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Quote!

Whatever satisfies the soul is truth
—Walt Whitman

NEWS DIGEST

BSF Constable Charred To Death

SRINAGAR: A Border Security Force (BSF) constable was charred to death after a charcoal bukhari exploded at an 'observation point' in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, reports said Tuesday. Constable Anish Joseph, who **More on P10**

2 Held With Pistol Near Jammu Airport

SRINAGAR: The police in Jammu city arrested two people after allegedly recovering a Chinese pistol from their possession, officials said Tuesday. Randeep Singh and Lobjit Singh—both resident of Nanak Nagar—were arrested on Monday night after they argued and assaulted **More on P10**

Tipper Crushes Biker To Death

SRINAGAR: A young motorcyclist on Tuesday was mowed down to death by a tipper in Sopore town of Baramulla district. 23-year-old Mussadiq Ahmed Paray of Tujar Sopore sustained critical injuries after he was hit by a speedy tipper near Model Town, reports said. **More on P10**

Ladakh Logs 17 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh has reported 17 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 21,839 while the active cases in the union territory have gone down to 178, officials said on Tuesday. The union territory has recorded 216 Covid-related deaths—158 in Leh and 58 in Kargil—since **More on P10**

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ZEWAN FALLOUT

Policemen Directed To Use Protective Gear

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A day after a militant ambush left two cops dead and 12 others injured, the Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh on Tuesday directed the policemen to use the protective gear while on duty for personal safety, and take all protection on duty as well as during to and fro travel from the camps to deployments places.

Singh directed these directions during his visit to the Armed Police Complex Zewan where he interact with the policemen and officers and paid rich tributes to the cops killed in Monday's militant attack, a police spokesperson said.

The DGP, he said, appreciated the policemen for retaliating to the militant attack



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

saying that immediate response avoided what would have been possibly a huge loss.

Singh, he said, also complimented the driver for his sensible and quick action during the incident.

"He said that in the

retaliation one terrorist was reportedly injured and vowed that perpetrators would be brought to justice very soon," the police spokesperson said.

"He directed the personnel to use the protective gear while on duty **More on P10**

Another Cop Succumbs, Death Toll 3

Observer News Service

The death toll in the militant attack on a police bus in Zewan area of Srinagar rose to three on Tuesday after an injured constable succumbed to injuries, officials said. Constable Rameez Ahmad of the 9th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, succumbed to injuries at the Army's 92 Base hospital, the officials said. According to reports, hundreds of people attended funeral prayers of the killed policemen when his body was brought to his native village Yachama of Kangan on Tuesday afternoon. Heart wrenching scenes were witnessed as the body of Rameez was being carried to the ancestral **More on P10**

5 Persons Visiting Slain Cop's Home Killed in Mishap

Cold Conditions Prevail In Kashmir

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Intense cold conditions prevailed in J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday even as the weatherman ruled out severe weather in coming days.

"Weather is most likely to remain partly to generally cloudy during December 14-15th in Jammu & Kashmir. There's a possibility of light to moderate snow over north and north west of Kashmir (mainly over higher reaches) and very light rain/snow at scattered places in plains of the Valley later tonight (50%chance)," an official of the local meteorological department here said.

"There is no forecast for any major rain/snow till December 23," he said, adding, "In whole J&K including Srinagar, minimum temperature dropping to -5 or -6 degree Celsius in December is normal and is a part of winter weather. It happens every year." **More on P10**

Omar Takes Pot Shots At Govt Over Zewan Attack

Press Trust Of India

GANDERBAL: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah alleged on Tuesday that the present administration in Jammu and Kashmir has "completely failed" in controlling the situation and in providing a sense of security to the people.

Abdullah's remarks came after a sensational attack on a police bus in the Zewan area of the city here on Monday in which three personnel were killed and 11 others injured.

"It (attack) is another sign towards the present situation. The reality is that the present administration has completely failed in controlling the



situation and in providing a sense of security to the people," he told reporters here in the central Kashmir district after addressing a party convention.

The National Conference leader said there were attacks taking place in

Feeling Of Hopelessness Among People: Bukhari

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a new adoption resource agency for the erstwhile state to ensure "Care, Welfare & Protection" of the children who were orphaned by the ongoing pandemic, amidst the sensational media reports alleging that "Covid orphans" were being put up for sale by traffickers.

The agency has been set up in order to deal with the process of adopting orphans legally—especially those who lost their parents during Covid—under the guidance of the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) that was constituted in terms of the Juvenile Justice

Reiterating his party's demand for the restoration of statehood before assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday said there is a feeling of hopelessness among the people with the **More on P10**

the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday evening. The accident took place on a link road near Chuchaiter village, connecting Rajgarh with Ramban district headquarters on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway. Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Masrat-ul-Islam said. He said the driver lost control as a result of which the vehicle rolled down several hundred feet into Chumotri nallah, resulting in the on-the-spot death of five persons and injuries to **More on P10**

Two More Die of Corona In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday died of coronavirus while 134 fresh cases of infection were registered in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, two more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Kashmir Valley on Tuesday, raising the death toll in pandemic to 4500 in J&K—2190 in Jammu and 2310 in Kashmir.

About the new cases, the officials said, 103 were reported from the Valley and the remaining 31 from different districts of Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected by virus in the UT to 339124.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 44 new cases of coronavirus, Baramulla 26, Ganderbal 12, Kupwara 9, Budgam and Pulwama 4 each, Anantnag 2 and one new case each in Bandipora and Kulgam district. Shopian was the only district **More on P10**

'Significant' Drop In Militancy Since Aug 2019: GoI



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The number of militancy incidents in Jammu and Kashmir has shown significant decline since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

In written response to a question, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai

gave data showing that only 206 militant incidents were reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year till December 5 as against 417 in 2018.

According to the data, 255 militant incidents were reported in 2019 and 244 in 2020.

The infiltration figures also showed a decline with only 28 incidents being reported till October 31 **More on P10**

Pak Militant Killed In Poonch Encounter

A Pakistani militant belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, police said on Tuesday. A search is underway to track down another militant, who was his accomplice, in the area, they said. The Army and police launched an operation after receiving specific intelligence inputs about the presence of armed terrorists in Behramgala area, a defence **More on P10**

THIS IS THE EIGHTH TERRORIST to be eliminated this year. Recently, Haji Arif, a dreaded terrorist guide, was also eliminated on the LoC in the Rajouri sector."

Div Com Raps Health Dept Over Non-Use Of Ventilators

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking a strong note of non utilisation of ventilators in districts since last month, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Tuesday warned district health authorities of stern action if the officers are found under utilising life saving ventilators for daily use for patients.

Pole passed these instructions to the health department officials while chairing a meeting regarding status and functioning of ICUs and referral of sick patients in all health institutions of Kashmir Division,

an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Principal GMC Srinagar Prof. Samiya Rashid, Director Health Services Kashmir Dr. Mustaq Ahmad Rather, head of the departments (HoDs) and Medical Superintendents of all district hospitals and Public Health Experts of DCCR Kashmir.

During the meeting, the official spokesperson said, the Div Com reviewed the status of invasive and non-invasive ventilators in every district besides allocation of ventilators for Covid and non **More on P10**

Govt To Tighten Adoption Rules For Safety Of Orphans J&KARA Constituted After Media Reports Claimed Covid Orphans 'On Sale'

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a new adoption resource agency for the erstwhile state to ensure "Care, Welfare & Protection" of the children who were orphaned by the ongoing pandemic, amidst the sensational media reports alleging that "Covid orphans" were being put up for sale by traffickers.

The agency has been set up in order to deal with the process of adopting orphans legally—especially those who lost their parents during Covid—under the guidance of the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) that was constituted in terms of the Juvenile Justice



which deals with the 2015's Care and Protection of Children Act. Mission Director, ICPS (Integrated Child Protection Scheme) Shabnam Kamili told Kashmir Observer that formation of the new adoption

resource agency will fortify the steps taken by the government for protection of orphan children especially those rendered by ongoing pandemic. "Earlier, J&K wasn't registered under CARA as there was no

State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA) for J&K which would have ensured a better protection of orphans in the Valley," Shabnam said.

"But now, after demanding a State level Adoption agency for J&K, the government has constituted J&KARA, which has the authority to ensure the legal adoption and safety of orphans in J&K that will subsequently strengthen the Government and ICPS to provide a safe future for orphans."

The setting up of J&KARA has come on the heels of a recent investigative report alleging illegal "adoption and sale" of children orphaned by Covid in Kashmir. "That report has been an eye-opener as the reality unearthed by it has **More on P10**



Children enjoying sledge ride on a bright sunny day in the snowbound Drass Valley of Kargil. KO Photo, Abid Bhat



CBI Chargesheets Man For Duping Friend

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: The crime branch Kashmir has produced chargesheet before Court of City judge here against one accused person for duping his 'friend' and grabbing Rs 25.15,000. The chargesheet was submitted against Syed Afaq Miraj son of Syed Miraj-u-din of Gilli Kadal, Nowshera Srinagar, Crime Branch.

"The case registered after Crime Branch Kashmir, received a written complaint from Hakim Nadeem Abbass of BaghwanPora Lal Bazar Srinagar to the effect that Syed Afaq Miraj, sole proprietor of M/S SAISHA Enterprise who happened to be (his) friend had acquired a piece of land measuring four kanals at Industrial Estate (SIDCO) Khanmoh Srinagar on lease for construction of SSI unit under name and style M/S Saisha Enterprise," the CBK said, adding, "It was further alleged that the alleged accused had some financial constraints and his plan was to sell the unit and persuaded the complainant to purchase the unit in question."

Being unemployed, Nadeem purchased the same and subsequently entered into an agreement (receipt cum Declaration) and paid an amount of Rs.25.15,000 to Miraj, the CB said. "But the alleged accused failed to provide him the partnership nor he returned the money." On above counts, the CBK said, an enquiry was initiated and the alleged accused was found involved in the commission of crime. Subsequently, the CBK said, a case (FIR No. 07/2016) U/S 420 RPC was registered with police Crime Branch Kashmir against the accused.

"During the course of investigation, statements of the persons familiar with the facts and circumstances of the case were recorded. Records pertaining to subject matter were obtained from the concerned offices and were seized, as per the procedure," it said, adding, "And on the basis of facts and circumstances that emerged during the course of investigation, the investigation of case was concluded as 'Proved' under section 420 RPC, against the accused Syed Afaq Miraj." (CNS)

MMU Directs Imams, Preachers To Desist From Sectarian Sermons

Expresses concern over Saudi Arabia's ban on Tableeghi Jamat

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: A meeting of Mut-tahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu & Kashmir was held at Mirwaiz Manzil Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar, after authorities dis-allowed it to be held at the An-juman Auqaf headquarters at Jama Masjid Srinagar.

According to a statement, the meeting was presided over by the leading Islamic scholar of J&K Mufti Nazir Ahmad Qasmi, as MMU president Mir-waiz Umar Farooq continues to be under house detention for the past two and a half years since August 5th 2019.

The meeting was attended

by the leaders and representa-tives of the religious, and so-cial organisations besides well known NGOs which include Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar, Darul Uloom Ra-heemiyah Bandipora, Muslim Personal Law Board of Grand Mufti of J&K, Jammu and Kashmir Anjuman Sharia Shi-aan and several other repre-sentatives of many other reli-gious, and social organisations of Jammu and Kashmir who expressed their opinions and offered various suggestions.

Appealing to scholars, imams, preachers and socio religious organisations of all schools of thought , MMU

members in the meeting em-phased that the urgent need of the hour is to focus on the fundamental teachings and principles of Islam during their sermons and discourses, for the sake of greater unity among the Muslims and in or-der to resist the nefarious de-signs of anti-Islamic forces and discourage partial, partisan and centuries-old differences and conflicts among various sects of Islam .

Those who still continue with such a mindset to promote sectarianism will be exposed in public and held accountable, the Majlis-e-Ulema warned.

On the occasion, it was

proposed to form a sub-com-mittee under the auspices of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema to address some key issues fac-ing the Kashmiri society. The sub-committee will consider all the points of the proposed resolution that was adopted in the meeting, as well as stay in contact with the concerned for their implementation.

As per the resolution pre-sented at the meeting, serious concern was expressed over the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's ban on a purely religious and da'wah organisation Tablighi Jamaat; and the government of Saudi Arabia was called upon to reconsider its decision.

PRESS NOTE

13 of December 2021We are very much thankful to His Excellency LG Manoj Sinha Advisor to LG Mr. Bhatnagar Principal Secretary Mr. B.K Singh both directors of school education department due to whose personal efforts and work ethic the confirmation of Incharge lecturers in school education department was taken at hand. It is expected that all other subjects in que can also be addressed in the coming next DPC.As we know it was a long pending demand.

All those Incharge lecturers who were dropped earlier and found genuine should be issued orders at an earliest without further delay.

Thank You
RNA

F.A. Attar
Anantnag

Public Notice

I have applied for seed license if anybody having any objection regarding this he/she may contact to the AG-RICULTURE OFFICER ANANTNAG within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained. Name:- Tanveer Ahmad Mir S/o:- Mohd Maqbool Mir R/o:- Hakura Anantnag Phone No.9797973116

RNA

Jammu And Kashmir Public Service Commission

RESHAM GHAR Colony BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in>
Email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com

Jammu: 0191-2566528 (F) 2566530
Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (F) 2312631

Subject: - Representations submitted by the candidates for the post of Assistant Professor (Structural Engineering) in Hr. Education Department-consideration thereof.

NOTICE

DATED:- 13 .12.2021

Whereas, the J&K Public Service Commission vide Notification No.06-PSC(DR-P) of 2018 dated 13.3.2018, item No. 228, invited on line application forms from the permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir for 02 posts(OM 01 & RBA 01) of Assistant Professor (Structural Engineering) in the Higher Education Department.

Whereas, the cut of merit under various categories alongwith the names of the eligible candidates was notified vide Notice dated 28.09.2021 with the stipulation that, if any candidate feels aggrieved with respect to the cut off merit and his/her non-inclusion in the eligibility list, he /she may represent before the Commission within 10 days from the date of issuance of the Notice; and

Whereas, in response, to the above Notice, the Commission has received 06 representations from the following candidates, the response whereof against each representation is given in the remarks column below:

S. No.	Name of the candidate	Remarks
1	Muzafar Nazir Ganaie	Experience certificate issued by the Dev Bhoomi Institute of Technology has not been counter signed by the Government Authority. Representation is rejected.
2	Musawir Quadir	M. Tech Degree not in relevant discipline. Representation is rejected.
3	Muzamil Mushtaq Khanday	Less experience. Representation is rejected.
4	Mohd Tajamal Islam	M. Tech Degree not in relevant discipline. Representation is rejected.
5	Pervinder Singh	M. Tech Degree not in relevant discipline. Representation is rejected.
6	Malikiyat Singh	M. Tech Degree not in relevant discipline. Representation is rejected.

Therefore, if any candidate feels aggrieved, he may represent before the appellate Authority of the Commission within 03 days from the date of issuance of this notice. No grievances whatsoever shall be entertained/accepted after the stipulated time period.

No: PSC/DR/Ap / Strict-Engg/228 /18 Dated: 13-12-2021

R. K. Katoch JKAS Secretary

DIPK-14820/21

Jammu And Kashmir Public Service Commission

ازنابت ساکام با اجلاس انٹرنیٹیکسپرسٹ دیپاول ساکام

درخواست غائب۔ ریش احمد ولد رانی کردال لگی سائنٹ ساکام

بشر حصول ST مرقیت۔

اشترا براد گای بر فاس دام۔

معامند بر عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بشر حصول ST مرقیت دفتر ہاں

پیش کیا ہے جو کہ کردال ہے۔ پادری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا

نمبر نام و ولدیت عمر پیش آمدنی

1 ریش احمد ولد رانی کردال لگی 45 سال مزدوری =4000

2 شعیب زید بر شعیب احمد کردال لگی 42 سال گھریلو کام

3 عابدہ مظفر احمد کردال لگی 14 سال زینتیم

4 سعیدہ اختر بر شعیب احمد کردال لگی 12 سال زینتیم

5 عاصف احمد ریش احمد کردال لگی 10 سال زینتیم

6 فینان احمد ریش احمد کردال لگی 08 سال زینتیم

اس طور پر سائل کا کنوید 106 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا مرقیت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈورنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تایبہ تصیلدار۔ RNA

ازنابت ساکام با اجلاس انٹرنیٹیکسپرسٹ دیپاول ساکام

درخواست غائب۔ عادل عزیز آصف عزیز قیام و بخت عزیز اولاد انجمد بر حصول SC مرقیت۔

بشر حصول یک واڈار یا RBA مرقیت۔

اشترا براد گای بر فاس دام۔

معامند بر عنوان الصد میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بشر حصول یک واڈار یا

مرقیت دفتر ہاں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ کردال ہے۔ پادری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا

نمبر نام و ولدیت عمر پیش آمدنی

1 عیاد عزیز قیام 65 سال مزدوری

2 زلفہ بانو زید بر فاس عزیز قیام 62 سال مزدوری

3 بلال احمد قیام ولد عیاد عزیز قیام 30 سال سرکاری ملازم

4 زاہدہ اختر بر فاس عزیز قیام 28 سال گھریلو کام

5 عاصف عزیز قیام ولد عیاد عزیز قیام 26 سال زینتیم

6 عادل عزیز قیام ولد عیاد عزیز قیام 24 سال زینتیم

7 بسنت عزیز اختر بر فاس عزیز قیام 20 سال زینتیم

سائل کا کنوید 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا مرقیت اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار ڈورنے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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مرقیت دفتر ہاں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ کردال ہے۔ پادری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا

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تایبہ تصیلدار۔ RNA

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Over 8 Lakh Indians Gave Up Citizenship In Last 7 Years: Minister In Lok Sabha



Asian News International

NEW DELHI: A total 8,81,254 Indian citizens renounced their citizenship in the last seven years till September 30, 2021 as per information available with the Ministry of External Affairs, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

According to the data tabled in the Lower House, most Indians renounced their Indian citizenship in 2019.

Total 1,31,489 Indians renounced their citizenship in 2015, which then rose to

1,41,603 in 2016. In 2017, 1,33,049 Indians renounced their citizenship. In 2018, the number stood at 1,34,561. In 2019, the number rose to 1,44,017 and in 2020 it dipped to 85,242. In 2021 it again mounted to 1,11,287 Indians who renounced their citizenship, till September 30.

In this regard, a question was raised by Telangana Rashtriya Samiti leader Kotha Prabhakar Reddy in the Lok Sabha today.

He questioned "whether provisions have been made for applicants to upload documents online, with an upper limit of 60 days for the renunciation."

Mr Rai replied, "Citizenship of India may be renounced under provisions of Section 8 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 read with rule 23 of the Citizenship Rules, 2009. The online portal for renunciation of Indian citizenship has been activated in August, 2021. End to end processing of renunciation applications is carried out in the online Citizenship Module."

Rahul Gandhi Seeks Minister's Removal, PM's Apology Over Farmers' Killing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today demanded that Union Minister Ajay Mishra be removed from his post over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and said it is time for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to apologise once again.

His remarks came after the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the violence, which claimed eight lives including that of four farmers, urged the chief judicial magistrate to replace lesser charges in the case like causing death by negligence with attempt to murder, saying that it was a "pre-planned conspiracy causing death".

"Modi ji, it is time to apologise again... But first remove the accused's father from the minister's post. The truth is before you!" Mr Gandhi said on Twitter, using the hashtags "Lakhimpur" and "murder".

He alleged that the minister tried to kill farmers and the prime minister knew as he was a member of his team.

"A minister has tried to kill farmers. The prime minister knows as he is in his team. We raised the issue but we were not allowed a discussion on it even then. We were all silenced at the time after we wanted to discuss the issue," he told reporters when asked about the matter.

"Everyone knows the truth and it is that 2-3 big industrialists are against farmers and Narendra Modi is in the front," he claimed.

Asked if the Congress would raise the issue in Parliament, the former Congress chief said, "We will certainly raise the issue in Parliament but they will not allow us to raise it." In response to another question, he said, "When they ran their jeep over farmers, which forces were behind them? Who gave them the liberty and which



force kept them out of jail?"

The SIT urged the CJM to replace IPC sections 279 (rash driving/riding), 338 (causing grievous injuries by negligence) and 304A (causing death by a rash and negligent act) with IPC section 307 (attempt to murder) among others in the case related to the October 3 violence in Uttar Pradesh.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also demanded the sacking of Mishra and asked the prime minister to apologise.

"Dear Modi ji, now in Lakhimpur Kheri the conspiracy to kill farmers has come to the fore. Today you should apologise to the farmers from the stage in Uttar Pradesh and sack the minister of state for home in the "conspiracy" "Due to the court's rebuke and because of 'satyagraha', now even the police is saying that the son of the minister of state for home had conspired and crushed farmers. But @narendramodi ji, due to anti-farmer mindset, you have not even removed him from his post," she said.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also demanded that there should be an inquiry into the role of the minister of state for home in the "conspiracy" "Due to the court's rebuke and because of 'satyagraha', now even the police is saying that the son of the minister of state for home had conspired and crushed farmers. But @narendramodi ji, due to anti-farmer mindset, you have not even removed him from his post," she said.



PEOPLE WEAR FACE MASKS while walking in an empty street in the financial district, known as The City, in London, Monday, Dec 13. — AP

Pfizer Covid Pill Nearly 90% Effective, Works On Omicron, Shows Lab Data

Reuters

WASHINGTON: Pfizer Inc on Tuesday said final analysis of its antiviral COVID-19 pill still showed near 90% efficacy in preventing hospitalizations and deaths in high-risk patients, and recent lab data shows the drug retains its effectiveness against the fast spreading Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

The US drugmaker last month said the oral medicine was around 89% effective in preventing hospitalizations or deaths when compared to placebo based on interim results in around 1,200 people. The data disclosed on Tuesday includes an additional 1,000 people.

Nobody in the trial who received the Pfizer treatment died, compared with 12 deaths among placebo recipients.

The Pfizer pills are taken with the older antiviral ritonavir every 12 hours for five days beginning shortly after onset of symptoms. If authorized, the treatment will

WE'RE IN VERY advanced regulatory dialogues with both Europe and the UK, and we have dialogues with most of the major regulatory agencies globally,"

be sold as Paxlovid.

Pfizer also released early data from a second clinical trial showing that the treatment reduced hospitalizations by around 70% in around 600 standard-risk adults.

"It's a stunning outcome," Pfizer Chief Scientific Officer Mikael Dolsten said in an interview.

"We're talking about a staggering number of lives saved and hospitalizations prevented. And of course, if you deploy this quickly after infection, we are likely to reduce transmission dramatically," Dolsten said.

Dolsten said he expects authorization for use in high-risk individuals from the US Food and

Drug Administration and other regulatory agencies soon. He does not believe an FDA advisory panel meeting will be needed.

"We're in very advanced regulatory dialogues with both Europe and the UK, and we have dialogues with most of the major regulatory agencies globally," Dolsten said.

There are currently no oral antiviral treatments for COVID-9 authorized in the United States.

Rival Merck & Co has asked for emergency use authorization of its antiviral pill molnupiravir. But that drug only reduced hospitalizations and deaths in its clinical trial of high-risk patients by around 30%.

Some scientists have also raised safety concerns about the potential for birth defects from the Merck drug, as well as worries that it could cause the virus to mutate.

Pfizer's drug works differently. It is part of a class of drugs called protease inhibitors currently used to treat HIV, hepatitis C and other viruses.

No Official Estimation Of Black Money In Foreign Accounts In Last Five Years: Govt In Parliament

NEW DELHI: There is no official estimation how much worth of black money is lying in foreign accounts over the last five years, however, Rs 2,476 crore has been collected as tax and penalty under the one-time three months compliance window during 2015, government said in Parliament on Tuesday.

As many as 648 disclosures involving undisclosed foreign assets worth Rs 4,164 crore were made in the one-time three months' compliance window closed on September 30, 2015 under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

He said the amount collected by way of tax and penalty in such cases was about Rs 2,476 crore.



"There is no official estimation regarding the amount of black money in foreign accounts during the last five years. However, the government has taken various steps against the black money abroad which have led to positive results," Chaudhary said.

He was responding to a query on details of black money brought back to India from foreign countries since 2014 till 30th November, 2021 (year and country wise), being asked by Members of Par-

liament Sukhram Singh Yadav and Vishambhar Prasad Nishad.

Bringing back black money stashed abroad was one of the key planks of the current government led by BJP, which assumed power in May 2014.

The minister said that undisclosed income of more than Rs 8,466 crore has been brought to tax and penalty of more than Rs 1,294 crore has been levied on account of deposits made in unreported foreign bank accounts in "HSBC cases" so far.

Sustained investigations conducted in the cases revealed by International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) have led to detection of more than Rs 11,010 crore of credits in the undisclosed foreign accounts so far, Chaudhary said. **-PTI**

Beware Of Fake News On Grace Marks In Class 12 Accountancy Paper: CBSE To Students



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) today warned students against a fake audio circulating on social media claiming that due to an error in class 12 accountancy paper grace marks will be given to students.

"It has been brought to the notice of the board that fake reports allegedly quoting an audio message in the name of Controller of Examination, CBSE are being circulated claiming that due to an error in class 12 accountancy term-1 paper held on December 13 'up to 06 grace marks will be given," the board said in an official statement.

"The contents in news reports published are totally baseless and false. None of the reporters has spoken to the Controller of Examination, CBSE in this regard

and the board has not taken any such decision. CBSE, therefore, warns the public not to fall prey to such unverified news in their own interest," it added.

In the purported audio message, the 'controller' was saying, "Don't worry students, if you attempt 28 to 31 questions correctly, you will score around 38 marks. CBSE will award grace marks up to six to the students".

The development came a day after CBSE decided to award full marks to all students for accompanying questions of a comprehension passage which was dropped following outrage over the board allegedly supporting gender stereotyping and regressive norms.

The board also announced setting up of an expert committee to strengthen and review its question paper setting process to avoid such occurrences in the future.

Nagpur Woman Cooks Up Gang-Rape Story To Marry Boyfriend, Keeps Over 1,000 Cops On Their Toes



NAGPUR: A 19-year-old woman allegedly lodged a fake police complaint of gang-rape in a bid to marry her boyfriend, keeping the Nagpur police on their toes for the entire day, officials said on Tuesday. Over 1,000 security personnel, including Nagpur Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar and other senior officials, investigated the case here in Maharashtra on Monday after the woman lodged the complaint at Kalamna police station around 11 am, they said.

After going through the footage of more than 250 CCTVs across the city, the investigators arrived at the conclusion that she had cooked up the gang-rape story. The woman later told the police that she did it to marry her boyfriend, a senior police official said, but did not divulge on what were her exact plans.

Earlier, the woman in her police complaint alleged that she was raped by two men at an isolated area near Chikhali area.

She claimed that the two men came in a white van and asked her about the road to Butibori when she was going to attend a music class in Ramdaspath area in the morning. The men then forcibly took her into the van and covered her face with a

cloth. The abductors took her to an isolated place and allegedly raped her, the official said quoting her complaint.

Sensing the gravity of the matter, the city police immediately launched a probe.

The Kalamna police registered an offence against unidentified men under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Commissioner of Police Amitesh Kumar, Additional CP Sunil Phuluri and other senior officials rushed to the Sitabuli police station for the probe into the case.

Kumar ordered formation of 40 special teams, comprising more than 1,000 police personnel, to check the footage of CCTVs, vans in the city and to question friends of the woman, while she was sent to Mayo Hospital for a medical examination, the official said.

He said after more than six hours of hectic efforts and questioning of over 50 people, the police concluded that the woman had concocted the gang-rape story.

From the CCTV footage, it came to light that the woman alighted from a bus at the Variety square at 9.50 am, walked up to the Jhansi Rani square at 10 am, boarded an auto-rickshaw at the Anand Talkies square at 10.15 am and got down from the three-wheeler at the Mayo Hospital at 10.25 am, the official said.

She later boarded a shared auto-rickshaw and alighted at the Chikhali square at 10.54 am.

A CCTV camera installed at a petrol pump captured her walking towards the Kalamna police station at 11.04 am, the official said. **-PTI**

NEWS MAKERS

Indigo Loader Falls Asleep In Cargo Compartment Of Plane; Reaches Abu Dhabi



NEW DELHI: A loader of IndiGo fell asleep in the cargo compartment of the airline's Mumbai-Abu Dhabi flight, but was found safe on arrival in the capital city of the UAE, officials of aviation regulator DGCA said on Tuesday.

After the loading of baggage in the aircraft, one of the loaders of the private carrier fell asleep behind the baggage in the cargo compartment on Sunday's flight, they said.

The cargo door was closed and the loader woke up as the aircraft took off from the Mumbai airport, the officials informed.

After the aircraft landed in the capital city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a medical examination of the loader was

conducted by Abu Dhabi authorities and his physical condition was found to be stable and normal, they said.

After getting the requisite clearances from the authorities in Abu Dhabi, he was sent back to Mumbai as a passenger on the same aircraft, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials said.

The personnel of the airline involved in the incident have been offered pending an investigation, they added.

Asked about the matter, an IndiGo spokesperson told PTI, "We are aware of the incident and the requisite authorities have been informed. The matter is under investigation." **-PTI**

Assam Specialty Tea Auctioned For Record 99,999 Per Kg

Agencies

GUWAHATI: A specialty tea In Assam was auctioned for 99,999 per kg, the highest bid in a tea auction, an official said.

The Manohari Gold Tea, which created history by breaking its own record set earlier, was bought by Saurav Tea Traders at an auction at Guwahati Tea Auction Centre.

Last year, the Manohari Gold Tea was sold at 75,000 per kilogram, the highest in the year, at the centre. "We have created history once again. Our 1 kg Gold Tea was auctioned at 99,999 at Guwahati Tea Auction centre on Tuesday morning. We give importance to quality, we don't compromise with quality. Today, we are very happy because once again we brought glory for Assam tea," said Rajan Lohia, owner of Manohari Tea Estate.

He said, "We made the tea with the small bud with finest clove P-126. Every year our target is to produce 10 kg of Gold Tea but this year we produce 2 kg of Gold Tea. For tea production, the weather and



soil quality of Assam is perfect. We only give stress to quality."

On the tea industry crisis, Mr Lohia said, "Only quality tea can save the tea industry of Assam. Assam tea is famous in the world because of its rich quality."

Manohari Tea Estate is spread across 1,000 acres of land where around 600 workers are employed.

In 2018, 1kg of the same brand of tea was auctioned for 39,000 and was bought by the Saurabh Tea Traders that time as well. A year later, the same company bought a kilogram of that tea for an auction price of 50,000.

In 2020, 1kg of the tea fetched 75,000, with Vishnu Tea Company winning the bid.



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Electrification of Cafeteria, at Naseem Bagh Campus.	Rs. 1.24 Lacs	Rs.100/-	01-month	13-12-2021 to 23-12-2021 (6.00 PM)	24-12-2021 (11.30 AM)	"AAY"
2.	Supplying, Fixing, Testing and Commissioning of Steel Tubular Poles and Link -Sets for Creating 11KV section/liner behind Department of Distance Education at Naseem Bagh Campus.	Rs.0.98 Lacs	Rs.100/-	15-Days	13-12-2021 to 23-12-2021 (6.00 PM)	24-12-2021 (11.30 AM)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No: - F(UCD)/(Elect. Cafet.&S/F/T/C Link Sets)/KU/72/21
DATED:13/12/21.

Executive Engineer
DIPK-NB-5828/21

Masoodi Seeks Discussion On J&K Situation In LS

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi on Tuesday raised a number of issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir in the Lok Sabha.

Drawing the attention of the government on the deteriorating security situation in Kashmir with each passing day, he said, "Yesterday's Police Bus attack and other incident, total strike in Ladakh smacks of the rapidly deteriorating security political and security situation in the entire region," he said reiterating his demand for short discussion on the evolving situation.

Masoodi also raised the issue of teachers of migrant schools set up

for Tribals, migrating with their livestock from Jammu to higher reaches of Kashmir during summer and from Kashmir to Jammu.

Expressing his concern over the tribulations faced by these teachers, he said that the schools are closed during winter/ summer and teachers are hence disengaged for six months. This he said, breaks continuity and affects the education, impacting the benefits intended. He demanded that all these teachers be placed in a cadre and integrated with the education department of the concerned zone to serve in other schools and re-deployed to schools for migrant tribals on their return to the zone- Jammu/ Kashmir

Skill Development Dept Promotes 54 Officers After 12 Years

JAMMU: The Skill Development Department on Tuesday ordered promotion of 54 officers after a gap of 12 years.

The officers which have been promoted include Head of Departments in different streams, Lecturers and Training and Placement Officers in three separate orders issued vide No 95-(JK) DSD of 2021, 96-(JK) DSD of 2021 and 97-(JK) DSD of 2021, dated 14-12-2021.

The order also reads that this shall however be outcome of any

writ petition pending before any court of law.

The Officers and Officials of Skill Development Department hailed the efforts of Principal Secretary Dr Samoon for his tireless efforts to streamline the functioning of the department.

They said that the stagnation in the department was marring the prospects of the employees.

The employees also thanked the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary, Dr. A K Mehta.

Govt To Depute Sr Assistants Of SED For Two-Month Training Course At IMPARD

SRINAGAR: The government has said that it will depute Senior Assistants of School Education Department for two months training course at Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development Department (IMPARD).

The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in an order has said that it has ordered to depute Senior Assistants to undergo the Jammu and Kashmir secretariat assistants training course at IMPARD.

"It is ordered that 276 Senior Assistants and In-charge Senior Assistants of School Education Department of Kashmir Divi-

sion are deputed to undergo two months Secretariat Assistants Training Course at J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development Department (IMPARD) Srinagar scheduled to commence with immediate effect from December-15-2021," reads the order.

The director has asked the Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) concerned to relieve the officials on scheduled date and the salary in respect of these trainees shall continue to be drawn from their respective offices on production of attendance certificate from J&K IMPARD, Srinagar. —KNO



FAMILY MEMBERS wail as mourners carry the body of slain cop Rameez Ahmad for burial in Kangan area on Tuesday.

Kashmir Suffered ₹10,000 Cr Losses This Year Due To Covid Curbs: KCCI

SRINAGAR: Kashmir has suffered a loss of around Rs 50,000 crore since 05 August 2019 which includes around Rs 10,000 crore this year while business in Kashmir like the rest of the country is down compared to last year.

President of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) Sheikh Ashiq said that from August 2019 Kashmir's economy has suffered a whopping of over Rs 50,000 crore losses while around one lakh youth lost their jobs during the same period.

"Of Rs 50,000 crore loss, around Rs 10,000 crore loss has been incurred in this year due to the lockdown," Ashiq said.

"Every segment of the economy suffered huge losses and it will take years to revive our business and without government support it isn't possible," he said.

Ashiq said that business in Kashmir is going on a very thin

line and they aren't expecting any big things to happen presently.

He said that as there are still travel restrictions in many countries and as per World Economic reports till 2022 there won't be such investments as were happening before.

"We have wholeheartedly thanked LG Manoj Sinha for announcing an economic package for reviving the ailing business sector which gave us a bit of relief. However, many things which were mentioned in the package haven't been implemented yet on ground," he said.

He said that as unemployment rate is increasing which indicates less work in the market and it will take time to take business to normal stage again as it was before August 05.

"However, KCCI is making every effort to promote young and educated entrepreneurs of J&K and create more and more employment opportunities for

youth of J&K in the private sector," Ashiq said.

Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) President Muhammad Yaseen Khan said that business this year is down than last year because of inflation.

"There was good tourist season this year besides that horticulture sector has also fetched good amount but due to very heavy losses in last two years, no positive effects of such things were seen on ground," Khan said.

Khan said that prices of every commodity have increased unexpectedly and common people are facing its burnt.

He said that though unemployment rate is increasing in J&K but around one lakh people lost their jobs last year due to lockdown.

"Around 20 to 30 thousand people have been re-engaged," he said. **KNO**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for D Class Contractor registration card if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

SYED SHOWKET BUKHARI
S/O SYED HABIBULLAH BUKHARI
R/O KREERI BLOCK WAGOORA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

i am applying for D Class Contractor registration card if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

SYED TAHIR BUKHARI
S/O SYED ABDUL HAMID BUKHARI
R/O KREERI BLOCK WAGOORA.





THEATRE IN EDUCATION CENTRE, SRINAGAR NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA

(An autonomous institute under Ministry of Culture, Govt of India
In collaboration with

J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Srinagar

The Theatre in Education Centre, Srinagar invites applications from theatre artists of Kashmir who are interested to work with children in theatre/drama in education on **"First come First serve basis"** for participation in 15 days workshop from 20th December, 2021 to 5th January, 2022 (11:00 AM to 3:00 PM daily excluding Sundays) at the office of JKAACL.

Application between the age of 20 to 35 years as on 1-12-2021 having working knowledge of English, Hindi & Urdu can apply.

Interested artists may collect and submit the Application forms in the office of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Lal Mandi, Srinagar from 16th to 18th December 2021 between 11 AM to 2 PM.

Please Note:
1. Seats are limited. Total number of seats are 20.
2. Attach the proof of date of birth, experience.
3. Programme subject to change in unavoidable circumstances.

State Advt

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION OMPORA BUDGAM.

No:- (FINAL NOTICE) Date:-

M/s Build Tech. (SHG)
G/L Yawar Ashraf
S/o Mohd. Ashraf Khanzada
R/o Rangreth Wavoosa.

Subject:- Construction of lined channel to Gama Khul, M/o Baba Naseer Mamath Canal from RD 800-1375 mtrs at spots.

Reference:- This 2nd Notice No. 6345-47 Dated 18-11-2021.

Whereas the allotment for execution of the subjected work has been issued to you vide this Office allotment No.84 of 03/2020, issued vide No.5977-81 dated 03-03-2018.

Whereas, notices were served to you to start the work but till date you have failed to start the work.

As per the conditions of the NIT you were supposed to complete the work within stipulated time.

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

Now you are given final opportunity to start the work within three days after publication of the notice in local daily failing which the work will be got executed through alternate means at your cost and risk and action as warranted under rules will be initiated against you for backing out of the contract in addition to forfeiting of the CDR.

Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division,
Ompora Budgam.

DIPK-14930/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, SRINAGAR.

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No. MICD/114 of 2021-22 1 dated: 11-12-2021.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in two cover from the reputed, registered and experienced Electrical/Mechanical SSI unit holders, contractors/fabricators/firms for the following items / works respectively. The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' -Tender fee and Earnest Money details, Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

e NIT No.	Name/ Particulars of the work	Name of Division	Quantity.	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Validity of Rates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MICD/114 of 2021-22 Dated: 11/12/21	Complete overhauling by way of Repairs/Replacements of Parts to 30 Cusec VT Pumping (Spare Unit) to be kept as Standby at Koll Stage 1st	Mechanical Irrigation Construction Division, Srinagar	As per requirement	Rs 200/=	Notarized Bid Declaration Form	90 days

Position of funds: Available
AAA Accorded vide Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle I & F.C Department Srinagar's
Order No: -58-MCO of 2021-22 dated: -02.11.2021
Key/critical Dates:

Date of Hosting In Website/ Publish date		11/12/2021 (1600Hrs)
Document download/sale start date		11/12/2021 (1600 Hrs).
Bid submission start date	11/12/2021. (1600Hrs)	Bid submission end date 27/12/2021 (1300 Hrs)
Bid opening date		28/12/2021 (1600 Hrs)

Each tender should be accompanied with Bid declaration Form/ Cost of tender document in the form of as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer MICD Srinagar in absence of Bid declaration form, the Tenders shall be rejected out rightly.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mech. Irr. Const. Division,
Srinagar.

DIPK-14793/21

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO: 43 e-Tendering/2021-22 Dated: 10-December-2021

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl.No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contract (Civil)	Head of Account
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER FOUNTAINS AT Major Intersection / Circles (4 Spots)	Rs. 27.24/-	Rs. 700/-	30 Days Strictly	AAY / BEE	Capex

1. Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	13-12-2021 04:00 PM
2	Document download	13-12-2021 04:00 PM To 22-12-2021 04:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	13-12-2021 04:00 PM To 22-12-2021 04:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	24-12-2021 11:00 AM
5	Submission of hardcopy for bidder	23-12-2021 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The contractor shall have to furnish the performance security @3% in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @3% for the work within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be offered to L-2 for execution on L-1's rates at the discretion of the Executive Engineer got executed at the risk, cost and responsibility of L-1.
- In Case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- (a). The intending tenderer/bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 24-12-2021 11:00 AM.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Demand Draft pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC payable at Srinagar or Bank receipt of tender fee deposit in the Municipal Account No: 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Brach Balgarden. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents including Bid Security Declaration with validity not less than 180 days from the Bid due date.
- The complete bidding process will be on line.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

No.SMC/EELRWD/3087-97
Dated: 10-12-2021.
DIPK-NB-5839/21

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Looming Omicron Threat

Ever since the advent of Omicron, the virus strain has triggered a worldwide alarm. First to be spooked were the global markets which went into a tailspin - albeit, they have since recovered after the reassuring news that the impact of the new variant is still under control. But the preliminary findings about the virus have revealed that it is highly transmissible and could cause havoc if no Standard Operating Procedures are followed. England is the first country that has acknowledged the enormity of the challenge. In a televised statement, the British prime minister Boris Johnson has warned that his country could be staring at 75,000 deaths by April with 'tidal wave' of Omicron. Britain has launched an ambitious Covid booster shot program to stop the virus' spread. Britain is also the first country to officially announce death from the virus mutation. According to the British Prime Minister, Omicron has accounted for about 40 percent of the cases in London, and hospital admissions were rising.

On the other hand, according to World Health Organization the Omicron coronavirus variant is more transmissible than the Delta strain and reduces vaccine efficacy. It, however, is said to cause less severe symptoms according to early data. The WHO has said that Omicron is now present in 63 countries and can become dominant in Europe soon. However, all is still not known about the virus. The understanding about it is still evolving. On a positive note, hospitalizations have so far been less.

India has witnessed so far a lesser number of Omicron cases but there is every possibility that the number can dramatically jump. On Sunday India reported five new Omicron cases, taking the tally of the cases of the new variant in the country to 38. Meanwhile, India logged 7,774 new Covid-19 cases and 306 deaths in the last 24 hours which shows a continuing downward trend.

Acknowledging the gravity of the situation, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a recent meeting directed officials to review plans for easing of international travel restrictions. The PM said travelers must be tested on arrival as per guidelines and called for a particular focus on countries identified "at risk". He laid emphasis on increasing coverage of the second dose of the vaccine so that adequate immunity is achieved against fresh infections. The PM also urged people to adopt masking and social distancing to prevent the infection from spreading.

Similarly, in a welcome decision, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has decided to make RT-PCR testing mandatory for all foreign travellers to the Union territory at airports to tackle the Omicron threat. The travelers will be allowed to enter J&K only if they test negative. If the report is negative, the travelers will be sent to home quarantine for seven days and re-tested on the eighth day. And those who test positive will be sent to institutional isolation centres for 15 days and their samples sent for genome sequencing at ICMR-approved laboratories. These are good measures and should be helpful in containing the spread of the new variant in the country as well as in J&K.

OTHER OPINION

Talking Shop

Democracy needs saving from the rising currents of authoritarianism. That was the premise behind the first-ever conclave of democracies, led by the president of the United States of America, Joe Biden, last Thursday and Friday. And, indeed, multiple independent evaluations — by Freedom House, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and V-Dem, all reputed global non-profits — this year show that democracy is backsliding in some of the world's largest democracies such as the US, India and Brazil. The very idea of democracy as a country's best route to prosperity and development is also under threat, with China's rapid economic growth and its expanding geopolitical clout representing a model that many other governments — some overtly, others secretly — aspire to. Against that backdrop, a platform that brings together the world's democracies to reaffirm their faith in that form of governance, acknowledge shortcomings, and learn from each other is welcome. The problem? Mr Biden's "Summit of Democracy" was not really about all that it promised.

The list of invitees included countries like Pakistan, where the elected government is subservient to the military; the Philippines, whose president has publicly advocated extrajudicial killings; and Poland, where the ruling administration has tried to end judicial independence. The only plausible reason they were included relates to America's pragmatic dependence on them — Pakistan in Afghanistan, the Philippines as a force against China and Poland as a bulwark against Russia. More robust — although certainly flawed — democracies such as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were kept out. If that clearly opportunistic selection of 'democracies' was not embarrassing enough, Pakistan and South Africa both turned down the invitation, sparking suspicions that China, angry at not being invited, was playing spoilsport from behind the scenes. But most disappointingly, participating leaders — including Prime Minister Narendra Modi — primarily used the platform to tomtom national achievements. Missing from the conversation was any genuine self-reflection on the weaknesses that have led to a crisis of credibility for democracies around the world. This perhaps is not surprising. As the political scientist, John Keane, describes it, the world is witnessing a surge in 'phantom democracies' where leaders specialize in manipulating the emotions of voters, speaking of the rule of law while actually undermining it. For democracy to thrive, countries that practise it need to reinvent themselves and fix their warts. For that, leaders need to listen more and talk less. Mr Biden's summit accomplished the exact opposite.

Telegraph India

Setting Dentists' Teeth On Edge



DENTISTS PROTESTING the lack of Government jobs in J&K, earlier this year

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

FOR STARTING A PRIVATE dental clinic, a lot of investment is needed. It is thus difficult for many dental graduates to start private practice Majority of medical doctors are absorbed in Government after they complete their medical degree but in case of BDS graduates not even 20 % of them make it to Govt departments

"Kashmir America nahi hai" (Kashmir is not America) was the retort that I got from a Former Finance Minister back in 2004, when I had raised the issue of poor Dental Health facilities in J&K. Years after being told off, there has still been no appreciation worthy improvement in this regard.

The callous attitude of all the previous Governments in Jammu & Kashmir towards dentistry has come in the way of making modern dental science reach the poor and disadvantaged communities in J&K.

As per the norms set by World Health Organization (WHO) there has to be one qualified dentist for 7500 population. In Jammu & Kashmir, we have only one qualified dentist for a population of 28000 people as per Indian Dental Association J&K Branch Report.

A majority cannot afford to get dental treatments from private clinics as this is very expensive. Poor and even lower middle class people are forced to go for extraction of teeth rather than having access to a better and advanced root canal treatment (RCT).

The Government has to have more than 1700 qualified dentists in J&K to cater to the needs of 1.30 crore population but as of now there are only 543 such posts available with the Government in its various health institutions. The Govt of J&K can easily accommodate 1000 qualified dentists to meet the requirements as mandated by WHO.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir could have utilized services of hundreds of qualified dental graduates (BDS) and post graduates (MDS) in addressing dental health problems but has failed to do so. This, in spite of the fact that a huge national flagship programme, the National Health Mission (NHM) earlier called NRHM is still in operation for last 15 years or more. The indifferent attitude of the Govt has now forced these qualified people to take to the streets in protest.

NRHM and Dental health

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched on April 12th 2005 which was named as National Health Mission (NHM) in 2012 was not helpful to counter oro dental diseases. The Government brought Unani, Ayurvedic and other Indian System of Medicine under these flagship programmes but the qualified dental graduates or ancillary staff (dental hygienists, dental technicians, dental mechanics) were not at all given any preference. Unfortunately, many ISM doctors hardly practice unani or ayurvedic medical science and instead prescribe allopathic medicines to patients. This is never being noticed. On the other hand, qualified dental surgeons who could have given their best service

to people in far off places were left to God's mercy. They were not deemed fit for an NRHM job by Govt. The access to dental services has not improved much in the last 20 years as it should have. The provisions for improving oral and dental health services have mostly been utilized in a limited way by some states only leading to overall lack of assured oral health care services both in rural and urban areas.

Various studies have clearly identified that the gap in perceiving the problems due to various oral health conditions by the population exist largely because of lack of awareness. This shows the lack of demand for oral health services in the population. There are gaps in demand and supply. The Government of India is coming out with this Oral Health Policy for improving the entire spectrum of oral health from planning to implementation. National Oral Health Policy has therefore been

DUE TO HIGH PREVALENCE OF

oro-dental disease in India, the oro-dental diseases are a public health problem which have tremendous impact on the systemic health. Poor oral health leads to poor aesthetics, affects mastication adversely, causes agonizing pain and can lead to loss of productivity due to loss of man-hours.

brought out enhancing an enabling environment to all the professionals and institutes who are contributing positively in rendering good quality oral health care for the public. The policy clearly indicates the positive intent of the Government in improving and uplifting oral health care services with cost effective and wider access for all particularly those priority populations. It is hoped that under the ambit of the policy, states will be able to leverage the benefit in planning and implementation of various oral health care programs. These efforts will lead to improve the oral health indicators among the population of the country.

National Oral Health Programme

Due to high prevalence of oro-dental disease in India, the oro-dental diseases are a public health problem which have tremendous impact on the systemic health. Poor oral health leads to poor aesthetics, affects mastication adversely, causes agonizing pain and can lead to loss of productivity due to loss of man-hours.

The National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) was launched during 2014 - 15 to strengthen the public health facilities of the country for an accessible, affordable & quality oral health care delivery.

The objectives of this policy are

1. Improvement in the determinants of oral health e.g. healthy diet, oral hygiene improvement etc and to reduce disparity in oral health accessibility in rural & urban population.

2. Reduce morbidity from oral diseases by strengthening oral health services at Sub district/district hospital to start with.

3. Integrate oral health promotion and preventive services with the general health care system and other sectors that influence oral health; namely various National Health Programs.

4. Promotion of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) for achieving public health goal

Under this programme a support is provided to States and UT's to set up Dental Care Units at District Hospitals or below. Support is provided for the following components :

- Manpower support (Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Assistant)
- Equipment's including dental Chair
- Consumables for dental procedures

Massive thrust is given on Information Education and Communication (IEC) programmes by designing IEC materials like Posters, TV, Radio Spots, Training Modules. Organizing national, regional nodal officers training program to enhance the program management skills, review the status of the program

Creation of Fresh Vacancies

In the past, the Health and Medical Education Department had sent some proposals to the Finance Department for filling up vacant posts of Dental Surgeons. It has been rejected in view

of huge financial implications which indicates dentistry is not a priority health issue for the Government. This is coming in the way of around 7000 qualified dentists in J&K. They have held several protests in the past but there was no response from the Govt.

Dental Surgeons Association J&K has been demanding that Govt must create fresh posts of dental surgeons in J&K and also adjust them under various Govt schemes like National Health Mission (NHM) etc. It is ironic that in the last 13 years, not even a single dental surgeon has been appointed by J&K Public Service Commission (PSC). If new vacancies are created for Unani, Ayurvedic doctors or Veterinary doctors why not create posts of dental surgeons?

For starting a private dental clinic, a lot of investment is needed. It is thus difficult for many dental graduates to start private practice.

Majority of medical doctors are absorbed in Government after they complete their medical degree but in case of BDS graduates not even 20 % of them make it to Govt departments. This is sheer injustice.

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

The author is an Acumen Fellow. He had done PG Diploma in Climate Action from Anant National University Ahmedabad



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Delayed Leaf Fall In Apple Orchards

From the past few years, apple growers in the valley of Kashmir are witnessing a delayed leaf fall in apple orchards, which certainly is hampering the post-harvest work like orchard sanitation and pruning.

Even on the advice of experts, the growers are using different chemical sprays for early and abrupt defoliating of the leaves like urea spray. The growers are confused as in the past decades

apple leaves would turn yellow abruptly and fall down in weeks only. However, now, it takes months. The problem may certainly be in the physiology/biochemistry dealing with the leaf fall.

The physiology/biochemistry associated with the leaf fall is known as leaf abscission and the process is natural and occurs when the apple trees are preparing themselves for the winter. As the winter sets in the orchards, the apple tree starts taking nutrients back from

the leaves and with the same time the abscission layer is formed around the petiole/stalk of the leaf, which further on increases with time and the leaves turn yellow and fall down. From the past few years, abrupt climate/weather changes in the valley is creating the problem of delayed leaf fall (Marcescent fall). This happens when the temperature changes abruptly from higher to lower which results in death of apple leaves without forming an abscission layer around the

petiole, due to which leaves turn brown and remain intact there for long till the natural/ artificial mechanical methods bring them down.

This abrupt weather change is certainly leading to delayed leaf fall. So, growers in the valley must focus on their work in post-harvest management and finish as soon as possible.

Dr Willayat Bashir (Ph.D)
Electrobiochemist/Horticulturist

Is ‘Lack Of Relevance’ Rendering History Textbooks Redundant in Kashmir?

It Took One Pressing Letter From A Magistrate’s Office To Expose A Blasphemous Content In A History Textbook In Kashmir. But Beyond The Spur-Of-The-Moment Action, There’s An Unaddressed Concern Among Tech-Savvy Kids Of The Valley About The “Redundant” History Taught In Classrooms.

Al-Misda Masoom

Bashir Khan never cared to check his 13-year-old daughter's and 15-year-old son's history books—until Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Srinagar, Hanif Balki flagged a blasphemous content in a Class 7 history textbook.

In a letter to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Balki recently sought a strict action against a New Delhi-based publisher and a Srinagar-based book distributor for “supplying and stocking” the blasphemous history textbook.

Since then both the publisher and the distributor has tendered public apology, but the act has already alerted and alarmed Bashir.

From last five days now, he's reviewing the history textbooks of his children to check and spot any grey areas.

“After carefully reading the content, I found nothing blasphemous, but drafting of the books disheartened me,” Bashir, a 42-year-old garment store owner from Srinagar, holding double Masters, says. “Whatever history our children are learning in their classrooms is hyperbole. There's no rhyme and rhythm, neither there's any relevance. Our children are mostly taught the redundant past.”

But this anguish coming in the backdrop of the recent controversy is nothing new, says Sehar Nazir, a private school teacher.

“Most of these history textbooks are useless,” Sehar says. “There's something called teaching relevant history to inculcate scholarly tastes in students. But how can you do that when the academic drafting makes it some distant and unrelated history. There're no telling events narrated in a gripping manner to create curiosity among students. The whole focus seems on printing words in the name of some



obscure past.”

Much of this, Bashir believes, is happening due to the lack of content-checking mechanism in the valley.

“The objective of any study is to develop interest and create engagement for further exploration,” the parent says. “But when you serve dry and dead details in the name of history, it's bound to make classrooms dull and boring. No wonder Kashmir hasn't produced historians of repute in years now.”

While both experts and officials are passing the buck over the textbook monitoring mechanism, students are conveying

a sense of disappointment.

Mohammad Azaam, a Class 12th Arts student, feels that his history books have done a great injustice with his budding curiosity.

“It's all about medieval madness,” Azaam says, with a straight face. “You're being taught events of past without a proper context to one's situation and reality. I wonder if our history is being taught the same way elsewhere, like we're being taught about others' past. If not, then our educational system is a big scam. It keeps us engaged in the name of some foreign history which in the long run only makes us ignorant about our own roots and identity.”

Unlike their predecessors, it's said, the present generation of Kashmiris raised in the political past of last three decades doesn't make peace with some obsolete chapters. Many of them want to understand their own history of origin and their forefathers' survival during some challenging times in the valley.

“As our history textbooks are mostly silent about our homeland's history, I'm only getting curious about my roots when lot is being said about us Kashmiris and our harrowing history,” says Mehran Tahir, a class 11 student from Sopore.

The missing Kashmir chapter in his-

“UNLIKE THEIR predecessors, it's said, the present

generation of Kashmiris raised in the political past of last three decades doesn't make peace with some obsolete chapters. Many of them want to understand their own history of origin and their forefathers' survival during some challenging times in the valley

tory textbooks, some scholars say, is only making Kashmiri students ignorant about their rich cultural and heritage past.

“Even though schools have failed to impart this heritage/history knowledge, the valley's current situation has motivated the young minds for self-study,” says Sahil Amin, a History scholar from Srinagar. “Especially after homes became default classrooms for Kashmiri students since 2019 summer, many have started history exploration online.”

One of them is Xairpana Malik, a 16-year-old student from Srinagar. She's learning about her roots and identity online for last three years now.

“I know a few things about our heritage through internet now,” she says. “But it would be great to include some relevant Kashmiri chapters in the curriculum, so that our history textbooks and lectures cease to become dull and boring.”

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer

In Good Company

Being In A Class With High Achievers Improves Students’ Test Scores. We Tried To Find Out Why

Alexandra de Gendre | Nicolás Salamanca

Who you go to school with matters. Almost all of us, as children or parents of children, have felt the influence of good, and bad, classmates at school.

There is a large body of research showing better peers can help increase a child's test scores. But much less is known about how these peer effects actually take place between classmates. This is because the mechanisms through which peers positively influence other students are difficult to pinpoint.

The results of our study get us closer to understanding how peer effects work.

We found parental investment increases when a child is in a classroom with higher performing peers. This could partly explain why test scores increase for students in such classrooms. But we also found while their test

scores may go up, little else does. For instance, the amount of time a student spends studying when in a classroom with higher performing peers does not go up.

Our study shows the positive effects of peers seem to occur with no real extra effort from the student.

Combining rich data and a social experiment

Our study is the first of its kind to test many of the possible mechanisms underlying the transmission of peer effects.

We tested 19 different ways peers can positively influence their classmates. These fall into three main categories: student behaviour, parental investments and school environment. They cover mechanisms such as students' study effort and participation in class, aspirations and expectations to go to university, parents' time, parental support and strictness, and teacher engagement.

We used data from the national Taiwanese Education Panel Survey of more than 20,000 students, parents, teachers and school administrators. The data includes student characteristics such as how many hours they spend studying per week, parental education and how much time students spend with their parents.

We analysed this data from middle schools in Taiwan (ages 12 to 14, or years 7 to 9 in

Australia) where students are assigned to classrooms by chance. This way, we could compare kids in the same school in classrooms with higher- or lower-achieving peers.

Each student takes a standardised test at the beginning of year 7, and another test at the beginning of year 9. We measured the progress these students made.

We compared kids who had the same test scores at the beginning of year 7, and controlled characteristics we know make a difference for test scores. These include parental education, how much time each student spends studying and teacher motivation. The only difference between the students we compared, in terms of influence on academic results, was the classroom they were assigned to by chance.

Students in top classrooms had higher grades

For simplicity, we can explain it like this. There are two students in the same school. One is assigned by chance to a classroom where the standardised test scores are the average in the country. And the other is assigned to a classroom where the test scores are the top in the country. Other than that, the two students are identical.

We examined the scores of both these two kids two years later.

In our study, the student assigned to the top classroom has progressed more than the student in the average classroom.

In year 7, both students answered 31 questions out of 75 in the standardised test correctly. Two years later, the student in the average test-score classroom still an-

swered 31 questions correctly, while the student in the top test-score classroom answered nearly 32 questions correctly. This equates to 2.4% more correct answers.

While this may seem like a small difference, it is statistically significant and similar to what previous studies have found. However, our study goes beyond this.

What else we found

We also showed that two years later, the student in the top test-score classroom was 1.6 percentage points more likely to aspire to go university than the student in the average test-score classroom. And the top classroom student was 2 percentage points more confident in their ability to get into and attend university.

A later finding (which is yet to be published) was that students assigned to the top class had not changed the amount of hours they were spending on study.

However, the parents of the child assigned to a classroom with higher-achieving peers had spent more time with their child, and provided them with more general emotional support, two years later, than the parents of the child in the average test score classroom.

Reasons for peer effects remain a mystery

By testing more potential mechanisms than before, our study rules out many possible pathways for peer effects hypothesised in previous work. For example, we found no effects of high-achieving peers on students' initiative in class, cheating, misbehaving and truancy, nor on parents' investments in private tutoring and aspi-

rations for their child to go to university. There was also no difference in students' perceptions of their school environment and teacher engagement.

While our study shows high-achieving peers positively influence student and parent behaviours, these alone don't explain much of the positive effects on test scores in our data. In other words, the things that do change – aspirations and expectations, and parental investments – don't fully account for the benefits of high-achieving peers.

The fact that our study didn't deliver a clearer overall picture of how peer effects actually work is a testament to their complexity.

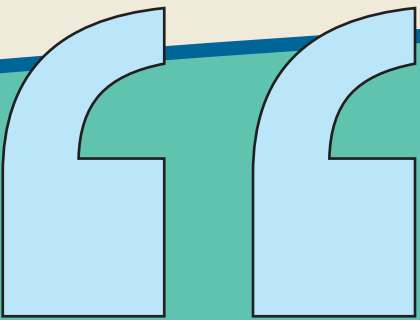
We were able to explore mechanisms due to the rich Taiwanese data combined with the unique experiment where students are randomly assigned to classrooms within schools.

But there were still two notable exceptions not measured, such as direct learning from peers and detailed teaching practices.

Collecting data on peer-to-peer interactions, such as discussing and coordinating tasks, is difficult but could be a key to unlocking the mystery of how higher-achieving peers benefit fellow students.

Data on teaching practices, like pairing students for group work and the amount of material covered in lessons, could also provide new insights.

The authors are Post doc and research fellows at University of Sydney and University of Melbourne. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation



THE PARENTS OF THE CHILD ASSIGNED TO A classroom with higher-achieving peers had spent more time with their child, and provided them with more general emotional support, two years later, than the parents of the child in the average test score classroom

‘Climate Change Makes Children Vulnerable To Infectious Diseases’

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have found that climate parameters accounted for 9 to 18 per cent of the total infectious disease in children under 16 years of age in Varanasi, according to a study.

Climate change driven by anthropogenic activities may challenge the gains in public health over the past many years, particularly in a country like India that ranks high in the list of climate-vulnerable countries in the world, the Science and Technology Ministry said in a statement.

Globally, it is estimated that children are to bear most of the burden of disease due to climate change, with the poorest disproportionately affected.

The higher risk associated with children is due to the combination of physiological vulnerability as well as the risk of exposure, it said.

The study was undertaken for the first time over the central Indo-Gangetic Plain region. DST-Mahamana Centre of Excellence in Climate Change Research, BHU, explored the association between climate parameters and infectious diseases in a three-year follow-up prospective cohort of 461 children under 16 years of age in Varanasi.

Accounting for extensive socioeconomic household data and child anthropometric measurements, the researchers established that climate parameters like temperature, humidity, rainfall, solar radiation, and wind speed were significantly associated with infectious diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, respiratory diseases, vector-borne diseases, and skin diseases in children.

Maximum temperature and humidity (absolute/relative) are important climate drivers.

This study further added that climate parameters accounted for 9-18 per cent of the total infectious disease cases, while non-climate parameters account for the rest.

Upper respiratory tract infection (mostly cold and flu) and gastrointestinal infections (mainly diarrhea) constitute 78 per cent of the disease burden. Socio-economic conditions and child anthropometry modified the climate-disease association with high proportion of children found suffering from stunting, wasting, and underweight conditions, the study found.



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pometry modified the climate-disease association with high proportion of children found suffering from stunting, wasting, and underweight conditions, the study found.

Findings from this study draw the attention of government and policymakers to prioritise effective measures for child health as the present association may increase disease burden in the future under climate change scenarios in already malnourished pediatrics population through multiple pathways.

The study further inspires and provides a

background for more epidemiological studies to provide evidence for future burden of diseases associated with childhood malady.

However, climate change-related health impacts studies, particularly for children in India, is at an early stage, the study said.

Any attempt to provide the epidemiological evidence association of pediatric health with climate parameters over the poorly investigated region of India will help the policymakers and the government to avert the risk that may arise due to climate change, it said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

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

(Short-term)

Gist of e -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22 /233/e-tendering

Dated:-11.12.2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the NABL Accredited Labs as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AAA	TS.NO	Position of Funds	Earnest Money (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Complete Gas analysis of oxygen Generated by various PSA Oxygen Plants installed in various Hospitals of Kashmir valley	7.29	500	15	1.50 MCSof 2020 Dt:-28.08.2021 2. 51 MCSof 2020 Dt:-28.08.2021 3. 48 MCSof 2020 Dt:-28.08.2021 4. 49 MCSof 2020 Dt:-28.08.2021 5.669-JK (HME) OF 202 Dt:-07.09.2020 6. 47 MCSof 2020 Dt:-28.08.2021 7. 668-JK (HME) OF 202 Dt:-07.09.2020 8.Mc/plan/Aug/Oxygen Plant/1973-82 Dt:-05.09.2020 9.Mc/plan/Aug/Oxygen Plant/1963-72 Dt:-05.09.2020	158 of 12/21	Available	14500

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 11.12.2021 (18.00 hrs).

2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 12.12.2021 (10:00hrs) to 22.12.2021 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.

3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 23.12.2021 (14.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-

DIPK-14778/21

Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

No: MHCHD/ TS/ 8181-85

Dated:11.12.2021

File NO.JSD-HRM08/5/2020-HRM-PHE

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Jal Shakti Department

Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

Subject:- Acceptance of AMICE Degree acquired by the Junior Engineers (Diploma Holders) and inclusion of their names in the seniority list of Junior Engineers (Degree Holders).

NOTICE.

Whereas, on the recommendation of Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board, among others, the following candidates have been appointed as Junior Engineers (Diploma Holders) by virtue of different Govt. Order:-

S.No	Name of Junior Engineer S/Sh./Smt.	Date appointment
01	Mohd. Yaseen Batt	16.04.2007
02	Suresh Kumar Sharma	24.06.1999
03	Randeep Sharma	16.04.2007
04	Gulshan Kumar Gadui	24.06.1999
05	Satish Kumar	02.12.1992
06	Narindcr Singh	24.06.1999
07	Ravinder Kumar Koul	30.04.1992
08	Vidhya Dhar	02.12.1992
09	VikramKoul	03.02.1990
10	Susheel Bazaz	18.02.1987
11	Narinder Kumar Sasan	16.04.2007
12	NeeraJsuadn	16.04.2007
13	Ashwani Kumar	24.06.1999
14	Aftab Hussain	16.04.2007
15	Bilal Ahmed Malla	18.04.2007
16	Muzamil Ahmed Tantry	16.04.2007
17	Mansoor Ahmed Sohil	10.09.2015
18	Aamir Javaid	15.07.2008
19	Na/ir Ahmed Wani	16.04.2007
20	Shabir Ahmed Shah	16.04.2007
21	Furqan Ahmed Shah	16.04.2007
22	Mumam Jabbar Mir	18.04.2007
23	Imtiaz Ahmed Shah	29.08.2007
24	Abdul Qadir Wathloo	08.03.1988
25	Javaid Ahmad Wagey	17.07.2008
26	Bashir Ahmed Hajam	17.04.2007
27	Mustlaq Ahmed Ganale	17.04.2007
28	Majid Hussain Batt	16.04.2007
29	Shabir Ahmed Wani	15.02.2008
30	Shazia Noor	14.07.2008
31	Mubashir Maqbool Khan	16.04.2007
32	Mohammed Ajaz Khan	14.07.2008
33	Mohammad Ashraf She (RBA)	08.03.1988

Whereas, aforesaid officials approached the department requesting therein to consider their AMICE Degrees Civil Engineering acquired from Institute of Civil Engineers, India Ludhiana Punjab and giving therein benefits of fixation of seniority in the seniority list Junior Engineers (Degree Holders) ; and

Whereas, subsequently, some Junior Engineers (Diploma Holders) who have acquired AMICE Degree Civil Engineering from Institute of Civil Engineers, India Ludhiana Punjab have also filed SWP No.52/2017 MP No. 01/2017 titled Mohammd Yaseen Bhat V/s State of J&K & Ors before the Hon'ble High Court and sought the following relief: -

"to decide the representation of the petitioner at an earliest for fixation of their seniority in the Degree Holder Junior Engineers (Civil) by considering their qualification of AMICE (I) on the same analog)' as has been adopted by the respondents and also by PWD (R&B) Department of the State in case of similarly situated employees holding the same qualification."

Whereas, the Hon'ble High Court on 09.11.2017 passed the following direction:-

"In this view of the matter, the writ petition is admitted to hearing and taken on record for final disposal and as such disposal with a direction to respondents Nos. 1 and 2 to consider and decide the representation dated 19.09.2016 stated to have been filed by the petitioners expeditiously, preferably within a period of three months from the date a certificated copy of this order alongwith copy of representation dated 19.09.2016 is made available to the respondents".

Whereas , the petitioners also filled Contempt petition bearing No. CPSWP No 213/ 2019 and the Hon'ble High Court passed the following Order on 29.03.2019:-

"The judgment dated 9 th November, 2017 has not been compiled with despite several opportunities granted to the respondents.

Mr. Kotwal. learned dy. AG appearing for the respondents seeks and is granted fur weeks' last and final opportunity to come up with the compliance of the order of this Court, making it clear that in case compliance is not reported by the next date of hearing, respondents No.1 i.e. Commissioner/ Secretary to Govt. PHE, I& FC Department shall remain present in the Court on the next date of hearing.

List on 17 th May, 2019."

Whereas, the case was examined in the department accordingly vide Government Order No. 198-PW (Hyd) of 2019 dated 14.05.2019; the claim of the petitioners has been found to be bereft of any merit, thereby considered and rejected; and

Whereas, the petitioners challenged the aforesaid Government Order before the Hon'ble Court at Jammu. The Hon'ble High Court vide its orders dated 22.07.2020 directed as under

in the meanwhile in the event any promotion is made against the next higher post of Assistant Engineer, amongst the Degree Holders Junior Engineers (Grade II), the respondent No.1 shall reconsider the case of the petitioner and in case the petitioners, on fixation of their se-

niority, fall over and above the Degree Holder Junior Engineer (Grade II) who fall in consideration zone, they shall keep such equal no .of said posts available for petitioners. It is also made clear »mere pendency of this writ petition shall not form any basis for the respondent in reconsidering the matter in terms with the Rules governing the field."

Whereas, J&K Engineering (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 1997, notified vide SRO-180 dated 26.05.1997, provides that:-

"A Junior Engineer Grade-II (Diploma holders) after acquiring AMIE Section (A&B) shall be treated as Degree Holders for the purpose of seniority from the dateof completing/passing of AMIE Section (A&B) Course."

Whereas, in a similar situated case vide this department's O.M.No.PW/PHEK/137/2015-WP dated 23.07.2021, Public Works (R&B) Department was requested to intimate as to whether the department can consider names of such Junior Engineers (Diploma Holders), on the basis of their B.Tech. Degree obtained by them through IGNOU for inclusion of their names in the seniority list of JE (Degree Holders) and also consequential benefits; and

Whereas, in response to same Public Works (R&B) Department vide O.M. No. PWD/ HRM/47/2021-05- Deptt of PWD dated 04.08.2021 informed that the issue relating to acceptance of Degrees obtained by the Engineers from the institutions other than AMIE Kolkata i.e. IGNOU, ICE (India) Ludhiana, IME Mumbai etc the matter was taken up with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), MOHRD, GOI vide this department's letter No. PW(R&B)/ Legal/135/2019 dated 04-12-2020 regarding implementation of Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court Of India in a case titled Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation v/s Rabi Shankar Patro & Ors. dated 22-01-2018 as well as equivalence/ verification of Degrees obtained through non-regular modes; and

Whereas, in response, the AICTE has furnished specific clarification on the subject (alongwith annexure) vide communication No. NWWRO/AICTE/Verification/2020-21 dated 17.03.2021 and accordingly the department is examining and deciding the issues of Degrees on case to case basis and considering/entertaining such degrees strictly in accordance with the clarifications received from AICTE; and

Whereas far as clarificaiion with regard to the Recognition of certification awarded by professional bodies/ Institutions, AICTE in its 52nd emergent council meeting held on 03-08-2017 has recognized the courses conducted by the professional bodies/institutions in accordance with MHRD OM No. 11-15/2011-AR (TS.II) dated 06 '12-2012 for equivalence for all purposes including higher Education & Employment which were duly recognized by MHRD with permanent recognition upto 31-05-2013. Thus all those students who were enrolled with these institutions as per the above MHRD OM with permanent recognition upto 31.05.2017 stands recognized and apulic notice was issued on 31-10-2017 accordingly. It is also to mention here that AICTE is not a course specific and this is only the endorsement of the decision of MHRD in this regard. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 13-08-2019 in the case MA No. 2367 of 2018 in Civil Appeal No. 17922of2017; Institution of Mechanical Engineers vs State of Punjab & Ors. has endorsed the decision of MHRD and AICTE Public Notice issued in 2017; and

Whereas, AICTE Public Notice dated 31-10-2017 may be accessed from web portal and appropriate decision may be taken for the recognition of the certification awarded by these professional bodies for academic & employment purposes; and

Whereas, Public Works (R&B) Department has also furnished the clarification with to AMICE candidates and has intimated that the department is examining and deciding the issues of Degrees on case to case basis and considering/entertaining such degrees strictly in accordance with the clarifications received from AICTE;and

Whereas, the case was again examined in consultation with Legal Section who opined as under:-

"process the cases of candidates for fixation of their seniority at an appropriate place who have done their courses from distance mode more specifically of those candidates who have done their courses from IGNOU and ICE (Ludhaina) as clarification from AICTE is amply clear on the subject. It is however advisable to bifurcate both the sections of candidates one involving courses done from IGNOU and other section of candidates who have done their courses from ICE (Ludhiana) as both the clarifications have to be dealt strictly as per the clarification received from AICTE accordingly wherein degrees from IGNOU need to be recognized till 2012 and from ICE (Ludhiana) the candidates enrolled till 31-05-2013 needs to be entertained/ considered.

Whereas, Ministry of Human Resources Development (Department of Higher Education) vide O.M. F. No. 11-15/2011- AR (TS-II) dated 06.12.2012 intimated that the following decision has been taken in the said Ministry, in modification of Order F. No. 11-15/2011- AR (TS-II) "ated 10.07.2012:-

i. Above order dated 10.07.2012 regarding cases of recognition in perpetuity for equivalent in Central Government job. stands withdrawn.

ii. All those students who are enrolled with institutions with permanent recognition upto 31.05.2012 would be eligible for consideration in accordance with MHRD officer memorandum/ order in force pertaining to their courses for equivalence in Central Government jobs. However, theses concerned orders will cease to have effect from 01.06.2013 onward.

iii. After 31.05.2013, based on the review by the regulator i.e. AICTE, a decision on continuation of the certification of equivalence degree/ diploma shall be taken by statutory regit labor.

iv. Statutory regulators should be re-view the fresh proposals/ extension as per statue and regulations.

Whereas, the case was examined in the department accordingly vide this department's letter dated 23.08.2021. Degree certificates/Marks sheets of the above named (33) officials was forwarded to the AMICE, Ludhiana (Punjab), 141002 with the request to verify/authenticate the genuineness of Degree certificates/Marks sheets of the above named 33 Junior Engineers with remarks to this Department for further necessary action; and

Whereas, Controller of Examination, Institute of Civil Engineering India vide letter No. ICE (I) E-21/37916 dated 04.09.2021 returned the Degree certificates/Marks sheets of these 33 Junior Engineers, duly verified as per endorsement thereon; and

Whereas, the case was again examined accordingly vide e-mail dated 28.09.2021, Controller of Examination, Institute of Civil Engineering India was again requested to verify the genuineness/ authenticity of the letter No. ICE (I) E- 21/37916 dated 04.09.2021, on the e-mail ID- asjsdps@gmail. com; and

Whereas, the department received the e-mail dated 16.11.2021, 23.11.2021 and 24.11.2021 from (Mr. Paras Dugar, Controller of Examination), and informed that:-

"With reference to e-mail dated 28.09.2021 regarding genuineness of our letter No. ICE (I) E-21/37916 dated 04.09.2021. Please note that the above cited letter was issued by our Institution and genuine/

Whereas, the case has again been examined in the department in light of Hon'ble Court Orders, and as per clarification received from Public Works (R&B) Department, with the opinion of Legal Section, it has been decided to fix the in- se- seniority of the aforesaid officials, in the cadre of Junior Engineers (Degree Holders) at appropriate places.

Now, therefore, before fixation of seniority of the following (33) Junior Engineers (Diploma Holders) in the final seniority list of Junior Engineers (Degree Holders), notified, vide Government Order No.121-JK (JSD) of 2020 dated 30.04.2020 at appropriate places, from the date they have completing/passing of their Degree through AMICE Section (A&B) Ludhiana (Punjab), through print media, to the all concerned likely to be affected to file their objections, if any, within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of said notice in the print media, failing which it shall be presumed that nobody has any objection in this behalf and necessary orders to this effect shall be issued accordingly, consequently their names from the seniority list of Diploma Holders shall be deemed to have been deleted. Director Information. J&K shall be request to get the Notice published in two leading News Papers in the UT viz . Daily Excelsior in Jammu and Rising Kashmir in Srinagar for information of all concerned:-

S.No	Name of Junior Engineer S/sh./ Smt.	Dale of Birth	Dale of 1st Appointment	Date of Enrolment of AMICE Degree	Date of Pass- ing of AMICE Degree	Remarks
1.	Susheel Baza	23.03.1963	18.02.1987	19.05.2008	26.08.2010	
2.	Vidhya Dhar	17.03.1970	02.12.1992	19.05.2008	26.08.2010	
3.	Ashwani Kumar	08.10.1972	24.06.1999	19.05.2008	26.08.2010	
4.	Gulshan Kumar Gaddi	01.03.1975	24.06.1999	19.05.2008	26.08.2010	
5.	Narinder Singh	18.05.1975	24.06.1999	19.05.2008	26.08.2010	
6.	Suresh Kumar Sharma	10.04.19075	24.06.1999	19.05.2008	28.08.2010	
7.	Salish Kumar	05.07.1969	02.12.1992	19.05.2008	28.02.2011	
8.	Imtiaz Ahmed Shah	10.03.1974	29.08.2007	08/2008	28.02.2011	
9.	Shabir Ahmed Shah	03.03.1975	16.04.2007	19.05.2008	28.02.2011	
10.	Mubashir Maqbool Khan	20.07.1975	16.04.2007	2008	28.02.2011	
11.	Narindcr Kumar Sasan	01.01.1977	16.04.2007	08/2008	28.02.2011	
12.	NeeraJsuadn	21.07.1977	16.04.2007	08/2008	28.02.2011	
13.	Mumam Jabbar Mir	02.01.1980	18.04.2007	08/2008	28.02.2011	
14.	Muzamil Ahmed Tantry	19.01.1981	16.04.2007	19.05.2008	28.02.2011	
15.	Randccrp Sharma	03.01.1982	16.04.2007	01.11.2008	28.02.2011	
16.	Abdul Qadir Wathloo	01.04.1964	08.03.1988	08/2008	12.08.2011	
17.	Mohammad Ashraf She (RBA)	10.04.1964	08.03.1988	2009	18.02.2012	The office has already been placed as I/C AE (Diploma Holder) Vide Govt Order No 117-JK (JSD) Of 2021 dated 08-06-2021 as per his own seniority
18.	Ravindcr Kumar Koul	22.02.1965	30.04.1992	22.06.2008	18.02.2012	
19.	Furqan Ahmed Shah	23.04.1981	16.04.2007	09/2009	18.02.2012	
20.	Nazir Ahmed Wani	01.09.1978	16.04.2007	26.10.2009	28.02.2012	
21.	Vikram Koul	30.03.1970	03.02.1990	08/2009	30.08.2012	
22.	Shazia Noor	01.10.1983	14.07.2008	2010	28.08.2013	
23.	Mohd. Yaseen Batt	13.11.1983	16.04.2007	15.02.2007	02.09.2013	
24.	Mansoor Ahmed Sohil	14.09.1987	10.09.2015	24.05.2011	11.10.2013	
25.	Shabir Ahmed Wani	18.02.1982	15.02.2008	08.05.2008	24.02.2014	
26.	Aamir Javaid	27.08.1983	15.07.2008	28.09.2011	15.10.2014	
27.	Mohammed Ajaz Khan	10.08.1979	14.07.2008	30.04.2012	02.03.2015	
28.	Mushtaq Ahmed Ganale	05.05.1980	17.04.2007	02.03.2012	02.03.2015	
29.	Bilal Ahmed Malla	15.10.1979	18.04.2007	19.05.2008	24.08.2015	
30.	Majid Hussain Ball	14.10.1980	16.04.2007	03/2012	24.08.2015	
31.	Bashir Ahmed Hajam	05.03.1978	17.04.2007	29.04.2013	11.03.2016	
32.	Javaid Ahmad Wagey	12.04.1984	17.07.2008	29.04.2013	11.03.2016	
33.	Aftab Hussain	04.11.1983	16.04.2007	26.05.2009	20.03.2019	

Sd/-

DIPK-14866/21

Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government

PW/PHEI/20/2017-WP

Dated:- 09.12.2021

Jal Shakti Department

J&K Fast Becoming Self-Sufficient In Milk Production: Choudhary

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Department of Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare and Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary Tuesday addressed First Dairy Conference for capacity building of farmers organized by the Department of Animal Husbandry Jammu.

While addressing the participating farmers through video conference, he reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir is fast becoming self-sufficient in milk.

He added that during last two years nearly 7 lakh people have been provided employment in the agriculture and allied sectors.

During his address, Navin urged the farmers especially big dairy producers to focus more on value addition rather than on milk production only.

He said that the factories can make milk products like butter, ghee, etc where they can also avail benefits of government's Parwaz scheme under which they can ship their produce in the shortest possible time to national and international markets.

On the occasion, he also congratulated the organizers, resource persons and farmers for the capacity building programme and hoped that the participants would take many positives from the programme and apply them in their dairy businesses in order to run their units successfully and profitably.



On the occasion, he informed that J&K is among top performers in agri and allied sectors and recently in its report, NITI Ayog has ranked the UT at 3rd place in farmers' income ratings and 5th in agri-allied sectors.

Crediting the increase in milk production to the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), he said J&K is now exporting milk to neighbouring states like Punjab and added that the additional Rs 20 crore has been sanctioned under IDDS which will benefit dairy farmers in a big way.

WPI Inflation Spikes To 14.23% In Nov As Crude, Metal Prices Harden

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The wholesale price-based inflation surged to more than a decade high of 14.23 per cent in November, mainly due to hardening of prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas.

WPI inflation has remained in double digits for eight consecutive months beginning April.

Inflation in October this year was at 12.54 per cent, while in November 2020 it was at 2.29 per cent. The 12-year high inflation print in November is due to low base effect and spike in the fuel index.

"The high rate of inflation in November 2021, is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products, food products etc as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

Inflation in fuel and power basket was higher at 39.81 per



cent in November, as against 37.18 per cent in October. The food index more than doubled to 6.70 per cent as compared to 3.06 per cent in the previous month.

Crude petroleum inflation was at 91.74 per cent during the month under review, as against 80.57 per cent in October. However, manufactured items saw moderation at 11.92 per cent, from 12.04 per cent in October.

According to a senior Commerce and Industry ministry official, fuel and power have been the biggest contributors of higher inflation rate as it is almost 40 per cent higher than

November 2020.

The international commodity prices and fuel prices have also been very high.

Countries which traditionally have reported low inflation rates like the US have also now reported record inflation levels due to these global effects, the official said, adding, countries like Italy, Spain, Germany and even Singapore are having around 20 per cent inflation.

Primary articles and manufacturing products were barely touching double digits in spite of low base effects showing the efforts of Indian manufacturers, producers and industry, the official added.

FM To Hold Pre-Budget Consultations With Stakeholders From Today

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will kick start the customary pre-Budget consultation exercise with stakeholders from Wednesday by holding the first such meeting with experts of agriculture and agro-processing industry.

She will be seeking inputs from various stakeholders, including industry bodies, farmer organisations and economists for reviving consumption and boosting growth hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The growth this year is expected to be in the double-digit during the current fiscal. The RBI in its latest bi-monthly monetary policy review pegged a GDP growth of 9.5 per cent in 2021-22.

The government has projected a fiscal deficit of 6.8 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

"Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman will start her Pre-Budget consultations with different stakeholder Groups from tomorrow, 15th Dec 2021 in New Delhi in connection with the forthcoming General Budget session which usually begins in the last week of January every year.

"Finance minister Smt @nsitharaman will be holding her 1st Pre-Budget consultations with experts of Agriculture and Agro-processing industry tomorrow afternoon, 15th Dec 2021," another tweet said.

first half of the Parliament's Budget session which usually begins in the last week of January every year.

"Finance minister Smt @nsitharaman will be holding her 1st Pre-Budget consultations with experts of Agriculture and Agro-processing industry tomorrow afternoon, 15th Dec 2021," another tweet said.

Apple Nears \$3 Trillion Market Value, World's Most Valuable Company

Agencies

NEW YORK: Apple Inc's market value hovered just shy of the \$3 trillion mark on Monday, following a stunning run over the past decade that has turned it into the world's most valuable company.

The company's shares fell just over 2% on Monday to close at \$175.74, reversing earlier gains that saw them approach the \$182.86 price needed to record a \$3 trillion market value.

Apple's stock rose about 11% last week, extending its more than 30% year-to-date gain as investors remain confident that flush consumers will continue to pay top dollar for iPhones, MacBooks and services such as Apple TV and Apple Music.

The iPhone maker's march from \$2 trillion to near \$3 trillion in market value took 16 months, as it led a group of megacap tech companies such as Google-parent Alphabet Inc and Amazon.com Inc that benefited from people and businesses relying heavily on technology during the pandemic.

By comparison, Apple's move from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion took two years."It's now one of the more richly valued companies in the market, which shows the dominance of U.S technology in the world and how confident investors are that it will remain in Apple's hands," said Brian Frank, a portfolio manager at Frank Capital who sold his long-standing position in Apple in 2019 as the stock's valuation rose

"It seems like the stock has priced in every possible good outcome." Among new revenue lines that investors expect are

a possible Apple Car, alongside growth in service categories such as apps and TV that still remain well below the 65% of the company's revenues generated by sales of iPhones, said Daniel Morgan, senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company.

Eclipsing the \$3 trillion milestone would add another feather in the cap for Chief Executive

Tim Cook, who took over after Steve Jobs resigned in 2011, and oversaw the company's expansion into new products."Tim Cook has done an amazing job over the past decade, taking Apple's share price up over 1,400%," OANDA analyst Edward Moya said.

Apple shares have returned 22% per year since the 1990s, while the S&P 500 has returned less than 9% annually in the same period.

If Apple hits the \$3 trillion milestone, Microsoft Corp will be the only company in the \$2 trillion club, while Alphabet, Amazon and Tesla Inc have crossed \$1 trillion

Microsoft, which has a market value of roughly \$2.6 trillion, was the world's most valuable company as recently as late October when Apple reported that supply chain constraints could weigh on its growth for the remainder of the year

Large technology stocks have rallied this year with investors tapping increasing demand for cloud-based products as companies shifted to a hybrid work model and consumers upgraded their devices

The Nasdaq 100, which is top-weighted by large companies such as Apple, is up nearly 26% this year, while the broader S&P 500 index is up roughly 24%



Corporate India's Hiring Outlook For Next 3 Months Most Optimistic In 8 Years: Survey

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian employers have robust hiring intentions for the next three months, with 49 per cent of companies planning to add more staff in the January-March quarter, as employers are positive about achieving sustained post-pandemic recovery, a survey said on Tuesday.

According to the latest ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey, hiring sentiment in India is the strongest reported in eight years, improving by five percentage points in comparison with the prior quarter and by 43 percentage points when compared with this time one year ago.

The survey of 3,020 employers noted that 64 per cent expect to

increase their staffing levels, 15 per cent anticipate a decrease and 20 per cent do not anticipate any change, resulting in a seasonally adjusted Net Employment Outlook of 49 per cent.

The Net Employment Outlook is derived by taking the percentage of employers anticipating an increase in hiring activity and subtracting from this the percentage of employers expecting a decrease in hiring activity.

"India registered a V-shaped recovery owing to increased consumer spending, educational sector opening up and the government's sustained efforts to accelerate vaccination coverage thereby breaking the virus chain," Sandeep Gulati, Managing Director, ManpowerGroup India, said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT No:- 184/11377-86/2021-22/RnB/BlA Dated 11.12.2021
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA	Position of funds
1	Construction of 2 No Bathrooms over existing single storeyed lavatory block at PWD (R&B) Circle office Building Baramulla	3.94	200/-	20days	DEE	MH-2059-M&R	Accorded	Available
2	Construction of Path at Residential quarter of Additional Sessions Judge (ACB) at Baramulla	1.30	200/-	15days	DEE	MH-2216-M&R	Accorded	Available
3	Repairing/Renovation of Additional Sessions Judge (NIA) office at Court Complex Baramulla	1.52	200/-	15days	DEE	MH-2059-M&R	Accorded	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q). Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents
3	Bid submission Start date
4	Bid Submission End Date
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document fee in shape of treasury challan/receipt mentioning therein name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla (Tender inviting Authority).

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

4. All the bidders has to submit bid security form instead of earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)

5. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms.

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

7. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

a. The Building and other Construction workers (Regulation of employment and Condition of service) Act 1996 and the Census Act of 1996.
b. Factories Act 1948.
c. Compliance with Labour Regulation Laws of J&K State.

8.3. Specification/Quality Control:- All items of works shall conform to specifications as per IRC/MORTH/NBO/CPWD/SSR/ Any other prescribed specifications.

8.4. Insurance:- Insurance cover to Labour / Machinery / Work / Plant material / Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory.

8.5. Laws Governing the Contract:-The contract shall be governed by Laws of the land.

8.6. Courts Jurisdiction:-In case of any disputes/differences between contractor and Department the jurisdiction shall be J&K State

8.7. Time Extension:-
a. The work is to be completed within the time limit specified in the NIT and the time of completion will also increase/ decrease in proportion with additional/ deleted quantum of work depending upon the actual quantum of work.
b. Request for extension of time shall be made by the contractor in written not later than 15 days of happening of the event causing delay. The contractor shall also indicate in such as request the period for which extension is desired.
c. Abnormal/ bad weather or serious loss or damage by fire or civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labor engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or non-availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractors desire.
d. On contractors representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the department.
e. Extension of time shall be admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

8.8. The department will not be responsible for any damage/destruction caused to the work or any material for the work during its execution (by flood, fire, earthquake/theft or any other reason what so ever and other natural climates) contractor has to arrange watch & ward of the material and shall be responsible for the safety/ custody of departmental supplies from the time of issuance to its consumption at site.

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

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

No. 11377-86
Dated 11.12.2021

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

DIPK-14798/21

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR
Email id: std2rajbagh@yahoo.in Fax No. 0194-2310042
Extension Notice 01

SNO	E.NIT No.	Name of the work	Tender ID	Cost tender document (In Rs)	EMD Cost (In Rs)
1	STD-II / 98 of 2021-22 Dated:- 29-11-2021	PROVIDING OF DEDICATED 11KV FEEDER TO J AND K FORENSIC LAB AT BEMINA SRINAGAR FROM 33/11KV RECEIVING STATION JVC	2021_PDD_150788_1	550/-	Submission of Bid Security Declaration Form provided in the tender document
Last Date of Bid Submission extended upto				18-12-2021; 2.30pm	
Bid Opening Date				20-12-2021; 2.30pm	

Due to poor response, the date of submission of bid in respect of below mentioned e-NIT's is hereby extended with the details enumerated below:-
No.:STD-II/5257-59/Ts
Dated:- 13-12-2021
DIPK-NB-5826/21

SD/- Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR
NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)
Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com
Gist of Short Term e-NIT No. 35 OF 2020-21, Dated: 11/12/2021
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites e- tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for:-

S. No.	Particulars of the work	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimate d Cost of work "Rs" in Lacs	Exemption Allowed	Completion Period	Class/ Registration Type
1	Servicing/maintenance of main LT control panel and other electrical equipments at LIS Lethpora-I.	100.00	0.475	Yes	10 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ (Any) firms having relevant experience.
2	Servicing/maintenance of main LT control panel and other electrical equipments at LIS Lethpora-II.	100.00	0.225	Yes	10 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ (Any) firms having relevant experience.
3	Servicing/maintenance of main LT control panel and other electrical equipments at LIS Lethpora-III.	100.00	0.31	Yes	10 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ (Any) firms having relevant experience.
4	Rewinding of auto-transformer coil assembly and providing / fitting of L-12 contact point kit set of 275HP starter of Unit No. 02 at LIS Lethpora Stage 3rd.	100.00	0.755	Yes	10 days	Electrical Contractors/ SSI Unit Holders/ Workshop holders/ (Any) firms having relevant experience.

The bidding process shall be completed online in single cover containing -Tender Document fee, Bid Security Declaration, Pre-qualification & Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

i	Publish Date
ii	Document Download/sale start Date
iii	Clarification start date
iv	Bid submission start date
v	Clarification end date
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date
vii	Date and time of Bid opening

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar.
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Position of funds	Available
Position of AAA	Accorded under order No. 31-MCD DF 2021-22. Dated:- 25-08-2021
Position of Technical sanction	Sanctioned vide No's. 9E, 97,98,99 Dated: 12/2021 respectively.

Sd/-No. MIDS/Ts/ 4230-35
Dated:- 11/12/2021
DIPK-14813/21

Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division,
Srinagar

SC Permits Double Lane Highway For Chardham Project, Cites National Security Challenges

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed double lane widening of the strategic Chardham highway project in Uttarakhand, observing that the country's security concerns may change over time and the recent past has thrown serious national security challenges.

The court in the exercise of judicial review cannot second guess the infrastructural needs of the armed forces," a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud said while also setting up an oversight committee headed by former Justice A K Sikri to report to it directly on the ambitious 900-km project, which goes up to the border with China.

The judgment clearing the way for a double lane paved shoulder (DL-PS) configuration for the project assumes significance in the wake of the recent standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries in several areas along the LAC in Ladakh.

If the Army cannot move its missile launchers and heavy machinery up to the northern India-China border, how will it defend it and fight a war if it breaks out, the Centre had argued before the apex court.

The strategic Chardham project worth Rs 12,000 crore aims to provide all-weather connectivity to four holy towns -- Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. In its 83-page judgment, the bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Vikram Nath, clarified that the oversight committee, formed to allay environmental concerns relating to the project, will not undertake a fresh environment assessment.

The committee will receive all support from the ministries of Defence and Road Transport, the Uttarakhand Government and all district magistrates. The oversight committee will also have representatives from the National Environmental Research Institute and the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Policemen Directed

for personal safety, and take all protection on duty as well as during to and fro travel from the camps to deployments places," he added.

According to the police spokesperson, the DGP said that police have successfully faced challenges in the past and with the dedicated and committed efforts of Police and other security forces, the situation is progressively improving.

"Attempts are being made to cause damage to the peace and every such attempt would be foiled with fortitude," Singh said.

He also interacted with the senior officers and ordered a series of measures to be adopted while making the deployment of the personnel, their travel as well as in other different situations. The DGP also went on to see the police bus which was attacked in the incident.

Later, the police spokesperson said, the DGP visited army's 92 Base hospital to enquire about police personnel who were injured in Monday's militant attack in Zewan.

"The DGP and GOC 15 corps Lt Gen DP Pandey along with other officers went to all the injured individually and enquired about their well being. The DGP met the doctors treating the injured and impressed for all possible treatment for their early recovery," he said.

He further said that Singh also met the parents and relatives of the injured policemen and assured them that all help will be provided to the injured cops.

5 Persons Visiting

three others.

One of the injured was shifted to district hospital Ramban, while two others are undergoing treatment at a nearby health facility, Islam said.

He said the deceased were relatives of ASI Ghulam Hassan and were returning to their Topneel village of Doda district after attending his last rites which were performed with state honours at his Chillai-Bartund village.

The deputy commissioner himself had attended the funeral and rushed to the scene of the accident to monitor the rescue operation, officials said.

They said four of the deceased are women and the identity of the deceased was awaited.

ASI Hassan, constables Shafeeq Ali and Rameez Ahmad of 9th Battalion, Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police, were killed when militants attacked their bus in the Zewan area of Panthachowk on the outskirts of Srinagar.

The DC extended his condolence to the grief stricken family members and assured financial assistance of Rs 30000 to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 25000 in favour of those injured.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha expressed anguish over the loss of lives in the accident and prayed for early recovery of the injured.

"Deeply anguished to learn about the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Rajgarh, Ramban. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the early recovery of the injured. I'm monitoring the situation and every possible assistance will be extended to the kin of the victims," he said.

He further said that he has issued directions to the district administration to provide immediate relief to the next of kin of the deceased.

Another Cop

graveyard for burial.

Rameez is survived by three sisters, a brother and an elderly ailing father.

Little known outfit Kashmir Tigers, believed to be an off-shoot of Jaish-e-Mohammad, carried out the attack on the police bus at the high-security Zewan area on the outskirts of Srinagar city on Monday.

According to police, three militants had fired indiscriminately upon the

bus carrying policemen back to their campus after finishing their duties

In the surprise militant attack, fourteen police personnel, including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI), were injured.

ASI Ghulam Hassan of Ramban and Safique Ali of Mahore in Reasi cops succumbed to the grave gunshot injuries at the army's Badami Bagh cantonment hospital.

Pertinently, the attack in Zewan comes two days after militants attacked a police team in Bandipora town on Friday last leaving two policemen dead. One among the killed policemen was the lone bread earner of his family, including his four small kids.

According to police, a Pakistani militant killed the two cops escorting an officer before fleeing from the generally bustling Gulshan Chowk in the main town Bandipora.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said on Tuesday that the attack on police bus was pre-planned.

"The bus carrying 25 policemen was returning to the camp, as per routine, when three militants of Jaish-e-Mohammad opened fire on the vehicle," he told reporters at the wreath-laying ceremony for one of the slain policemen.

"This was a planned attack. They must have conducted recce and seen that the bus is coming back every day in routine after getting off duty," the officer said.

Kumar said that while one of the as-sailants was a local, two others were foreign militants.

"We have got lot of inputs on the group. We will neutralise this group very soon," he said.

The IGP lauded the police personnel, saying they retaliated and ensured that the militants did not succeed in snatching the weapons.

"One of the militants was injured in the retaliatory fire and blood trail could be seen for quite some distance... They escaped towards Khrew. We are working on it," he added.

Kumar said the militants took advantage of darkness as the road leading to the police camp at Zewan was not well lit and the road opening party of security forces had left for the day.

"We are taking all precautionary measures ,including installation of lights on the road," he added. (With PTI inputs)

'Significant' Drop

this year as against 143 in 2018. In 2019 and 2020, the minister said, 138 and 51 such incidents were reported respectively.

"Security grid has been further strengthened and infiltration of terrorists from across the border has also come down significantly," the minister said.

The central government abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019 and bifurcated the state into union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The minister said the elections to Block Development Councils (BDC) and District Development Councils (DDCs) in Kashmir were conducted peacefully and successfully in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

"There was an enthusiastic participation of the people, with a turnout of 98.29 per cent in BDC elections and 51.42 per cent in DDC elections," he said.

Giving details of development in Jammu and Kashmir, the minister said the progress of projects being implemented in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Development Package-2015 has been accelerated.

"Fifty-three projects pertaining to 15 ministries are being implemented at a cost of Rs 58,477 crore in various sectors such as Roads, Power, Health, Education, Tourism, Agriculture, Skill Development, etc., out of which 21 projects have been completed/substantially completed and the remaining 32 projects are at advanced stage

of progress," he said.

Rai said a new central sector scheme has been notified on February 19, 2021 for the industrial development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with an outlay of Rs 28,400 crore, which is likely to provide employment to over 4.5 lakh people while boosting the industrial development of the UT.

"The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has approved business revival package of Rs 1,352.99 crore on September 25, 2020. Under languishing projects programme, 1,192 projects worth Rs 1983.77 crore were completed, including five projects which were incomplete for more than 20 years, 15 projects for more than 15 years and 165 projects for more than 10 years," Rai said.

The minister said the UT has been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

He said 100 per cent saturation has been achieved in 17 individual beneficiary centric schemes, including Saubhagya, Ujala, Ujjwala and Indradhanush.

"During the year 2020-21, 1,289 road construction works were completed at a cost of Rs 1,638 crore. The construction work of 14,500 km of road has been completed so far under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, which has connected about 2,000 places. Work is under progress on one All India Institute of Medical Sciences each in Jammu and Kashmir Divisions at the cost of Rs 2,000 crore each besides seven other medical colleges in the UT...," Rai said.

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu have been made functional, he said.

The minister said power projects are being fast-tracked and generation capacity of 2500 MW is to be added by 2025.

"International flight from Srinagar to Sharjah has been started on October 23, 2021. In addition, night flights from Jammu and Srinagar have also been started. The scope of high density plantation scheme for apple has been expanded to include mango, litchi, cherry, walnut, etc. Kashmiri Saffron has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag," he said.

The minister said 20,323 posts are being filled by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board under fast-track recruitment process and 2,119 selections for gazetted posts have been made by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission in various departments.

"During the current financial year, 1,37,870 persons have been covered under various self-employment schemes of different government departments," he said.

Pak Militant

spokesperson said.

In the early hours of Tuesday, a militant attempted to escape while firing at the security personnel, he said, adding that the troops retaliated, resulting in the encounter in which the terrorist was killed.

One AK-47 rifle, four magazines, one grenade, pouches and some Indian currency were recovered from the slain terrorist who was identified as Abu Zarara, hailing from Pakistan, the spokesperson said.

He said that in a major success and boost to counter-militancy operations, a foreign militant, who was specially trained and brainwashed to operate in Rajouri-Poonch area with a possible aim of orchestrating a strike, was eliminated.

"This is the eighth terrorist to be eliminated this year. Recently, Haji Arif, a dreaded terrorist guide, was also eliminated on the LoC in the Rajouri sector," he said.

The joint efforts of the Army and police continue to show positive results in Rajouri-Poonch region due to the unwavering support of locals, officials said.

In this case, the Pakistani militant was first detected in August, they said, adding that he was probably a part of the neighbouring nation's efforts to revive militancy in South of Pir Panjal region.

While the militant and his accomplice had been on the run, taking shelter in deep jungles for the past few months, their need for food, clothing and communication (mobile) forced them to contact civilians, the officials added.

The Indian Army, in joint efforts with police, monitored this mobile communication on near real-time basis, while the locals provided crucial information on the movement of the suspects, they said.

This enabled security forces to corner the militants, force them to get away to higher reaches of Pir Panjal ranges despite the onset of winters, the officials said.

As the militants got isolated and moved away from civilian areas, but troops launched a clinical operation on receiving specific inputs from locals in Behramgala area, they said.

The militants attempted to get away by opening fire on security forces, but he was killed when security forces retaliated, the officials said, noting that his accomplice was on the run.

Cold Conditions

He said there "no forecast for any

severe weather" in coming days.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature settled several degrees below the freezing point across the valley on Tuesday, officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius on Monday night, up by nearly one degree from the previous night's minus 3.5 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, down from minus 5 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The resort was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

The officials said Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius. The south Kashmir resort had recorded minus 5.3 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius. (With inputs from GNS)

Omar Takes Pot

broad daylight in the Kashmir valley and militancy was back again in those areas which were made militancy-free during his regime.

"During my rule, we were feeling so comfortable with respect to the security situation that we had removed bunkers from many places. But, the reality today is that, not only have the bunkers been put up in those areas, but there are additional bunkers now, he said.

"We reduced the footprints of the security forces, but today, there are additional troops deployed. And, forces are being stationed in places like community halls which were constructed in our regime. Be it development-wise or through the security point of view, the present government has totally failed, Abdullah said.

Asked about the conventions being organised by the party, the NC vice president said the party rallies should not be linked with polls.

"This is not an election campaign. This is our way of connecting with our workers, to listen to them, interact with them and get their feedback. This is our aim behind these conventions and they should not be connected with the elections, he said.

Asked whether he would contest polls from Ganderbal, Abdullah said he had not come here to cut somebody's mandate or to give mandate to someone.

"When the election bugle hasn't been blown yet, why talk about mandate, he said.

Earlier, while addressing the party workers, Abdullah said the BJP had "outed" across the world that the guns in Kashmir would fall silent once Article 370 is revoked, but the violence was still going on even after its revocation.

"We were told that there would be complete peace after its revocation. This was touted across the world that the gun in Kashmir is because of (Article) 370 and when it is revoked, the guns will fall silent. See the situation in Srinagar in the last 24 hours, he said.

"What happened in Rangreth, what happened in Zewan? Our brave police officers and jawan three were killed and I do not know how many of them are critical in hospitals. If (Article) 370 was the reason behind the gun, then why did this attack take place in Zewan or an encounter in Rangreth or killings in Hyderabad, Abdullah said.

He said the BJP claimed the peoples' anger in Kashmir was due to Article 370 and when it is done with, the separatist ideology will also go away.

"On Monday, two PSOs of two BJP leaders decamped with their weapons, Abdullah said, referring to the Kupwara incident.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the BJP took unfair advantage of the NC's weakness.

"I used to tell people from time to time that do not let your votes be divided or else your voice will be weakened. If you do not like the NC, then support another party, but do not let the votes be divided. Unfortunately, and it was Delhi's continuous conspiracy, that we are divided in the name of one party or the other, he said.

Abdullah said the Centre's attempts were still on.

"You see a new party every day and every one of them targets the National Conference. Rather than oppose the present dispensation or the Centre, they target the NC only so that we are disintegrated, he said.

He said the idea behind the formation of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) was to keep the voice of the people united.

"That is why Farooq Abdullah got every leader on a single stage and formed the PAGD. The aim was not chair or power or that someone from them will become the chief minister. The aim was to unite our voices. But, even this was not liked by some. First they joined and then they left, he said, apparently referring to Sajad Lone who quit the alliance.

Asking people to take lessons from the people of Leh and Kargil, the NC leader said while they first celebrated after the revocation of the erstwhile state's special status and its bifurcation, now they are protesting as they want statehood, assembly

and all rights as were under the Article 370.

"Today, they are united in their voice. There was a complete shut-down. We also want that our voice is not disintegrated. But, there is the Centre's conspiracy and thinking by some people that only they should go forward. We never said only one party or family had the right over power. We are still trying to keep our voice united and keep a united front for securing our rights and to get back what was taken from us on August 5, 2019, he said.

Feeling Of

officials in administration not listening to the public.

He said the grievances of people have increased as no elected government is in place in the Union Territory.

To end the public suffering, the restoration of statehood is a must before holding of assembly elections, Bukhari, a former minister.

It has become imperative to restore the statehood of J-K which was snatched on August 05, 2019, he added.

The Apni Party leader was addressing one-day workers' convention at Dak bungalow in the border district of Rajouri.

He said the development works, which were initiated by the previous governments, have come to a standstill and officials in the civil administration in Rajouri have no connection with the people.

"The accountability of officials is must and it will come when there is an elected government. People are suffering for the want of basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, roads and health (facilities) which should be provided to everyone without discrimination. However, their suffering is not being given heed, he alleged.

Bukhari, on the occasion, made several election promises if his party comes to power during the next assembly elections.

If the Apni Party comes to power, every household in Kashmir will be provided 500 units free of cost electricity during winters and Jammu will accordingly get 300 units of free electricity. In summer, Jammu will be provided free of cost first 500 units of electricity and Kashmir will be provided 300 units free of cost to every household, he said.

He also said his party would enhance social welfare pensions to the beneficiaries up to Rs 5,000 for all categories of the economically weaker section in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also promised to provide an additional refill of four cooking gas cylinders to the entitled beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Apni Party will work for the development of J-K's every nook and corner without discrimination, Bukhari said.

Expressing his concern over increasing unemployment among the youth, he said, if the Apni Party comes to power, it will ensure recruitment on all vacant posts.

As far as the long-pending issue of daily wagers is concerned, he said, the party is committed to regularise them.

"These daily wagers are the backbone in many government departments as they have kept the system running even during COVID19. In recognition of their services, we will regularise them, he added. (PTI)

Two More Die

in the Valley where no new cases were detected on Tuesday.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 19 new cases, Doda and Poonch 4 each, Kathua 2 and one fresh case each in Udhampur and Rajouri. The four districts of Samba, Kishtwar, Ramban and Reasi reported no new cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 147 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 32 from Jammu Division and 115 from Kashmir," the officials added.

Div Com Raps

Covid patients.

Pole, he said, directed all officers present to put all the ventilators in use and stop undue referral to tertiary hospitals which will ease not only the load on these hospitals but simultaneously will not let the patients become more critical during golden hours in transit.

"He directed them that referral should be last option and patients should be referred only when it is beyond the capacity of available resources," he said.

The official spokesperson further said that the Div Com took serious note of non utilization of ventilators in districts since 1st November 2021 and warned district health authorities of stern administrative action against those officers who shall be found under utilizing these life saving ventilators for daily use for patients.

"Besides, he cautioned that new Covid variant will not give time for preparation, so all the district hospitals, Covid dedicated hospitals and tertiary hospitals need to be ready for any eventuality that can take place if we will not keep our last resort functional viz Ventilators in these testing times of pandemic," he said.

The Div Com, he said, also directed the preparation of proposal with the help of technical expert for physical

and financial modalities for installation of central heating system in Covid wards and hospitals.

"At the same time he directed DHSK and Principals of GMCs to install split ACs in these hospitals where they may have to install Invasive/ Non invasive Ventilators," he added.

Pole, as per the official spokesperson directed concerned officers to provide status of PM CARE supplied ventilators which needs technical repairs

"He also directed deployment of staff by the district hospitals for training at GMC, Srinagar and JLNH Hospital Sgr for capacity building trainings in ICUs and Critical Care for Doctors and Paramedics of Kashmir division so that their services are better utilised in this ongoing pandemic," he added.

Govt To Tighten

augmented the concerns for the safety of orphans in J&K." Shabnam said.

"Immediately after J&KARA was constituted, the committee collected details of orphans from all over the valley in order to ensure their safety, welfare and stop trafficking of orphans. We already had the data of orphans in the valley but the state agency wants to fortify it in a better manner," she added.

It is pertinent to mention here that J&KARA will function as the executive arm of the Jammu and Kashmir administration for monitoring and regulation of the adoption programme in the erstwhile state and will also regulate the 2017 adoption regulations of the Union Ministry of Child Development.

As per Mission Director, ICPS, the agency has collected data based on several criteria.

"We've checked whether the orphan has lost a single parent or both parents and who is the legal guardian of the orphan. This will help us to ensure that the orphan is in safe hands or not," she said.

"We've also started to collect details of the orphanages that are currently operating in Kashmir and in a month's time, we will have the data on all the orphanages. This is to make sure that these orphanages follow the legal procedure of adoption regulation policy," she added.

Shabnam further said that there's absolutely no doubt that the new agency will ensure the safety of orphans but the biggest problem is that in case of trafficked children, the seller is usually the legal guardian.

"If a child is kidnapped, a parent will file an FIR but here, after a child is turned into an orphan, the guardian is the one who is involved in trafficking of that child. Till now, no orphan has been found missing from Child care institutions."

Notably, the J&K Adoption Resource Agency will be headed by the secretary, social welfare department and Mission Director, ICPS. It will also carry out other functions which may be assigned by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) from time to time.

BSF Constable

was part of a section deployed for guard duty near Rampur Bridge in Mohura, Uri died of serious burns after a charcoal bukhari exploded 'unexpectedly' at the Observation Point, reports said.

The incident occurred during the intervening night of Dec 13 and 14.

Joseph was a resident of Kerala and was affiliated with BSFs 63 Battalion E. Company.

According to local news agency KNT, the service rifle of the deceased trooper was also damaged in the explosion.

2 Held With Pistol

a police team led by SHO Inspector Deepak Jasrotia when their car (JKO2CE-5360) was found parked on roadside near the Jammu airport, a police spokesperson said Tuesday.

He said that the duo misbehaved with the police team when they went to enquire why the car was parked in darkness.

During the search, a Chinese pistol along with a magazine was recovered from their possession, which they had carried for committing some serious crime in the area, police said.

On this, police said that a case under FIR number 282/21 under section 353/34 IPC, 7/25 Arms Act has been registered at PS Satwari. Also, the vehicle was seized in the case, police said; adding that further investigation of the case is going on--(KNO)

Tipper Crushes

He was immediately rushed to CHC Sopore, where the doctors declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and started further investigation in this regard.

Ladakh Logs

the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they said. Twenty nine patients were cured and discharged from hospitals from Ladakh.

All the fresh cases were reported in Ladakh, they said, adding that 562 sample reports in Ladakh were found negative.

The total number of COVID-19 active cases in Ladakh has gone down to 178 including 164 in Leh and 14 in Kargil district. (PTI)

YSS Cricket Team To Lock Horns With PHE In Finals



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing league cum knockout 2nd Inter Department (Employees) T20 Cricket Tournament 2021 being played at the University of Kashmir ground, the employee's team of Youth Services and Sports Department defeated SDRF by 7 wickets. SDRF won the toss and elected to bat first but could hardly manage to score 83 runs. Nasir Parry and Wahid Ahmad took 4 wickets each and Mohd Saleem took 2 wickets for his team. In response Youth Service and Sports achieved the target in the 12th over of the 2nd inning. Mubashir Ahamad scored 14 while Adil Sofi scored 30 runs for the team. Nasir Parry was declared Man of

the Match (MOM) for his brilliant overall performance.

Youth Services and Sports will take on the Departmental team of PHE in the final match of the tournament. Team was escorted by Team manager, Azhar Hajini.

Director of Youth Services & Sports Department Gazanfar Ali hailed the brilliant efforts of the YSS team in winning an important match of the tourney. He hoped that the team will play a great innings in the finals of the tournament as well. He added that besides teaching and coaching abilities, the field staff of the Department (Employees) are full of talent and every possible step would be taken to provide them a proper platform for showcasing their hidden talent.

DC Kupwara Flags Off Students, Teachers For Trekking Expedition



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Imam Din on Tuesday flagged off a group of 57 students for a trekking expedition from here, which was escorted by 10 teachers. He also flagged off 70 Rehber-e-Khail and 30 management staff for refresher courses at a function conducted by District Youth Services and Sports Department Kupwara.

The students, representing 13 zones of the district, are scheduled to explore the areas of Teetwal during the 05 days trekking programme. Whileas, the teachers will be given refresher courses for upgrading their life skills.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, Imam Din, while addressing students and teach-

ers exhorted them to take full benefits of trekking expedition as it has a varied scope. He said apart from physical development, the trekking develops a sense of togetherness among the students. He also asked teachers to take advantage of refresher courses which are meant for upgrading their life skills. He said that such events will also boost the local tourism of the less explored places like Teetwal.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Officers to enshrine the spirit of sportsmanship among the students which will prove them successful in different aspects of life.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Kupwara, Jitender Singh, Tehsildar Kupwara and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Real Kashmir Face Deccan FC In IFA Shield Final Today



Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: I-League debutants Sreenidi Deccan FC, with their resolute and compact defence, stand in the way of Real Kashmir's bid for a second successive title when the two teams clash in the IFA Shield final here on Wednesday.

Less than six months after being launched, the Vizag outfit is in the middle of a fairytale campaign making into the final of the second oldest football tournament of the country on debut.

The Santiago Varela-coached outfit showed supreme ball control and maintained intensity to edge out Railway FC 2-1 in the extra-time at the East Bengal ground. The Deccan club has showcased a high level of finesse and executed their plans meticulously throughout the tournament.

But what has stood out has been their resolute defence conceding just two goals from five matches as the likes of

Mason Robertson and Fran Gonzalez will have a tough ask in hand when the two teams clash it out.

That they have already played in the same venue will act as an advantage for Deccan outfit.

"We are fully prepared for the match. Yes they have played the final last year too but that's not playing in our mind," defender Samad Ali Mallick, who is well aware of the conditions with his past experience in East Bengal, said.

"We are focused on our game. We have trained in Hyderabad for last two months and it's showing in our collective game in this tournament.

"We're very excited to play the final in such a short duration. No team will look to afford an inch, it will be a strong fight," he added.

Coach Varela said, "We have showed good football in each of our game. But RKFC would be a tough challenge. We will try to do our job, control the game."

Real Kashmir have been su-

preme in the attack with the likes of Mason, Gonzalez and Shah Nawaz Bashir putting up a cohesive display in the midfield.

The only blip has been against the Calcutta Customs when they lost out by a solitary goal in their league outing.

"We have played three I-League teams so far, it gives a lot of confidence to be in the final of a tournament ahead of the I-League," David said.

"We enjoyed our last season and somehow managed to be in the final this time. We will play with the same intensity."

David further said the Deccan outfit would pose a big challenge and it does not matter that they're debutants.

"They know our team quite well, they have an experienced coach. It would be a very, very difficult team game. Anything can happen," David said.

"I don't think we start as strong favourites. It all comes down to hard work on the pitch," Mason Robertson said. Kickoff: 1.30pm.

59 ROLLER SKATING HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

Roller Skating Cadet Boys Secure Gold For J&K

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Roller Skating Cadet Boys team has scripted history by defeating Punjab by 3-1 in the final while securing Gold in the 59 Roller Skating Hockey Championship being held at Chandigarh.

J&K team was trained at Indoor Skating Rink, Indoor Sports complex Jammu for the past one month in a special coaching camp that was conducted on the directions of Secretary Sports Council under the supervision of Divisional Sports Officer Jammu.

Meanwhile, Secretary Sports Council has congratulated the team on their historical victory and wished them good luck for future endeavours.



Also, J&K Roller Skating Association, players, and their parents thanked the J&K Govt and the administration for arranging the coaching camps and providing the best possible support and infrastructure to the players.

Kishtwar Admin Felicitates Musclemania Championship Winner

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: District Administration Kishtwar on Tuesday felicitated Musclemania Championship winner Dr. Joneed Iqbal Shah, a Medical Officer, AYUSH hailing from Kishtwar here at a simple function organised by AYUSH department Kishtwar.

On the occasion, the chief Guest Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Akhtar Hussain Qazi congratulated the Medical Officer and urged the youth in particular to take inspiration from his achievements.

It is pertinent to mention that towards the end of the year 2021, Dr. Joneed Iqbal Shah Medical Officer, AYUSH Health and wellness centre Palmar represented in one of the prestigious events "The Musclemania Championship" held at Delhi and brought laurels to the department by winning Gold Medal.

Dr. Joneed Iqbal Shah is a professional Ayurvedic Medical officer, who is living a simple life following the principles of the nature.

His 30 long years of fitness journey with simple and natural food has reaffirmed



the faith of people in natural and total fitness. At 46 years of age, he has become a role model for the youth of the District and now for the state and the Nation as well.

On this occasion, District Nodal officer AYUSH, on behalf of the entire AYUSH fraternity, presented a memento and gift of honour to the Medical officer.

While speaking at the felicitation programme, the Medical officer cred-

ited the support of the Almighty, family friends, well-wishers and above all the departmental colleagues and the entire AYUSH staff for his achievement.

He encouraged the youth to stay Physically and mentally fit in order to serve the society and nation better.

The Chief Guest congratulated the Medical Officer and urged the youth in particular to take inspiration from his achievements.

DEPARTMENT OF NANOTECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

HAZRATBAL SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR-190006

Advertisement for the position of Project Fellow

Applications on plain paper are invited from eligible candidates for one position of "Project Fellow" under the JKST&IC funded project entitled "Modelling and Simulation of Silicene Nanoscale Electronic Devices and Their Applications".

Position	Qualifications
Project Fellow (one) Salary: Rs.10,000/- per month (consolidated)	M.Sc. / M. Tech. Nanotechnology/ M. Sc. Physics/ M.Sc. Electronics with minimum 55% marks. Preference will be given to NET/ SET candidate. Desirable: Candidate with research experience of one year.

The applicants should send their applications/C.V. along with contact details (including mobile No.) to the undersigned via email (drkhursheda@gmail.com) upto 19th December, 2021. No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

Email: drkhursheda@gmail.com
Mobile: 7006875969
No. PI-01

Sd/-
Dr. Khurshed Ahmad Shah
(Principal Investigator)

DIPK-NB-5857/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB) HEMA COMPLEX, SECTOR -3, CHANNI HIMMAT, JAMMU/ ZUM ZUM COMPLEX RAMBAGH SRINAGAR. (www.jkssb.nic.in)

ANSWER KEY NOTICE

Subject:- Answer Key & seeking of representations (if any) to the Computer Based Written Test (CBT) Examination for the post of Jr Statistical Assistant, Divisional Cadre Kashmir/ Jammu. Advertisement vide Notification No 04 of 2020, under Item No 107 and 113 w.e.f 07.12.2021 to 11.12.2021, and submission of representations -regarding.

The J&K Services Selection Board conducted Computer Based Written Test examinations for the post of Jr Statistical Assistant, Divisional Cadre Kashmir/ Jammu. Advertisement vide Notification No 04 of 2020, under Item No 107 and 113 w.e.f 07.12.2021 to 11.12.2021.

The Answer Key(s)/ Question Paper(s) shall be available through the online link available on the website of the Board i.e www.jkssb.nic.in, from today i.e (13-12-2021) for four days Till 17th of December 2021, only. The candidates can submit their objections/representations in respect of any question/ answer (if any) and upload the same, along-with documentary evidence/ reference. However, Objections /representations through any other means shall not be entertained.

Important Instructions:

- Candidates are requested to login with their Roll No., Date Of Birth, Select Date Of Examination and Batch Timing shown in their Admit Card to view their Response sheet, Question and Answer Key.
- In Question Paper view, correct alternative is highlighted in green.
- Enter question number against which objection to be raised in the "Question No." field.
- Enter objection against a question in the "Objection" field.
- Click on Add button to submit representation for more than one Question.
- Objections must be entered only in English.
- Objections can be raised only against questions and their alternatives.
- Objections once submitted cannot be edited later.
- Once submitted, new objections cannot be added later.

Dated:- 13-12-2021
No.SSB/COE/CBT/2021/8675-82
DIPK-14884/21

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

Virat Kohli Has Made No Request For Break: BCCI Official

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India Test captain Virat Kohli has not put in any formal request for a break from the ODI leg of the upcoming South Africa tour, a top BCCI official has asserted.

Kohli will be leading India in a three-Test series starting December 26 in Centurion and the series ends on January 15 in Cape Town with the third and final Test. The three-match ODI series will kick off on January 19.

After vice-captain Rohit Sharma was ruled out due to the recurrence of a left hamstring injury, reports have emerged that Kohli will take a break to spend some time with his young family.

"As of now, Kohli hasn't sent any formal request to skip the ODIs to either BCCI president Sourav Ganguly or secretary Jay



Shah. If something is decided at a later date or God forbid, he sustains an injury, then it's a different matter," a senior BCCI official privy to developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"As things stand today, he is playing the three ODIs on January 19, 21, 23," he added.

The official also said that all the players' families are also travelling to South Africa aboard the same charter flight due to the bio-bubble restrictions.

Ashes 2nd Test: England Skipper Joe Root Backs Team To Find Form

Agencies

"Rory is a very strong character, you can't doubt that side of his

MELBOURNE:

England captain Joe Root has backed Rory Burns and Jack Leach to rebound from their horror shows in the series-opening defeat in Brisbane as the tourists look to square the Ashes with victory in the day-night second Test at Adelaide Oval.

Burns was bowled out first ball of the series, dropped an easy catch that allowed David Warner to go on to score 94, and failed with the bat again in the second innings of England's nine-wicket defeat by Australia.



game," Root told reporters in Adelaide on Tuesday, two days before the start of the pink-ball Test.

"He'll come back in and want a response and want to put some big scores on the board." Leach conceded 1-102 at nearly eight runs per over as Australia's batsmen hit the spinner out of the attack.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

10-KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR KASHMIR, 190010
PHONE NO. 0194-2504114 | FAX NO 0194-2503115

Subject: Selection List for the tenure post Registrar/Demonstrator in various Departments of Government Medical College, Srinagar

Notification NO. 03 - RA Of 2021

Dated: 14-12-2021

Whereas; vide this office Advertisement Notice issued under no. 08 of 2021 Dated. 09-10-2021 & 08 of 2021 Dated. 10-11-2021 applications were invited for filling up of the tenure posts of Registrars/Demonstrators (in service/not in service doctors) possessing requisite qualification in the various disciplines of Government Medical College, Srinagar; and Whereas; vide this Office interview Notice No. AR/MC/R/D/Adv/2402-15/MC Dated. 02-12-2021, the interview was scheduled on 13th December 2021 for the tenure posts of Registrar/Demonstrator in the below mentioned Departments:

S. NO	Discipline
1.	Dermatology
2.	Paediatric Anaesthesia
3.	Paediatric Gastroenterology
4.	Paediatric Orthopaedics
5.	Paediatric Radiodiagnosis & Imaging
6.	Paediatric Surgery
7.	Paediatric Ophthalmology
8.	Paediatric Microbiology
9.	Paediatric Biochemistry

and;

Whereas; as per instructions laid down in the General administration Departments order no. 528-JK(GAD) of 2021 Dated. 21-06-2021 read with 1003-JK(GAD) of 2021 Dated. 27-09-2021 that Character & Antecedents of selectees are to be verified by the Criminal investigation Department before issuance of formal engagement orders by the competent authority of Government Medical College, Srinagar. Now, therefore, on the basis of the performance in the interview, the selection/waiting list of the candidates, who have appeared in the interview is hereby enclosed as Annexure - "A" to this Notification.

Consequent upon the above, the names of the doctors Annexed with this notification as Annexure - "A" are advised to report to the Office of the Registrar Academics, Government Medical college, Srinagar with (07) days, during working hours, from the date of issuance of this notification for submission of forms (in triplicate) for verification of Character and Antecedents. Note: -

- No verification Rolls shall be accepted after cut off date.
- Forms can be obtained from the Photostat Section of Government Medical College, Srinagar or the candidates can download it from official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar i.e. www.gmcs.edu.in

NO: RA-GMCS/R/D/Adv/2542-52

Dated. 14-12-2021

DIPK-14948/21

Principal/Dean

Govt. Medical College

Srinagar

Annexure - A to the Notification No. 03 of 2021 Dated. 14-12-2021				
S.No.	Name of Candidate	Qualification	Department	Status
1	DR. AAQIB ASLAM	MD	Dermatology	Selected
2	DR. YAOZATA BASHIR	MD	Dermatology	Selected
3	DR. NAHIDA NABI	MD	Dermatology	Waiting
4	DR. AARIF RASHID LONE	MD	Paediatric Anaesthesia	Selected
5	DR. TABISH TAHIR KIRMANI	MS	Paediatric Orthopaedics	Selected
6	DR. SAYIM HASSAN WANI	DNB	Paediatric Orthopaedics	Selected
7	DR. FAISAL KHURSHED	MS	Paediatric Orthopaedics	Waiting
8	DR. ASMA GULZAR	MD	Paediatric Radiodiagnosis & Imaging	Selected
9	DR. ZAHOOOR AHMAD RAINA	MD	Paediatric Radiodiagnosis & Imaging	Selected
10	DR. BILAL YOUSUF MIR	MS	Paediatric Surgery	Selected
11	DR. SHABNUM NABI	MS	Paediatric Ophthalmology	Selected
12	DR. JASIYA BASHIR	MS	Paediatric Ophthalmology	Waiting
13	DR. ALIYA SHAH	MD	Paediatric Microbiology	Selected
14	DR. RUBHANA QADRI	MD	Paediatric Microbiology	Waiting
15	DR. SADAF ALI	MD	Paediatric Biochemistry	Selected
16	DR. TOUSIEF IRSHAD AHMED	MD	Paediatric Biochemistry	Waiting

Principal/Dean

Govt. Medical College

Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am applying for D Class Contractor registration card if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

HILAL AHMAD AKHOON
S/O AB MAJEED AKHOON
R/O KREERI BLOCK WAGOORA.

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General Insurance

Faayde ki baat