

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

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Quote!
A friend to all is a friend to none
—Aristotle

NEWS DIGEST

Man Held After Pistol Found In Car

ANANTNAG: Police on Tuesday detained a man after a pistol was recovered from a vehicle in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, even as the driver managed to flee from the checkpoint. According to officials, during a routine naka checking at Arwani Bridge on the new highway, a police team | [More on P11](#)

Govt Fires 3 More Absent Teachers

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered termination of two more teachers over unauthorized absence from duties for over five years. Jameela Akhtar, a teacher at boys' high school Singhpora and Nighat Hussain a teacher at boys' middle school Soura here | [More on P11](#)

Middle-Aged Man Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A middle-aged man on Tuesday was found dead in a forest area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 50-year-old Ghulam Mohammad Wagay of Shangran Dooru was found lifeless by some locals in the forest | [More on P11](#)

Ladakh Logs 22 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh has recorded 16 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the virus tally to 21,349 while the active cases have declined to 218, officials said on Tuesday. The union territory has registered 212 Covid-related deaths -- 154 in Leh and 58 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year. Thirty-four patients | [More on P11](#)

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3 Held For Killing KP Trader's Salesman

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have solved murder case of Kashmir Pandit trader's salesman by arresting three people from south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Aejaz Ahmad Lone, Naseer Ahmad Shah and Showkat Ahmad Dar, all residents of Lelhar in Pulwama were arrested by a special investigation team of police constituted to probe the killing of Ibrahim Ahmad, a salesman of Kashmiri Pandit trader Sandeep Mawa in Bohri Kadal area of the Old City on November 9, a police spokesperson said.

Police, he said, had also filed a case FIR No. 86/2021 at the police station Maharaj Gunj to investigate the case.

During the course of investigation, he said, officers learnt about the involvement of three accused in shooting dead the salesman.

"Subsequently, they were arrested in the instant case and during questioning they confessed about their involvement in the commission | [More on P11](#)



A young boy enjoys a swing ride on a bright sunny day Tuesday in Kangan area of Ganderbal district : KO Photo, Abid Bhat

J&K Sees 2 Corona Deaths, 179 New Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday died of Covid-19 related complications while 179 fresh cases of infection were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, one fresh death each from Kashmir and Jammu division was reported on Tuesday, taking the overall fatality count due to pandemic in J&K to 4464--2183 in Jammu and 2281 in Kashmir.

Of the new cases of infection, officials said 149 were registered in Kashmir Valley and the remaining 30 from Jammu division thus raising the number of people infected by virus to 335707.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported a highest 64 fresh cases of coronavirus, Baramulla 35, Budgam 17, Ganderbal 10, Kupwara 8, Bandipora 6, Kulgam and Pulwama 4 each and one new case in Anantnag district. Shopian was the only district in the Valley where | [More on P11](#)

J&K Govt Accountable For Every Rupee Spent After 2019: Sitharaman

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is going through a rapid progression and the projects that have been waiting for a long time are getting implemented.

"After 2019 (reorganisation of J&K), we have seen the UT of J&K go through a rapid progression. The projects that have been waiting for a long time are getting implemented and sections of the society that have never had the opportunity of receiving any assistance from the government are getting it," the Finance Minister said.

She was addressing a function after launching new schemes and handing over orders to various beneficiaries under the financial inclusion and credit outreach programme here.

She said the central government is working in close



FILE PHOTO

coordination with the J&K administration to ensure that not only the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) but every centrally sponsored scheme benefits every citizen of the Union territory to ensure that the region also catches up in the growth with the rest of the country.

Sitharaman reached Jammu on the second leg of her

two-day tour from Kashmir and also inspected various stalls put up by various beneficiaries of government schemes.

The Union finance minister lauded J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who was also present on the occasion, for the development of the Union Territory in a "speedy, efficient and transparent" manner.

She assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the Centre will work in close coordination with the local administration to ensure that not only the PMDP is implemented but every scheme that is launched is also brought to the Union Territory and benefits every beneficiary who deserved to be served.

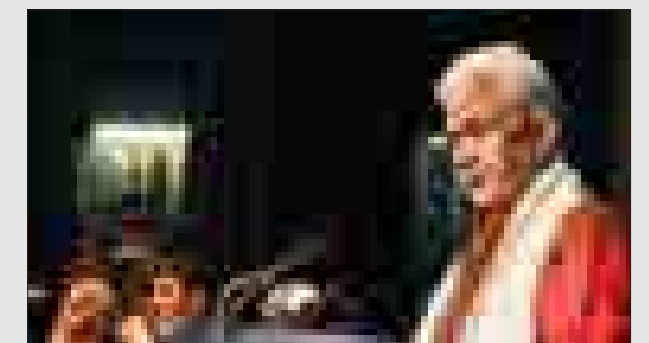
"And, genuine business that has no other way of getting or accessing credit is also being provided credit," the finance minister said.

She said the schemes for the poorer sections that benefited the people across the country from a collective infusion of credit through farmer producer organisations or self-help groups are now seeing the light of the day in J&K.

As a result of this, the people feel they may be small but they can also access some kind of help from the government and credit from the banks, the minister added.

Seeking the cooperation of the people in facilitating outsiders to set up | [More on P11](#)

Build Floors Of Opportunities, Not Walls: LG To Banks



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Calling for a strong partnership between banks and business entities for greater investment, growth, innovation, and employment, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday asked the banks in the Union Territory to build floors of opportunities, not the walls.

"I always believe that capital gaps must be bridged for transition in small scale and cottage industries. The credit constraints cannot be a new normal when our capacity to invent new ideas is competing for recognition," Sinha said.

He was addressing a gathering during the Credit Outreach programme and other events organized by Banker's Committee of the J&K UT held at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium Complex, University of Jammu, an official spokesperson said.

Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman was also present on this occasion.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG highlighted the vital role of Credit outreach programmes and Smart Lending in enabling the government policies to reach all sections of the society.

Sinha, he said, | [More on P11](#)

Arrest of Khurram Parvez Sparks Global Outcry

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: The United Nations Tuesday condemned the arrest of a prominent human rights activist Khurram Parvez in Srinagar by National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The federal investigation agency booked and arrested the activist after raiding his Srinagar residence and office on Monday.

The arrest memo says he was arrested in the case, FIR RC-30/2021/NIA/DJI filed on November 6, under IPC Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging, attempting to wage, abetting waging of war against the government), and 121A (conspiracy to commit

offences punishable by Section 121); and Sections 17 (raising funds for terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy), 18B (recruiting of any person or persons for terrorist act) and 40 (raising funds for a terrorist organisation) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"He's not a terrorist," Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, calling Khurram's arrest 'disturbing, tweeted. "He's a human rights defender."

Khurram has played an important role in documenting human rights abuses allegedly committed by armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir for the last three decades.

He's coordinator | [More on P11](#)

Coldest Night In Srinagar At -2.3 Deg Celsius

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The mercury slipped further in Kashmir on Tuesday as cold wave conditions persisted in the Valley, with Srinagar recording its coldest night of the season at minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, meteorological department officials said.

Kashmir has been experiencing sub-zero temperatures for the past few nights and in most places, the mercury has remained two to three notches below the normal for this part of the season, they said.

Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in Kashmir at minus 4.4 degrees Celsius last night.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius last night -- down from minus 1.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday night, they said.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius.

The mercury settled at a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius in north Kashmir's Kupwara. Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag registered a low of minus 1.1 degrees Celsius.

The meteorological department has said that the weather is most likely to

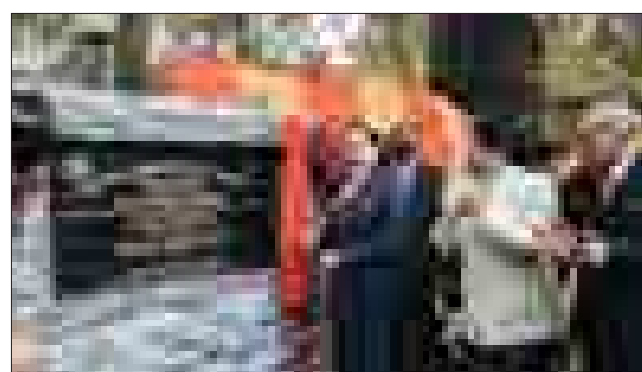
Jitendra Singh Inaugurates CAT's Srinagar Bench Says Tribunal To Provide Speedy Relief To Govt Employees In Service Matters

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday inaugurated the Srinagar bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and said it will provide speedy relief to government employees in their service cases.

He also said that in the country, only Jammu and Kashmir has two CAT benches -- Jammu and Srinagar -- and this is because Prime Minister Narendra Modi accords special priority to the Union Territory.

Following the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh became union territories, and accordingly, employees of the



erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir became the employees of the union territories, a statement issued by the Union personnel ministry said.

As such the disputes pertaining to their service matters

are now being adjudicated by CAT, it said.

The statement said that at the time of inauguration of the CAT-Jammu bench, 30,000 service matters were pending, including 17,363 received | [More on P11](#)



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2

از نیابت کچی پورہ
عنوان: بشمول درخواست خال منظور و لم منظور احمد ذرا سکتہ تانتز سے پورہ تحصیل
فنگرگ بمرا دعوایگی RBA تحت 294/ SRO
اشتہار بمرا د آگای ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت
پواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا
ہے کہ سائل سالکہ موضع تانتز سے پورہ تحصیل فنگرگ کاسکونت دار ہے کہیں
کی مہوارہ آمدنی مبلغ 12940 روپے تک ہے۔ کہیں بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے
منظور احمد ذرا و لم غلام حسن ڈار مزدوری 50 سال آمدنی 7840
پورینہ زوجہ 45 icds worker
گلبر اختر دختر 27 تعلیم 5100
خالد منظور پسر 25 تعلیم
داود منظور پسر 20 تعلیم
اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہیں نہیں بتایا گیا ہے سرفیکٹ زیر بحث ادا کرنے
میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہیوم کے اندر
پیش کریں۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
تائب تحصیلدار mks



PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC & Fitness of my Vehicle Bearing Regd No:- JK02CN5131. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO JAMMU. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name :- Sameer Ahmad
S/o :- Hameed Ullah Shah
R/O :- Sidhra Jammu

RNA

Office Of The Head Master Govt Upper Pry School Chontipora Mawer

The name of one of the student studying in this school has been Wrongly mentioned in school record As Simran Farooq instead of Zooya Farooq. Now the student has applied for the correction if anybody have any objection in this regard may contact to headmaster upper pry school Chontipora Mawer with in seven days after that no objection will be accepted.

Applicants Name:- Zooya Farooq
D/O:- Farooq Ahmad Bhat
R/O:- Chontipora Mawer

sult

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Mudasir Ahamd Bhat
S/O Gh. Mohd Bhat
R/O Nooripora Tehsil Pattan



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Higher Secondary Examination part -I (class 11th)
Roll No 250332 Session /Year Annual/Reg. 2010

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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
bmg Sub Office Magam

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از دفتر تائب تحصیلدار قلم آباد

درخواست منجانب: عمر بشیر و اردولہ بشیر احمد وار ساکتہ برل
SRO 294/ RBA

اشتہار بمرا د آگای ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکتہ ان کے کاغذات بمرا د حصول RBA سرفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے بر سے رپورٹ پواری حلقہ دیان حلقی صدقہ و دیگر دستاویزات پیش کردہ سے پایا جاتا ہے کہ سائل / سائل برل میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کسی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے اور کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی حد مقررہ سے تجاوز نہیں کرتی ہے۔

سرفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ہی اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

تائب تحصیلدار

sult

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag



Whereas a joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Mohd Shafi Waza S/o Mohd Sultan Waza R/o Sadigabad Anantnag (Party no ist) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle TATA SUMO) bearing registration No JK03A-2150 (commercial /non-commercial) covering under and Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat S/o Ab Gaffar Bhat R/o Khanmoh Pulwama (party no 2nd) as transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party ni 1st to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement M/S Arham Traders Jammu.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, anybody having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 7 days from the publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.
No: 101/10007/MVD/ANG
Dated : 23/11/2021

Assistant regional transport
officer Anantnag

CONDOLENCE

With Profound grief & sorrow, Kashmir society Intl & Jammatal ATIQAAD Intl expresses Condolences to the brevedard family of Sheikh Mohammad Sultan S/o: Gulam Nabi Sheikh R/o: Kursoo Rajbagh who Passed away on 15/ Rabiul Sani/1443 Hijri which is 21/Nov/2021 Sunday on 8pm due to brief illness. May Almighty Allah bless the departed Soul Peace & highest Place in Jannat Al Firdous. Fateh KHAHANI/ Rasmeh Chahrum of departed soul will be held on 24/Nov/2021 Wednesday at the Anstierial graveyard opposite to Old Minto Circle Rajbagh Srinagar. The said Organisation also express the heart melt to the Dynamic Sufi Poet (Sheikh Abdul Hameed, Urf: Khamosh Hameed) writer of Poetry Book viz: Rouz Khamosh & also a member of our Organisations. Chairman Kashmir Society Intl & Jammatal ATIQAAD Intl also Expresses his grief & Sorrow to the family of Departed Soul & maked Dua e Magfirat for the Soul of Sheikh Mohammad Sultan. Publicity Secretary of Jammatal ATIQAAD INTERNATIONAL has also expressed lot of Sorrow on the demise of said Soul. May Almighty Allah bless him highest place in Jannatal Firdous & Peace to the Brevedard family.

Publicity Secretary
Jammatal ATIQAAD Intl/ Kashmir Society Intl
23/Nov/2021

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Narender Singh S/o: Gurbaksh Singh R/o: Rangreth Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 7872 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S State Bank of India B/U RASMECC Srinagar .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3885
Dated 23-11-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Ghulam Mohammad Rather S/o: Mohammad Rajab Rather R/o: Gagar Pora Jawharpura Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04C 3819 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Magam .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3891

Dated 23-11-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Shopian

NOTICE

Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr./Mrs Mir Mohamamd Aulaaan S/O Mamdin Aulaaan R/O Doonadu Pahlipora Keller Shopian (Party No Ist) as Transferor, (seller) owner of the vehicle - Regd. No. JK22B 7298 (Commercial/ Non Commercial) covering under R/P NO: ----- And Mr./ Mrs Asif Ahmad Najar S/O Gh Hassan Najar R/O Arham Shopian (Parti No 2nd) as Transferee (purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C & R/P of the above noted vehicle from party No. Ist to 2nd and cancellation of hire purchase agreement with JK Bank Keller Branch

Before the case is disposed off on its merits, any body having objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the undersigned .

No any representation/ objection shall be entertained after stipulated period.
No: ARTO/Spn/948-2021
Dated 22-11-2021

ast

S/D Asst Regional
Transport Officer Shopian

از نیابت لارنو با اجلاس منظور احمد ہرہ تائب تحصیلدار انیکر کٹیو جھسر بیٹ درجہ اول لارنو درخواست منجانب:۔ ریاض احمد گوچر کٹانہ و لم عظیم گوچر کٹانہ ساکتہ لارنو تحصیل لارنو خلع اہنت ناگ بغرض حصول ST سرفیکٹ۔

اشتہار بمرا د آگای ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو گزیر کاروائی ہے۔ پواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد قیوب و لم عظیم گوچر کٹانہ	40 سال	مزدوری	
2	مسماۃ شایبہ زوید محمد قیوب	37 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	نجم احمد و لم محمد قیوب	13 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر سائل کا کنبہ 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار۔

RNA

از نیابت لارنو با اجلاس منظور احمد ہرہ تائب تحصیلدار انیکر کٹیو جھسر بیٹ درجہ اول لارنو درخواست منجانب:۔ محمد لطیف گوچر کٹانہ و لم عظیم گوچر کٹانہ ساکتہ لارنو تحصیل لارنو خلع اہنت ناگ بغرض حصول ST سرفیکٹ۔

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نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد لطیف گوچر کٹانہ و لم عظیم	45 سال	مزدوری	
2	مسماۃ سفید زوید محمد لطیف	43 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	الیاس و لم محمد لطیف	22 سال	مزدوری	
4	طاہرہ دختر محمد لطیف	20 سال	گھریلو کام	
5	شایبہ و لم محمد لطیف	18 سال	مزدوری	

اس طور پر سائل کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تائب تحصیلدار۔

RNA

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

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Email: xen.ed1st@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No. 0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No. 110/ EDI, dt: 18-11-2021

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	Creation of 100KVA, 6.6-11/433 V Double Ratio Substation alongwith HT/LT network under DDC Plan at: 1.Gratbal Balhama 2.ShahBaz Colony Han Hanzinar Balhama 3.Apparpura Balhama near PHE Scheme Balhama	20.42

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	18.11.2021: 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	27.11.2021: 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	18.11.2021: 16:00 Hrs to 27.11.2021: 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	29.11.2021 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 http://jktenders.gov.in
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand 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

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

DIPK-NB-5223/21

Office of the Principal/Dean Government Medical College, Srinagar

Advertisement Notice No:-24 GS of 2021

Dated:- 22-11-2021

Applications on the prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates for engagement against the following positions on Academic Arrangements Basis under S.O. 364 of 2020, Dated:- 27.11.2020 in Government Medical College, Srinagar for a period of one year or till such time posts are filled up by the competent authority on regular basis whichever is earlier.

S.No.	Name of the post	Pay Scale	Qualification
01	EEG Technician	Level-4 (25500-81100) re-vised	B.Sc Neuroelectrophysiology OR 10+2 in Medical Science and two years Diploma in Neuroelectrophysiology from any recognized Institution.
02	EMG Technician		

01. The applicants are advised to enclose with their application forms self- attested photocopies of the below mentioned documents/certificates:-

- Date of Birth certificate.
- 10+2 pass certificate with Science subject (Physics, Chemistry and Biology).
- Diploma/Degree Certificate alongwith year wise marks sheets.
- Reserved Category Certificate, if any.
- Domicile Certificate.

02) The age of the applicant at the time of submission of application must not be:-

- i) below 18 years; and
- ii) above 63 years.

3) The candidates may download the application format and pay in slip from the official website i.e, <http://www.amcs.edu.in> or obtain the same from office of the Principal/Dean Government Medical College, Srinagar.

4. The applications complete in all respects and accompanied with pay in slip for an amount of Rs. 300/- (credited to Account No: SB 7655) must reach to the office of undersigned with effect from 24.11.2021 to 04.12.2021 upto 3.00 PM.

Terms & Conditions of the enqagement:-

1. The engagees shall be paid salary at the minimum of pay scale in accordance with S.O. 364 of 2020, Dated:- 27-11-2020.

2. The engagement against the advertised posts shall and shall always be on Academic Arrangement Basis only without conferment of any preferential right on the engagees for regular appointment against these posts which shall be made strictly in accordance with the relevant recruitment rules.

3. The selected candidates shall have to enter into an agreement with this Institution to the effect that they will not leave the job before the completion of one year's contract. Abandoning/termination of the agreement, as the case may be, will require one month prior notice on either side, failing which the salary will not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the department and shall be released on completion of sanctioned term.

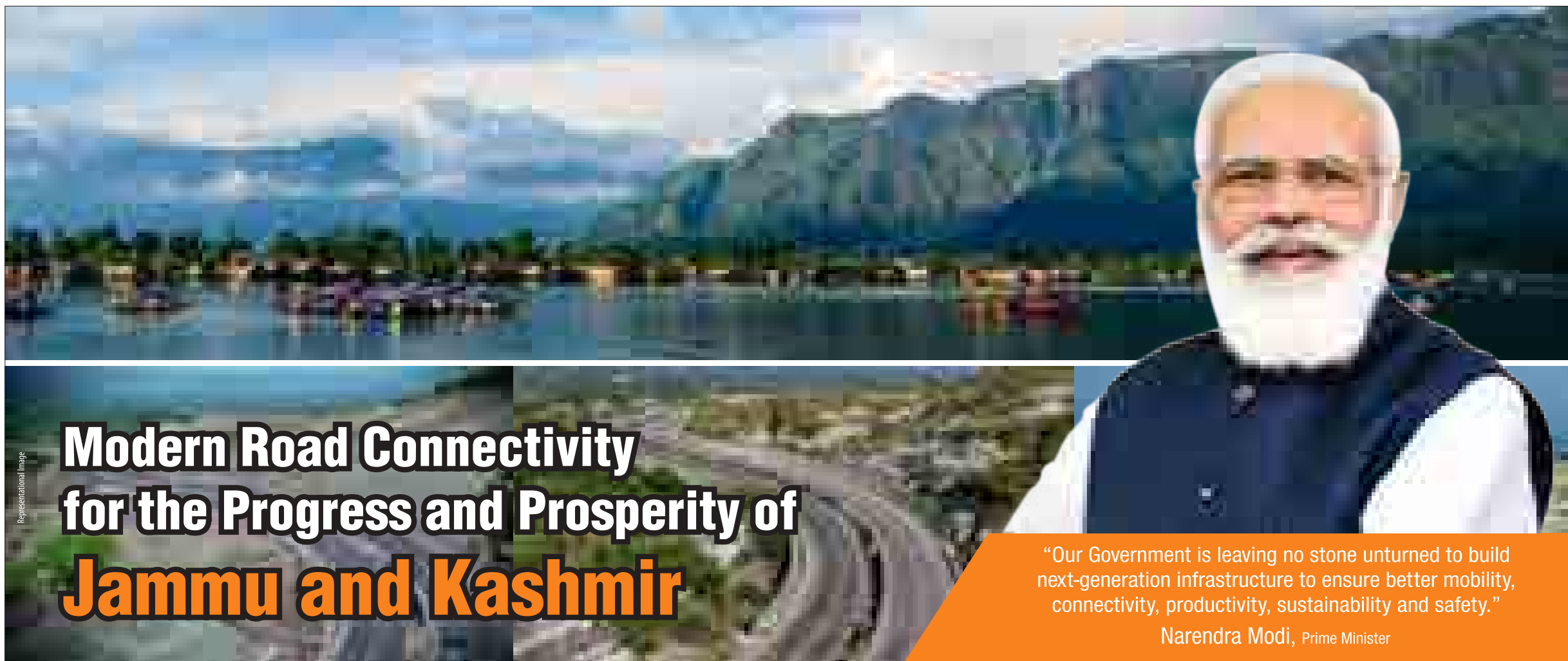
Principal /Dean

No:GS-MC/Advt/2021/EEG/EMG/SSH/2335-39

Dated:- 22-11-2021

DIPK-13253/21

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Foundation Stone Laying for 25 National Highway Projects of Total Length 257 Km with an Investment of ₹ 11,721 Cr.

on 24th November, 2021 (Wednesday) | Time: 3.00 PM | Venue: Sports Stadium, Doda, Jammu & Kashmir

Up-gradation on Goha-Khellani section and a LR to Goha village from Moothi to Humble on NH-244 (Pkg-I)
Total Length: 9.46 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 228.39 Cr.

Up-gradation on Goha-Khellani Section from Humble to Khellani on NH-244 (Package-II)
Total Length: 8.73 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 210.79 Cr.

Construction of Uni-Directional Khellani Tunnel of length 1.574 Km with approach Road on NH-244
Total Length: 2.419 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 749.61 Cr.

Construction of bi-directional tunnel at km 83rd of length 495 m from Chamoti to Drabshalla with AR & MJB on NH-244
Total Length: 1.269 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 91.29 Cr.

Construction/Up-gradation on Khellani - Kishtwar - Chattroo section of NH-244 from Khellani to Prem Nagar (Pkg-I)
Total Length: 20.251 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 486.45 Cr.

Construction/Up-gradation on Khellani - Kishtwar - Chattroo section of NH-244 from Prem Nagar to New Thathri (Pkg-II)
Total Length: 14.84 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 512.43 Cr.

Construction/Up-gradation on Khellani- Kishtwar - Chattroo section of NH-244 from Near Drabshalla to Dulhasti (Pkg-III)
Total Length: 12.871 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 398.51 Cr.

Construction of Kishtwar bypass on Khellani - Kishtwar - Chattroo section and a LR to Kishtwar from Dulhasti to Bandarkoot on NH-244 (Pkg-IV)
Total Length: 14.88 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 859.67 Cr.

Construction/Up-gradation on Khellani - Kishtwar - Chattroo section on NH-244 from Bandarkoot to Chattroo (Pkg-V)
Total Length: 15.52 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 497.09 Cr.

Construction of 4 lane twin tube tunnel from Marog to Digdol on NH-44 (Pkg-I)
Total Length: 4.38 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 1912.17 Cr.

Construction of 4 lane twin tube tunnel from Digdol to Khuni Nallah on NH-44 (Pkg-II)
Total Length: 3.2 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 1401.87 Cr.

Construction of Viaduct from Mompassi to Sherbibi on Ramban to Banihal section on NH-44
Total Length: 6.02 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 614.48 Cr.

Construction of Viaduct & tunnel between Nashri to Ramban in Udhampur-Ramban Section on NH-44
Total Length: 2.2 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 442.14 Cr.

Rectification of black spot at Samba (Flyover) on NH-44
Total Length: 1.85 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 97.48 Cr.

Rectification of black spot at Mansar morh (vehicular underpass) on NH-44
Total Length: 0.91 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 22.88 Cr.

Rectification of 2 Nos. of Black Spots at Maheshwar (Service Road) and Chichi Mata (LVUP) on NH-44
Total Length: 1.74 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 18.84 Cr.

Rectification of 2 Nos. of Black Spots at Lakanpur Golden Gate (Service Road) and Logate Morh (Bridge) on NH-44
Total Length: 3 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 41.3 Cr.

Rectification of Black Spot at Pali Morh (LVUP) on NH-44
Total Length: 1.06 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 26.04 Cr.

Rehabilitation & up-gradation on Akhnoor-Poonch Road of NH-144A incl. Kandi Tunnel from Akhnoor to Choura (Pkg-I)
Total Length: 16.45 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 272.49 Cr.

Rehabilitation & up-gradation on Akhnoor- Poonch Road of NH-144A incl. Sungal Tunnel from Chowki to Sungal (Pkg-II)
Total Length: 9.35 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 796.97 Cr.

Rehabilitation & up-gradation on Akhnoor- Poonch Road of NH-144A from Bhalla to Balshama (Pkg-III)
Total Length: 18.55 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 152.93 Cr.

Rehabilitation & up-gradation on Akhnoor- Poonch Road of NH-144A from Siot to Dandesar (Pkg-IV)
Total Length: 15.8 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 114.75 Cr.

Rehabilitation & up-gradation on Akhnoor- Poonch Road of NH-144A incl. Naushera Tunnel from Rajal to Kallar (Pkg-V)
Total Length: 26.83 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 642.24 Cr.

Rehabilitation & up-gradation on Akhnoor- Poonch Road of NH-144A from Saranu to Dheridhara (Pkg-VI)
Total Length: 29.72 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 395.25 Cr.

Rehabilitation & up-gradation on Akhnoor- Poonch Road of NH-144A incl. Bhimber Gali tunnel from Kalai to Bhatadurian (Pkg-VII)
Total Length: 16.1 KM, Cost of Project: ₹ 734.64 Cr.

Benefit of Projects



Strategically important for swift movement of defence forces



Projects will facilitate healthcare & emergency services to the remotest areas



Will provide all weather connectivity between Jammu & Kashmir Valley



Boost to agricultural, industrial & socio-economic progress of the region



These projects will connect major tourist destinations in J&K



Saving of time and fuel; Prevention of pollution



Will connect all major roads leading to various district headquarters



Generation of employment & self-employment opportunities

By

Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways

In the august presence of

Dr. Jitendra Singh

Minister of State (IC) of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Minister of State of PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, MP, Udhampur

General (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd.)

Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation

Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir

Jugal Kishore Sharma

MP, Jammu

How Bad Is US Covid Rebound?
ICU Beds Offer Worrying Clue



Agencies

The latest US Covid-19 wave is taking its toll on some states' intensive-care units, with several parts of the country seeing outbreaks that are as bad as ever.

In 15 states, patients with confirmed or suspected Covid are taking up more ICU beds than a year earlier, according to Department of Health and Human Services data. Colorado, Minnesota and Michigan have 41 per cent, 37 per cent and 34 per cent of ICU beds occupied by Covid-19 patients, respectively, the data show.

The dramatic uptick means there's proportionately less space in hospitals for those suffering from other potentially deadly ailments.

"Many of our physicians are at a breaking point," said Ali Mokdad, a professor with the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. "It's not easy to be day in and day out in an emergency room, in an ICU, looking at someone who is dying because he or she is not vaccinated."

Trouble Ahead

The numbers are a sobering reminder of how brutal the pandemic remains for the US health-care system, and could augur trouble ahead for Northeast states, where cases began surging a few weeks after the Midwest and Rocky Mountains.

Despite the widespread availability of vaccines, the fast-spreading delta variant has shown a frightening capacity to find the most vulnerable people in society. Meanwhile, most states have returned to a semblance of their pre-pandemic lifestyles.

Michigan, which has the highest per-capita case rate in the nation, is encouraging people to get vaccinated and mask up. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a mask advisory on November 19. But Governor Gretchen Whitmer does not plan to issue any new restrictions on public gatherings, said spokesman Bobby Leddy.

The surge begs the question of when the US will finally be able to turn the page on the pandemic. A new Covid-19 pill from Pfizer Inc. is bound to help, as will other therapeutics in the pipeline. Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum last week in Singapore, Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates predicted that the combination of vaccine-induced and natural immunity worldwide and the new oral treatments would bring Covid's impact to flu-like levels by mid-2022 -- a remarkable turnaround if he's right.

Death Count

The US has been reporting more than 1,000 average deaths from Covid every day for more than three months. Increases in fatalities typically follow increases in infections.

In the meantime, it's not clear to what extent any hospital system is safe. Many of the states getting hit now have average vaccination rates -- neither spectacularly high like parts of the Northeast nor especially low like parts of the South. Michigan's 54 per cent full vaccination rate trails the national average of 59 per cent, but Colorado and Minnesota are both doing slightly better than the country as a whole.

Israel Signals Readiness To
Escalate Iran Confrontation
Amid Nuclear Talks

Agencies

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett signalled readiness on Tuesday to step up Israel's confrontation with Iran and reiterated that his country would not be bound by any new Iranian nuclear deal with world powers.

Indirect negotiations will begin on November 29 about reviving the 2015 deal, which former US President Donald Trump withdrew from, deeming it insufficient to shut down projects with bomb-making potential -- a view shared by the Israelis.

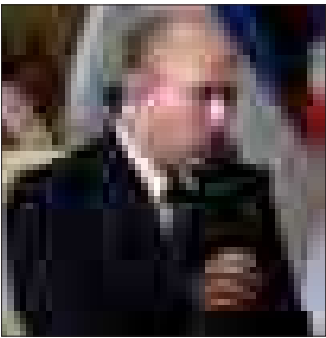
Iran, which denies seeking nuclear arms, has since the US walkout breached the deal with expanded uranium enrichment.

Bennett, who took power in June, described Iran in a speech as being at "the most advanced stage of its nuclear programme".

While his government has previously said it would be open to a new nuclear deal with tougher restrictions on Iran, Bennett reasserted Israel's autonomy to take action against its arch-foe.

"We face complicated times. It is possible that there will be disputes with the best of our friends," he told a televised conference hosted by Reichman University.

"In any event, even if there is a re-



turn to a deal, Israel is of course not a party to the deal and Israel is not obligated by the deal."

Bennett voiced frustration with what he described as Israel's smaller-scale clashes with Iranian guerrilla allies.

"The Iranians have encircled the State of Israel with missiles while they sit safely in Tehran," he said. "To chase the terrorist du jour sent by the (Iranian covert) Qods Force does not pay off anymore. We must go for the dispatcher."

Stopping short of explicitly threatening war, Bennett said cyber-technologies and what he deemed Israel's advantages as a democracy and international support could be brought to bear.

"Iran is much more vulnerable than is commonly thought," he said.



With PM Modi's Farm U-Turn,
Opposition Has New Chance To Unite

Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to repeal farm reform laws in the face of persistent protests -- his biggest policy U-turn since taking office -- handed his opponents momentum ahead of crucial state elections. The question is whether they can finally take advantage.

So far, the splintered opposition hasn't demonstrated an ability to capitalize on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's missteps. Those divisions were apparent last month, when a convoy allegedly carrying the son of a top official in PM Modi's cabinet drove into a crowd of protesting farmers in Uttar Pradesh, killing eight people in total.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, a scion of once-powerful Nehru-Gandhi dynasty and a leader of the main opposition Congress party, was among the first to reach the crash site. Other PM Modi opponents in the state, which holds a key election early next year, also raced to the scene. But instead of joining forces, they all held separate rallies.

The competing political events highlighted a key reason PM Modi continues to dominate Indian politics: Opposition parties have failed to cooperate, effectively splitting the electorate who opposes his Hindu-dominant BJP.

Baljit Singh, 30, a farmer from the state who was at the scene of last month's violence and voted for the BJP in the 2019 national election, said that he would support anyone other than PM Modi even after he vowed to repeal the farm laws. But even he wasn't sure which party he would vote for.

"I am watching the various opposition parties and will give my vote to one of them, but not BJP," Mr Singh said.

Prior to PM Modi's announcement on Friday, which came after yearlong protests by tens of thousands of farmers, his party was on pace to pull out a win in Uttar Pradesh even while losing a significant number of seats. The state, which has about half as many people as the entire European Union, is considered a crucial indicator of national sentiment ahead of the next general election in 2024. The BJP won 77 per cent of seats in the 2017 state election.

PM Modi's party is trailing opinion polls in Punjab, where Sikh farmers have been instrumental in the protests. His apology for the farm laws came as the country celebrated the birth anniversary of the founder of the Sikh faith.

"It was clear that farm laws were going to be an irritation point in coming elections," said Sandeep Shastri, the vice-chancellor of Jagran Lakecity University in Bhopal. "He has made a virtue of a necessity."

REPORT: Poor Diets Imperilling
People And The Planet

Agencies

Nearly half the world's population suffer from poor nutrition linked to too much or not enough food, a global assessment said Tuesday with wide-ranging impacts on health and the planet.

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR), a yearly survey and analysis of the latest data on nutrition and related health issues, found that 48% of people currently eat either too little or too much -- resulting in them being overweight, obese or underweight.

At current rates, the report finds, the world will fail to meet eight out of nine nutrition targets set by the World Health Organization for 2025.

These include reducing child wasting (when children are too thin for their height) and child stunting (when they are too short for their age), and also adult obesity.

The report estimates nearly 150 million children under five years old are stunted, more than 45 million are wasted and nearly 40 million are overweight.

It also finds more than 40% of adults (2.2 billion people) are now overweight or obese.

"Avoidable deaths due to poor diets have grown by 15% since 2010 and poor diets are now responsible for a quarter of all adult deaths," Chair of the GNR's Independent Expert Group Renata Micha told AFP.

"Our global findings show that our diets have not improved over the last ten years and are now a major threat to people's health and to the planet."

Foods matter

This year's GNR is the first to look at global diets and how food choices are affecting people and the planet.

Two Patients Die Of New
Drug-Resistant Fungus
Strain At AIIMS



AIANS

Two patients suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease recently died due to the presence of a drug-resistant pathogen called Aspergillus lentulus during the treatment at AIIMS.

Both patients -- one in 50s and other in 40s -- were suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. They were admitted in the Delhi AIIMS, said a case report published in the Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology (IJMM).

The first patient was referred from a private hospital, while the second patient was rushed to the AIIMS emergency with fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

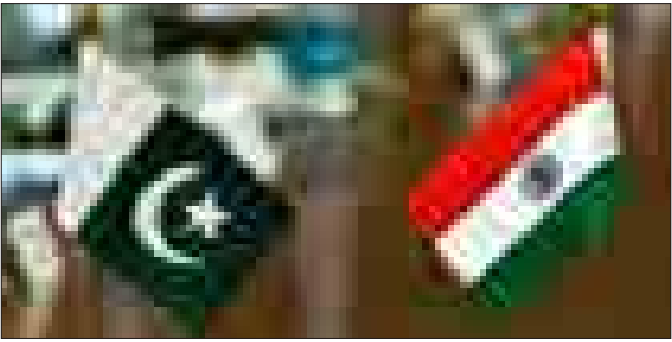
The patients received oral injections of amphotericin B and voriconazole at AIIMS, according to the IJMM reports. Both patients died during the treatment.

The reports said that there was no improvement in the clinical condition of the first patient for more than a month and he died of a fungal infection. The second patient was also given amphotericin B, but his condition did not improve and he died after a week of multiple organ failure, the report said.

"As far as we know, this is the first report from India on a case of invasive pulmonary aspergillosis in a COPD patient caused by Aspergillus lentulus," underlined IJMM reports written by Jaweed Ahmed, Gagandeep Singh, Immaculata Xess, and Mrganayani Pandey.

Aspergillus lentulus got its first mention in 2005 in medical literature as a type of Aspergillus being the known cause of lung infections. Several countries have confirmed human infections. However, doctors at AIIMS said that this is the first time that this type of Aspergillus has been reported to infect a patient in India.

Pakistan Rejects As 'Baseless'
Indian Stand Of Downing F-16
Aircraft In February 2019



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PAKISTAN categorically rejects the entirely baseless Indian claims that a Pakistani F-16 aircraft was shot down by an Indian pilot

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday rejected as "baseless" the Indian stand that a Pakistani F-16 aircraft was shot down by an Indian pilot during an aerial combat in February 2019.

Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman (now Group Captain) shot down the Pakistani F-16 jet during an aerial combat before his MiG 21 Bison aircraft was hit on February 27, 2019.

He was captured by the Pakistani Army and later released on the night of March 1.

He was conferred with the Vir Chakra award by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday for displaying an "exceptional sense of duty" in the dogfight.

Vir Chakra is India's third-highest wartime gallantry award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra.

"Pakistan categorically rejects the entirely baseless Indian claims that a Pakistani F-16 aircraft was shot down by an Indian pilot" in February 2019, the Foreign Office said in a statement.

"The international experts and US officials have already confirmed that no Pakistani F-16 was shot down on the day, after taking stock of Pakistani F-16 aircraft," it claimed.

The pilot's release "was a testimony of Pakistan's desire for peace despite India's hostility and ill-conceived aggressive action," it added.

In the early hours of February 26, 2019, the IAF jets bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror camps in Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan and avenged the Pulwama terrorist attack that claimed the lives of 40 CRPF personnel.

An intense aerial confrontation ensued between both countries the next day, in which the Indian pilot was captured and later released by Pakistan.

The strike by India's warplanes on a JeM terrorist training camp in Balakot and the Pakistan Air Force's subsequent retaliation the next day triggered fears of a war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

NEWS MAKERS

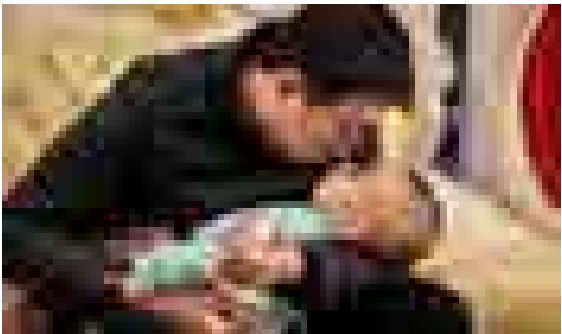
A Dad Races To Make Medicine For His
Dying Son, Just Two Years Old

Agence France-Presse

KUMMING: Two-year-old Haoyang has likely just months to live -- but the only medicine that can help his rare genetic condition is not found anywhere in China and closed borders due to the Covid-19 pandemic mean he cannot travel for treatment.

Instead, his desperate father, Xu Wei, has created a home laboratory to create a remedy for the boy himself.

"I didn't really have time to think about whether to do it or not. It had to be done," the 30-year-old told AFP from his DIY lab in a high-rise apartment building in southwest-



ern Kunming.

Haoyang has Menkes Syndrome, a genetic disorder that impacts how copper -- which is crucial for brain and nervous system development -- is processed in the body.

Sufferers rarely survive beyond the age of three.

But Xu, who has only high school education and ran a small online business before his son became ill, is determined to give him a fighting chance.

"Even though he cannot move or speak, he has a soul and feels emotions," he said, holding Haoyang in his lap to give him honey mixed in water.

After being told the disease was incurable and the only medication that could help ease symptoms was not available in China, he began researching and teaching himself pharmaceuticals.

"My friends and family were against it. They said it was impossible", he remembers.

Most online documents on Menkes Syndrome were in English, but undeterred Xu used translation software to understand them, before setting up a home lab in his father's gym.

PM To Lay Foundation Stone Of Noida
International Airport On Nov 25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttar Pradesh will soon become the only state in India to have five international airports with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to lay the foundation stone of the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Jewar on Thursday.

The development of the airport is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Modi to boost connectivity and create a future-ready aviation sector, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on Tuesday.

A special focus of this grand vision has been on Uttar Pradesh that is witnessing the development of multiple new

THE AIRPORT WILL DEVELOP A Ground Transportation Centre that will feature a multi-modal transit hub, housing metro and high-speed rail stations, taxi, bus services and private parking, according to the PMO.

international airports including the recently inaugurated Kushinagar airport and the under-construction international airport at Ayodhya.

Uttar Pradesh is poised to become the only state in India to have five international airports as Prime Minister Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Noida International Airport in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, on November 25 at 1 PM, the PMO said.

The development of the first phase of the airport is being done at a cost of over Rs 10,050 crore, it said.

Spread over more than 1,300 hectares of land, the completed first phase of the airport will have the capacity to serve around 1.2 crore passengers a year and work on it is scheduled to be completed by 2024, it added.

It will be executed by international bidder Zurich Airport International AG as concessionaire.

The groundwork for the first phase regarding land acquisition and rehabilitation of the affected families has been completed, the statement said.

This airport will be the second international airport to come up in Delhi-NCR, it noted and added that it will help decongest the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

It is strategically located and will serve the people of cities including Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra, Faridabad and neighbouring areas, it said.

The airport will be the logistics gateway of northern India and due to its scale and capacity, it will be a game changer for Uttar Pradesh, the PMO said.

KASHMIR
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K O V I E W

Hope On Covid Front

India on Monday witnessed its biggest decline in the daily Covid-19 caseload in the last 538 days with just 8,488 fresh infections being recorded. A total of 249 deaths happened due to the virus in past 24 hours. According to the latest data by the Union Ministry of Health, the active cases in the country now stand at 1,18,443, again the lowest in 534 days. One reason for this is the widespread vaccination. India has now administered 116.87 crore vaccine doses so far. The government data shows that around 82 percent of the eligible population in India have received the first dose of anti-Covid vaccine while around 43 percent have been fully vaccinated. Over the last year, the government's testing capacity has continued to expand.

Now the vaccination of the children is on the cards. The inoculation for children is among several important points to be discussed at a meeting of the government's top advisory group on immunisation in the next two weeks. Children have become a priority as there is apprehension that the third wave could affect the children the most. Similarly, government is also planning booster doses for the adults as some other countries have done. The US is set to become the latest country to widen the scope of booster doses.

There has also been a drastic drop in the Covid cases in J&K. Only 160 cases were reported in the union territory in the last 24 hours - 128 from Kashmir and 32 from Jammu. There are now just 1665 active cases in J&K.

Delta strains a threat nevertheless. The Covid strain could cause some serious problems if not controlled in time. Or if it is observed to be somewhat unchecked by the vaccination. Addressing the session of the recent G20 summit in Rome, "Global economy and global health", Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the need for a collaborative approach to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last two years, the world has certainly acted in concert in so far as the vaccination is concerned which has brought the pandemic under control. However, it is unlikely that the Covid-19 pandemic could be reigned in anytime soon. Unless the government complements the vaccination with the upgrading of healthcare and strict enforcement of adherence to SOPs in public, there are likely to be more outbreaks in various parts of the country. And such flarups could undo the progress made so far.

O T H E R O P I N O N

The Secret Spread

The revelation that China was constructing a secret military facility at the Port of Khalifa in the United Arab Emirates confirms both Beijing's growing strategic ambition and the stealth and subterfuge with which it is expanding its military footprint beyond its borders.

According to a report in The Wall Street Journal, the US government held urgent meetings with the authorities in the UAE after satellite images revealed the surreptitious construction of a military structure earlier this year. The UAE subsequently halted the project and claimed that it did not know about China's military infrastructure development. This supposed ignorance will provide little comfort to New Delhi and others with a stake in Asia and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

For much of the 20th century, Beijing eschewed foreign military bases in the name of national sentiment and sovereignty. However, in recent years, as China has become more assertive under Xi Jinping, it has used all the tools at its disposal to gain a foothold in strategically significant areas. In 2017, the PLA began operating its first overseas military base in Djibouti. In other locations, it seems to be employing the so-called "dual use" strategy: From Gwadar and Karachi in Pakistan, to Hambantota in Sri Lanka and through the Belt and Road Initiative, China has established a presence at key points in the IOR through the promise of economic and infrastructure partnerships. As in the UAE, these locations could be used — covertly, or overtly and gradually — for military purposes. While the ongoing protests in Pakistan around Gwadar, and objections in other countries earlier, indicate that Beijing may face some political hurdles, its economic might and ability to co-opt political elites may help it surmount the challenges in host countries.

The Khalifa port incident makes it clear that even India's closest friends have to do business with China, and that Beijing will leverage its economic might for strategic advantage. That Chinese infrastructure projects in the region are now suspect is only a further cause for worry. The US seems to have taken cognisance of Chinese expansionism and Washington's scrutiny will perhaps keep its friends and allies — like the UAE and Pakistan — on their toes vis-a-vis China. New Delhi cannot compete on an equal footing with Beijing when it comes to economic resources. It must, therefore, use the leverage and resources it has in its immediate neighbourhood as well as work with other concerned powers — such as members of the Quad — to ensure a rules-based order in the IOR and beyond.

Indian Express

Delhi-Kabul Engagement

Weeks After Taliban Termed India-Led Regional Meet On Afghanistan" In Our Better Interest", New Delhi Has Secured Kabul Pass With Islamabad's Nod Prompting Pundits To Predict India's Current Engagement With Taliban



Afghan foreign students shout slogans during a demonstration against the Taliban and Pakistan in Bengaluru on Sept. 8. manjunath kiran/afp via getty images

Shakoor Bashir & Muhammad Faisal

On August 31, 2021, with the complete withdrawal of the United States and its allies from Afghanistan, as the Taliban took over the country's capital and completed their takeover of Afghanistan, it marked the end of a 20-year-long war. Many queries were raised on the way the Afghan army gave up, and alliance forces withdrew from Kabul. Consequently, and to the surprise of many, the annexation of Kabul and the rest of Afghanistan, except the Panjshir valley (previously a stronghold of a rebel leader Ahmad Shah Masood), took place with little violence and struggle unlike the Taliban's takeover in the 1990s.

The fall of Kabul to the Taliban is a defining moment in contemporary history that will have long-term implications on the prospects of the United States-led, two-decade 'war on terror' and the overall security situation in South Asia. Analysts, both from within and outside Afghanistan, are pondering over how the country will proceed under the Taliban's rule, with the global community still considering whether to engage with or isolate the Taliban.

Among the many countries that are now faced with a daunting strategic challenge amidst the changing geopolitical situation is India, which is left with very few friends in Afghanistan. While much depends on the Taliban's actual conduct both domestically as well as internationally, the Taliban are likely to continue as a 'useful villain' in the unfolding power competition.

For India, the fall of Kabul is a moment of reckoning and it must reconsider its regional strategies and options available at its hands, which unfortunately in the current geopolitical context are very few.

On August 29, 2021, Taliban leader Sher Mohammed Abbas Stanekzai through a statement asserted that the Taliban intends to maintain Afghanistan's political, economic, and cultural ties with India. It was the first time a member of the Taliban's top hierarchy has spoken on the issue since the takeover of Kabul but for India Kabul's swift collapse and presence of an unfriendly Government in Kabul leaves New Delhi with

significant security concerns and limited options in its engagement.

Power Vacuum in Afghanistan

For India, the coming of the Taliban has opened a Pandora's Box. The most alarming issue for India is the creation of a regional power vacuum in Afghanistan, generated by the random way in which the United States withdrew overnight. An alliance of regional powers such as China, Russia, Pakistan, and the Taliban, have by now, begun to fill this power vacuum, thereby defining the contours of the region's geopolitics based on their individual and common interests. In this alliance system, Iran might also find its interests more secured with China, further restricting India's engagement and closing the long-term access to Central Asia.

Encirclement by China

"China will be the major problem for India as far as the changes in Afghanistan are concerned," warns former ambassador Dr Jitendra Nath Misra. The power vacuum generated through American withdrawal in the region will be principally advantageous to China and its grand strategic plans for the region. China will further reinforce its efforts to bring every country in the region, except India, on the One Belt One Road Initiative, thereby shifting the geopolitical and geo-economic foundations of the region. More so, the much-feared Chinese encirclement of India will become even more pronounced after being further emboldened by the U.S.'s withdrawal and in stamping its writ on the region. China has been working to make the best of a delicate situation. The Chinese have invested \$62 billion in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the single largest project of its transnational Belt and Road Initiative and are anxious that Taliban extremists do not jeopardize it, thus, to contain that scenario, Taliban – China alliance is evolving further.

Impact on Regional Interests

In his speech during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization(SCO) meet on 17 September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi elucidated on how Central Asia had been a connecting bridge between different regional markets at several points in history. In his speech,

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Afghanistan, wherein they operate as counsellors, trainers, and experts in improvised explosive devices". While the neighbouring countries are also worried about terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, the reality is that they are busy making their own private deals with the Taliban to not host terror organisations targeting them e.g China, Russia & Iran. There is little interest within the countries of the region to vouch for a regional approach in curbing terrorism from a Taliban-led Afghanistan. This enables the Taliban to engage in a selective treatment towards terror outfits present there or they have relations with. It is unlikely that the Taliban will proactively export terror to other countries unless of course for tactical purposes by, say for instance, Pakistan against India. The real worry, however, is the motivation that disgruntled groups in the region will pull from the Taliban's victory against the world's sole superpower.

Lt. Gen. Deependra Singh Hooda responds that, following the Taliban victory in Afghanistan, militant groups based across the border in Pakistan would "certainly try and push men" into Kashmir, but it is too early to predict whether any incursion of fighters into Kashmir would be "in numbers that threaten the security situation" and drive the region into a military confrontation.

The Way Forward and Options for India

For India, Afghanistan's engagement options are limited but with these limited options India still could carve out a space and secure its geopolitical interests. To put that in place, India should turn away from its policy of calculated indifference, embrace strategic engagement in an open-minded, constructive, and pragmatic manner. The first step on this front would be to assign a special envoy tasked only with dealing with the Taliban. Taking the advantage of its support established over the years with crucial stakeholders in the Middle East – e.g., Iran and Russia, India can step up to a greater role. It is in India's, and the region's interests at large, to have a seat at the table over Afghanistan's future. None of this, however, should require India to commit to ideologically rooted and outdated positions that jeopardise its own interests.

Moreover, despite the increasingly strained ties that have characterised bilateral engagements with China in recent years, India should attempt to engage in areas of commonality and shared interests with China on the Afghan front. An unstable Afghanistan, rife with splinter cells and terrorist insurgencies, is also not in China's best interests. Afghanistan, a war-torn and conflict-ridden country, can pose a challenge to China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative. China also takes into account Pakistan's interests and concerns. Thus, there is a limited but critical space for strategic (re)alignment between India, China, and Pakistan.

India's response to the unfolding crisis in Afghanistan must be comprehensive, multipronged, and intelligently balanced. Only then, will it be able to overcome the various challenges that lay ahead.

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

Shakoor Bashir is a Research Scholar at Centre for Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir, Srinagar and Muhammad Faisal has done Masters in Anthropology and is currently working on the theme "Political variables & dimensions in the Conflict State"

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COVID-19 And Individuals With Disabilities

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the outbreak of coronavirus disease, COVID-19, to be a pandemic due to the speed and scale of transmission. It is a global public health emergency affecting millions of people around the world. Most people with disabilities are not inherently at higher risk for becoming infected with or having severe illness from COVID-19. However, some people with disabilities might be at a higher risk of infection or severe illness. Evidences suggests

COVID-19 pandemic may have certain greater risks on the disability populations, for various reasons as discussed below:-

Due to a range of barriers like poor public health facilities, unsanitary conditions and unhygienic facilities.

Due to difficulty in enacting physical distancing because of additional support needs and relying on caretakers.

Due to need to touch things to obtain information about the objects around as in case of Visually Impaired individuals.

Due to exacerbation of pre-existing mental health conditions as a result and anxiety about contracting COVID-19.

Due to financial pressures, long periods of social isolation, family pressures and conflicts.

Due to language communication difficulty of health care workers as in case of Hearing & Speech Impaired individuals.

Due to being left behind by caretakers who are quarantined or fearful of infection of COVID-19.

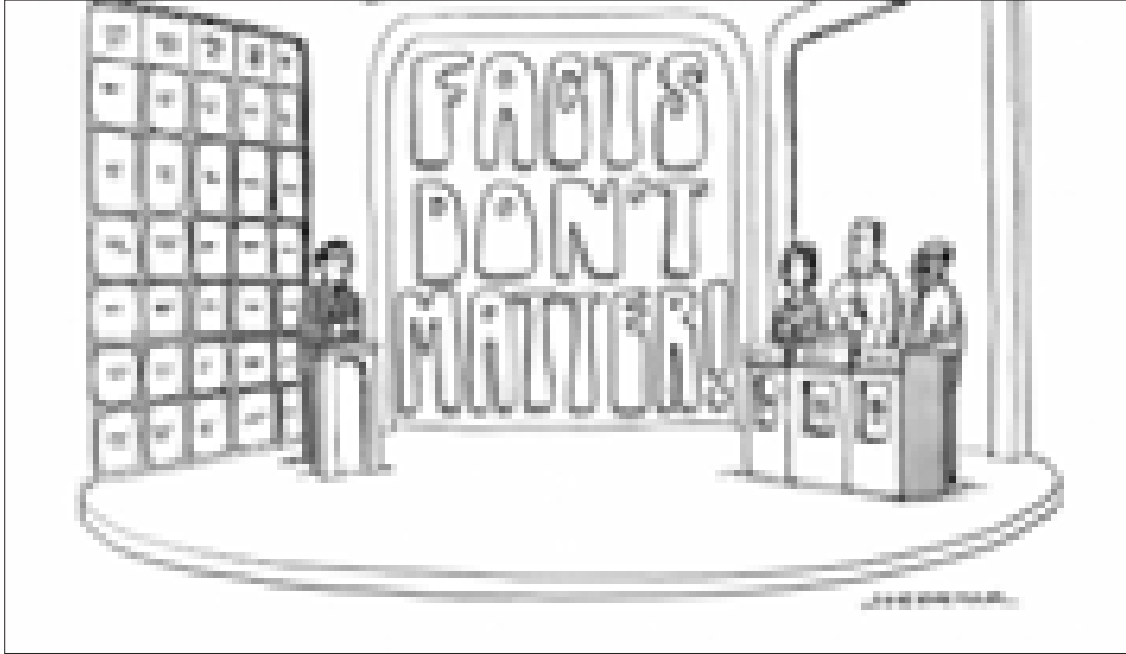
However, these impacts can be mitigated by ensuring assistive products, if used, are disinfected frequently; these include wheelchairs, walking canes, walkers, transfer boards, white canes, or any other product that is frequently handled and used in public spaces.

The Legalised Crime Of Sharing

Irrespective Of The Quantum Of Rumour, The Extent Of Its Spread And The Ubiquity Of Its Existence, A Lie Can Never Attain The Status Of Truth

Firdous Ahmad Mala

BE IT RELIGIOUS, be it ethical; be it scientific, be it humanistic; be it empirical, be it observational- from every single point of view, the act of sharing unconfirmed and unauthentic information is ugly and devastating. It is damaging and destroying. It is devouring and endangering. It is putting calm at risk and order in jeopardy. It deserves contempt and condemnation to say the least



A smartphone and a finger click are all you need to create a virtual domino effect. After all, a click has no legs to stand on. A single click leads to another. And thereby our fingers are conditioned to share without care. And soon it becomes our second nature.

As per the American Journal of Sociology, a rumour is a tall-tale of explanations of events circulating from person to person and pertaining to an object, event, or issue in public concern.

One must remember that rumours are lies and a lie is no match for the truth. Irrespective of the quantum of rumour, the extent of its spread and the ubiquity of its existence, a lie can never attain the status of truth. Beyond doubt is the supremacy of truth over falsehood, heresy and tell-tales. In the words of Martin Ugwu, "A rumour thrives in the palace of uncertainty but dies in the corridors of truth."

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ISOLATING AND SIFTING rumours from facts can be painful and daunting, but it is necessary. The English humorist, Terry Pratchett wrote in Feet of Clay, "Rumour is information distilled so finely that it can filter through anything. It does not need doors and windows, sometimes it does not need people. It can exist free and wild, running from ear to ear without ever touching lips."

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To add to the existing woes of epidemics, we have the scare of infodemics. Besides the danger of a pathogen, we have the derringer of misinformation. While some do it purposely, to some, it is recreation. While some do it out of intention; to some, it is like invention.

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The luring and tempting entice

of rumour-mongering and easy access to doing it has resulted in its widespread and prevalence. William Shakespeare in Henry IV part 2 wrote:

"Rumour is a pipe
Blown by surmises, jealousies,
conjectures
And of so easy and so plain a stop
That the blunt monster with un-
counted heads,
The still-discordant wavering mul-
titude,
Can play upon it."

Rumours cannot and must not be justified. Call it "improvised news" or "stories of perceived importance that lack substantial evidence", a rumour is not less harmful than a tumour that has the potential of enlargement and growth, the pos-

sibility of being carcinogenic and the danger of wreaking havoc and rampage. Rumours travel and have speeds that thrill but kill. In his novel, "the Chalk Man", the British author, C. J. Tudor wrote, "Rumors are like germs. They spread and multiply almost in a breath and before you know it, everyone is contaminated."

History is witness to a plethora of concocted, fabricated, made-up, misquoted and spun tidings that culminated into substantial losses or beyond-repair ramifications. And our recent local history bears witness to several mistakes we have already committed. The rumour of the death of children by polio vaccine in 2016 and other numerous under-researched published articles in newspapers are just the tip of the iceberg. It shows the ugly and deteriorating face of our society. The Indonesian writer, the author of Master of Stupidity, Tobago Beta writes in Betelgeuse Incident, "If humour and rumour are needed more than faith and truth, then it tells me something about the kind of world we live today."

The potential danger of a rumour may be hard to gauge. It may not look ugly and dreadful at the start. But it can debase a person or give rise to myths besides making one believe a widespread falsehood or reject an unpopular truth. In the words of Wiss Auguste, "There's nothing more poisonous to a community than rumours and gossip. They taint the good character of those who effortlessly stand out. They provide mediocre individuals with a means to become relevant. They set in like gangrene and eat away at the sense of decency that differentiates humans from animals."

The importance of being circumspect and meticulous vis-à-vis passing on to others the information we receive is hard to overestimate. It is the responsibility of one and all to inspect, investigate and scrutinize what one hears and shares. It is advisable to remember the words of Ziad Abdelnour, "Rumors are carried by haters, spread by fools, and accepted by idiots."

The author is Assistant Professor Government Degree College Sopore and can be reached at firdousmala@gmail.com

Stop Fake News By Doing Nothing

Tom Buchanan

When we come across false information on social media, it is only natural to feel the need to call it out or argue with it. But my research suggests this might do more harm than good. It might seem counterintuitive, but the

SOCIAL MEDIA USERS ALSO

regularly encounter harmful misinformation about vaccines and virus outbreaks. This is particularly important with the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines because the spread of false information online may discourage people from getting vaccinated – making it a life or death matter.

best way to react to fake news – and reduce its impact – may be to do nothing at all.

It has often been used to try to influ-



ence political processes. One recent report found evidence of organised social media manipulation campaigns in 48 different countries.

Social media users also regularly encounter harmful misinformation about vaccines and virus outbreaks. This is particularly important with the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines because the spread of false information online may discourage people from getting vaccinated – making it a life or death matter.

With all these very serious consequences in mind, it can be very tempting to comment on false information when it's posted online – pointing out that it is untrue, or that we disagree with it. Why would that be a bad thing?

Increasing visibility

The simple fact is that engaging with

false information increases the likelihood that other people will see it. If people comment on it, or quote tweet – even to disagree – it means that the material will be shared to our own networks of social media friends and followers.

Any kind of interaction at all – whether clicking on the link or reacting with an angry face emoji – will make it more likely that the social media platform will show the material to other people. In this way, false information can spread far and fast. So even by arguing with a message, you are spreading it further. This matters, because if more people see it, or see it more often, it will have an even greater effect.

I recently completed a series of experiments with a total of 2,634 participants looking at why people share false material online. In these,

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people were shown examples of false information under different conditions and asked if they would be likely to share it. They were also asked about whether they had shared false information online in the past.

Some of the findings weren't particularly surprising. For example, people were more likely to share things they thought were true or were consistent with their beliefs.

But two things stood out. The first was that some people had deliberately shared political information online that they knew at the time was untrue. There may be different reasons for doing this (trying to debunk it, for instance). The second thing that stood out was that people rated themselves as more likely to share material if they thought they had seen it before. The implication is that if you have seen things before, you are more likely to share when you see them again.

Dangerous repetition

It has been well established by numerous studies that the more often people see pieces of information, the more likely they are to think they are

true. A common maxim of propaganda is that if you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes the truth.

This extends to false information online. A 2018 study found that when people repeatedly saw false headlines on social media, they rated them as being more accurate. This was even the case when the headlines were flagged as being disputed by fact checkers. Other research has shown that repeatedly encountering false information makes people think it is less unethical to spread it (even if they know it is not true, and don't believe it).

So to reduce the effects of false information, people should try to reduce its visibility. Everyone should try to avoid spreading false messages. That means that social media companies should consider removing false information completely, rather than just attaching a warning label. And it means that the best thing individual social media users can do is not to engage with false information at all.

The author is a Professor of Psychology, University of Westminster

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Will Ensure More Bank Activities Take Place In J&K: Finance Minister

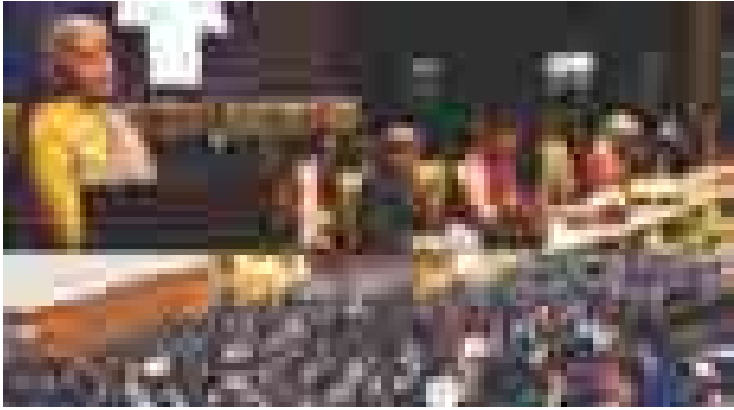
Lays e-foundation of Rural Self-employment Training Institutes building at Shopian & Baramulla

Observer News Service

JAMMU- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday reiterated Government of India's commitment to develop the banking sector and extend banking facilities in the UT.

"I will ensure that more bank activities take place in J&K and more Public Sector Banks come here in all the districts so that every person has access to banking facilities", said the Finance Minister while addressing a function after launching new schemes and handing over orders to various beneficiaries under the financial inclusion and credit outreach programme held at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium Complex, University of Jammu.

On the occasion, the Union Finance Minister handed over sanction letters amounting to Rs. 306 crores to 145 beneficiaries of different banks and credit linked schemes like Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), MUDRA



Scheme, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Joint-Liability Groups (JLGs) etc.

The Finance Minister also announced new schemes and initiatives for J&K which included the launch of Tejaswini & Hausla schemes; Shikhar and Shikara schemes of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and SIDBI's Rs. 200 crore Cluster Development Fund, besides laying the e-foundation stone of Rural Self Employment Training

Institute (RSETI) building at Shopian and Baramulla,

Under PNB's special scheme 'Shikara', credit up to Rs. 15 lakh will be provided for purchase/repair of Shikaras and houseboats. While, Shikhar scheme focuses on meeting credit requirements up to Rs. 2 crore for the Hotel, Tour & Tourism industry.

JKTPO's Hausla Scheme will empower existing women entrepreneurs

to be role-models in their respective sectors by providing skill development, as well as credit support, marketing support & mentorship. Under Tejaswini Scheme, financial assistance up to Rs 5 lakh to be given to young women for setting up gainful self-employment ventures.

The occasion witnessed the inauguration of various projects by the Union Finance Minister including three J&K Bank branches in Reasi district. Under the aegis of NABARD, registration certificates to 5 FPOs and sanction letter of rural mart to Asha SHG were also handed over.

Earlier, the Finance Minister and the Lt Governor visited stalls put up by beneficiaries from J&K Bank, SBI, PNB, J&K Grameen Bank and NABARD, among others. They interacted with the beneficiaries and enquired about the transformative effect the bank credit has made in their entrepreneurial journey. The Finance Minister also evinced keen interest in the products made by the entrepreneurs.

Retail Tomato Prices At Rs 80/Kg In Most Cities

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi- Retail tomato prices are ruling at Rs 80 per kg in most cities across India but the rates have shot up to as high as Rs 120 per kg in few southern states because of widespread rains, according to government data.

In Chennai, retail price of tomato was at Rs 100 per kg, Puducherry Rs 90 per kg, Bengalure Rs 88 per kg and Hyderabad Rs 65 per kg.

In Kerala, retail prices of tomato are ruling at Rs 120 per kg in Kottayam, Rs 110 per kg in Ernakulam, Rs 103 per kg in Tiruvananthapuram, Rs 100 per kg in Palakkad, Rs 97 per kg in Trissure, and Rs 90 per kg in Wayanad and Kozikode.

In Karnataka, retail prices of tomato are ruling at Rs 85 per kg in Dharwad, Rs 84 per kg in Mysure, Rs 80 a kg in Mangalore and Rs 78 per kg in Bellary.

In Andhra Pradesh, tomato prices are ruling at Rs 91 per kg in Vijawada, Rs 80 per kg in Vishakapatnam and Rs 75 per kg in Tirupati.

In Tamil Nadu, tomato is selling at Rs 119 per kg in Ramanathapuram, Rs 103

per kg in Tirunelveli, Rs 97 per kg in Thiruchirapalli, Rs 94 per kg in Cuddalore and Rs 90 per kg in Coimbatore.


However in the national capital, tomato was sold at Rs 72 per kg, according to the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry for 167 centres representing all regions of the country.

As per the data, retail tomato prices began to rise from the beginning of October and have been ruling at elevated levels in November.

All India modal retail price of tomato stood at Rs 40 per kg on October 1 and shot up to Rs 50 per kg by end of the month. The prices further rose to Rs 80 per kg on November 23.

There has been sharp rise in retail tomato prices in major cities of south India due to widespread moderate to heavy rainfalls during the northeast monsoon since the first week of November due to frequent formations of low-pressure areas in the Bay of Bengal, or cyclonic circulation in the Arabian Sea.

As a result, the tomato crop has been damaged causing tight supply situation.



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Ph. 0194-2411143, Fax: 2428636

Advertisement Notice

Due to poor response to this office advertisement Notification published in local daily newspapers, fresh applications are invited from eligible persons, as per the below mentioned eligibility criteria , to be engaged as Instructors for conducting 04 months Skill Up-gradation and Capacity Building cum Entrepreneurship Training Programme at Khrati Larnoo area of Anantnag District and Naidkhai area of Bandipora district, under Technology Up-gradation Scheme sponsored by National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.

Minimum Academic Qualification: 8th Pass
Essential Work Experience (Carpet): 20 years
Max Age: 50 years
Consolidated Monthly Remuneration: Rs. 15,000/-

Note: The concerned persons must possess a valid Artisan Registration Card issued by the Handicrafts and Handloom Department.

The engagement shall be purely on need basis for a period of 04 months only, and shall be co-terminus with the completion of the course. The eligible and desirous candidates may submit their applications, in the prescribed format, which can be had from this Institute against cash payment of Rs. 20/-, along with all relevant documents to **Director, Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Srinagar** by or before 05-12-2021. The date of Trade Test/ Interview for the short-listed candidates shall be notified separately.

DIPK-NB-5244/21

Sd/-
Chief Coordinator

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Result/Score Sheet of candidates in Computer Based Written Test (CBT) conducted from 17th August, 2021 to 25th August 2021, for the post of Social Worker/ Medical Social Worker (Item No. 204, Division Cadre Kashmir) Health and Medical Education Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No.02 of 2021 dated: 26-03-2021.

In continuation to Notice No SSB/COE/Health/2021/7307-15 dated 25-10-2021, the Result/Score Sheet (Percentile Score) of candidates in Computer Based Written Test (CBT) conducted from 17th August, 2021 to 25th August 2021, based on the performance of candidates in the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) for the post of Social Worker/ Medical Social Worker (Item No. 204, Division Cadre Kashmir), Health and Medical Education Department advertised vide Advertisement Notification No.02 of 2021 dated: 26-03-2021, is hereby notified as Annexure "A" to this notice. It is further notified as:

(i) Mere figuring in the result/ score sheet shall not entitle a candidate to be called for document verification or appear in the Select List and that he/she has to fulfil other eligibility conditions and decision of the Board in this regard shall be final.

(ii) The J&K Services Selection Board will call candidates falling in the consideration zone, based on the merit obtained by them for document verification. The schedule for Document Verification shall be notified separately.

(iii) Any candidate desirous of making representation with regard to position assigned to him/her in the score sheet, may do so within five days through e-mail on official email address ssbjkgrievance@gmail.com. Such representation shall be disposed of in accordance with the extant Rules.

(iv) In case, no representation is received, the score sheet as notified shall be treated as final. Further, the Board also reserves the right to make any corrections / changes in the records at any later date as may be found necessary Suo motto or on the request of the candidate(s) on the basis of documentary evidence, if any.

By Order.

(Ashok Kumar) JKAS
Controller Of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board
Jammu

DIPK-13219/21

No. SSB/COE/Health/2021/7811-19

Dated: 20.11.2021

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

J&K SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

Hema Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu
www.jkssb.nic.in
NOTICE

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board has advertised the post of Jr.Programmer, Item No 308, Computer Instructor/Operator, Item No 309, Kashmir Division, (Skill Development Department) vide Advertisement Notification No. 07 of 2020 and Career Counselling Officer, Item No 074, UT Cadre, (Labour & Employment Department) vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020. The system for the said posts has been furnished by the concerned Indenting Department which is notified as the annexures to this notification.

The candidates are also intimated that there shall be negative marking for wrong answers (-0.25 for each wrong answer) attempted in the said examination. This notice is for the purpose of intimation of the concerned candidates only.

(Sachin Jamwal) JKAS
Secretary
J&K Services Selection Board
Jammu

No. SSB/Secy/Sel/2021/7792-96
Dated: 20.11.2021
DIPK-13228/21

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my father and mother in my previous passport bearing No :- H9031682 expire on 04 Aptil 2020 has been written as Gh Nabi Beigh and Saida Begum instead of Ghulam Nabi Beigh and Saida Bano Now, i have applied for its correction under application file no SG1074937129620 . If any body having any objection may report the same to the office of Regional Passport Officer Srinagar within the period of seven days of publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained.

Mohd Shafi Beigh
S/O Ghulam Nabi Beigh
R/o Beachipora Tangmarg

MSK

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Kashmir, Old Secretariat, Srinagar-190001,
Phone No. 0194-2473761, 0194-2950499 e-mail; dirswwmr@gmail.com

Subject:- Extension in the date for submission of On-line scholarship applications under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme from students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), Physically Challenged (PCP) & Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), for the year 2021-22.

NOTICE

In view of requests from the students of various institutes, extension is given for submission of online scholarship applications under Post-Matric Scholarship from students belonging to Other Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes, Physically Challenged (PCP) & Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship to Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) categories for the year (2021-22) on State Portal under URL:- <https://jk.gov.in/jkeservices> from 22nd November, 2021 to 30th of November, 2021. The applicants are advised to take print-out of the duly filled-in application form, after submitting it on-line and submit the same to the concerned Institution/College/University alongwith all requisite documents. The concerned Head of Institution/College/ University will verify the on-line applications with hard copies and forward the same to the concerned Domicile District Social Welfare Office for further scrutiny/verification and also for record and reference.

REVISED TIME-LINE FOR STUDENTS FOR SUBMISSION/ VERIFICATION OF ON-LINE APPLICATIONS:-

S.No.	Activities	Last Date
1.	Submission of Online applications by students.	30th November, 2021
2.	Submission of hard copies of online applications alongwith all required documents by the student to concerned Institute.	05th December, 2021
3.	Verification/forwarding of On-line Applications by Institutes & submission of hard copies to concerned (Domicile) District Social Welfare Office.	15th December, 2021
4.	Scrutiny/Verification of On-line application forms with Hard copies by concerned (Domicile) DSWO	31st December, 2021

Other terms and conditions as laid down in previous Notification issued vide No:-DSWK/Sch/2021/1535-1634 Dated:-03-05-2021 shall remain un-changed.

No:-DSWK/Sch/2021/6090-6138

Dated:- 22.11.2021
DIPK-13241/21

Sd/-
(Bashir Ahmad Dar, KAS)
Director General
Social Welfare Department
Kashmir

Jal Shakti Department

Office of the Executive Engineer (Irrigation & FC) Division

SDA Building Near Police Control Room Batamaloo Srinagr Kashmir -190009
Fax/Phone: 01942470119

Mr. Fayaz Ahmad Dandroo
(Contractor)
S/O Ghulam Ahmad dANDROO
R/O Qamarwari Srinagar.

NO: I&FC/Sgr/CS/C7/6721-25
Dated:-20-11-2021

(FINAL NOTICE)

Sub;- Construction of RCC jacketing with the toe wall near house of Bsshir Ahmad wani on R/S Embankmeni of River Jehlum D/S Aali Kadal Bridge near Temple . Ref:- 1. This office Letter No. I&FCD/Sgr/Acct/6041 -42 dated:- 20.10.2021
2 This office Allotment No.IFC/Sgr/57 of07/2020'.

Apropos to the above captioned subject matter, the above work stand; allotted in your favour vide above referred allotment No. and Date , you were asked to start the execution of said work within two days positively after issuance of Notice but despite of various reminders you did not turn up so far. which seems you are not interested for execution of work.

You arc hereby given final opportunity through this medium of notice, for early execution of work within period of 02 days otherwise strict action shall be initiated (against you as per standard rules and guidelines and your Registration card will be recommended for cancellation, which may be noted.

Executive Engineer (Irrigation & FC)
Division Srinagar

Jal Shakti Department

Office of the Executive Engineer (Irrigation & FC) Division

Mr Imran Abdullah Bhat
(Contractor)
S/O Mohammad Abdullah Bhat
R/O Safapora Srinagar.

No. I&FC /SGR/CS/C7/6716-20
dated: :-22/11/2021

(FINAL NOTIC)

Sub:- Fixation of contract for construction of damaged stone Masonary wall on L/S of River Jehlum at Aali Kadal, Refi- 1. This office Letter No. I&.FCD/Sgr/ AccV6038-39 dated:- 20.10.2021
2 This office Allotment No,IFC/Sgr/57 of 08/2021 dated:-25.07.2021

Apropos to the above captioned subject matter, the above work stand; allotted in your favour vide above referred allotment No. and Date , you were asked to start the execution of said work within two days positively after issuance of Notice but despite of various reminders you did not turn up so far. which seems you are not interested for execution of work.

You arc hereby given final opportunity through this medium of notice, for early execution of work within period of 02 days otherwise strict action shall be initiated (against you as per standard rules and guidelines and your Registration card will be recommended for cancellation, which may be noted.

Executive Engineer (Irrigation & FC)
Division Srinagar

DIPK-13180/21

Two Classrooms For More Than 100 Students

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: For the past many years, the Government Middle School in Kralpora village of Bandipora district has been functioning in a rented building with just three rooms, two of which have been designated as classrooms for more than a hundred students.

Parents whose children are enrolled in the government run school said it lacks even basic infrastructure, proper accommodation, and facilities like a playground.

"Only three rooms are available among which one has been designated for official work purposes at the school while two on two rooms area to accommodate more than 100 students from 1st to 8th standard," they said.

The government has taken a

building on rent but locals said the lack of infrastructure affects the smooth functioning of the school.

The locals claim they have informed the concerned authorities but nothing has happened on ground so far.

"Our children enrolled in the school are facing immense hardships," Iftikar Hussain, one of the parents, told a local news agency, adding that many parents have decided to enroll their wards in private schools.

"We appeal to the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad to look into the problems and direct the concerned authorities to get the issue redressed at the earliest," Abdul Aziz, a local said.

Meanwhile, a senior district official assured immediate action to resolve the matter.

PDP Leader, Trade Unionist Join BJP In Jammu

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Over two dozen activists, including a PDP leader and a prominent trade union leader, joined the BJP here on Tuesday, a party spokesman said.

Senior PDP leader Suresh Gupta, trade unionist Prem Chand Sharma and 23 other social activists were welcomed into the party fold by J&K BJP president Ravinder Raina and former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh at the party headquarters, the spokesman said.

He said the new entrants include retired government and police officials.

"The BJP is the best platform

to serve the nation and society with selfless efforts and that is why prominent faces from every field are joining BJP on a regular basis," Raina said on the occasion.

He said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation has witnessed unprecedented development and given birth to a new drive in every Indian to make the country the best place in the world.

Raina said the BJP is of the firm view that the new entrants would give their best efforts for the development in the region without any prejudice, while they will work for extension of the party activities in the region

Contractor Blacklisted In Shopian

SHOPIAN: The Rural Development Department (RDD) authorities today blacklisted Shahnawaz Ahmed Dar, a resident of Kanjoo Rajpora, from the execution of any kind of work of RDD Shopian with immediate effect, officials said.

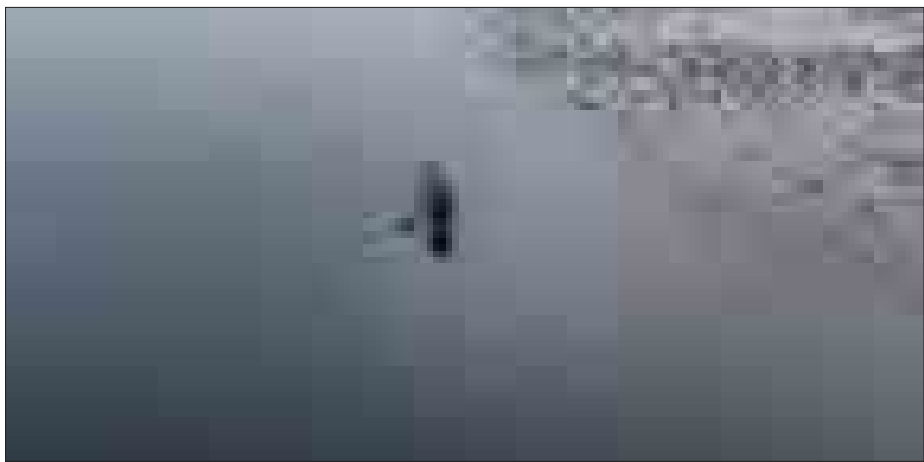
They said the contractor has been blacklisted as despite issuing notices repeatedly, he failed to complete the works of RDD, and henceforth, he has been blacklisted from execution of any kind of work of RDD.

"Besides, it has been given

out that the same procedure of blacklisting shall be followed in case of all other contractors not responding to the instructions," officials said.

Taking strong note of delay in works, the RDD has directed the concerned to find out the reasons for delay of developmental works in the district.

Further, the officers of the department have been directed to blacklist the poor performing contractors and expedite the pace of ongoing development works in their respective areas.



A MAN ROWS A SHIKARA amid dense fog over the Dal Lake in Srinagar. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Rajput's Protest In Jammu Causes Massive Traffic Jam

Protesters Demanded Hari Singh's Birth Anniversary Be Declared Public Holiday

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Members of the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) on Tuesday blocked the busy Tawi bridge here to demand public holiday on the birth anniversary of last Dogra ruler Hari Singh, causing a traffic jam in the city that lasted for hours.

The protest was staged when Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reached Jammu on the second leg of her two-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir and was scheduled to attend a function at nearby University of Jammu along with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The birth anniversary of Hari Singh is celebrated on October 23. Dozens of YRS activists assembled

in front of the ruler's statue at Tawi bridge and blocked both sides of the road and chanted slogans in support of their long-pending demand, officials said.

Senior civil and police officials rushed to the scene and made a vain effort to persuade the protesters to disperse.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina, who was also caught in the snarl while on his way to a function, met the protesters and assured them that his party had already taken up the issue with LG Sinha.

"Maharaja is close to our heart and we have already taken up the issue with the government as this is a long-pending demand of the Dogras of Jammu," he said.

Raina faced slogans like "we do not want false promises" as YRS activists asked the party to fulfil its assurance of a public holiday on the birth anniversary of the Maharaja.

"We will wait and if the government fails to announce a public holiday on the birth anniversary of the Maharaja, we will block Tawi bridge on his birthday next year and will intensify our agitation," a YRS spokesperson said before leaving the scene.

The protest brought normal life to a standstill as commuters looked for alternate routes to reach their destinations due to the massive traffic snarls, officials said, adding traffic police had a tough time in restoring the normal movement of traffic. **With PTI Inputs**

Ahead of Winter, PDD Workers Threaten Strike If Demands Not Met

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of permanent and temporary daily labourers of Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited, formerly a department known as PDD, continue to protest against denial of regularization and release of wages.

Hundreds of PDL and TDL workers protested in Srinagar and Anantnag, shouting slogans in favour of their demands.

The protesters said PDL and TDL workers climbed electric poles even during snowfall, ensured power supply across Jammu and Kashmir and at times got killed due to electrocution while repairing wires.

Adheer Wani, spokesperson of the PDL/TDL worker's union, said

despite working day and night, their files have been lying in the secretariat since last year.

Adheer said some files were still stuck in the division offices and weren't being forwarded to higher ups due to unknown reasons.

"DPC files have been completed three years but are still lying either in offices of executive engineers or chief engineer. No permanent orders are being issued in this regard," he said.

Adheer said higher authorities were deliberately "delaying our issues which include issuance of regularization orders, submission of pending files to those who have already completed five years and release of pending wages."

"If our demands aren't fulfilled immediately, they will go on in-

definite strike. It is a do or die situation for us and till fruitful results won't come forward, we won't end our protest," he said.

Adheer said the administration must issue regularization orders in favour of employees whose DPC files have been completed and pending wages be released.

He also demanded that wages of deceased workers be released to their kin while pending files be forwarded to higher ups and compensation be given to the persons who have died in line of duty.

Adheer said SRO 43 must also be implemented in favour of workers who die on duty.

The PDL/TDL workers union also requested Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene.

Gadkari To Lay Foundation Stone Of 25 All Weather Highway Projects

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone of 25 national highway projects of a total length of 257 km with an investment of Rs 11,721 crore in Jammu on Wednesday.

According to an official statement, these projects will provide all-weather connectivity between Jammu and the Kashmir Valley.

These are strategically important for swift movement of defence forces, along with agricultural, industrial and socio-economic progress of the region, it added.

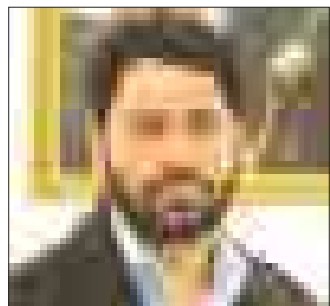
According to the statement, the projects will connect all major roads leading to various



district headquarters and will help in the generation of employment and self-employment opportunities.

The projects will involve rehabilitation and up-gradation of some sections, construction of viaduct and tunnel and rectification of black spots, it said.

APHC Anguished At Khurram's Arrest By NIA



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Tuesday expressed deep anguish over the arrest of Khurram Pervaiz by National Investigation Agency in Srinagar.

GLOBAL RIGHTS organisations have also expressed shock at his arrest and demanded his release,"

The APHC said the arrest of Khurram, Kashmir's well known and respected human rights activist, has caused great concern among the people.

"Global rights organisations have also expressed shock at his arrest and demanded his release," APHC said while asking authorities to "stop its policy of repression on citizens of Kashmir and release Khuram Pervaiz immediately."

KU Students Protest Closure Of Library

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The students of Kashmir University on Tuesday protested at the campus over the closure of library facilities at the campus.

The University students were protesting at the premises of Al-lama Iqbal library demanding the

opening of 24*7 library facility.

They were holding placards demanding to open the facility as soon as possible. The students said that due to lockdown we have already suffered a lot and now the closing of this facility has made it more difficult for us to study properly.

Load Shedding To Decrease After Grid Stations Are Commissioned: Admin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The divisional administration of Kashmir has said the graph of power curtailment will reduce here in winters following the fully commissioning of various grid stations.

In a meeting, the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) informed the divisional commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang Pole that with the fully commissioning of grid stations of Mirbazar,

Lisser, Gopalpora, Delina, and Amaragarh, the power scenario in the valley will get improved and better.

Pole in the meeting directed KPDCL to ensure that the curtailment of power supply decreases with commissioning of these grid stations.

The corporation was also asked to publish a curtailment schedule within two days.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir directed that in view of heavy snow accumulation in the Valley,

particularly in hilly areas, machinery shall be used for erection of poles and installation of transformers so that it shall be ensured that supply is restored within the shortest time.

"Possibility shall be explored to restore the cut off power supply due to snow in the Valley well before the already fixed deadline," Pole said.

He was further informed that the transformer, poles and conductor has also been dumped at Divisional

Level in addition to already dumped material.

Pole directed that possibility shall also be explored to dump the additional transformers, poles and conductor at suitable gross road level so that restoration process can be done early.

"The public grievance receipt and disposal about power shall be redressed and shared with the Divisional Commissioner Officer in tabulated format on a daily basis," Pole directed KPDCL.

Covid Testing Camp Held At IUST

Officials Said No Positive Cases Detected

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Health Centre of Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora in collaboration with Public Health Centre (PHC) Awantipora Tuesday organized a day-long camp to conduct Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) for COVID-19 on the campus.

The students, faculty members and other officials of the university as well as members from Awantipora community voluntarily gave their samples for the testing.

Medical Consultant IUST, Dr. Zahida Rasool, who led the testing team said, "We organised this camp given the recent uptick in the number of COVID -19 positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir".

She added that the testing could help in establishing the status of COVID situation on the campus.

Dr. Zahida appealed to the students, staff and community members to strictly follow COVID-19



appropriate behaviour to stave off the transmission of infection.

Lab Technician from PHC Awantipora Nasib Singh said, "We received a good response from both the staff and students and got 110 samples today. University administration has been able to successfully organize these testing

camp." He further opined that the staff and students appreciated the efforts of university administration and other health officials for organising the camp.

Nasib Singh also added that no covid positive case was registered so far among more than hundred samples taken in the campus.



[illegible]

SC asks NTA To Rectify Injustice Met To Disabled Student, Whose Answer Sheet Was Taken Away In NEET

NEW DELHI: Coming to the aid of a disabled female student, suffering from dysgraphia, who was not granted an additional hour of compensatory time in NEET (UG) examination and her answer sheet was forcefully taken away, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to consider taking steps to rectify the injustice done to her within one week.

Dysgraphia causes impaired handwriting and demonstrates inconsistent handwriting, poor spelling and spacing, transcription difficulties, and incoherence.

The top court said individual injustices originating in a wrongful denial of rights and entitlements prescribed under the law cannot be sent into oblivion on the ground that these are a necessary consequence of a competitive examination.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna, however, refused to grant the relief to the student, who has been diagnosed with a 40 per cent permanent disability, for holding re-examination for the NEET (UG).

The appellant was wrongfully deprived of compensatory time of one hour while appearing for the NEET without any fault of her own, despite her entitlements as a Person with Disabilities (PwD) and a Person with Benchmark Disability (PwBD). Accordingly, the first respondent (NTA) is directed to consider what steps could be taken to rectify the injustice within a period of one

week. Further, it shall take necessary consequential measures under intimation to the DGHS, it said.

It said the steps taken by the NTA in furtherance of the court's direction must be communicated to the Registry of this Court by filing a status report within two weeks.

Justice Chandrachud, who penned the verdict said, It is no answer for an authority bound by the dicta of law and the Constitution, to throw up its hands in despair, instead of attempting to remedy the injustice which is caused to a student. A judge cannot ignore that behind the statistics is a human face, reflecting the aspirations, joy, and tears of a student and her family.

The bench noted the girl student has secured an All India Rank of 1721 out of 2684 candidates qualified in the PwD category and concerning Maharashtra she has secured rank 249 out of 390 candidates in the PwD category.

The NTA has stated that approximately 15.4 lakh candidates appeared at the NEET (UG) 2021 on September 12, 2021, for which the result was declared on November 1, 2021, and the All India Rank was forwarded on November 9, 2021, to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to conduct counselling for admission.

The bench said the NTA, as an examining body, was bound to scrupulously enforce the Guidelines for Written Examinations which provides

for specific relaxations.

The appellant has suffered an injustice by a wrongful denial of these relaxations and a lack of remedy by this Court would cause irretrievable injustice to the life of the student. The Rights of Persons With Disabilities (RwPD) Act 2016 prescribing beneficial provisions for persons with specified disabilities would have no meaning unless it is scrupulously enforced, it said.

It added, In our view, the first respondent (NTA) cannot be allowed to simply get away when confronted with the situation in hand whereby injustice has been caused to a student by standing behind the situation of a large competitive examination.

The bench noted the NTA's submissions that in an examination of such large proportions where over 16 lakh students registered and over 15 lakh students appeared, it would not be possible to undo the injustice which has been done to a single candidate.

The first respondent (NTA) must remember that all authority under the law is subject to the responsibility, and above all, to a sense of accountability. The first respondent is governed by the rule of law and by the constitutional requirement of observing fairness. Behind the abstract number of 15 lakh students' lie human lives that can be altered due to the inadvertent, yet significant errors of the first respondent, it said.

The bench said in the present case, the student had sought a re-examination where she would be allowed compensatory time

as mandated by the Guidelines for Written Examination and the NEET Bulletin 2021.

We are in agreement with the view that holding a fresh examination is neither practicable nor proper. Holding a fresh examination will delay medical admissions and cause uncertainty and chaos. To that extent, the denial of the relief sought for conducting a fresh examination for the appellant is not disturbed, it said.

The bench said, This Court would eschew the course of dictating the manner in which the grievance should be rectified, leaving it to the discretion of the testing agency which is entrusted with the overall responsibility of conducting the examination in the present case, we are of the categorical view that the first respondent cannot shirk or abrogate its responsibility to rectify the injustice which has been caused to the appellant.

The bench said for effective participation of the students with disabilities in the society, which undoubtedly is the salutary object of the legislation, the safeguards which are provided by the law must be duly enforced and any breach of entitlement must be answerable at law.

Responsibility and power without accountability are an anathema to our Constitution, it said, adding the number of cases where such injustices take place maybe a few or more than that but it cannot be ignored that for a student who is made to suffer, the consequence is indeed serious.

Lalu Appears Before CBI Court In Patna In Fodder Scam Case, To Attend RJD Event On Wednesday

PATNA: Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad on Tuesday appeared before a special CBI court in Patna in connection with yet another case relating to the fodder scam.

The former Bihar chief minister, who is over 70 years of age and suffers from many debilitating ailments, appeared before special CBI judge Prajesh Kumar a week after being ordered to be physically present in court of hearing on Banka treasury case.

His counsel Sudhir Kumar Sinha said, The court has fixed November 30 as the next date of hearing in the case when witnesses, said to be over 200 in number, would be examined.

Lalu ji has not been asked to appear on that date. He is willing to appear whenever asked.

The fodder scam pertains to fraudulent withdrawal of nearly Rs 1000 crore, in the 1980s and 1990s from several treasuries in undivided Bihar. The CBI has lodged separate cases with regard to irregularities in different districts.

Prasad, who had been the CM from 1990 to 1997, was first convicted in the case relating to Chaibasa, now in Jharkhand, about a decade ago which also rendered the powerful mass leader disqualified from contesting elections.

Convictions in a number of other cases in 2017-18 caused him to spend a considerable time behind bars in Ranchi, until his release on

bail granted by the High Court of Jharkhand earlier this year.

Journalists eager for a sound-bite from the colourful politician were in for a disappointment as Prasad, looking haggard in a sleeveless jacket over his white kurta-pyjama and a mask wrapped around his face, refused to utter a word and drove out of the court premises.

However, he showed his penchant for springing a surprise when he turned towards a kindergarten school run by a convent in the vicinity where a large number of people had gathered to catch a glimpse of the charismatic leader whose ability to mingle with crowds has been a stuff of legend.

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ties Up With HDFC Bank To Offer Co-Branded Credit Cards

SRINAGAR: Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited today announced its partnership with HDFC Bank for the launch of its new co-branded credit cards. The credit cards will be available for Equitas Small Finance Bank's customers, with an aim to provide them with the best facilities of the banking ecosystem.

The credit card can be availed in two categories. The first category is the 'Excite Credit Card' which offers a credit limit from Rs 25,000 to Rs 2,00,000 and the second category is the 'Elegance Credit Card' which offers credit of over Rs 2,00,000.

Both the categories offer immensely valuable rewards programs for all customers. The 'Elegance Credit Card' rolls out two reward points for every Rs 150 spent, 2X reward points on flight

and hotel expenses and 5X reward points on grocery, supermarket and department stores. One can gain 1500 bonus reward points on reaching a monthly milestone greater than Rs 50,000 and collect 10000 bonus reward points for an annual spend greater than Rs 5 Lakhs. The card also offers a joining fee waiver if one spends over Rs 50,000 within 90 days.

Similarly, the 'Excite Credit Card' also has a host of great benefits, with its core rewards program offering 2 reward point for every Rs 150 spent and 3X reward points on fuel and grocery expenses. One can earn 500 bonus reward points upon spending more than Rs 20,000 a month and 2500 bonus reward points on an annual spending of more than Rs 1,80,000. It also has an annual fee waiver upon a spend of over Rs 1,00,000. The card

also offers a joining fee waiver if one spends over Rs 20,000 within 90 days.

Commenting on the launch, Parag Rao, Group Head – Payments, Consumer Finance, Digital Banking & IT, HDFC Bank said, "As India's largest card issuing and acquiring bank we are committed to accelerating the adoption of digitization in the country by engaging with all players in the banking and payments ecosystem. This first-of-its-kind partnership for HDFC Bank will enable us to extend our best-in-class offerings in the cards segment to Equitas Small Finance Bank's customers and provide them with a highly rewarding credit card experience. We are delighted to partner with a market leader in new-age banking as part of our broader strategy of coming back with a bang."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

3 Held For

of said crime," he said.

According to the police spokesperson, preliminary investigations have revealed that the trio linked with Lashkar-e-Taiba (TRF) have killed Ahmad on the directions of "terrorist handler" from across the border.

He said it was further revealed that the accused have been in touch with Pak based handlers for last 4 months.

"On their disclosure, weapon of offence - pistol along with 7 rounds and other incriminating materials including a grenade have been recovered from their possession," the police spokesperson said.

Besides, he said, the Alto car which was used during the commission of crime on the day of attack has also been seized on their disclosure.

"Further investigation in the case is in progress," he added.

J&K Sees 2

no fresh case of infection was reported.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 19 new cases of coronavirus; Rajouri and Poonch 3 each while one new case each was detected in Udhampur, Doda, Kathua, Samba and Reasi. No cases were reported from Kishtwar and Ramban districts.

"Moreover, 195 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 31 from Jammu Division and 164 from Kashmir," they added.

J&K Witnessing

their units in Jammu and Kashmir, she said a lot of people want to come and set up industry here and take benefit from the industrial package of the government.

"I will invite more youth to come forward to set up their businesses in J&K. Of course, with more activities on the ground, we may attract people from everywhere else to partner with you (youth of J&K)," she said.

Sitharaman added, "I would certainly underline this fact that when people partner with you, they are not going to displace you or remove you but are strengthening you."

"You have your strengths but you need more help from resources coming from banks and elsewhere. Today banks alone cannot bring in that kind of equity for activities here," she said, growing activities on the ground would draw people that ultimately boost the economy of J&K.

Referring to the various initiatives of the J&K administration, she said, "I think it is important for two-way participation good schemes and good delivery from the government and good participation from the people and both are all equally required."

She said she will ensure more banking activities take place in J&K and credit help to the people in setting their businesses.

"Regarding budgetary support, I had a lot of discussion with the lieutenant governor and I shall like the chief secretary to meet officials in the finance ministry to work out any proposal for the next budget which we will definitely do," she said.

She also talked about the reforms in the taxation regime and said a new post of principal commissioner for income tax is being created as "we are able to serve the people of J&K better".

Sitharaman said that while the government is generously putting all its resources to make J&K work well in a transparent way, "any wrongdoing that has happened in the banks, any loans which have been taken away and

not repaid till now, I am sure our system will work in such a way that the wrongdoers and the money will be brought back."

The finance minister said that is what has been happening in the entire country.

"The non-performing assets (NPAs) of the banks had been a cause for worry when Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014. In order to bring down the NPAs, a specific '4Rs' strategy of recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reforms showed immediate results," she said.

She said the government pursued the defaulters who took away the loans and let it become the NPA and did not pay back the taxpayers' money that is what is in the banks, whether they are in this country or gone away from India.

The government ensured that their properties are attached, and through a legal process, sold or auctioned out and that money have been paid back to the banks, she added.

"This shall continue to happen, irrespective of where the NPAs holders are and irrespective of where their accounts were. Every NPA shall be pursued actively and that shall apply to J&K as well," she said adding "we shall get back all the money taken away from the banks".

Build Floors Of

underlined the need to forge a strong partnership between banks and business entities for greater investment, growth, innovation, and employment.

"I want the banks in J&K Union Territory to build floors of opportunities, not the walls," he said.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Finance Minister for the mega Credit Outreach campaign in all the districts which will give impetus to the economic activities and ensure that credit is easily accessible to the needy.

While speaking on the key features of new initiatives and schemes launched today, the LG, as per the official spokesperson said that the banking sector along with business institutions associated with its programs and beneficiaries of government's schemes, all together are committed to promoting resourcefulness in the UT.

"Financial assistance of Rs 290 crore to business institutions, NABARD's Farmer-Producer Organization, PNB's 'Shikhar' and 'Shikara' schemes and SIDBI's Rs 200 crore Cluster Development Fund will bring new economic reform in J&K," Sinha said.

He further said that the Rural Self Employment Training Institutes will prove to be a milestone for providing skill training and skill up-gradation to rural youth.

"Today, the Government's policies and credit outreach facilities are meeting the needs of common citizens, youth, women, business institutions, voluntary organizations, rural self-help groups, and farmer-producer organizations and building a strong, prosperous, and future-oriented Union Territory," the LG said.

"Under the guidance of Finance Minister, Department of Financial Services is making strenuous efforts to accomplish the goal of AatmaNirbhar Bharat. I am certain small and medium enterprising sectors, Farmers, young entrepreneurs will fully reap the benefits of more diversified financial offers," he added.

Earlier, the official spokesperson said that Finance Minister in her address reiterated Government of India's commitment to develop the banking sector and extend banking facilities in the UT.

"I will ensure that more bank activities take place in J&K and more Public Sector Banks

come here in all the districts so that every person has access to banking facilities," she said.

"Projects that have been waiting a long time are getting rapidly implemented, sections of society that have never had any assistance from the government are getting it and genuine businesses are also being provided credit", she added.

On this occasion, he said, Sitharaman handed over sanction letters amounting to Rs. 306 crores to 145 beneficiaries of different banks and credit linked schemes like Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), MUDRA Scheme, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Joint-Liability Groups (JLGs) etc. She also announced new schemes and initiatives for J&K.

Coldest Night

remain dry but cold till the end of this month. However, there is a possibility -- 40 to 50 percent chance -- of light snowfall over extreme north Kashmir parts on November 25, it said.

The wintry conditions in Kashmir have set in much ahead of the beginning of the extremely harsh weather conditions that usually start around the third week of December. 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day period of harsh winter in Kashmir, begins on December 21 every year.

Jitendra Singh

from the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Out of the 17,363 cases, CAT-Jammu has disposed 4,371 cases (2,452 of the Srinagar wing and 1,919 of the Jammu wing), it said.

As of now, 12,992 cases are pending (7,610 of the Srinagar wing and 5,382 of the Jammu wing), the statement said.

It said that "7,610 cases are being sent to CAT-Srinagar from CAT-Jammu. Almost 13,000 cases are still in the high court, and these will come to CAT".

Referring to high disposal rate of cases, Minister Singh said that since its inception in 1985 and up to June 30, the CAT has received 8,56,069 cases for adjudication, including those transferred from high courts, out of which 7,86,647 cases have been disposed of, leaving a pendency of 69,422 cases.

On an average, more than 91.89 per cent of the cases instituted are disposed, said Singh, who is the minister of state for personnel.

While the CAT bench at Jammu started functioning with effect from last year June 8, now with the issuing of notification dated November 17 the jurisdiction of the Srinagar bench has also been made functional, he said.

The minister said now all three important agencies of the Department of Personnel and Training -- CAT, CIC and CVC -- are fully functional in the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, according to the statement.

He said that two CAT benches for Jammu and Kashmir in Jammu and Srinagar will go a long way in not only reducing the burden of various courts, but will also provide persons covered by administrative tribunals speedy relief in respect to their grievances and service matters.

Singh said, with the notification of the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021, on August 13, the process for filling up of vacancies of members in CAT has been started, the statement said.

Arrest of Khurram

of the Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS)—the Srinagar-based rights advocacy body documenting and highlighting human rights abuses in Kashmir.

In its statement, Norway-based Rafto

Foundation has termed the allegation against the rights defender by NIA as "wholly implausible".

"We observe with regret that the Indian government intimidates citizens working to secure the values and norms enshrined both in the constitution of India and in international treaties ratified by the government itself," states Jostein Hole Kobbeltevd, Director of the Rafto Foundation.

Former United Nations Special Rapporteur, David Kaye said that Khurram's arrest is "yet another extraordinary abuse in Kashmir".

"I imagine that condemning the arrest of human rights defenders is on the to-do list of the upcoming summit for democracy," he tweeted.

Calling for Khurram's immediate release, Geneva-based World Organisation Against Torture, has said that they were "deeply concerned about the high risk of torture in custody".

According to Amnesty International, "The arrest of Kashmiri activist Khurram Parvez is yet another example of how anti-terror laws are being misused to criminalize human rights work & stifle dissent in India.

Instead of targeting HRDs, authorities should focus on bringing accountability for human rights violations," it added in its tweet.

Kerry Kennedy, president of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, in a statement demanded his immediate release. Instead of attempting to silence and punish human rights defenders, Indian authorities should work to end impunity for perpetrators of human rights abuses.

The human rights body also praised Khurram for bravely documenting "human rights abuses" and providing "much-needed assistance to victims of these abuses to encourage India to abide by its international human rights law obligations".

Meanwhile, CPI-ML leader Kavita Krishnan has termed the raids and arrest of Khurram "an attempt by the Modi regime to gag those witnessing and documenting the unrelenting rights violations in J&K".

Janhastakshpe, a people's intervention group, also unequivocally condemned the arrest of the noted civil rights activist. The UAPA, it alleged, has become a "favourite tool of the ruling classes to silence any opposition to their anti-people rule".

"Janhastakshpe appeals to and hopes that all democratic sections of the society shall speak

up against the arbitrary arrest of Khurram Parvez in order to protect those fighting against the ruling fascist dispensation," it said in a statement.

Several Kashmiri origin people, including author Mirza Waheed, also took to Twitter to raise their voice against the arrest of the activist.

"Khurram Parvez is someone who'd defend the rights of even those out to persecute him. It's a travesty that one of Kashmir's most recognised human rights defenders has been arrested - he should be released from detention without delay," the British Kashmiri author of "Tell Her Everything"

said.

After raiding his residence, the NIA, as per the activist's family, seized his mobile phone, laptop and books.

Khurram was earlier detained and booked under Public Safety Act in 2016 by Mehbooba Mufti led PDP-BJP Government. Last year in October, the activist was quizzed by the NIA sleuths. (With PTI inputs)

Man Held After

intercepted a car and recovered a pistol from it. The car driver, however, managed to give slip to the cops.

A police official said that a person boarding the vehicle was arrested and is presently being questioned.

While the person detained is presently being questioned, the main culprit absconded from the spot along with the vehicle and efforts are underway to trace him," he said.

It was not immediately known if the man detained had taken the lift in the vehicle or knew the owner.

Govt Fires 3 More

were terminated from their services under Article 113 of J&K Civil Service Rules (Volume I) of 1956, officials said.

According to a government order, Jameela Akhtar, has been fired for remaining absent from her legitimate duties from September 09, 2014, while Nighat Akhtar has remained absent from her legitimate duties from September 1, 2012 even as she was provided ample opportunities to resume her duties.

The sacking of two more teachers comes days after four government teachers were terminated from their services for remaining absent from duties.

Middle-Aged Man

area at Bumdoora in Kokernag on Tuesday morning, reports said. A police team reached the spot after the locals informed them about the discovery of the body. Reports said that the police team took the body in custody for carrying out legal-medico formalities.

Ladakh Logs

were cured and discharged from hospital from Leh. The total number of cured patients is 20,919, they said.

There was no death reported due to Covid in Ladakh on Monday. (PTI)

CONDOLENCE

With profound grief & sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Mr. Farooq Ahmad Zargar** **S/o Late Ali Mohammad Zargar** **R/o Handwala Colony Sector 13 Lane No.1 Binnia, House No.140/139 on 22nd November 2021** The **Fateh Khawani** will be held there ancestral ancestral graveyard at **Nowhatta Year Gang** **Balak Park** on **23rd November 2021** at **10:30 am.**

BURIED BY FAMILY

BURHAN FAROOQ ZARGAR (SON)
FARUQAN FAROOQ ZARGAR (SON)

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