)

01. Contract	Supply of spares required for repairs of Snow Cat 8th (Preet 90 HP) of Mechanical Field Sub Division Pulwama.
02. Reference of NIT	MDA/TS/E-Tender/111 of 2021-22 dated: 16-11-2021
03. Time of Completion of Contract	03 days
04. Position of funds	Available
05. Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	21450.00
06. Cost of tender documents	200.00 In shape of E- Challan/GR to be uploaded in the online bid Bank: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Branch: T. P. Anantnag IFSC: JAKAOEMPIRE Account No: 0014010100006015
07. Bid Security Declaration	To be submitted with BOQ
08. Online tender download/ start date	16-11-2021 (5:00 PM)
09. Online tender submission End Date	24-11-2021 (02:00 PM)
10. Date and time of opening of Technical Bid online (Cover 1st)	25-11-2021 (02:00 PM) in Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, (MED), Anantnag.
11. Date and time of opening of Financial Bid online (Cover 2nd)	After evaluation of cover 1st in Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division, (MED), Anantnag.

Gist of E-TENDER

No: MDA/TS/E-Tender/111 of 2021-22 Dated: 16-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Anantnag, invites E-Tenders in two cover system on item wise basis from reputed and registered firms/Workshop holders or Mechanical contractors for the following work:

S. No	Name of work	Estt. cost (In Rs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs)	Bid Security Declaration	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
1	Supply of spares required for repairs of Snow Cat 8th (Preet 90 HP) of Mechanical Field Sub Division Pulwama.	21450.00	200.00	To be submitted with BOQ	03 days	Accorded	Yes

The tender documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of quantities (BOQ), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from Government website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given in the "Abstract" appended to this notice:

Instructions to Bidders:

01. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format with digital signature on the official website www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers ; viz Technical- Commercial/ Financial cover

Cover 1st shall contain:

1.1 Bid security Declaration duly signed by the contractor/ Firm has to be uploaded in lieu Of CDR, as annexure "C", without which tender cannot be entertained

1.1.2 Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST No.

1.1.3 Scanned copies of PAN Card/ GST Registration/ latest GST Clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.

1.1.4 Scanned copies of the Annexure "A", & "B" duly signed and accepted.

1.1.5 Scanned copy of E- Challan/GR/DD etc. for an amount of Rs.200/- duly signed with date.

Cover 2nd shall contain:

1.2 Price bid, as per BOQ uploaded by this Department/Division.

1.2.1 The Department/ Division will not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reason.

03. The cost of tender documents is Non- Refundable and Non- Transferable.

No: MDA/TS-956/ 4823-27

Dated: 16-11-2021

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Anantnag

DIPK-13007/21

E-mail:- techrbpul786@gmail.com  
Phone:-01933-295302

Government of Jammu & Kashmir(UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No :Fresh-301/EEP/RNB/of 2021-22/10473-83

Dated: 20/11/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Approval No:
1	Construction of interlocking tile from H/O Late Bashir Ahmad Sofi to Ishthiyag Ahmad Mujoo Ward no 14, 15 at MC Pampore.	4.10	200/-	20 Working Days	DEE	UDS	139-DDCP of 2021 Dated: 02.08.2021

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20/11/2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20/11/2021 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20/11/2021 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	26/11/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26/11/2021 at 4:30.00 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest bidder has to provide 3% of Contract Value Cost as Performance Security instead of EMD within 3 days after opening of Financial Bid)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and Bid securing declaration instead of EMD as per format Annexure-A below on Letter Head of Contractor/Agency/Firm in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders .gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

DIPK-13119/21

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING ANANTNAG

E-Tender Notice No: 165 of 2021-22 Dated: 13-11-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of the Work	Estimat-ed/ Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of Tender Docu-ments	Class of Con-tract	Time for Comple-tion	Major Head
1	C/O Fencing around panchayat ghar HP Bagh Block Bijbehara	2.70	200.00	DEE	30 days	
2	C/O Tile lane from H/O M.Yousf shah to onwards Loktipora hafizabad Block Bijbehara	2.40	200.00	DEE	30 days	
3	C/O Cement concrete lane from main road to dal Marhama A Block Bijbehara	2.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	
4	C/O Drain from main road to maqbool ganaie onwards Rakhi hassanpora Block Bijbehara	2.30	200.00	DEE	30 days	
5	Lane from jamia masjid shareef herpora to bypass mohd yousf reshi and shaban ganaie waghama herpora Block Bijbehara	2.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	
6	Drain from HO ALI Ganaie to spring nagard at wopzan Block Bijbehara	2.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	
7	Link road from bridge to mohd shaban khuro Adder Block Bijbehara	2.00	200.00	DEE	30 days	

Position of A/A: Accorded

Position of T/S: Accorded

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.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13-11-2021
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	13-11-2021 from 06:00 pm
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	26-11-2021 upto 06:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	28-11-2021 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Anantnag
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt and Bid Security Self Declaration Form shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Tender Document Fee Receipt and Bid Security Self Declaration Form is not Deposited within 2 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders who have participated online, the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.	

1. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Anantnag (tender receiving authority).

2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids

3. The LI is required to deposit a Performance Security @ 3% of advertised value in the shape of CDR in favour of allotting authority (Executive Engineer REW Anantnag) at the time of finalization of allotment/ agreement with the Department.

4. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

4.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

4.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

13 The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

14 All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

DIPK-13054/21

No. REW-A/WS/NIT/2021-22/12491-500

Dated: 13-11-2021

Sd- Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Anantnag



## Joint Account Not Mandatory For Spouse Pension, Says Govt

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A joint bank account is not mandatory for spouse pension, the government said on Saturday.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh said the Narendra Modi government has always sought "ease of living" for all sections of society including retirees and pensioners who are the nation's assets with all their experience and long years of service.

He said in case the head of office is satisfied that it is not possible for the retiring government servant to open a joint account with his or her spouse for reasons beyond his or her control, this requirement may be relaxed, an official statement said.

"All banks disbursing Central government pension have been advised that in case the spouse (family pensioner) opts for the existing joint bank account for credit of family pension, banks should not insist on opening a new account," it said.

A joint bank account with



spouse is however desirable and it is to be opened with their spouse in whose favour an authorisation for family pension exists in the Pension Payment Order (PPO), said the statement issued by the personnel ministry.

Operation in these accounts would be on "former or survivor" or "either or survivor" basis as desired by the pensioner, Singh said.

The reason for opening of joint bank account is to ensure that family pension may be commenced without any delay and the family pensioner is not subjected to any hardships for opening of a new pension bank account, the statement said.

This also ensures minimum documentation for the family pensioner while submitting request for commencement of family pension, it said.

## Investors Bet Big On SIPs; Inflows At Rs 67,000 Crore In Apr-Oct FY22

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Inflows in the mutual fund industry through systematic investment plans or SIPs reached close to Rs 67,000 crore in the first seven months of the ongoing fiscal, suggesting growing popularity of the route for investment among retail investors.

This comes following an inflow of Rs 96,080 crore through the route in 2020-21, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

Moreover, mutual fund SIP contribution has seen more than two-fold rise during the last five years. It was at Rs 43,921 crore during 2016-17.

Also, the monthly collection through SIP surged to an all-time high of Rs 10,519 crore in October, higher than Rs 10,351 crore in September.

Further, SIPs' assets under management (AUM) climbed to Rs 5.53 lakh crore at the end of October from Rs 4.28 lakh crore in March-end.

Over the past five years, SIP AUM has grown 30 per cent annually, twice as fast as the growth in the overall mutual fund industry's assets base.

The number of new SIPs registered was 23.83 lakh in October. Total registrations reached to 1.5 crore in the first seven months (April-October) of the current fiscal 2021-22. This was way higher than the 1.41 crore new SIP registrations in the entire preceding financial year.

Currently, mutual funds have about 4.64 crore SIP accounts



through which investors regularly invest in mutual fund schemes.

"Staggered investment approach (via SIP or STP) in equity markets seems the ultimate solution to ride the wave of uncertainty as corrections would bring down the average cost of your total investments or in case the bull run continues, investor would not lose out on opportunity cost," said Akshat Garg, Manager, Research at Investica, platform for investing in mutual funds.

SIP is an investment methodology offered by mutual funds wherein an individual saver can invest a fixed amount in a chosen scheme periodically at fixed intervals — say once a month, instead of making a lump-sum investment.

The SIP instalment amount can be as small as Rs 500 per month.

According to Amfi, SIPs have been gaining popularity among Indian savers, as it helps in rupee cost averaging and investing in a disciplined manner without worrying about market volatility or timing the market.

The 45-player mutual fund industry mainly depends on SIPs for inflows, with equity mutual funds attracting Rs 5,215 crore in October, making it the eighth consecutive monthly infusion.

## Vulnerability In PNB Server Exposed Customer Data For About 7 Months: CyberX9

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A vulnerability in the server of Punjab National Bank allegedly exposed the personal and financial information of its about 180 million customers for about seven months, according to cyber security firm CyberX9.

CyberX9 has claimed that the vulnerability provided access to the entire digital banking system of PNB with administrative control.

Meanwhile, the bank has confirmed the glitch but denied any exposure of critical data due to the vulnerability.

PNB said "customer data/applications are not affected due to this" and "server has been shut down as a precautionary measure".

"Punjab National Bank kept severely compromising the security of funds, personal and financial information of over 180 million (all) its customers for about the last 7 months. PNB only woke up and fixed the vulnerability when CyberX9 discovered the vulnerability and notified PNB through CERT-In and NCIIPC," CyberX9 founder and MD Himanshu Pathak told PTI.

He said CyberX9 research team discovered a very critical security issue in PNB which was leading to admin access to internal servers hence exposing a massive number of banks' systems nationwide open for



cyber-attacks for the last about seven months.

Pathak said that vulnerability was found in an exchange server which is interconnected with other exchanges and shares all access—including access to all email addresses which results in access to all email addresses.

"The vulnerability which we discovered was leading to the highest level of admin privilege in PNB's exchange servers. If you gain access to Domain Controller through an exchange server then the doors very easily open to make any computer accessible in the network.

"These computers even include those that are being used in their branches and other departments," Pathak said.

When contacted, PNB said the server in which the vulnerability was found had no sensitive or critical data.

"The server wherein the vulnerability was reported, was being used as one of the mul-

multiple Exchange Hybrid servers used to route emails from On-prem to Office 365 Cloud. There is no sensitive/critical data in this server," PNB said.

PNB denied CyberX9 claim on impact of the vulnerability on customer's data.

"The server is in a separate VLAN segment and customer data/applications are not affected due to this. Vulnerability assessments and penetration testing is done periodically by external Cert-in empanelled Information Security Auditors and the observations are complied with.

Now this server has been shut down as a precautionary measure," PNB said.

According to CyberX9, the vulnerability was mitigated on November 19, and it reported the incident to Indian cyber security watchdog Cert-In and National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC).

## Finance Ministry Notifies 12% GST Rate On MMF, Yarn, Fabrics From Jan 1; Corrects Duty Anomaly

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The finance ministry has notified uniform 12 per cent GST rate on manmade fibre (MMF), yarn, fabrics and apparel, thereby addressing the inverted tax structure in the MMF textile value chain.

Currently, tax rate on MMF, MMF yarn and MMF fabrics is 18 per cent, 12 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

The taxation of inputs at higher rates than finished products created build up of credits and cascading costs. It further led to accumulation of taxes at various stages of the MMF value chain and blockage of crucial working capital for the industry.

The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state finance ministers, had in its previous meeting on September 17 decided that the inverted duty anomalies in the textile sector would be corrected from January 1, 2022.

Giving effect to this decision, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on November 18 notified 12 per



cent GST rate for MMF, MMF yarn and MMF fabrics.

Experts said though there is a provision in GST law to claim the unutilised Input Tax Credit (ITC) as a refund, there were other complications and resulted in more compliance burden. The inverted tax structure caused an effective increase in the rate of taxation of the sector.

The world textiles trade has been moving towards MMF but India was not able to take ad-

vantage of the trend as its MMF segment was throttled by the inverted tax regime, they said, adding the correction in duty anomaly will help the segment grow and emerge as a big job provider.

EY Tax Partner Bipin Sapra said the rate changes in the textile industry is the first of the changes promised by the GST Council with an aim to rectify inverted duty structure and bring an efficient tax structure for a given sector.

## Maruti To Put Diesel Vehicles On Backburner Over Stricter Emission Norms



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has ruled out getting back into the diesel segment as it believes sale of such vehicles would further come down with the onset of the next phase of emission norms in 2023, according to a senior company official.

The country's largest carmaker believes the next phase of emission norms would jack up the cost of diesel vehicles, thus further impacting their sales in the market which for the last few years has seen a gradual shift towards petrol cars.

"We are not going to be in the diesel space. We had indicated earlier that we will study it and if there is customer demand we can make a comeback. But going forward, we will not be participating in the diesel space," MSI chief technical officer C V Raman said.

He cited the upcoming stricter emission norms as a primary rea-

son to avoid diesel-powered cars.

"In 2023 the new phase of emission norms will come which is likely to drive up the cost. So we believe that diesel percentages may further come down. We do not know about the competition but as MSI we do not have any intention to participate in the diesel space," Mr Raman noted.

As per industry estimates, the share of diesel vehicles is currently less than 17 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle (PV) sales. It is a massive reduction from 2013-14 when diesel cars used to account for 60 per cent of the overall sales.

Already many of the automakers in the country have junked diesel trims of their respective portfolios with the onset of the BS-VI emission regime from April 1, 2020.

MSI had discontinued diesel models from its portfolio with the onset of the stricter BS-VI emission norms.

## Prolonged Suspension Of International Flights Impacting Airlines' Financial Health: Vistara

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** As the pandemic clouds slowly clear, Vistara on Sunday said a prolonged suspension of scheduled international flights to and from India is impacting the financial health of most airlines and also cautioned that it might be too early to conclude that the country's aviation sector is out of the woods.

The full-service carrier, which started flying to eight international destinations during the pandemic, has embraced a "nimble" approach amid the dynamic and unpredictable situation in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic as some countries are now witnessing rising infections.

Vistara CEO-designate Vinod Kannan said most predictions about recovery of the aviation industry have been proven wrong in these times of great unpredictability, and it might be too early to say that the Indian aviation industry is completely out of the woods.

On the domestic front, air traffic is nearing pre-COVID-19 levels and grew 70 per cent in October compared with the year-ago period.

"A prolonged suspension of scheduled international operations is definitely impacting the financial health of most airlines, thereby adding to the pressure (on the revenue)," he told PTI.

In an email interview, Kannan, who is currently the airline's chief commercial officer, said that though administration of vaccines across the globe has brought a lot of positivity and hope to the indus-



try, the situation continues to be dynamic and unpredictable.

With continuously evolving travel restrictions in different parts of the world, "recovery of demand in international segment still has a long way to go", he noted.

Scheduled international air services to and from India remain suspended since late March 2020 due to the pandemic. India has air bubble arrangements with more than 25 countries for operating overseas flights.

For now, the suspension is till November 30 and there is no clarity on normalisation as discussions are going on against the backdrop of spike in the number of coronavirus cases in some countries.

Earlier this week, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the "process" is being evaluated with respect to normalising overseas flight services.

During the pandemic, Vistara started flights to eight international destinations — London Heathrow, Dhaka, Dubai, Doha, Frankfurt, Sharjah, Mal, and Paris.

"The momentum we have gained in this period on the expansion of our international footprint has been rewarding, helping us introduce our product to new markets and cementing our brand presence to help us prepare for the restart of scheduled international operations," Kannan said.

## 'RBI Panel's Recommendations To Promote Orderly Growth Of Digital Lending'

Pres Trust Of India

**MUMBAI:** The recommendations made by the RBI working group on digital lending, including lending through online platforms and mobile apps, will promote orderly growth of sector, industry players said.

In a comprehensive report, the Working Group constituted by the RBI has made several recommendations, including a separate legislation to prevent illegal digital lending activities, subjecting digital lending apps to a verification process by a nodal agency and establishing a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) covering the participants in the digital lending ecosystem.

Emkay Global Financial Services in a note said the proposals appear to be largely constructive for the digital lending space and are on expected lines.

That said, the introduction of regulations may moderate the growth rate of digital loans, which have seen strong growth in a short term in countries like China and India (P2P), it said.



"However, the regulations would facilitate orderly growth in the long run, similar to MFIs post 2010. As of now, most buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) credit is onboarded on bank/ NBFC books," it added.

Commenting on the recommendations, V Swaminathan, CEO of Andromeda and Appnaisa, said that given the pace of expansion of digital lending, safeguarding the interest of consumers has now become the most important task for the authorities as well as industry players.

The RBI Working Group has rightly made a case for separate legislation to prevent illegal digital lending activities and a SRO covering

the participants in the digital lending ecosystem, he said.

"It has to be ensured that consumers do not lose faith in the players in the digital lending space. The Working Group has made important suggestions for growth of the sector," he said.

Welcoming the recommendations, the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) said SRO is the call of the hour in order to structure the industry and to set the rules for the Fintech members and consumers.

"We welcome the RBI's step to bring in higher standards of ethical behaviour and code of conduct for the digital lending platforms," it said.

Gaurav Chopra, founder and CEO of IndiaLends and founding member of Digital Lending Association of India (DLAI), believes that recommendations such as on auditable logs for every action that a user performs on the app will be a game changer for India's digital lending industry.

"It will demolish many existing loan sharks and curb unfair practices," he said, and added that the report seeks to safeguard consumers from unregulated digital lenders who have the potential to exploit borrowers with unfair or predatory terms.

Commenting on the report, Ankit Rata, co-founder and CEO of Signzy, said that if the recommendations are passed, it will not only help protect consumers but also restrict breaches of data privacy while curbing fraudulent transactions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had in January last constituted the working group under the chairmanship of Executive Director Jayant Kumar Dash on digital lending, including lending through online platforms and mobile apps.

E-mail:- techrbpu786@gmail.com | Phone:-01933-295302,  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
E-NIT No :- Fresh-302/EEP/RNB/of 2021-22/10484-94  
Dated: 20/11/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Time of Completion in Working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head/ Administrative Account of Accounts/Approval No.
1.	Construction of protection bund of kibal colony road near H.O of Asadullah Mir and other onwards at MC Awantipora	1.00	200/-	10 Working Days	DEE	UDS 139-DCGP of 2021 Dated: 02.08.2021
2.	Construction of lane by way of tiles from ADC office to H.O of farooq Ahmad Khan and other in ward no. 02, at MC Awantipora	1.00	200/-	10 Working Days	DEE	UDS 139-DCGP of 2021 Dated: 02.08.2021
3.	Construction of lane by way of tiles from old highway to H.O of Haji Gh Mohd. Bhat and others in ward no. 03, at MC Awantipora	1.02	200/-	10 Working Days	DEE	UDS 139-DCGP of 2021 Dated: 02.08.2021

The bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20/11/2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20/11/2021 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20/11/2021 from 10:00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	26/11/2021 upto 4:00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26/11/2021 at 4:30 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of L.O.A. (The First lowest bidder has to provide 3% of Contract Value Cost as Performance Security instead of EMD within 3 days after opening of Financial Bid)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and Bid securing declaration instead of EMD as per format Appendix-I below on Letter Head of Contractor/Agency/Firm in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

4. All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman  
DIPK-1312/21

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer,  
R&B Division Pulwama



## J&K Draw 1-1 In Santosh Trophy NFC Opener



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir senior men's football team was on Sunday held to a 1-1 draw against Chandigarh in its opening match of 75th Santosh Trophy National Football Championship (NFC) North Zone leg being played at Chandigarh.

Shakir gave J&K an early lead, scoring in the 7th minute of the match. J&K, however, failed to hold on to it and allowed Chandigarh to score the equal-

iser in the 37th minute through Surveen. The second half of the match saw both teams fail to find the back of the net. The match ended 1-1.

The draw will be a bitter pill for the formidable J&K team to swallow and all eyes will be on the coaching staff as J&K face Services next on Tuesday, November 23.

Chandigarh football team is led by chief coach Harjinder Singh, assisted by a Kashmiri senior coach Muzamil Mehmood.

## NIFF Lauds Kashmiri Head Coach Of Chandigarh Team

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K National and International Footballers Forum (NIFF) on Sunday lauded AFC 'B' License coach Muzamil Mehmood for his senior head coach role with Chandigarh football team. Ganderbal-born Muzamil's Chandigarh faced J&K in the opening match of the 75th Santosh Trophy.

NIFF in a statement said that Muzamil has made his debut as a head coach, and lauded his efforts to "help Chandigarh earn a 'monumental draw' against J&K".

"Muzamil Mehmood credited this opportunity to his mentor, international coach and educator, Sajid Yusuf. Speaking after the game he said that it's a matter of great respect that he was given this opportunity to lead the Chandigarh State team in Santosh



Trophy and would do his best for the team and players to do well," the NIFF statement added.

Chandigarh is hosting the North Zone leg of Santosh Trophy NFC.

## J&K's Alpine Skier To Compete In 2022 Beijing Olympics

- Only athlete from India to qualify for Beijing Olympics this year
- JKSC, others hail Tangmarg-born Arif Khan's feat

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** J&K's alpine skier Arif Khan has been heralded for securing a place in the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022. Hailing from Kashmir Valley's Tangmarg, Arif Khan confirmed his place in the games on the basis of exceptional display of skills in qualifying Alpine Skiing event held in Dubai recently.

Arif is the only athlete from the country to have qualified for Beijing Olympics this year. The Winter Olympic games are scheduled to be held from February 4 to 20 next year.

Complimenting Khan, Secretary Sports Council said that Arif has been a wonderful talent throughout his career. "With around 100 International events under his belt I am sure of his success. Riding on the experience that Arif has achieved over the years, I am hopeful of his grand show in the Olympics," she added.

Winter Games Association



tion of J&K (WGAJK) has also hailed Arif Khan for making it to Olympics and making whole country proud.

Mohammad Yousuf General

Secretary, J&K Winter Games Association said, "we are proud of him and it is a dream come true for he has been working very hard to reach this far".

## India Clean Sweep NZ, Win 3rd T20 By 73 Runs



Agencies

**KOLKATA:** India beat New Zealand by 73 runs in the third and final T20I to win the three-match series 3-0 at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Sunday.

After opting to bat, Rohit Sharma struck 56 off 31 balls while Ishan Kishan made 29 off 21 balls as India posted 184/7. Martin Gupthill's 51

off 36 balls went in vain as New Zealand could only manage 111-all out in 17.2 overs. Left-arm spinner Axar Patel was the pick of the Indian bowlers with three wickets.

Brief Scores: India: 184/7 in 20 overs (Rohit Sharma 56; Mitchell Santner 3/27); New Zealand: 111-all out in 17.2 overs (Martin Gupthill 51; Axar Patel 3/9).

## Hockey J&K Announce Squad For National Championship

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Hockey J&K on Sunday announced an 18-member squad for the upcoming 11th National Senior Men's Hockey Championship 2021 set to be played at Pune, Maharashtra from December 11 to December 22, 2021.

"The selection trials for J&K team were held from Nov. 12 to Nov. 14, 2021 at Green Field Play Ground, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. While the training camp of selected players is being held November 15 at the same venue," the Hockey J&K said in a statement.

"After intensive trials Ra-



jinder Singh Kuku, Chairman, Selection Committee announced the team J&K for the championship which included:

Satwant Singh (Captain), Prabhjot Singh, Karanjit

Singh, Navjot Singh, Balmeet Singh, Jaspreet Singh, Mohd. Hussain, Ranjeet Singh, Amit Singh, Suraj Singh, Sandeep Singh, Gurjot Singh, Manpreet Singh, Gagandeep Singh, Rajesh

Sharma, Ramandeep Singh, Prabhjot Singh, Gorrav Raina. Gurpreet Singh and Tejinder Singh will accompany the team as coach and manager respectively."

## Man United Sack Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Likely to name an interim boss

Agencies

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United sacked manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Sunday, a day after a 4-1 defeat by promoted Watford left the Old Trafford club seventh in the Premier League.

Former player Michael Carrick, a member of Solskjaer's coaching staff, will take charge of the United team for Tuesday's Champions League match away to Villarreal with the club saying they are now looking to appoint an interim manager to lead the side until the end of the season.

Norwegian Solskjaer had signed a three-year contract extension until 2024 in July but he was dismissed after United lost five of their last seven league games, including defeats by Aston Villa, Leicester City, Liverpool and Manchester City.

"Manchester United announces that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has left

his role as manager. Ole will always be a legend at Manchester United and it is with regret that we have reached this difficult decision," United said in a statement.

"While the past few weeks have been disappointing, they should not obscure all the work he has done over the past three years to rebuild the foundations for long-term success."

United have not won the Premier League since Alex Ferguson's last season in charge in 2013 when he led them to the title for the 13th time in his reign at Old Trafford.

The club signed Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo in August but after a good start to the campaign they have slipped to seventh in the standings after 12 games, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea.

Solskjaer took over from Jose Mourinho in December 2018, initially on an interim basis.

## 4 More Bayern Players In Quarantine, Total 7

Agencies

**BERLIN:** Another four Bayern Munich players have joined Joshua Kimmich in quarantine after having contact with someone who tested positive for the coronavirus. The Bavarian powerhouse said Sunday that Serge Gnabry, Jamal Musiala, Eric-Maxim Choupo-Moting and Michael Cuissance all have to self-isolate under instruction from the local health authority after having contact with a person who works closely with the team who has tested positive for COVID-19. The club did not say how long the players would be out of action. They will miss Bayern's Champions League game at Dynamo Kyiv on Tuesday.

According to German media reports the four players are unvaccinated, likely explaining why they specifically have to take extra precautions after contact with an infected person.

On Thursday, Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said, "The players who are not vaccinated understand that the risk of missing games or training sessions is much greater as an unvaccinated person than as a vaccinated person." On Friday, Bayern said midfielder Kimmich was back in quarantine for the second time after again coming in contact with an infected person. Kimmich also had to isolate the previous week and missed Germany's final World Cup qualifier after having contact with Bayern teammate Niklas Süle, who tested positive for COVID-19.

## Shaheen Apologises To Afif Hussain For Directing Throw At Him

ICC fines Shaheen 15 per cent of match fees



Press Trust of India

**KARACHI/DUBAI:** Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi has personally apologised to Bangladesh batter Afif Hussain after hitting him with a throw during the second Twenty20 between the two teams in Dhaka.

He has also been fined 15 per cent of match fees for his actions on Saturday.

Shaheen lost his cool after Hussain hit him for a six. The Pakistan fast bowler later picked up the ball in his follow through and hurled it at the stumps though Hussain was in his crease.

The ball hit the batter and a doctor was rushed on to the field to ensure he was okay.

The Pakistan Cricket Board released a video of Shaheen walking up to Hussain after the match and apologising to him for the action and also hugging him with a smile.

It was Level 1 breach as per the ICC Code of Conduct. One demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Shaheen, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.

"Afridi admitted the offence

and accepted the sanction proposed by Neeyamur Rashid of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees and ratified by the ICC Cricket Operations department as per the Covid-19 interim playing regulations. There was no need for a formal hearing," said the ICC in a statement.

Shaheen's unnecessary aggressive behaviour was apparently not well received either by the Pakistan team management or the Pakistan Cricket Board and the fast bowler was immediately conveyed he must apologise to Afif.

Pakistan won the second T20 match to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three match series but the behaviour of another pacer, Hasan Ali also didn't go down well with the management.

Hasan was also reprimanded by the International Cricket Council match referee and given a level one offence warning after he rudely gestured to Bangladesh wicketkeeper batter, Nurul Hasan to go back to the pavilion after having dismissed him in the first T20 international on Friday.

## JAL SHAKTI, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, DEPARTMENT.

STANDARD BIDDING DOCUMENT FOR

Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for G-II Plain Lift Schemes of Pulwama District (Region Pulwama-Tahab) for Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E- NIT NO 65 OF 2021-22, DATED: 17-11-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Kashmir invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for "Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Group-II Plain Lift Schemes of Pulwama district (Region Pulwama-Tahab) for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works", details of which are given below. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre-Qualification Bidding, tender fee, earnest money, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications. Cover '2<sup>nd</sup>' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs)	Earnest money (Lacs)	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	2	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Empanelment of eligible contractors at Provincial level and fixing of item rates for Group-IV plain lift schemes of District Pulwama for execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works. These works are broadly consisting of: - a. Construction of water supply schemes by way of filtration plants, pump houses, service reservoir, Overhead tanks, laying of distribution mains. b. SITC of pumping units along with associated electro-mechanical works for harnessing of tube well. c. Retrofitting of electro-mechanical equipment's at various Water Supply Schemes	Work/scheme wise details given in Section-II of tender document	1000/-		180 days	
	Group II	Above 15 lacs upto 50 lacs		0.25		45

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The tender inviting authority is Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Note: -

In view of the fact, that this NIT for item rate contract has been framed for the first time in the Department, a helpdesk shall be established at the Direction office level as well as district level for encouraging and facilitating the intending bidders for participation in the instant NIT to ensure wide participation across all the Districts.

KEY/CRITICAL DATES:

i	Publish Date	17.11.2021
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	17.11.2021
iii	Clarification start date	17.11.2021
iv	Bid submission start date	23.11.2021
v	Clarification end date	10.12.2021
vi	Pre-bid Meeting date	23.11.2021
vii	Document Download/sale end Date	13.12.2021
viii	Bid submission end date	13.12.2021
ix	Date and time of Bid opening	16.12.2021

- Bid documents can be assessed at and downloaded from the websites <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, PHE Department, through virtual/online mode.
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 6 & 7 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
- Bid Security to be pledged in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti PHE Department. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall have to be valid for at least one year after last date of submission of Bid. The Bid of bidders having bid security less than as specified above will be rejected.
- The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of FA/CAO, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Queries by email if any should be made at [kmrphed@gmail.com](mailto:kmrphed@gmail.com)

No:CE/PHE/KMR/JSD/27233-43

Date:- 17-11-2021

DIPK-12985/21

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer,  
Kashmir, Jal Shakti, PHE Department.



# Uniform Civil Code Not Suitable For Multi-Religious Country Like India: AIMPLB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kanpur:** The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) on Sunday said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is neither suitable nor useful for a vast multi-religious country like India.

The Muslim board said the UCC was antithetical to the fundamental right to practice religion as enshrined in the Constitution.

"India is a multi-faith country, and every citizen is guaranteed to practice and profess his faith and religious beliefs, and to act on and preach the same.

Uniform Civil Code is neither suitable nor useful for such a vast multi-religious country like India. Any attempt in this direction is discordant with the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution," the AIMPLB said in a resolution passed on



the second and final day of its 27th public session.

The government should not attempt to impose the Uniform Civil Code directly or indirectly, partially or fully, the board said in a statement, adding doing so would be totally unacceptable.

The AIMPLB also tried to draw the government's attention

towards insult of Prophet Muhammad by some mischievous persons", and lamented that the government failed to take any step, which could possibly act as a deterrent.

"This attitude of the communal forces is totally unacceptable. This amounts to causing discord in the country and runs

counter to the interests of nationalism and patriotism, it said.

It added that any insult to Prophet Muhammad is bound to hurt feelings of Muslims world over and tarnish the image of the country.

It demanded punishment to those who showed disrespect to the holy figures from the government, and also a legislation to tackle the issue.

The board also asked the government and judiciary to refrain from interpreting holy scriptures, saying only religious authorities were eligible to do that.

This amounts to encroachment upon the religious rights of the citizens, it said.

The board also said some Muslim preachers were implicated in false cases of forced conversions even when the converts never made any complaint to police about being forced.

The board expressed its concern over crimes against women in the country, and saying dowry deaths are on the rise urged the government to frame laws for safety and security of the women.

It said it is the duty of the state to protect minorities and termed as "regrettable" the damage done to temples in Bangladesh.

It called the persecution of Muslims in Tripura "deplorable".

In the public session held here on the first day (Saturday) Maulana Rabe Hasan Nadwi was re-elected as the chairman of the board.

The post of general secretary, which became vacant following the demise of Maulana Wali Rahmani, has been filled by Maulana Khalid Saifullah.

Maulana Arshad Madni filled the post of vice-president, which had become vacant following the demise of Maulana Kalbe Sadiq.

## SC directs Testing Of Mobile App For Photographing Crime Scene By Experts



Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Aiming to utilise technology in crime investigation, the Supreme Court has directed that a mobile app used by the Delhi Police for videography and photography of crime scenes be tested by experts.

The top court was hearing a matter in which it had agreed to examine whether videography of any crime scene can be mandatorily done and how it can become admissible evidence in a court of law.

The court said that all these technological innovations for use in investigations must ensure that the capturing of the crime scene through photographs or videos and their uploading through the app is completely tamper-free and fully encrypted.

It must also be ensured that the capturing of pictures and videos and uploading the same through the app must be contemporaneous and, to the extent possible, must also come with GPS locations, the apex court said.

A bench headed by Justice U U Lalit said these parameters will ensure that the material collected and uploaded could be intrinsically trustworthy as evidence in a criminal trial.

However, before we come to any firm conclusion, we would like the prototype implemented by the Delhi Police in 15 police stations of South Delhi District to be tested by experts.

If the mobile app so developed is found to be foolproof

and reliable by the experts, their report will be of great assistance to the court before any directions are passed, the bench also comprising Justice S Ravindra Bhat said.

The apex court directed that at least three high-ranking officials in Police, preferably from National Police Academy be associated as experts with such testing.

These experts are at liberty to engage the services of any cybercrime experts or those who are well versed in internet and virtual platforms, it said.

They may also associate the services of Dr. Arun Mohan, Senior Advocate who has been assisting this court as amicus curiae.

After considering the mobile app so developed and testing whether the photographs/videography captured and uploaded are completely tamper-free and could possibly be relied upon as evidence in a criminal trial, the experts may give their views by way of a report, the bench in its November 18 order said.

The apex court had earlier framed the question for consideration that "whether the only mode of proof of electronic evidence is as per Section 65(A) read with Section 65(B) or whether the said provisions are additional permissible mode of proof of an electronic record."

Section 65(B) of the Indian Evidence Act says that electronic records need to be certified by a person occupying a responsible official position for being admissible as evidence in any court proceedings.

## 'Jai Bhim' Film Director Conveys Regret

Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** Actor Suriya starer flick 'Jai Bhim' director Tha Se Gnanavel on Sunday said there was absolutely no intention of hurting any particular community and expressed regret to those who were offended.

'Jai Bhim' that was released on November 1 in languages including Tamil and Telugu kicked up a row in Tamil Nadu with the Vanniyar Sangam and members of the community alleging that it had portrayed them in bad light. The movie was released in OTT platform Amazon-Prime Video.

Emphasising that there was not even a "wee little bit of thought to cause affront to any individual or a community," in the making of the film, Gnanavel said, "I convey my heartfelt regret to those offended and anguished."

The film director also expressed regret for the difficulty

caused to Suriya in the wake of the controversy, who is the lead actor and Jai Bhim producer.

The crux of the row is the alleged vilification of the Vanniyar community by naming a wicked police sub inspector as 'Guru' (Gurumurthy) and showcasing the raging fire pot symbol of the community in a calendar, in the background, in one of the scenes and the foreground had the police SI who tortured the innocent tribal man to death.

"I did not know that a calendar hung in the background will be understood as a reference to a community. It is not our intention to make it a symbol of reference to a particular community and it was only to reflect the period, the year 1995," Gnanavel claimed in a statement.

During filming or post-production, the calendar footage, that appears for a few seconds did not catch their attention, he said.

## Israel Returns Body Of Palestinian Teen

AGENCIES

Israeli officials confirmed Saturday they successfully returned the remains of a 14-year-old Palestinian after mistakenly handing back a different corpse to the teenager's family the previous evening.

Amjad Abu Sultan was killed last month while allegedly throwing firebombs in the occupied West Bank.

About a dozen Palestinians chanting greeting to the martyr gathered around the body after it was handed over to the Palestinian side at an Israeli military checkpoint near the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

They wrapped the remains with Palestinian flag and an ambulance carried the body away.

Friday's error, described by the army as an unfortunate mistake, sharpened focus on Israel's controversial policy of withholding remains of Palestinians killed while allegedly carrying out attacks.

Israel says the policy serves

as a deterrent for future attacks and leverage for prisoner exchanges, while rights groups say the action is a form of collective punishment inflicted on grieving families.

Israel agreed to return the bodies of Abu Sultan and Isra Khazimia Friday citing humanitarian grounds.

Abu Sultan was a minor when he committed his alleged attack while Isra Khazimia was reported to have had mental health issues.

Earlier Saturday, Amjad's father told The Associated Press the family notified the army of the mistake upon receiving the body at a checkpoint near Bethlehem.

My son was 14 years old and the other body was that of a 30- or 40-year-old, said Ussama Abu Sultan. The identity of the other body remains unknown.

In a statement issued Friday, the Israeli army apologised for its unfortunate mistake and said the error is being reviewed.

Abu Sultan, 14, was killed in October while attempting to

throw firebombs at cars near an Israel settlement, the army said.

Khazimia was shot dead by Israeli police in September after she allegedly attempted to stab an officer in Jerusalem's Old City.

Her body was buried Saturday in her family village of Qabatiya in the Northern West Bank.

Israel has a long record of trading prisoners and bodies with its enemies and has made clear its intentions to retrieve the remains of two Israeli soldiers held by the Palestinian militant group Hamas who rule the Gaza Strip.

Israel is currently withholding around 80 Palestinian bodies, according to the Palestinian rights group The Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre.

With many eventually buried in unnamed graves across a number of secret cemeteries, the rights group says they have been other cases where Israeli authorities struggled to locate or identify Palestinian bodies. (AP)

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Retrieving Muzaffarabad

from the Udhampur constituency.

"Deviating from the propriety of collective decision-making, Nehru had on his own declared unilateral ceasefire just when the Indian forces were about to retrieve the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir captured by Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan would never manage gaining control of parts of Kashmir "if only Patel was given a free hand," said Jitendra.

On the occasion, a camp was also organised to make domicile certificates for the members of Pck community living in Delhi.

The minister asked every member of the displaced community to get their domicile certificate. With Inputs From PTI

### People Appointed

"Following the ideals of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, we have introduced digital initiatives to bring more transparency and reduce the gap between the system and the service, for the convenience of the common citizen. Such interventions will go a long way to ensure that benefits of the public welfare schemes are being made available to the people so that every citizen can live a dignified and prosperous life in a harmonious and progressive environment."

The J&K administration, Sinha said, is trying its best to strengthen the democratic system at the grassroots level, encouraging public participation in the development process besides making all the public services easily accessible to the people.

He appealed to the people to take a pledge to work collectively and strengthen their resolve to build a new, prosperous and self-reliant J&K.

During the program which aired today on all local and primary channels of All India Radio (AIR) in Jammu and Kashmir and broadcast on the Channel DD Kashir, Sinha dedicated this month's episode to citizens working for the betterment of the society.

Sinha made a special mention of Engineer Jehangir Bhat of Bandipora and appreciated his endeavor for encouraging innovation amongst youth. "With 20 patented innovations to his credit, I congratulate engineer Jehangir Bhat who aspires to make every student an innovator," said Sinha.

Sinha also congratulated national topper of NEET-UG Tanmay Gupta and cricketer Umran Malik and termed them as the new role models for the younger generation of J&K.

"Our great nation will be celebrating 72 years of the adoption of the Constitution of the world's largest democracy on November 26. Today, when the world's oldest civilization and rich cultural heritage is moving towards becoming an economic superpower, it is absolutely necessary that the evils and the class differences plaguing it must be completely removed," Sinha observed.

"Whatever we are creating, we must lay a solid foundation for a society full of self-dignity,

self-respect, and prosperity. Working in this direction, the UT Government, in the last 16 months, has tried to establish a new transparent, accountable, people-centric governance system. Efforts have been made through active programs towards the empowerment of the general public," he said.

Referring to the suggestion received from Faisal Yousuf regarding creating an environment of self-employment and inviting the young and promising entrepreneurs to schools for guest lectures, the Lt Governor said that such interactions with the students will ignite and propel the spirit of entrepreneurship in the young minds.

Responding to the suggestion of Yasir Ahmad Laway regarding the strict implementation of biometric attendance in the field offices, the Lt Governor observed that the insight received bodes well with the administration's commitment to usher in an era of transparent and accountable governance culture in the region.

The Lt Governor, while mentioning Mohd Iqbal Badana and Shafeeq Ahmed, both of whom shared a roadmap for strengthening the Panchayat Raj Institutions, said that their suggestions complement the endeavor of the administration to enhance the capacity of the democratic institutions at the grassroots level.

### Were Militants Really

was leading a protest march of her party activists from Gupkar Road residence 'Fairview' to the nearby Raj Bhavan. Speaking to reporters after she was stopped by police near Raj Bhawan, Mehbooba said there was a huge question mark on the whole incident.

She said even the family members who were protesting were evicted in the dead of the night. "They should be ashamed of themselves. People in Kashmir don't ask for justice, they are now asking for bodies only," she added.

Mehbooba said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should apologise to the families of the persons killed in the Hyderpora alleged encounter as well as the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Innocent people were killed in the Hyderpora encounter. As LG is the head of the unified command, he should apologise to the kin of the killed persons and take back the blot on them for being militants or hybrid militants or OGWs."

Mehbooba demanded that the body of the third person — Amir Margay from the Ramban area of Chenab Valley — killed in the shoot-out be returned to the family and called for stringent punishment to those involved in the incident.

"They should return Amir's body, give compensation and the unified command should seek an apology from the people of Kashmir," Mehbooba told reporters.

Mehbooba reiterated the demand for a judicial probe into the incident to bring the facts to the fore. "A judicial inquiry be conducted and stringent punishment be given to those

involved in this (incident)," she said.

We have information, there is an allegation that they were made a human shield because they had a suspicion that there was a militant. But there is a huge question mark on whether there was a militant or not, Mehbooba said.

Mehbooba alleged that the country was being "run on the BJP-RSS agenda."

"There are no rights here. They trampled upon the Constitution by abrogating Article 370. The country or J-K is not being run according to the Constitution. It is being run as per the agenda of the BJP-RSS which is to crush the minorities. There is more oppression here as J-K is a Muslim-majority state," she said.

"They have taken out the funeral of democracy here. They do not allow anyone to talk, to protest. All doors have been closed, so they should seek an apology for this oppression," Mehbooba added. With inputs from PTI

### BSF To Fortify

jungle areas of the LoC and are part of India's anti-infiltration grid to thwart militant activities being conducted from across this undemarcated frontier.

Behind the FDLs on the Indian side are multiple rings of the Army's counter-infiltration deployments.

Troops at these icy locations, having altitudes in the range of 8,000-16,000 feet, at present live in CGI (corrugated galvanised iron) sheet-made hutments along with their rations and weapons, exposing them to the vagaries of sub-zero temperatures.

Official sources in the security establishment told PTI that the BSF will convert about 115 of its FDLs to large steel (alloy of iron and carbon) compartments with an overall layout of around Rs 35 crore.

The decision was taken after BSF Director General (DG) Pankaj Kumar Singh recently visited the FDLs in Kashmir and reviewed their operational preparedness.

The BSF head interacted with his troops and later directed officials of the Kashmir frontier to prepare an action plan for converting those FDLs to steel so that work can be initiated quickly.

The DG, they said, later also met senior officials of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Delhi to get solar power projects sanctioned for these FDLs which have been approved in-principle.

All activities at these locations, including cooking and daily ablutions by BSF troops, are carried out using power sourced from kerosene and diesel, they said.

"The new steel dwelling units will be procured after a tender process. Steel has been thought as the replacement to the present infrastructure as it has better strength and fracture resistance in sub-zero temperatures.

"A bathroom, toilet, kitchen and living unit will be prepared from steel and installed at about 115 FDLs each," a senior officer said.

He said more locations would be

Modi also awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service to Intelligence Bureau (IB) personnel.

For the first time, according to the directives of the prime minister, IPS officers from various states had submitted articles on contemporary security issues, which added more value to the conference.

The meeting was attended by 62 DGPs and IGP's of the states and Union territories and the director generals (DGs) of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Central Police Organisations (CPOs).

More than 400 officers of various ranks attended the conference virtually from IB offices across the country.

The prime minister participated in the discussions and gave valuable suggestions.

In the run-up to the conference, various core groups of DGPs were formed for holding discussions on key aspects of national security such as prison reforms, terrorism, Left Wing Extremism, cyber-crimes, narcotics trafficking, foreign funding of NGOs, drone-related matters, development of border villages etc.

The conference was inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday. Shah had also awarded trophies to the three best police stations of the country.

The home minister participated in all the discussions during the conference and offered his valuable suggestions and guidance, the statement said.

### Wife Joins Army

get commissioned on November 20 at the Officers Training Academy (OTA).

As many as 16 male cadets and nine women cadets from foreign countries also completed their training in this period. With PTI Inputs

### 4 Govt Teachers

wherein she was asked to explain as to why action was warranted," it reads.

According to the government order, the teacher replied to the said notice in a weeks' time and on its examination, it was found unsatisfactory and unsubstantiated.

"Therefore, pursuant to the decision of the committee, the teacher is hereby removed from the service of the state in terms of Article 113 and Article 128 of J&K Civil Services Rules," reads the government order.

Similarly, three other teachers were also removed from the services for remaining absent unauthorizedly

### Female Student Found

is stable, is admitted to SKIMS Srinagar.

### Ladakh Reports 13

twin districts on Saturday and 13 of them returned positive for the infection. They included 10 in Leh and three in Kargil.

They said 13 coronavirus-infected patients were discharged from a hospital in Leh, taking the number of recoveries in Ladakh to 20,875. (PTI)





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