

Widom Quote!
When you cease to dream you cease to live
Malcolm Forbes

NEWS DIGEST

Girl Loses Foot In Landmine Blast

SRINAGAR: A young girl lost her foot on Wednesday in a landmine blast along Line of Control (LoC) in border area of Uri in Baramulla district. 20-year-old Masooma Bano, daughter of Juma Chachi **More on P10**

Youth Dies Of Electric Shock

SRINAGAR: A youth died on Wednesday after receiving an electric shock in a village in central Kashmir's Budgam district. 25-year-old Rouf Rahim Var accidentally touched the live electricity wire while repairing the main supply line **More on P10**

4 Arrested With Fake Currency

SRINAGAR: Four people on Wednesday were detained after fake currency worth Rs 45,000 was recovered from their possession in Narbal area of the city outskirts. Tawfeeq Ahmad Khawja, Abdul Hameed Ganie and **More on P10**

Mentally Unsound Man Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A mentally unsound person was on Wednesday found dead in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. An official said that a mentally unsound man identified as Alam-Din Khan (70), son of late Abdulah Raheem Khan of Dignbal Nagbal area of Ganderbal **More on P10**

Policeman, Civilian Shot Dead In Twin Attacks



File Photo

Zaid Bin Shabir

Srinagar: Unidentified militants on Wednesday shot dead a police officer and a civilian in twin attacks in a span of 30 minutes in this capital city and Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

45-year-old Rauf Ahmed Khan, a resident of Mirjanpora locality of Nawa Kadal was

fired upon by militants outside his home in the city on Wednesday evening, a police official told Kashmir Observer. Khan, he said, sustained critical gunshot injuries in the militant attack and was removed to the nearby SMHS hospital for treatment.

"However, he succumbed to his injuries before the doctors could operate **More on P10**

Killers Will Be Brought To Justice Soon: LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday condemned the killing of a policeman and a civilian and pledged that the militants and their handlers responsible for these killings will be "brought to justice soon."

"Deeply saddened by the barbaric and cowardly terrorist act in Srinagar and Anantnag, I strongly condemn this heinous attack on civilian Rouf Ahmad & JKP officer Mohd Ashraf. The terrorists and **More on P10**

WE ARE TRYING TO GET CCTV FOOTAGE of the incident so that the perpetrators behind this attack are nabbed or neutralised. Case has been registered, investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime."

J&K Situation Improved After Aug 2019: GOI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly since August 2019 and there has been a significant decline in militancy incidents while infiltration of militants from across the border has also come down, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai also said the number of militant incidents in Jammu and Kashmir has **More on P10**

Govt Directs Employees To File Annual Property Returns

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday directed all the employees to file annual property returns through online mode while warning of strict action if any public servant without any reasonable cause, fails to submit the return annually.

In a circular issued here on Wednesday, the General Administration Department



File Photo

(GAD) invoked Sub Section 2 of Section 9 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Men and Public Servants Declaration of Assets and other Provisions Act, 1983 saying it shall be incumbent on the part of every public servant **More on P10**

...DELIMITATION DILEMMA

Proposals 'Disenfranchising People Of Kashmir': Omar



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Lashing out at the Delimitation Commission over its draft recommendations, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday accused the panel of fulfilling the BJP's agenda of **More on P10**

NC Legitimised 'Grossly Unfair' Proposal: Lone

People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday accused National Conference of legitimizing the "grossly unfair" proposal of Delimitation Commission by participating in the proceedings, claiming that the recommendation of the panel cannot be **More on P10**

BJP Cries Conspiracy In PAGD's Proposed Protest

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday said the PAGD's proposed protest in Srinagar on January 1 against the Delimitation Commission's recommendations is a "conspiracy" against **More on P10**

LG Voices Concern Over Deaths In Road Accidents

Directs Officials To Rectify Black Spots Within 3 Months

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Terming the deaths in road accidents as a cause of worry, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday directed officials to rectify black spots within 3 months, besides identifying factors contributing to road mishaps & take proactive measures, ensuring enforcement of safety laws in true spirit & making improvements in the response system and spreading awareness on road safety.

The LG passed these instructions while chairing a high-level meeting on Road Safety here on Wednesday, an official spokesperson said.



"Deaths due to road accidents are indeed a cause of worry. The Government is making continuous efforts to make the public aware of road safety and is committed to enforce the rules and necessary interventions & facilities," Sinha said.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG directed the concerned officials to identify factors **More on P10**



**YOU ARE WHAT YOU POST
THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE**

**YOUR ONE WRONG CLICK
COULD LAND YOU HERE**

- PROMOTING VIOLENCE**
- POSTING OR SHARING THREAT MESSAGES**
- ACTING AS TERROR INFORMATION AGENTS TO TERROR HANDLERS TO GET YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND COLLEAGUES KILLED**

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WE KNOW YOU!**

DON'T GET TRAPPED

SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING OF TERROR IS AS GRAVE AS THE ACTUAL ACT OF TERROR, IT IS PUNISHABLE AS PER SECTION 13 AND 18 OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES PREVENTION ACT



JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE

In your Service and for Your Protection





از نیابت رہنبر پورہ یا اجلاس خدامت العین بٹ صاحب
درخواست منجانب: سعید القیوم مہمند ولد غلام اکبر مہمند، سکن: پورہ، فرمان قیوم، ناہیدہ قیوم، باسر
قیوم اولاد دن ودا القیوم مہمند ساکان رہنبر پورہ تحصیل من
بغرض حصول: RBA سرٹیفکیٹ
اشتہار برآء گاہی برضاس دعام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکان نے ایک درخواست سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر پڑا میں پیش کیا ہے
جس کی فوار پورٹ جو کڑ بیکار دوائی ہے۔ پڑا ہی حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے
ہے کہ ساکان بچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے وہاں میں سکونت پذیر ہے۔
نمبر شمار نام وولدیت عمر پیشہ آمدنی
1 عبدالقیوم مہمند ولد غلام قادر مہمند 51 سال رتیار ملازم LPC
2 تسلیت زوجہ عبدالقیوم مہمند 48 سال گھریلو کام
3 سکنیل قیوم ولد عبدالقیوم مہمند 21 سال زینت
4 فرمان قیوم ولد عبدالقیوم مہمند 11 سال زینت
5 ناہیدہ قیوم زوجہ عبدالقیوم مہمند 26 سال زینت
6 یاسر قیوم ولد عبدالقیوم مہمند 17 سال عمر سیدہ

اس طرح سال کاتبہ 106 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ ساکان کے کوئڈ کے پاس دھند میں 2 کنال موجود
آرامی موجود ہے اور ساکان کو کوئی سالا آمدنی تمام ذرائع سے تقریباً آجھلا کھ روپیہ
سے کم ہے۔ ساکان RBA سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے اگر کسی شخص
کو کوئی متراض ہو تو وہ بعد سے دن کے اندر آمد پناہدرا متراض دفتر پڑا میں پیش کریں۔ بعد
گزرتے مینا کوئی بندری متراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
تاجب تحصیلدار RNA

از دفتر تاجب تحصیلدار اکتھترہ
عنوان: بھون درخواست منجانب فاروق احمد نیار ولد مہدی اقبال نیار ساکان کٹھ پورہ پھل پھل کیری
نہت حصول: RBA سرٹیفکیٹ پھر عابد فاروق
اشتہار برآء گاہی برضاس دعام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں درخواست سالک دفتر پڑا میں زیر کار دوائی ہے اس نہت پڑا
حلقے سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکان
سالک کٹھ پورہ تحصیل کیری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اس کی کنڈر مہماندہ عدنی 9000
روپے ہے کوئڈ پڑا میں افراد پر مشتمل ہے
فاروق احمد نیار ولد مہدی اقبال نیار
نمبر شمار نام وولدیت عمر
1 گھریلو کام 40 سال
2 زینت 38 سال
3 زینت 20 سال
4 زینت 18 سال
5 زینت 15 سال
6 زینت 11 سال
7 زینت 09 سال
8 عمر سیدہ 70 سال

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ نہت کرنے میں
اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی متراض ہو تو وہ پناہدرا متراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر پیش
کریں۔ مینا کوئی بندری متراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
تاجب تحصیلدار RNA

از دفتر تاجب تحصیلدار کیری
درخواست منجانب خالد بنیر ولد شہراہم مہمند ساکان کیری تحصیل کیری
نہت حصول: سٹیک کاسٹ
اشتہار برآء گاہی برضاس دعام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں درخواست سالک دفتر پڑا میں زیر کار دوائی ہے اس نہت پڑا
حلقے سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ ساکان
سالک کیری میں رہائش پذیر ہے اس کی کنڈر مہماندہ عدنی 52 ملازم
بشر احمد مہمند ولد مہم مہمند ساکان
شہینہ بیگم زوجہ بشر احمد مہمند 48 گھریلو کام
خالد بنیر ولد شہراہم مہمند 28 زینت
صوبہ بیگم زوجہ خالد بنیر احمد 26 گھریلو کام
مادیہ خالدہ ولد خالد بنیر احمد 01 نوزاد
شہناز خالدہ ولد شہراہم مہمند 24 زینت
سمانتہ علی زوجہ مہم مہمند 70 عمر سیدہ

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کو نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کی خواہ
ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی متراض ہو تو وہ پناہدرا متراض ساتھ ہم کے اندر
پیش کریں۔ مینا کوئی بندری متراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
تاجب تحصیلدار RNA

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Mst : Zamrooda Wani W/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Wani R/o: Kandoora Beerwah owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 1325 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Duderhama Ganderbal .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5358
Dated 21-12-2021 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Showka Hussain Bhat S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/o: Khanpora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F 5404 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S State Bank of India B/U Ompora .

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.4254
Dated 21-12-2021 Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Sr. Aquaculture Engineer(XEN)
Fisheries Deptt Suleiman Complex Dalgate Srinagar (J&K)
Telephone No 0194-3513051 e-mail:- sraqaengineer@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tenders
SHORT TERM E-NIT No 39 OF 2021-22

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

S. No	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender Document	Time of opening of bid	Time of completion
01	Upgradation of Trout Rearing Unit SatwainBasholiKathua by way of Upgradation of Survey Hut by way of mud phuska, cement plaster & allied works	Rs 4.40 lacs	D	Rs 200/-	28-12-2021 at 10:00 AM	One Month
02	Electrification to Watch & Ward Hut at Bela Boniyar Baramulla	Rs 1.32 lacs	Electric Card Holder	Rs 200/-	28-12-2021 at 10:00 AM	15 Days

Position of AA= Accorded Position of Funds = Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-12-2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20-12-2021 from 10:00am to 27-12-2021 upto 4:00 pm
3	Bid submission Start Date	20-12-2021 from 10:00 pm
4	Bid submission End Date	27-12-2021 upto 4:00 pm
5	Date & Time of opening Bids (Online)	28-12-2021 at 10:00 am In the Office of the Sr. Aquaculture Engineer (XEN) Fisheries Deptt Suleiman Complex Dalgate -Srinagar

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

DIPK-15334/21 Dated:-18-12-2021

No:SAE/D/2021-22/1443-51

E-mail:- techrbp786@gmail.com Phone:-01933-295302,
Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.
TENDER NOTICE
E-NIT No :- 355 /EEP/RNB/of 2021-22/12180-90
Dated: 18 /12/2021

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost in (Rs. Lacs.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Approval No:
1.	Upgradation of Danjibal Link on Kakapora Nawa road including interior roads at Parigam and IR at Nawa and Gudooro by way of WBM Grade-II (BW-2).	3.84	200/-	10 Working Days	DEE	D/S 45/DDCP of 2020 Dated: 31.01.2020
2.	Upgradation of IR-Litter and Litter Nikora road via Rawatpora including Yadder to Litter via Pirtakia and IR of Naina Batapora including Datpora Reshipora railway via Kawni by way of construction of R/Wall and WBM Grade-II (BW).	7.00	300/-	10 Working Days	CEE & DEE	D/S 46-DDCP of 2020 Dated: 31.01.2020.
3.	Upgradation/Strengthening of Lalgam-Pirnard Aligund road incl. Gorkadal Arampore and New colony Pirnard road with Nowdal Dadsara and Interior Chandrigam Baygund Bargam road. BW-2	2.98	200/-	10 Working Days	DEE	S/S 17-SE/PS/ of 2021-22 Dated. 29.06.2021

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18 /12/2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18/12/2021 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	18/12/2021 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	27/12/2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	27/12/2021 at 4:30 p.m in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 3 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest bidder has to provide 3% of Contract Value Cost as Performance Security instead of EMD within 3 days after opening of Financial Bid)

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

1. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.
2. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman Technical Officer Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama
DIPK-15323/21

Visuals Increase Attention, Scientists Explain Why

Agencies

Scientists report that norepinephrine, a fundamental chemical for brain performance, is locally regulated in a brain region called the visual cortex. In a paper published in the journal Science Advances, authors from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (also referred to as UT Health San Antonio) report that norepinephrine, a fundamental chemical for brain performance, is locally regulated in a brain region called the visual cortex. "Before our study, research suggested the possibility of local regulation of norepinephrine release, but it had never been directly demonstrated," said study senior author Martin Paukert, MD, assistant professor of cellular and integrative physiology at UT Health San Antonio. The work of the team, which included Shawn R. Gray, PhD, and Liang Ye, MD, from the Paukert lab and Jing Yong Ye, PhD, from the biomedical engineering department at The University of Texas at San Antonio, was supported by the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA).

ADHD, the release of norepinephrine is reduced, resulting in lower attention. In other substance use and PTSD, the level is too high. The team's findings also extend to cells called astrocytes that function as helper cells in the brain and central nervous system.



Norepinephrine is known to be involved in paying attention. "A certain amount of this chemical needs to be released for optimum brain performance and ability to pay attention," Dr. Paukert said. "So, if there is either too much of it or too little of it, it may affect how we process information." Disease states in which norepinephrine is known to be altered include substance use disorders, Alzheimer's disease, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In some substance use, Alzheimer's and

"When a person makes a movement, such as turning the head to listen to a parent, and that is combined with visual stimulation, then more norepinephrine is released where visual information is processed," Dr. Paukert said. "Our second finding, also important, is that astrocytes can reliably detect the rate of norepinephrine release." They are sensitive to it, in other words. Astrocytes alter their response accordingly, which is expected to change brain performance. "Understanding norepinephrine release, its local regulation and the astrocyte response may represent a mechanism by which one could enhance sensory-specific attention," Dr. Paukert said. Research will continue in that direction.

Press Release

Today on 22.12.2021 an awareness program on Labour Laws was organized at Shopain, in collaboration with NGO M/s Voluntary Organization on Environmental & Socio-Economic Planning (VOESEP) in which Mr. Ahmad Hussain Bhat worthy Dy labour Commissioner, Kashmir, Mr. Abdul Majid Tantray Assistant Labour Commissioner, Shopain and other dignities were present and participated in the program. The worthy Deputy Labour Commissioner Kashmir discussed the important aspects pertaining to the Labour clause and made the laborers aware about their rights as guaranteed under constitution of India and in other Labour Laws. The Assistant Commissioner, Shopain highlighted the social schemes with related to the labour clause and assured the employees who participated in the event that they will be given first preference in acquiring the benefits guaranteed in different labour related schemes. The program was concluded with the vote of thanks from President VOESEP and other colleagues.
RNA



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT (PHE) KASHMIR
NEW ENGINEERING COMPLEX, SILK FACTORY ROAD RAJ BAGH, SRINAGAR
TELE: 0194-2311832, TELE FAX: 0194-2311835,
E-Mail: kmrphed@gmail.com, kashmirphe@yahoo.com

Extension in Bid Submission date....
Notice thereof

Subject: Supply of ISI marked Galvanized Mild Steel tubes conforming to IS: 1239(Part-I) 2004 Sixth Revision read with up-to-date amendments in random length ranging from 4.00 Mts to 7.00 Mts' screwed on both ends as per IS: 554/1990, socket at one end & other end Protected with plastic protector, in assorted sizes of nominal bore ranging from 15mm NB up-to and including 100mm NB In Light Class, while as from 125mm NB up-to & including 150mm NB in Medium Class. The socket conforming to IS: 1239 (Pt.11/1992-4th revision) with amendment No: 1 to 3 and latest..... Extension Notice thereof.

Reference: (i). This office e-NIT No. JSD/PHE-K/JJM/e-tender /2021-22/89 Dated: 29.11.2021 issued under endorsement No. CE/PHE/Kmr/28741-50 dated: 29.11.2021.
(ii). Pre bid meeting held on 14.12.2021 and 15.12.2021, decision thereof.

The T.E.C (Tender Evaluation Committee) after threadbare discussions keeping in view the queries raised by the various intending bidders during the pre-bid meetings for the subject tender item have arrived at a conclusion that the Bid Submission last date shall be extended by 15 days (Fifteen) in order to invite healthy participation as well as to ensure wide publicity of the tendered item. Therefore the need for issuing this notice arises and is issued, notifying the amended tender dates as under:-

Tender dates as per e-NIT	Tender dates as amended
Bid Document Downloading	19.12.2021 at 05:00 PM. Bid Document Downloading 04.01.2022 at 05:00 PM.
End Date.	End Date.
Bid Submission End Date	21.12.2021 at 04:00 PM. Bid Submission End Date 05.01.2022 at 05:00 PM.
Date of opening of Cover 1 st	22.12.2021 at 11:00 AM. Date of opening of Cover 1 st . 06.01.2022 at 03:00 PM.

No.: CE/PHE/Kmr/32076-104
Dated: -18.12.2021.

DIPK-15309/21 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Department (PHE) Kashmir, Srinagar.



24 Pregnant Women Test Positive For COVID At Lal Ded

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar : At least 24 pregnant women tested positive for coronavirus Wednesday at Kashmir's lone maternity hospital Lalla Ded, with officials expecting the number to rise.

The healthcare workers, patients, and attendants were seen pulling their masks up after 24 patients were detected positive for the virus on arrival at Out Patient Department (OPD).

"Every patient has to undergo RAT before entering the hospital for the treatment. As of now, 24 have tested positive and there will obviously be more in Casualty and other departments," a health official at the LD hospital said.

"Many of our doctors have contracted the COVID in the past few weeks," he said.

On Tuesday, 104 new cases of the infection were recorded in Jam-



Every patient has to undergo RAT before entering the hospital for the treatment. As of now, 24 have tested positive and there will obviously be more in Casualty and other departments

mu and Kashmir including 78 cases in Kashmir valley alone. One person had died with the COVID.

The case tally has risen to 3,40,036 while the death toll jumped to 4,514-2,319 in Kashmir and 2,195 in Jammu, officials said

Lasjan To Become Model Panchayat For Solid Waste Management

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR- In connection with ongoing Good Governance Week, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp on the eve of Block Diwas at Lasjan in an endeavour to bring Administration to the door steps of the people particularly living in distant areas of the district for on spot resolution of public issues.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, local PRI representatives, public delegations and individuals projected various issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner.

The demands and issues flagged-off include augmentation of Water supply and drainage system, providing electric transformer issuance of Revenue Extracts, pending

payment under MGNREGA, upgradation of High School Lasjan, development of sports ground, upgradation of play-ground, upgradation of sports infrastructure and expediting of work on pump station, besides sanctioning of cases under different Social Welfare schemes.

On the occasion, the DC after giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

He also assured the people of Lasjan, Soiteng and other adjoining areas that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority. The DC also gave on the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 03
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 3:49
Magrib 5:30
ISHA 6: 55

HIJRI CALENDAR
18 Jumada al-awwal
1443

No End To Traffic Woes In City, Commuters Suffer

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar- Traffic mismanagement continues to hassle people in Srinagar as in the absence of traffic police, locals volunteer in the evenings to get off the gridlocks.

People in Srinagar are up in arms against the authorities for failing to get rid of traffic jams in most parts of the summer capital. The locals said in most of the places and important intersections, traffic police were not present to manage the gridlock, which stretches the congestion for hours together.

Traffic jams during peak hours are witnessed on vital routes including Lal Chowk-Jahangir chowk, junctions towards Natipora, Qamarwari and Sonwar route has become a norm. The problem is further compounded by closing down some of the important crossings and commuters are forced to take alternative roads.

"Frequent traffic jams signify the failure of authorities to streamline



FILE PIC

the system as not a single traffic cop deployed to streamline the traffic during evening hours here," Shabir Ahmad, a daily commuter at Baba demb route alleged.

He said that every evening he has to "waste" an hour in traffic jam on the barbar shah bridge to cover the distance which otherwise is covered within 10 minutes.

"Travelling on city roads has become more of a time- and energy-consuming experience. At a few places, a commuter has to spend twenty minutes to complete the distance of a kilometre which otherwise is just five to seven minutes drive normally,"

said a group of commuters.

On the busy Dalgate route, the commuters urged authorities to take necessary measures to avoid traffic jams.

"Traffic jams during peak hours have now become a norm and authorities seem unmoved. The traffic jams have increased in absence of effective regulation of the traffic," said a group of angry commuters at Dalgate junction.

Meanwhile, commuters appealed to the concerned authorities and the district administration to look into the matter at an earliest so that they have heave a sigh of relief.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE ANANTNAG, J&K
(Camp Office : MMABM Associated Hospital, Janglat Mandi Anantnag)
Phone No.01932-227624 e-mail:gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com

Advertisement Notice No : GMCA 01 of 2021
Dated : 18.12.2021

Application on the prescribed format are invited from eligible (in- Service/Non-PSC doctors) for the tenure posts of Senior Residents/Tutor Demonstrator, on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020 in the following disciplines initially for a period of one year extendable up-to a maximum of 03 years, subject to good work and conduct of the candidate, during their 1st and 2nd years of engagement which will be certified by the concerned Head of departments after completion of 1st and 2nd year.

S.No.	Name of Discipline	Essential qualification
1	Anatomy	MS/MD/DMB/Diploma in the concerned discipline from a recognised University/Institution and registered with J&K State Medical Council.
2	Physiology	
3	Biochemistry	
4	Pathology	Note: Preference will be given to higher qualifications
5	Pharmacology	
6	Forensic Medicine	
7	Chest Medicine	
8	Gen. Medicine	
9	Gen. Surgery	
10	Community Medicine	
11	Obst. & Gynae.	
12	Radio diagnosis	
13	Pediatrics	
14	Radiotherapy	
15	Ophthalmology	
16	Anaesthesiology	
17	Microbiology	
	E.N.T.	

Candidates interested in applying for the said posts at Government Medical College, Anantnag can download the application form from www.gmcanantnag.net or can obtain the application form for these posts from camp office of Associated (MMABM) Hospital Govt. Medical College, Anantnag in Janglat Mandi, Anantnag during working hours and can submit the application form in the office of Registrar Academics, GMC Anantnag upto 29.12.2021. The application forms complete in all respects, should be accompanied with a non-refundable bank draft for Rs. 300/- (Rupees three hundred only) pledged to Principal, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag and payable at collection counter Anantnag.

Terms & Conditions:

- Incomplete application form(s) in any respect or not appended with relevant certificates shall be rejected without further notice.
- Conditions for PSC/Non-PSC candidates:**
 - For in-service (PSC) candidates:
 - The in-service doctor shall be paid as per their LPC.
 - Applicants working in Health and Medical Education Department are required to submit their application forms along with No Objection Certificate from their parent Department without which their application forms shall not be entertained as envisaged in Administrative Department order No.164-HME of 2012 dated 02.03.2012.
 - Those PSC confirmed doctors who have already completed their tenure as Registrar/Demonstrator in any discipline need not to apply and their application forms shall not be considered.
 - For Non-PSC candidates:-**
 - Maximum age for eligibility to apply shall be 50 years at the time of submitting application forms.
 - The Non PSC doctors shall be paid stipend as per S.O-364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020.
- The application forms should be accompanied with the following self attested copies of the documents:-**
 - MBBS from a recognized University/Institution.
 - Marks Certificate 1st, 2nd, Pre-Final and Final MBBS examination issued by the concerned University.
 - Attempt Certificate MBBS examination issued by the concerned University.
 - Internship completion certificate.
 - MD/MS/DNB/Diploma qualification certificates of the respective speciality.
 - MCI/J&K Medical Council Registration Certificate.
 - Distinction/National Scholarship/Honours/Medals/Academic Merit Certificates.
 - House Officer (House Job) experience certificate issued by the Principal of the Medical College concerned or equivalent recognized authority.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Physical active field service certificate after PG/Rural Service prior to PG certificate issued by the Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir in respect of In-Service candidates.
 - Professional publications in a standard medical journal, if any.
 - Non PSC candidates have to produce an Affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate along with the application form to the effect of being Non-PSC, false information in this regard will be punishable under rules which include confiscation of the Registration of the Doctor.
 - The Competent Authority reserves the right of any amendment, cancellation and modification to this advertisement as a whole or in part without assigning any reason or giving notice.
 - The decision of the competent authority regarding selection of candidates will be final and no representation will be entertained in this regard.
 - Separate application has to be filed for each post applied and fee has to be deposited separately for each applied post.
 - In case any declaration by the candidates is found to be false or if the candidate has willfully suppressed any material/information relevant to his/her appointment, his/her selection will be cancelled ab-initio liable and action as Warranted under rules shall be initiated against the erring candidates.
 - Candidates meeting the eligibility criteria and producing all the prescribed documents will be interviewed.
 - The selected candidates shall have to execute an agreement that he/she will not leave the Department before the completion of tenure, however abandoning/terminating of the arrangement in the Speciality will require one month prior notice on either side falling which the salary shall not be paid for one month to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the Department and shall be released on completion of sanctioned term.
 - The selected candidate has to submit an affidavit to the effect that he/she is not on the rolls of any Medical College/Institutions of the country which is pre-requisite in terms of MCI norms.
 - The Non PSC shall be paid stipend under rules.
 - The selection of the candidates will be made on the basis of combined academic merit and performance at the interview. No TA/DA will be admissible for appearing in interview.

Sd/-
Principal
Govt. Medical College Anantnag
No. GMCA/RA./Adv./SR/2021/3055-3063
Dated 18.12.2021
DIPK-15327/21

Directorate of Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K
Near Sainik School Nagrota Jammu Ph. 0191-2955361, Pin: 181221
Near Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla Srinagar Ph.01942956561, Pin: 190005
Email: dfwjandk@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE
Applications are invited for recruitment of Technical Officers and Family Planning Logistics Manager on contractual basis in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.
Eligibility/Selection Criteria

S. No.	Post	No. of posts	Eligibility	Selection Criteria	Location
1.	Family Planning Logistics Management Information System (FPLMIS) Manager Remuneration Rs. 31,500 per month	02	Essential: Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from Recognized University Experience: - Minimum One year of post-qualification Experience of working in Public Health Sector, preferably from Government/Partner Agencies. Age: Maximum age limit up to 45 years as on 01-12-2021.	(i) Bachelor's degree in any discipline - 80 points on prorata basis (ii) Viva-voce - 20 points. Only 5 Candidates from each Division will be shortlisted for Viva-voce strictly as per merit list.	One each at Directorate of Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K, Jammu/Srinagar Office.
2.	Technical Officer Remuneration Rs. 51,500 per month	02	Essential: MBBS Desirable: Master in Public Health Management Age: Maximum age limit up to 45 years as on 01-12-2021.	(i) MBBS - 80 points on prorata basis (ii) Viva-voce - 20 points. Only 5 Candidates from each Division will be shortlisted for Viva-voce strictly as per merit list.	One each at Directorate of Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K, Jammu/Srinagar Office.

Application forms completed in all respect shall reach in our divisional offices through speed post or by hand, by or before 3rd of January, 2022. Detailed Application Form can be downloaded from our official website www.dfwjk.co.in.

- Terms & Conditions:**
- Preference will be given to candidates from concerned divisions. Division wise merit list will be prepared and only 5 candidates as per the merit will be called for viva-voce.
 - Hiring will be purely on contractual basis, initial contract for hiring shall be upto 31st March, 2022 and further yearly extension will be subject to satisfactory performance of the candidate/approval of the post by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt.
 - No application will be entertained after the last date i.e. 3rd of January, 2022 (4.30 P.M.).
 - List of documents to be enclosed with the application form.
 - Date of birth certificate/10th Marks sheet.
 - Degree certificate of requisite qualification.
 - Marks Sheet of all years/one consolidated marks sheet indicating marks of all the years of the required qualification for the post applied for.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Experience certificate, if any and upto 1 year experience from Govt or Partner agency in case of Logistics Manager.
 - Aadhar card.
 - Covid Vaccination certificate for 2nd Dose.
 - Application not falling under the prescribed criteria or without aforesaid documents shall be rejected outrightly.
 - Candidates are advised to keep themselves updated through our website no individual communication to the candidates shall be made.
 - Number of posts mentioned are indicative in number and may increase or decrease keeping in view availability of posts at the time of selection.
No. DFW/JK/2021-22/1141
- s/-
Director General
Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K
DIPK-15305/21

This Day In History

- 962 - Byzantine-Arab Wars: Under the future Emperor Nicephorus Phocas, Byzantine troops stormed city of Aleppo, recovering the tattered trumps of John the Baptist.
- 1482 - The Peace of Atrecht (now Arras) concluded between Louis XI of France and Maximilian of Austria, ending the War of the Burgundian Succession.
- 1620 - French huguenots declare war on King Louis XIII.
- 1690 - English astronomer John Flamsteed observes Uranus without realizing it's undiscovered.
- 1715 - Russian/Prussian troops occupy Stralsund.
- 1728 - Prussian Emperor Karel VI signs Treaty of Berlin.
- 1899 - Tentative Turkish & German treaty on construction of Baghdad railway.
- 1914 - World War I: Australian and New Zealand troops arrive in Cairo, Egypt.
- 1915 J Kern/S Greene's musical "Very Good Eddie" premieres in NYC
- 1916 - World War I: Battle of Magdhaba - Allied forces defeat Turkish forces in Egypt's Sinai peninsula.
- 1917 - 3 British warships come close to Holland.
- 1919 - 1st hospital ship built to move wounded naval personnel launched
- 1920 - Government of Ireland Act / Home Rule Act passed partitioning Ireland.
- 1933 - Train crash in Eastern Paris; 230 die.
- 1938 - Discovery of the first modern coelacanth in South Africa.
- 1941 - British troops overrun Benghazi, Libya.
- 1941 - Japan begins assault on Rangoon, Burma.
- 1942 - Allies air attack on Den Helder.
- 1947 - Transistor invented by Bardeen, Brattain & Shockley in Bell Labs.
- 1954 - The first human kidney transplant is performed by Dr. Joseph E. Murray at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.
- 1958 - Abdallah Ibrahim forms government of Morocco.
- 1961 - Fidel Castro announces Cuba will release 1,113 prisoners from failed 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion for \$62M worth of food & medical supplies.
- 1964 - India & Ceylon hit by cyclone, about 4,850 killed.
- 1968 - 1st US case of space motion sickness.
- 1972 - 6.25 Earthquake destroys central Managua Nicaragua, 10,000 die.
- 1982 - The United States Environmental Protection Agency announces it has identified dangerous levels of dioxin in the soil of Times Beach, Missouri.
- 1986 - Experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan & Jeana Yeager, complete 1st nonstop, round-the-world flight without refueling lands
- 1990 - Slovenians vote to secede from Yugoslavia.
- 2002 - A MQ-1 Predator is shot down by an Iraqi MiG-25, making it the first time in history that an aircraft and an unmanned drone had engaged in combat.
- 2003 - PetroChina Chuandongbei natural gas field explosion, Guoqiao, Kai, Chongqing, China, killing at least 234.
- 2005 - Azerbaijan Airlines Flight 217 from Baku, Azerbaijan, to Aktau, Kazakhstan crashes shortly after takeoff killing 23 people.
- 2012 - 200 civilians are killed by Syrian government warplanes in Helfaya, Syria.

From KO Archives

Abduction spree in Sumbal

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR: A series of ransom by pro-government gunmen in the Sumbal region of north Kashmir sparked off vehement protests to-day in the area. Thousands of residents demanding action against the gunmen staged a demonstration on the Sumbal Bridge, blocking traffic on the Srinagar-Bandipora highway this morning.

In the latest incident of the kind, gunmen had abducted a student, Ri-yaz Ahmad Rathar of Waskoora, Ganderbal yesterday and sent word to his father, a fruit vendor to pay Rs 2 lakh for his son's release.

Similarly, gunmen are gearing up to extract a hefty amount from the owners of the Showhole floor mill for setting free their employee, Ghulam Muhammad Gojri, kidnapped recently. Sumbal residents said that pro-government gunmen had abducted nearly a dozen traders who frequent the town to reclaim loans.

(Kashmir Observer, 23 December, 2000)

ITI Rail Link Opens In Blow To US bid To Isolate Iran

Agencies

The first freight train to run from Pakistan to Turkey through Iran has departed after a 10-year hiatus in a major boost to the trading credentials of the three founders of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

The 6,540 km journey from Islamabad to Europe's largest city will take 10 days, less than half the time needed for the equivalent voyage of 21 days by sea.

The train carrying rice, dates and pink salt left a depot at Margala station in the Pakistan capital to the Turkish city on the Bosphorus Strait on Tuesday, hauling more than a dozen containers.

It will cover 1,990 km inside Pakistan, passing through Quetta into Taftan at the Iranian border and on to Tehran and Tabriz over a 2,603 km stretch before ending up in Istanbul through Ankara.

The three countries launched the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) container train service in 2009, but

"The start of the container train from Pakistan to Iran and Turkey was a long-standing dream of the countries of the region, which came true again," Pakistan's Railways Minister Azam Khan Swati told the opening of the project.

He said strengthening and expanding ECO rail cooperation can contribute to regional stability and peace.

"Regional business cohesion is in dire need of important projects such as the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul railway," Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said.

"As one of the most effective vehicles, the ECO train can virtually help expand exports, imports and trade among the member countries," Adviser to Prime Minister of Pakistan for Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood told the ceremony.

The ITI, by extension, will connect to China's Xinjiang autonomous region which is populated by ethnically Turkic Uighur Muslims and further boost BRI, a trillion-dollar plan to connect the infra-



A HEALTH WORKER PERFORMS a coronavirus test at a shopping road in Berlin, Germany, on Dec. 21, 2021. (AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

Health Chiefs Fear 'Gathering Storm' As Omicron Variant Sweeps World

ARAB NEWS

JEDDAH: The world was braced on Tuesday for another wave of deadly COVID-19 infections as the omicron variant of coronavirus spread at an unprecedented rate.

Omicron infections are multiplying across Europe, the US, the Middle East and Asia — including Japan, where a single cluster of COVID-19 cases at a military base has grown to at least 180.

"We can see another storm coming," said Hans Kluge, the World Health Organization's European chief, warning European countries to brace for a "significant surge" in COVID-19. Kluge said omicron would soon be the dominant virus strain, "pushing already stretched health systems further to the brink."

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia more than doubled in the past two days, from 104 on Sunday to 222 on Tuesday. The Health Ministry urged all residents to receive vaccinations and booster shots.

CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 in Saudi Arabia more than doubled in the past two days, from 104 on Sunday to 222 on Tuesday.

The UAE, where 99 percent of the population is vaccinated and all adults have been offered booster shots, reported 452 infections in the past 24 hours, including two deaths — an increase not seen since mid-September. A week ago infections had plummeted to record lows, around 50 a day, contributing to a sense that the worst of the pandemic was over and life could return to normal.

A nationwide mask mandate remains in place outdoors, but Dubai's bars and restaurants have been packed and most luxury hotels are fully booked over the December holidays.

But a couple traveling from the UAE to the Indian state of Kerala tested positive for omicron on arrival, and Spanish ten-

nis star Rafael Nadal tested positive in Spain after returning from a tournament in Abu Dhabi.

Two COVID-19 doctors at private hospitals in Dubai said they were alarmed by the increase in cases fueled by omicron. But they said most newly infected patients had mild to moderate symptoms and were being treated at home.

Germany, Scotland, Ireland, the Netherlands and South Korea are among countries to have reimposed partial or full lockdowns or other social distancing measures.

Nicola Sturgeon, first minister of Scotland, canceled the giant annual New Year celebration in Edinburgh, and banned crowds from football matches.

In the US, the Biden administration opened COVID-19 testing sites in New York and bought 500 million at-home rapid tests that Americans can order online free of charge. Omicron now accounts for 73 percent of all new coronavirus cases in the US, up from less than 1 percent at the beginning of the month.

Saudi-Led Strikes Halt Aid Flights Into Houthi-Held Yemen Capital

Agencies

SANAA: UN aid flights into Yemen's rebel-held capital Sanaa have been halted by air strikes carried out by the Saudi-led coalition which supports the government, an airport official said on Tuesday.

Due to coalition air strikes targeting the Houthi rebels, "the airport is no longer able to receive aircraft operated by the United Nations or international humanitarian organisations", the official said.

Flights into Sanaa airport have been largely halted by a Saudi-led blockade since August 2016, but there have been exemptions for aid flights that are a key lifeline for the population.

The airport official, who asked not to be identified, called on the United Nations to secure a halt to the raids so that the airport could resume operations.

On Monday evening, the coalition said it had carried out "a lim-

should have no impact on the airport's operational capacity.

Khaled al-Shayef, Sanaa airport's director general, said that the "health quarantine quarters and warehouses to store export and import goods were destroyed".

A metal hangar and cement structures near an air traffic control tower were also destroyed, a correspondent reported.

"A UN team is on the ground at Sanaa airport to verify the extent of any damage," a World Food Programme spokesperson said.

The Norwegian Refugee Council urged both sides to work with the UN to reopen the airport for humanitarian and commercial flights.

"Aid delivery to the airport is now at a standstill. We urge both the authorities in Sanaa and the Saudi-led coalition to keep Sanaa airport out of the crossfire and to ensure that it can function again for medical and commercial flights," NRC country director



ited number of precision strikes on legitimate military targets in Sanaa international airport."

"The operation was mounted in response to the threat and use of airport infrastructure to carry out cross-border attacks," it said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Its aircraft hit six targets in the airport, including sites used to "control attacks by drones loaded with explosives" or to "train terrorist elements" for such operations, the statement said.

The coalition has insisted that its strikes were "in accordance with international humanitarian law" and

Erin Hutchinson said in a statement.

The coalition said that Saudi airports were prepared to receive Yemen-bound humanitarian flights and to deliver aid through "access points" under UN supervision, according to statement carried by state-owned Al-Ekhabriya television.

It claimed the Houthis had halted UN aid flights into Sanaa airport on Dec 19.

The rebels have repeatedly launched missile and drone strikes against neighbouring Saudi Arabia, targeting the kingdom's airports and oil infrastructure. They have intensified their strikes on the kingdom in recent months.

World's First SMS Sells For Over 100,000 Euros In Paris Auction

Agencies

PARIS: The first text message ever sent, reading "Merry Christmas," was sold on Tuesday for 107,000 euros (\$121,000) as a 'Non-Fungible Token' at a Paris auction house.

The text, which was sent on Dec. 3, 1992, was put up for auction by the British telecoms company Vodafone.

Vodafone engineer Neil Papworth sent the SMS from his computer to a manager in the United Kingdom, who received it on his 2-kg (4 lb) "Orbitel" telephone - similar to a desk phone but cordless and with a handle.

"They were in the middle of end-of-year events so he sent him the message 'Merry Christmas'," said Maximilien Aguttes, head of development for the Aguttes Auction House.

Non-Fungible Tokens, or NFTs, are a type of digital asset that has surged in popularity this year, with NFT artworks selling for millions of dollars.

Traded since around 2017,



these digital objects, which encompass images, video, music and text, exist on blockchain, a record of transactions kept on networked computers. Each NFT has a unique digital signature.

The selling of intangible goods is not legal in France and so the auction house has packaged the text message in a digital frame, displaying the code and communication protocol, Aguttes said.

The buyer will receive the replica of the original communication protocol that transmitted the SMS and proceeds will go to the United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR.



it only got as far as test runs and was never fully operational.

Even so, they always planned to follow up the initial freight trains with passenger services and operationalize the ITI transnational line with the aim of enhancing connectivity with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

structure and economies of countries across Asia, Africa and Europe.

China regards Iranian transport in particular as part of BRI and has sought close involvement in the build-out of the West Asian nation's infrastructure. The ITI railroad, on the other hand, will help Iran move around US sanctions.

Pakistan Joined America's 'War On Terror' For Dollars: PM Imran Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan today regretted the country's decision to join America's 20-year-long "war on terror" in Afghanistan by calling it a "self-inflicted wound" and a decision made for money and not in the interest of the public.

Imran Khan, who had long been critical of Pakistan's participation in the about two-decades-long war, claimed that he was close to the decision-makers in 2001 when the then military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, decided to become part of the "war on terror".

"And so, I am well aware of what considerations went behind the decision. Unfortunately, the people of Pakistan were not a consideration," Mr Khan said while addressing officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

"The considerations, instead, were the same as in the 1980s,

when we participated in the Afghan jihad," he said, referring to the Soviet-Afghan war, which was then dubbed as the "holy war".

"We ourselves are responsible... as we let [others] use us, sacrificed the reputation of our country for aid and made a foreign policy that went against the public interest [and was devised] for money."

Calling the "war on terror" a "self-inflicted wound" for Pakistan, Imran Khan said, "We cannot blame anyone else for this outcome (of the war)."

Mr Khan in the past had often cited that Pakistan suffered over 80,000 deaths and economic losses of over \$100 billion as a result of the 20 years of war.

Talking about the current situation in Afghanistan, Mr Khan said that it is a "big atrocity" that a man-made crisis is being created "when it is known that unfreezing Afghanistan's accounts and liquidity will avert the crisis". He said that addressing the situation in Afghanistan is important for Pakistan as its neighbour because the country could be hit badly due to the Afghan crisis.

Pakistan will continue to provide assistance to Afghanistan in these difficult times, he said, adding that irrespective of liking or disliking the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan, the world should focus on the difficulties being faced by its 40 million people.

France Fears Over 1 Lakh Daily Covid Cases By Year End

Agence France-Presse

PARIS, FRANCE: The number of daily Covid-19 cases in France is set to exceed 100,000 by the end of December due to the faster-spreading Omicron variant, Health Minister Olivier Veran said on Wednesday.

"This is what the modelling is showing," he told BFM-TV in an interview, also announcing that France would from Wednesday open vaccinations to five- to 11-year-olds for the first time.

France recorded almost 73,000 new infections on Tuesday, with an average of over 54,000 over the last seven days. But officials fear that the emergence of Omicron has changed the nature of the pandemic.

Veran said that Omicron cases accounted for 20 percent of new infections in France but up to 35 percent in the Paris region. He said the variant was ex-



pected to account for the majority of new cases between Christmas and the New Year.

"There is one certainty. Omicron is very contagious, it will spread, and no country will be spared," said Veran, emphasising that vaccines did have an effect on the variant.

President Emmanuel Macron is keeping a close eye on the spread of Omicron, with his handling of the pandemic set to be a crucial issue in 2022 presidential elections.

Unlike some European neighbours like the Nether-

lands, France has not reimposed tough restrictions ahead of Christmas to slow its spread.

But the country has one of the strictest health pass systems in Europe, with proof of full vaccination, recovery or a recent test needed to enter catering and cultural establishments.

The government is now introducing legislation to tighten this further to transform the health pass into a vaccine pass, meaning it will only be valid with a full course of vaccination and not through testing or recovery.

NEWS MAKERS

Pizza Ovens, Sunken Trampolines: Dubai Ruler's \$730 Million Divorce

Bloomberg

London's family courts frequently play host to the most acrimonious and costly disputes between estranged couples. But none have been as revealing or expensive as that between Dubai's ruler and his former wife, Princess Haya Bint al-Hussein.

From revelations of blackmail, intimidation, and hacking to extravagant spending on horses, homes, and sunken trampolines, much of the details of the case had remained private. Now a judge's ruling on the 554 million-pound (\$734 million) financial award between the two and their children - the highest in U.K. family court history - has exposed a family dispute like no other.

The case stemmed from the pair's overseas divorce in 2019. The prin-



cess had fled to the U.K. that year with their two children out of fear for the safety of her family. That's after she learned that Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum had orchestrated the abduction of his two children from another marriage.

Since then, he was found to have ordered the hacking of phones be-

longing to her and her legal teams and tried to buy a property situated close to hers. One judge said the sheikh conducted a campaign aimed at "intimidating and frightening" the princess before she fled and said the sheikh was "prepared to use the arm of the State to achieve what he regards as right."

The case revealed the princess paid 6.7 million pounds to four of her security operatives after they allegedly blackmailed her during the marriage over an affair that she had. Judge Philip Moor called it "a most unsatisfactory episode" in his ruling and said the princess "must have been very frightened," although he acknowledged that the alleged blackmailers didn't give evidence in the case.

The sheikh said in a statement that he "has always ensured that his children are provided for." Lawyers for Princess Haya declined to comment on the ruling.

Great Wealth
Although the sheikh didn't disclose his assets or give evidence in the case, it provided a glimpse into the fabulous wealth of middle-eastern royalty and the extravagances to which they are accustomed.

Madagascar Minister Swims 12 Hours To Shore After Deadly Helicopter Crash

Agence France-Presse

ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR: A Madagascar minister was one of two survivors to have swum some 12 hours to shore Tuesday after their helicopter crashed off the island's northeastern coast, authorities said.

A search was still ongoing for two other passengers after the crash Monday, whose cause was not immediately clear, police and port authorities said.

Serge Gelle, the country's secretary of state for police, and a fellow policeman reached land in the seaside town of Mahambo separately on Tuesday morning, apparently after ejecting them-



selves from the aircraft, port authority chief Jean-Edmond Randrianantenaina said.

In a video shared on social media, 57-year-old Gelle appears lying exhausted on a deck chair, still in his camouflage uniform.

"My time to die hasn't come yet," says the general, adding he is cold but not injured.

The helicopter was flying him

and the others to inspect the site of a shipwreck off the northeastern coast on Monday morning.

At least 39 people died in that disaster, police chief Zafisambatra Ravoavy said Tuesday, in an increase from a previous toll after rescue workers retrieved 18 more bodies.

Ravoavy earlier told AFP that Gelle had used one of the helicopter's seats as a flotation device.

"He has always had great stamina in sport, and he's kept up this rhythm as minister, just like a thirty-year-old," he said.

"He has nerves of steel." Gella became minister as part of a cabinet reshuffle in August after serving in the police for three decades.

Mehbooba Likens Zia's Rule In Pak To 'Today's India'

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday made veiled statements equating the BJP's rule with that of former Pakistani military dictator General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq and accused the saffron party of poisoning people's minds.

She appealed to the people, especially the youth of both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, to come together and fight for the lost honour.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir was referring to working towards the restoration of Article 370 of the Constitution that provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir. It was abrogated by the Centre in August 2019.

What is happening in our country is for everyone to see. Our democracy and Constitution are being destroyed. What is the difference between General Zia-ul-Haq's rule and today's India. They are poisoning our country like the Pakistani ruler did there, Mehbooba said without naming the BJP.

Addressing a public rally here, she referred to the recent lynching of a Sri Lankan national in Pakistan and said while the Pakistani prime minister was quick to criticize it, those involved in such gruesome incidents in India were being garlanded.

Mehbooba said while there was animosity against Pakistani founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah for dividing India and the Muslims, Today, there are hundreds of Jinnahs polarizing Indians. They belong to the party that did not play any role in the freedom struggle.

Today, they are claim to be nationalists and dub their opponents as traitors and anti-nationals. None of them went to jail during the freedom struggle. They were not even hoisting the national flag on their headquarters until a few years ago, she said.

However, the former chief minister said this is a place of

'Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb' (Ganges Yamuna culture) and the politics of Godse (the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi) will not work.

Slamming the BJP for allegedly using the Army to disperse employees of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department, who went on a strike against privatization last week, Mehbooba said, "They will repeat the practice outside Jammu and Kashmir, too, as they want to get things done by training guns on army men's shoulders."

She hailed former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee for victories in the 1971 and 1999 wars. She sought to know what the incumbent regime had done even as "China had taken a large chunk of land in Ladakh and built colonies in Arunachal."

Describing the Sangh's slogan 'Ek Desh, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan' as the root cause of the Kashmir issue, she said it created discord among the people of Jammu and Kashmir who rejected the two-nation theory.

They will boast about revocation of Article 370 during the upcoming elections in different states to hoodwink the voters as they failed to provide two meals, jobs, good education and hospitals to the people. They have only hatred to sell, she alleged.

Reiterating that the abrogation of Article 370 was unconstitutional as only a constituent assembly had the powers to revoke it, Mehbooba urged the people of both Jammu and Kashmir to come together and fight for restoration of their lost honour.

Mehbooba also defended her party's alliance with the BJP in 2014 saying her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed wanted to take forward the political process initiated by Vajpayee, which "paved the way for ceasefire on the borders, opening of cross-border roads, reduced militancy and brought India and Pakistan closer."



Will Press For Assembly Polls In J&K After Winter: Azad

Press Trust Of India

BHADERWAH: Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday said his party would continue to press for the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir after the winter months to provide a popular government to the people of the Union Territory.

He alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is happy with its "proxy rule" in Jammu and Kashmir and said a government, "which has no mind, eyes, ears and a heart, should be made to sit at home".

"Winter is very harsh here and therefore, the polls are not possible at this time. However, we are putting pressure on the government of India to hold the polls after winter and we will continue to do so to ensure an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir for the benefit of the people," Azad said addressing a public rally in the Bhaderwah area of Doda district.

The Congress leader said he is not interested in who becomes the chief minister and which party comes to power.

"It is the choice of the voters whom they want to give a chance but my request is that do not vote on the basis of religion," he said.

Without naming the BJP, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said this govern-



ment has no experience to rule but has a fondness for ruling.

"They stitched an alliance with a regional party (PDP) in 2015 and later, pulled out of it to have a proxy rule through the lieutenant governor. Earlier, people used to visit their elected representatives to seek redressal of their grievances but after the fall of the previous government, the miseries of the people have increased manifold as nobody was there to listen to their problems," he said.

Azad said though people were not happy with the previous coalition government, those who are now ruling Jammu and Kashmir seem to be happy and enjoying power with their workers getting all the work contracts.

He said a leader does not discriminate against people on the basis of religion and region.

"Divisive politics will ruin our great country," the former Union minister said, asking people to remain cautious

against those who try to divide them on the basis of religion ahead of elections.

Referring to his close relations with leaders from other political parties, including those from the BJP, he said the times have changed and today, the situation has reached a point where leaders from different parties are treating others like "scorpions or snakes".

"It is very unfortunate... We are all humans first and our motive should be serving the people irrespective of their religion or region. We are all Indians and the country belongs to all of us," Azad said.

"Such a government, which has no mind, eyes, ears and a heart, has no right to remain in power and should be shown the door and made to sit at home," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

He also lashed out at the government for its "failure" to carry out development activities, address the issue of increasing unemployment and arrest the rising prices of essential commodities.

Later, talking to reporters, Azad said there is no government in Jammu and Kashmir and people are suffering immensely.

"Jammu and Kashmir has been pushed 20 years back by the August 5, 2019 decision, when the erstwhile state was disbanded and its special status abrogated," he said.

Over 120 Years Old Church Reopens In Srinagar After 30 Years

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The bells started ringing and the faithful gathered for mass prayer as the Saint Lukes church here one of the oldest in Kashmir -- came alive after three decades on Wednesday just ahead of Christmas. It was closed after the eruption of militancy in the valley in the 1990s.

The Church located near the Chest Diseases Hospital on the foothills of the Shankaracharya hillock in Dalgate area of the city here will officially be thrown open for the public on Thursday, but the prayer was held on Wednesday, officials said.

The renovation of the Church which is about 125 years old -- was undertaken by the J-K Tourism Department under the Smart City Project. The Church has been thrown open after 30 years after it was renovated and restored to its old glory, they said.

The renovated Church will be



e-inaugurated on Thursday by J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Church official Kennedy David Rajan said.

He said the Christian community is happy to see the Church being re-opened after its renovation. Grace Paljor, principal of a private school here, said the community was glad that a 125-year-old Church was restored to its old glory, and

prayers were held there after three decades.

The minuscule Christian population in the valley usually visit the Holy Family Catholic Church, a Roman Catholic Church, at M A Road, and the one at Church Lane here for Sunday mass and Christmas mass.

There are churches in Baramulla and Gulmarg as well in the valley.

IUST & IIT Ropar Sign MoU On Research & Innovation

Observer News Service

ROPAR (PUNJAB): Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) and Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar) signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), one at the institutional level to foster collaboration in the areas of academics and innovative research and the other one specific to promoting innovative technology intervention in Agriculture, Water management

and in developing Smart City applications. The MoUs were signed by Vice Chancellor of IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo and Director IIT Ropar Prof. Rajeev Ahuja at IIT Ropar in presence of Dean Academic Affairs/Dean School of Engineering & Technology Prof. A. H. Moon, Director CIED IUST Dr. Parvez A. Mir, Dean R&D IIT Ropar Prof. Navin Kumar, Deans IIT Ropar Prof. C. C. Reddy, Prof. Raina, Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Director (iHub - AwdDH) Dr. Pushendra P. Singh.

Under this collaboration, IUST and IIT Ropar have agreed to collaborate on areas of mutual interest for the benefit of students and faculty that also includes facilitating direct admission of meritorious IUST students to PhD programs at IIT Ropar, joint supervision of student project/dissertation works, floating of joint courses, faculty exchange programmes, partnering on joint research proposals besides sharing of laboratory facilities and e-resources.

Jammu Omicron Cases Hint At Possible Community Spread: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With Jammu Omicron cases having no travel history or contact with any positive case of the new variant, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Wednesday said this could be an indication of possible community spread of the new variant.

"It is possible these cases could be an instance of community spread of Omicron," said DAK President and Influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

The DAK President said first three cases of Omicron variant of Covid-19 were reported yesterday from Talab Tillo and Bantala areas of Jammu province.

"All the three cases have no history of foreign travel or exposure to any person infected with the variant," he said.

"This gives us to understand that these cases might have contracted the infection from the community exposure," Dr Hassan said.

He said these cases are significant as they mean that the infection might be spreading untraced in the community," he said.

"This could indicate the beginning of community transmission," said Dr Nisar.

He said community transmission means when a person contracts the virus from an un-

known source. The individual picks up the infection without having travelled to countries where the virus is circulating or having been in contact with a confirmed case.

"A state of community transmission implies that the virus is in the community and it is possible for everyone in the community to catch the infection," he added.

General Secretary DAK Dr Arshad Ali said there may be many more cases than just few that have been confirmed.

"To pick them up we need to expand genome sequencing. If we don't expand genetic testing, how can we say there is no community spread," he said.

Spokesperson DAK Dr Riyaz Ahmad Datta said travel history alone should not be the deciding factor for sequencing the samples.

"we need to shift our focus from a predominantly target testing to community testing as that would determine the actual burden of community transmission and would allow us to implement informed containment strategies," he said.

"Omicron variant is at Community transmission stage in Countries like UK, South Africa and US.

Cases have erupted in Karnataka, Delhi, and Maharashtra where source of infection has not been traced which raises fears of community spread in India too," he added.

OMICRON THREAT

Mehta Asks Health Dept To Remain In State Of Readiness

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the public health system preparedness to new COVID variant Omicron, which is reportedly 3-4 times more infectious than the Delta variant.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Divisional Commissioners Kashmir/ Jammu, all Deputy Commissioners, MD National Health Mission, Director, Family Welfare, and concerned HoDs participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the three cases of Omicron variant of COVID were reported in Jammu, all of whom are without any travel history and are now being monitored.

The Chief Secretary directed the district administration to enhance testing and contact tracing for positive patients and closely trace the infection trajectory to establish micro-containment zones at an early stage. Additionally, all Deputy Commissioners were directed to ensure strict en-

forcement of COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB), COVID SOPs/ protocols, and micro-containment zones, besides regulating large gatherings. "Any breach on these accounts will lead to imposition of night curfews and further restrictions", Dr. Mehta added.

Moreover, the Divisional and District Administrations were asked to establish buffer zones around the declared micro-containment zones and monitor the spread of the disease to guide further actions. All line departments were directed to appoint one nodal officer for ensuring CAB adherence across all Government offices with a special focus on industries and transport.

Further, Health Department was asked to remain in a state of readiness by gearing up their manpower and machinery and firming up the inventory of oxygen supply and medicines. The Health and Medical Education Department was asked to ensure proper functioning of COVID-related infrastructure including COVID dedicated hospitals, ventilators, oxygen supported beds and oxygen plants.

4 Militants Involved In Attacking Minorities Killed: GoI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a few targeted attacks on people belonging to religious minority communities by militants, and four militants involved in the incidents have been killed, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, he also said that there has been an overall decline in militant incidents from 417 in 2018 to 203 in 2021 (till 30th November, 2021) and the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved.

However, there have been a few targeted attacks on people belonging to religious minority communities by militants sponsored from across the border, he said.

Seven persons have been arrested in connection with attacks on religious minorities while four

militants involved in these incidents have been killed. Seven accused including one absconder have been charge sheeted, he said.

The minister said a robust security and intelligence grid is in place to prevent any militant attack. In addition, day and night area domination, patrolling and proactive operations against militants are being carried out.

Besides, he said, round-the-clock checking at 'nakas' and road opening parties are being adequately augmented at strategic points to thwart any militant attack.

Rai also said the State Investigation Agency (SIA) has been constituted by the Jammu and Kashmir government for speedy and effective investigation and prosecution of militancy related cases.

He also said that the SIA shall be the nodal agency for coordinating with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and other central agencies. (PTI)

Many Initiatives Taken For Dev Of UT: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has implemented many novel initiatives to facilitate the rapid development of all regions of the Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Wednesday.

Sinha made these remarks during his interaction with DDC Chairperson, Baramulla, Ms. Safina Baig, here at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said Wednesday. He said Safina discussed with LG various matters pertaining to the development of District Baramulla.

"She appreciated the new financial discipline implemented in the UT and urged the Lt Governor for streamlining of the e-tendering process," he said.

JAMMU & KASHMIR WATER RESOURCES REGULATORY AUTHORITY
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FOR PUBLICATION
EXTENSION IN DATES FOR RECEIPT AND OPENING OF BIDS
E-NIT NO. 01 OF JKWRA OF OCTOBER 2021 DATED 29/10/2021.
The schedule for receipt and opening of bids invited vide the above e-NIT is extended and the revised schedule shall be as under:
a) Bid submission end date (Online) 10/01/2022 at 1600 Hrs
b) Clarification start date 27/12/2021 at 1030 Hrs
c) Clarification end date 31/12/2021 at 1600 Hrs
d) Date of opening of Technical bid (Online) 11/01/2022 at 1500 Hrs
Yours faithfully,
(Sukhpal Singh, KAS)
Secretary
J&K Water Resources Regulatory Authority

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR (UT)
AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & FARMERS WELFARE DEPARTMENT (APFWD)
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SOIL CONSERVATION OFFICER, DISTRICT BUDGAM.
Subject :- Tender Notice
Sealed Tenders affixed with Rs5-(Rupees five) Revenue Stamps is hereby invited on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu and Kashmir from the job knowing contractors /persons under up- Gradation of infrastructure in District Budgam as per detailed estimates already framed by this office, the copy of which can be obtained from this office W-E-F 22/12/2021 TO 24/12/2021 during office hours. The rates should be quoted item wise along with brand name if any without cuttings and over writings, which should reach to the office of the U/Sd within 04 (Three) days from the date of publication of this notice. The sealed tenders shall be opened on the next date following the closing date by the committee members constituted for the purpose. The job has to be completed within a stipulated time of 05 days, after receiving the work order and the U/Sd reserves the right to accept or reject any of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute, the decision of the Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam, shall be binding on the parties. The detail of works is as under.
S.NO Name of the work Estimated cost in lacs
01 Renovation/Upgradation of Chief Agriculture Office, Budgam 1.00
02 Renovation/Upgradation of Office chamber of DAO(Ext), Budgam 0.28
03 Renovation/Upgradation of Office chamber of SDAO(Chadoora), Budgam 0.17
No: ASCO/BUD/Capex/2021-22/ 596
Dated:- 21 / 12 / 2021
DIPK-15422/21
-sd-
Assistant Soil Conservation Officer,
District Budgam.

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Pre-empting Omicron

Omicron fears are getting real by the day. On Monday, India's crashed with sense shedding 1300 points and the Nifty over 800 points. This was the lowest the stock exchange plunged over the last two years. Life is certainly going to get tougher if the people don't follow SOPs and the infection spreads. On the other hand, making the situation further grave is that a growing body of preliminary research has suggested that the COVID vaccines used in most of the world offer almost no defense against the highly contagious omicron. Only the Pfizer and Moderna shots, when reinforced by a booster, have been found to have some success at stopping infections. But these vaccines are not available in most of the world. India, so far, has only locally produced Covishield and Covaxin which have mercifully proved effective against the coronavirus including the delta variant. This helped the country stave off the otherwise expected third wave. But Omicron poses a fresh challenge. With Covishield and Covaxin seen as unlikely as a defense against the new variant which was first detected in South Africa, there is an urgent need to ensure that the country is prepared for any eventuality.

As of now, there is no guarantee that the Covid-19 pandemic could be reigned in anytime soon. The only way to pre-empt a fresh outbreak, the government needs to upgrade healthcare, enforce strict adherence to SOPs in public and keep running an advertisement blitz to create more awareness about the contagion and its latest variant. The coming few months are crucial. If the government is able to keep the daily caseload of Omicron infections low and ensures it tapers off, it would have more or less won the war against coronavirus. For now, however, there is no room for complacency. The government and for that matter, even the people can't afford to let their guard down.

One thing that the government can't afford to do is to go for yet another lockdown. Last year, the extended lockdown dented the GDP by one-fourth in the first quarter. In Kashmir Valley which was already under a prolonged lockdown following the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, was hit the hardest. The economy went into a tailspin. Thousands lost their jobs and its aftereffects are still playing out. So, the union government has to take pro-active measures to forestall a massive outbreak which could once again freeze the economy. The government has already extended the ban on international travel. But it is also true that on ground the precautions aren't followed properly and this could be a trigger for fresh outbreaks. So, it is time that the central and state governments get serious about getting people to adhere to pandemic protocol in public to meet the latest challenge.

OTHER OPINION

J&K Delimitation Commission Must Set Out Rationale Behind Its Proposals

The act of redrawing electoral boundaries is disruptive by definition and politicians are always wary of being short-changed by the process. In Muslim-majority Jammu & Kashmir, where the demand for delimitation has emanated from Jammu and is seen as reflecting the communal polarisation along regional lines in the erstwhile state, the redrawing of constituencies was always going to be a fraught exercise. The draft proposals of the J&K Delimitation Commission, set up in March 2020, seem to have confirmed the fears of the regional parties that the exercise was aimed solely at increasing the number of seats in Hindu-majority Jammu, to benefit the BJP. The five associate members — three parliamentarians from the National Conference and two from the BJP — have been told that its findings support an increase of six seats for the Jammu region, and one in the Muslim-majority Valley. This takes the seats in Jammu from 37 to 43, and in Kashmir, from 46 to 47. In the last Assembly election held in 2014, the BJP's 25 seats were all won in Jammu. Delimitation is thought to have one criterion — population. On the basis of the last census conducted in 2011, according to which the population of Kashmir is 6,888,475 and that of Jammu 5,350,811, the proposal presents an anomaly — a population of 1,46,563 in Kashmir per constituency, and 1,24,437 in Jammu. But the Commission seems to have taken other factors into consideration, including voters' lists, geographical and communication contiguity, and a margin of plus or minus 10 per cent population in each constituency. It has also proposed the first-time reservation of nine seats for Scheduled Tribes, in addition to seven seats for Scheduled Castes.

All the regional parties, including NC, PDP, and People's Conference, have criticised the proposal as a move to disempower Kashmir further after the 2019 reorganisation of the state that bifurcated it into two Union Territories, and stripped it of its special status. Indeed, the plan to increase the number of Assembly seats is contained in the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019. But in Kashmir, where the Centre has sought to curtail free speech and the freedom of association and attempted to silence dissent for more than two years through imprisonment of politicians and political workers, journalists and others, and tried other experiments to restrict electoral democracy, it was inevitable that the motives behind this delimitation exercise would be questioned, especially as it has been postponed in other parts of the country until the new census enumeration. The aspirations for a Hindu chief minister of the BJP, which for the first time became part of a ruling coalition in the state in 2014 with the PDP, and a change in the rules of domicile and land ownership, have created a situation in which the people of the Valley view the Centre's moves to be deepening the crisis. The delimitation exercise could add to those anxieties.

All parties must keep in mind, however, that these are draft proposals. The Commission has invited the views of the public and political parties until December 31. For its own credibility, and in the larger interest, it must set out in detail the rationale behind its proposals.

The Indian Express

In Retrospect

Assessing The Aspects, Reach And Limits Of Online Education Amidst Covid-19 In The Past Two Years



STUDENTS IN KASHMIR TAKE ZOOM CLASSES at their home in Sopore Town of district Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir, on 29 June 2020. NURPHOTO VIA GETTY IMAGES

Amir Suhail Wani

EARLY EXPOSURE TO MOBILES, AS necessitated by online classes has prematurely and erratically exposed children to social media, uncensored net surfing and online content too impertinent, too damaging and too lethal to their mind and body at these early stages of their evolution. Not to speak of diminution of mental evolution, all these possibilities associated to online classes have negatively structured and deformed the clay-like mind of students, making them addicted to social media and exposing them to vulnerabilities they are too naive to handle

In the midst of COVID 19 pandemic as we still are, we are yet to come to terms with the full blown impacts of this catastrophe, despite some immediate effects having started to show themselves more explicitly than others. The magnitude of disaster and its fallouts has baffled minds across the globe in an attempt to mitigate its impacts and modulate its cascading after-effects. Economies crumbled, businesses collapsed, poverty surged, family dynamics changed, societies readjusted and the world on the whole went for realignment. COVID shook the world in ways unimaginable and measures like lockdowns and closure of economies backfired and their negative outcomes submerged whatever positive impacts they could have. People lost their jobs, mental health crisis reached its nadir, unemployment seeped in like anything and a host of tangible and intangible forces rushed in to ruin human lives in multitudinous ways. In this array of life shattering episodes and paradigm shifting incidents, the fate of education has been the miserable of all and academia has suffered in ways beyond cognition. When COVID made its appearance, educational institutions, in line with the general norm, closed down and students had no option but to stay confined to their four walls, cut-off from mainstream academics and distanced from schools, colleges and universities. Authorities and institutions concerned were prompt to understand the ruinous effects this distance of students from their educational institutions could have on the psyche and overall educational status of students. In a bid to neutralise these deterring impacts and to rope in students back to their academic activities, the concept of online classes was floated and students with access to android phones and high speed internet started attending online virtual classes. In this article, an attempt will be made to evaluate pros and cons of online classes, to situate the growing trend of online education in the larger context of educational psychology and to investigate parallel avenues that can be brought into motion to impart education while at the same time not violating COVID appropriate behaviour.

Let's first try to understand what impact the physical absence of students have had on them before investigating the crests and troughs of

online classes. An impression shall not emerge from this line of argument that closure of schools was uncalled for or that the safety and health of students should be compromised and they should be called back to schools. Instead the intent is to estimate the damage that absence from schools thwarts upon students, to assess the hazards of virtual education and to seek remedial measures, if any, to deter these ill impacts and to explore alternatives to online classes. Studies after studies and a range of surveys have established beyond doubt that confining students to their homes, their long term absence from schools and loss of physical and in person contact with their teachers and classmates has brought them a trauma like feeling. They have not been able to come to terms with their physical absence from schools and the experience has been numbing and antithetical to their psychological well-being in tangible and intangible ways. But is this the end of it? Is mental health, the much talked about dimension, the only one to have mortified? There is actually a spectrum of issues which have sprung up during the last year or so, the time for which schools have remained closed. Is it even recognized that for the past year, the time for which students have been forced by circumstances to be confined to their homes, they have metamorphosed into sort of zombies and their receptivity to life and its impulses has been numbed. The process of socialization, essential to any individual, and more so for students in their evolutionary phase, has been so badly hit that students perceive of themselves as islands, cut-off not only from society, but the process of socialization too, which their schools and educational institutions facilitated and catalysed. In absence of means of socialization, children are finding it increasingly difficult to assimilate in society, to participate in social dynamics, to conceptualize themselves as active and meaningful members of the social whole. This seemingly trivial episode doesn't stop here, but much like the snowball effect, it is potentially capable of translating into a social phenomenon of catastrophic order spatially and temporally.

Classrooms provided to students with a referential frame to evaluate themselves, gauge personal abilities and lacunae and to devise strategies to polish talents and plug faults.

With this frame of reference gone to doldrums, students have turned complacent, their abilities buried under the debris of solitary confinement and the spirit of positive competition reduced to naught. Classroom provided with motivation and driving force that propelled students towards excellence, academic self-criticism and an oeuvre of overall development. But confined to screens, as virtual classes have made them, each student has become a self-referential entity, detrimentally losing the spirit and sense of self-evaluation, self-esteem, introspection and co-existence. The classroom setting provided students with an ambience to receive their classmates with positive receptivity — competing, cooperating and collaborating with them as the situations demanded. But absence from schools has trapped them in the smog of self-reflexivity whereby they have developed the nauseating sense of repugnance and repulsion for the other — this is what psychological studies have went on to demonstrate. On larger scale this is translating into social dysfunction — a state, as stated above where students at large feel at odds with society and fail to emerge as social beings.

Learning disorders with their entire span are on the prowl in wake of online/virtual classes and productivity is on the decline. The impact of this shift in teaching — learning paradigms has been witnessed due to the ongoing pandemic where the physical presence of teachers in a classical classroom setting by their virtual presence on mobile screens isn't difficult to comprehend and gauge. Classroom accountability has been taken over by on screen voyeurism; focussed concentration on black-board has been hijacked by multi-tab mobiles where students straddle between goggle, you-tube, social media and online class tab at the same time. Early exposure to mobiles, as necessitated by online classes has prematurely and erratically exposed children to social media, uncensored net surfing and online content too impertinent, too damaging and too lethal to their mind and body at these early stages of their evolution. Not to speak of diminution of mental evolution, all these possibilities associated with online classes have negatively structured and deformed the clay-like mind of students, making them addicted to social media and exposing them to vulnerabilities they are too naive to handle. With access to social media arises the possibility of cyber abuse — either being its perpetrator or a victim and in both the cases the outcomes are devastating and disturbing. Students, who accidentally land on Face-book stalk or discover themselves being stalked and this opens them to challenges and possibilities they have no prior understanding or training to deal with.

The span of ill-effects of physical absence of students from classes in favour and switching on to online classes doesn't stop here in more immediate and perceptible hazards, but the range of externalities extends beyond and adopts ways and manifestations difficult to explore and understand. The very act of attending school streamlined and anchored students' lives and sustained order and discipline in an otherwise chaotic and haphazard pattern of living. A well defined and coherently laid out time table imbued students with punctuality, regularity and consistency and all these values shaped their lives to overall order and perfection.

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

The author is a writer and columnist



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Sustainable Remote Education

THE debate about reopening schools still needs to be put on hold. One mustn't jump the gun on it too soon. While it is imperative to proactively find ways to fill the gaps that have been left in our shift from physical to digital, it need not be done through opening

up schools. We need to find sustainable alternatives.

Digital remote education needs to be taken as a norm for a while and schools must come up with ways students can be engaged in activities that they are missing out on due to remote classes.

The virus is still here. This constant

vacillation from one mode to the next is only going to keep students in anticipation. This will be counter-productive. We need to come up with ways to provide children with a conducive and safe environment to grow. This can only be done by minimising the effects of uncertainty as much as possible.

Socialising and physical activities have been the areas where we need to focus. Parents and schools can collaborate to provide kids to socialise safely and get involved in physical activities like sports as well.

Asim Rouf
Asimr@rediffmail

Differently-abled Persons, Families And The Equalization Of Opportunities

M Ahmad

Differently-abled persons can be converted from tax consumers to taxpayers, from beneficiaries to benefactors, given the opportunity for self-development and provided with equal opportunities for education, vocational training and employment.

When we look back in time, we find that the beginnings of work for the disabled leading to better opportunities, more services and programmes were initiated in many cases either by the disabled themselves or by their families. Perhaps the best example of this is Louis Braille, the inventor of what is now come to be known as the Braille Script which has provided blind people with the most satisfactory means of reading and writing by touch. Braille indeed opened the floodgates of knowledge to the blind and removed one of the major obstacles in the path of equalization of opportunity for blind people. Leading organisations for disabled people in India providing educational, vocational training and employment services were established by family members. Mrs. Fatima Ismail, the mother of a Polio affected child was the founder of the Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped in Bombay. Mrs. Mithu Alur, the mother of a Spastic child established the Spastic Society of India. The motivating spirit behind the establishment of the organisation for the blind in the country was Mr. R. M. Alpaiwalla, a blind lawyer and its founder President for the first ten years.

Since the '70s, organisations of differently-abled persons have come into being in most countries. Perhaps the earliest of these organisations was the Blind Men's Association of Bombay established in 1974 by a group of blind persons. Today there are a number of similar organisations in India including the National Federation of the Blind and the All India Confederation of the Blind.

Economic independence is the most important factor that can lead to equalization of opportunity and meaningful existence with self-respect and dignity. In the developed and more affluent countries, economic independence can also be secured through social security measures. In the developing countries, however, social security is virtually non-existent and hence employment with adequate wages is of prime importance. The disabled need jobs even more desperately than the able-bodied but as may be expected with unemployment and underemployment plaguing the countries in the Third World, they find them-



“ APART FROM BASIC PERSONALITY TRAITS OF THE PERSON CONCERNED, IT IS the attitude and the actions of the members of the family that determine the future course of the life of the disabled person. It is here that equalization of opportunities needs to and must begin. A differently-abled child rejected overtly or covertly by the family or at the other end of the scale given preferential treatment is most likely to grow up into an adult with unhealthy attitudes towards himself and towards society

selves on the lowest rung of the ladder. For most disabled people getting a job is difficult. By and large those who do succeed in finding jobs are able to do so in the lowest paid ones requiring little skill or ability - very often, far below their abilities and potential.

Education and vocational training facilities for the differently-abled people in most developing countries have remained stagnant. While science and modern technology have made tremendous leaps in the latter half of the 20th century opening up new avenues and new horizons for the able-bodied, the disabled are still being trained in traditional crafts and not in modern technology training and techniques. Different-

ly-abled people themselves and their families cannot and should not wait for Governments and agencies / institutions to take action to improve the situation. They must now take steps themselves to initiate change. Most Governments in the developing countries are faced with gigantic problems of economic growth, industrial development, social upliftment, health, building up of an infrastructure and so on. The disabled are only a small proportion of the general population and hence receive a low priority in their developmental plans.

Unfortunately, the organisations of the differently-abled have in recent years indulged in rivalry and infighting. This has resulted in dissipation of their en-

ergies. Much work needs to be done in developing countries. Organisations of the disabled could play a very important role in achieving equalization of opportunities by coordinating their efforts and acting in cooperation with the agencies. Working jointly with the agencies they could become a strong force in persuading Governments to recognise the rights of the disabled and provide for equal opportunities.

The family plays the most crucial role in the life of a disabled person. Apart from basic personality traits of the person concerned, it is the attitude and the actions of the members of the family that determine the future course of the life of the disabled person. It is here that equal-

“ ECONOMIC independence is the most important factor that can lead to equalization of opportunity and meaningful existence with self-respect and dignity. In the developed and more affluent countries, economic independence can also be secured through social security measures. In the developing countries, however, social security is virtually non-existent and hence employment with adequate wages is of prime importance

ization of opportunities needs to and must begin. A differently-abled child rejected overtly or covertly by the family or at the other end of the scale given preferential treatment is most likely to grow up into an adult with unhealthy attitudes towards himself and towards society. It is imperative, therefore, that the family treats a disabled member as a part of the family without either rejection or "special" treatment. The family should provide equal opportunities of education, work, and socialization. This is the best training the family can provide and it is also a means of assuring that the disabled member is treated normally by other relations, friends and neighbours. Families can provide for some of the special needs of disabled people e.g. reading for the blind, assistance in mobility for the physically handicapped, interpretation for the deaf. Most important of all, the family can encourage and motivate independence to the extent possible depending upon the degree of impairment.

Differently-abled people in many developing countries are now taking the lead in promoting the setting up of much needed services and bringing about a change in attitudes towards disability. However, significant changes in attitudes and true equalization of opportunities will occur only when these people fully accept their responsibilities to contribute to the betterment of the community and society.

The author is Incharge, Abhedananda Home-Higher Secondary Institution for Specially-abled Children, Solina, Srinagar, J&K

If the omicron variant of the coronavirus is different enough from the original variant, it's possible that existing vaccines won't be as effective as they have been. If so, it's likely that companies will need to update their vaccines to better fight omicron. Deborah Fuller is a microbiologist who has been studying mRNA and DNA vaccines for over two decades. Here she explains why vaccines might need to be updated and what that process would look like.

1. Why might vaccines need to be updated?

Basically, it's a question of whether a virus has changed enough so that antibodies created by the original vaccine are no longer able to recognize and fend off the new mutated variant.

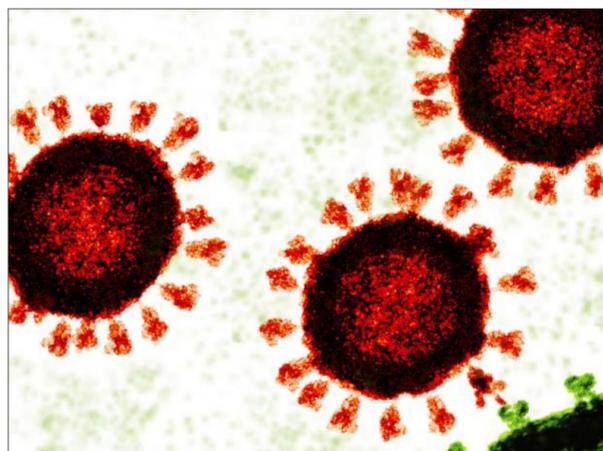
Coronaviruses use spike proteins to attach to ACE-2 receptors on the surface of human cells and infect them. All mRNA COVID-19 vaccines work by giving instructions in the form of mRNA that direct cells to make a harmless version of the spike protein. This spike protein then induces the human body to produce antibodies. If a person is then ever exposed to the coronavirus, these antibodies bind to the coronavirus's spike protein and thus interfere with its ability to infect that person's cells.

The omicron variant contains a new pattern of mutations to its spike protein. These changes could disrupt the ability of some - but probably not all - of the antibodies induced by the current vaccines to bind to the spike protein. If that happens, the vaccines could be less effective at preventing people from getting infected by and transmitting the omicron variant.

2. How would a new vaccine be different?

Existing mRNA vaccines, like those made by Moderna or Pfizer, code for a spike protein from the original strain of coronavirus. In a new or updated vaccine, the mRNA instructions would encode for the omicron spike protein.

By swapping out the genetic code of original spike protein for the one from



this new variant, a new vaccine would induce antibodies that more effectively bind the omicron virus and prevent it from infecting cells.

People already vaccinated or previously exposed to COVID-19 would likely need only a single booster dose of a new vaccine to be protected not only from the new strain but also other strains that may be still in circulation. If omicron emerges as the dominant strain over delta, then those who are unvaccinated would only need to receive 2-3 doses of the updated vaccine. If delta and omicron are both in circulation, people would likely get a combination of the current and updated vaccines.

3. How do scientists update a vaccine?

To make an updated mRNA vaccine, you need two ingredients: the genetic

sequence of the spike protein from a new variant of concern and a DNA template that would be used to build the mRNA.

In most organisms, DNA provides the instructions for making mRNA. Since researchers have already published the genetic code for the omicron spike protein, all that's left to do is make a DNA template for the spike protein that would be used to produce the mRNA part of new vaccines.

To do this, researchers mix DNA templates with synthetic enzymes and four molecular building blocks that make mRNA - G, A, U and C for short. The enzymes then build an mRNA copy of the DNA template, a process called transcription. Using this process, it takes only minutes to produce a batch of the mRNA for vaccines. Researchers then place the mRNA tran-

“ ONE IMPORTANT THING TO NOTE IS that if vaccine manufacturers decide to update their vaccines for the omicron variant, it wouldn't be their first time making this kind of change. A previous variant, B.1.351, emerged in October 2020 and was sufficiently resistant to then-current vaccines to warrant updating them

scripts within fatty nanoparticles that protect the instructions until they are safely delivered into cells in your arm.

4. How long until a new vaccine might be ready?

It takes only three days to generate the DNA template needed to make a new mRNA vaccine. Then it would take about a week to produce sufficient doses of the mRNA vaccine for testing in the lab and another six weeks to perform the pre-clinical tests on human cells in test tubes to make sure a new vaccine works as it should.

So within 52 days, scientists could have an updated mRNA vaccine ready to plug into the manufacturing process and begin producing doses for a human clinical trial. That trial would likely require at least another few weeks for a total of around 100 days to update and test a new vaccine.

While that trial is going on, manufacturers could start switching their current process to making a new vaccine. Ideally, once the clinical trial is complete - and if the vaccine gets authorized or approved - a company could immediately start rolling out doses of a new vaccine.

5. Does an updated vaccine need full clinical trials?

It's currently not clear how much clinical data would be required to get FDA approval or authorization for an updated COVID-19 vaccine. However, all the ingredients would be the same in a new vaccine. The only difference would be a few lines of genetic code that would ever so slightly change the shape of the spike protein. From a safety perspective, an updated vaccine is essentially identical to the already tested vaccines. Because of these similarities, clinical testing may not need to be as extensive as what was needed for the first-generation COVID-19 vaccines.

At a minimum, clinical trials for updated vaccines would likely require safety testing and confirmation that an updated vaccine induces antibody levels on par with the response of the original vaccine against the original, beta and delta strains. If these are the only requirements, then researchers would enroll only hundreds - not tens of thousands - of people to obtain the clinical data needed.

One important thing to note is that if vaccine manufacturers decide to update their vaccines for the omicron variant, it wouldn't be their first time making this kind of change.

A previous variant, B.1.351, emerged in October 2020 and was sufficiently resistant to then-current vaccines to warrant updating them. Manufacturers quickly responded to the potential threat by developing an updated mRNA vaccine to match this variant and performed clinical trials to test the new vaccine. Fortunately, this variant did not become the dominant variant. But if it had, vaccine manufacturers would have been ready to roll out an updated vaccine.

If it turns out that omicron - or any future variant, for that matter - warrants a new vaccine, companies have already completed the dress rehearsals and are ready to meet the challenge.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Update To Omicron

Deborah Fuller

Researchers Develop Math Models To Study Effects Of Non-Invasive Brain Simulation

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi and the National Brain Research Centre, in collaboration with the University at Buffalo, have performed mathematical simulation studies on non-invasive brain stimulation techniques.

The results of the team's recent work in the area have been published as an abstract in the journal Brain Stimulation.

According to the team, transcranial electrical stimulation (tES) is a non-invasive brain stimulation technique that passes an electrical current through sections of the brain to study or alter brain function.

"We simulated a physiologically detailed mathematical model of the neurovascular unit (NVU) with four compartments: synaptic space, astrocyte space, perivascular space, and arteriole smooth muscle cell space, called NeuroVascular Units or NVU," said Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury, associate professor, School of Computing and Electrical Engineering, IIT Mandi.

The mathematical model involved the application of perturbations of varying frequencies (0.1 Hz to 10 Hz) to simulate the electrical field to the four nested NVU compartmental pathways and analysed the changes in blood vessel diameter in response to the frequencies.

Three types of non-invasive brain stimulation transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS), transcranial alternating current

stimulation (tACS) and transcranial oscillatory current stimulation (tOCS) were modelled to investigate their physiological effects.

matic brain injury, mild cognitive impairment, dementia, and other neuropsychiatric disorders.

"Such a mathematical model-



We simulated a physiologically detailed mathematical model of the neurovascular unit (NVU) with four compartments: synaptic space, astrocyte space, perivascular space, and arteriole smooth muscle cell space, called NeuroVascular Units or NVU

The initial tES effects on the blood vessels were also found to occur via the perivascular space - a fluid-filled space surrounding the blood vessels in the brain.

"Our study can help brain- and neuro-specialists plan patient-specific restorative neurorehabilitation activities for stroke, post trauma-

based quantitative analysis would help in individualised therapeutic protocols for neuropsychiatric disorders. The team has planned experimental studies that involve blocking of various pathways to validate their modelling results," Chowdhury said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE, NOORABAD (D.H. Pora)

Subject: Conduct of Magisterial enquiry under section 176 CrPC into the Encounter that took place at village Pombay kulgam on 17/11/2021

NOTICE

The District Magistrate kulgam has appointed undersigned as enquiry Officer in the encounter that took place at village Pombay kulgam on 17/11/2021 in which 03 militants got killed. In this regard, general public having knowledge regarding the matter are invited to record their statement within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice in the office of undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-
DIPK-15347/21 Sub Divisional Magistrate, Noorabad

GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL SHIREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR

EMAIL ADDRESS: gdcsrinagar@gmail.com
PHONE NO: 0194 – 2504701, 0194 – 2504702.
FAX NO: 0194 – 2504703.

INTERVIEW NOTICE

It is notified for information of all eligible candidates that the interview for the posts of Registrar in the disciplines of Conservative Dentistry & Endodontic and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in the Government Dental College & Hospital, Srinagar will be conducted on 29-12-2021 at 11:00 A.M in the Committee Room of Administrative Block, Government Dental College & Hospital, Srinagar advertised vide Notice No. GDC/Estt/ File-54/4950-66 dated 01-11-2021 published in Daily Aftab Kashmir Newspaper under No. DIPK-11848/21 dated: 03-11-2021. All the eligible candidates who have applied for the said posts shall present themselves along with all original documents as required before the Committee on scheduled date and time. In case of any failure, no claim whatsoever shall be entertained later on. No TA/DA shall be paid by this Institution for attending the interview.

Sd/-
[Prof. (Dr.) Riyaz Farooq],
Principal/Dean,
Govt. Dental College & Hospital,
Srinagar.

No:-GDC/Estt/Tutor,Registrar-54/5941-53
Dated:- 20-12-2021

DIPK-15376/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUGHAL ROAD PROJECT DIVISION SHOPIAN.

NIT No: - 17/MRP/SPN/e-TENDERING/2021-22
Dated: 18/12/2021

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

S. No	Name of work	Cost of Tender (In lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (days)	Class of contract
1.	Partition of Chowkidars Room for changing the same for Residential Purpose on Ground Floor at S.E's Office of Mughal Road Project at Lalmandi Srinagar.	2.65	250/-	20 days	"D"

Position of Funds: Available
Position of AA: Accorded

The NIT 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.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	20-12-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20-12-2021 To 25-12-2021 10:00 AM to 02:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20-12-2021 from 11:00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	25-12-2021 Up to 02.00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25-12-2021 at 04.00 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian.

- Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan/Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority). (Name of Work, to be mentioned). (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).
- All the Bidders have to upload / submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A").
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR within 03 days before fixation of Contract.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Mughal Road Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority).

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mughal Road Division
Shopian

DIPK-15294/21

MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, J&K

Jammu Office: Regional Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Nagrota, Jammu.
Fax: 0191-2674114; Telephone: 2674244. Pin: 181221

Kashmir Office: Block A, Ground Floor, Old Secretariat, Srinagar. Pin: 190001

Telephone: 0194-247737, 2477309, 2470486; e-mail: mdnhmjkg@gmail.com

NHM Help Line for Jammu Division: 18001800104; Kashmir Division: 18001800102

Advertisement Notice for Hiring the Services of Specialists under National Health Mission, J&K in Kashmir Division.

1. Applications are invited regarding walk-in interview for hiring the services of Specialists in following streams on contractual basis, under National Health Mission, J&K for health facilities of Kashmir Division.

1. Paediatricians.

2. Gynaecologists.

2. Eligibility

1. Qualification: PG Degree/ Diploma in relevant stream recognized by Medical Council of India and registered with the Medical Council of India/ J&K State Medical Council.

2. Domicile Certificate/Address Proof.

3. Age: Maximum age limit up to 65 years.

4. Stay at the place of posting is mandatory.

5. During the contract period Consultant cannot do Private Practice.

6. Remuneration: Rs. 85000/- per month + Incentives as per the Criteria laid down for the difficult areas.

3. Hiring will be purely on contractual basis, initial contract for hiring shall be upto 31st March 2022, and further yearly extension will be subject to satisfactory performance of the candidate/ approval of the post by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India.

4. The walk-in interview for the posts of specialists for Kashmir Division shall be conducted on 24th of December 2021 at 10.30 AM to 4.30 PM in the Office of Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K at "A Block" Ground Floor, Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

5. Application form shall also be available on the official website www.jknhm.com which is the only and authentic source of information with respect to National Health Mission, J&K. This office shall not be responsible for inconvenience caused to anybody due to misleading/ false information made available by any other website(s) and purportedly claimed to be associated with NHM, J&K, in any manner whatsoever.

6. List of documents to be attached with the application form:

i. Date of Birth Certificate;

ii. Domicile Certificate/Address Proof;

iii. Degree of MBBS;

iv. MD/MS/PG Diploma

v. Copy of Registration Certificate issued by the Medical Council of India/ J&K State Medical Council.

7. Applications not falling in the prescribed criteria or without aforesaid documents shall be rejected out rightly.

8. Candidates are advised to keep themselves updated through the website. No individual communication to the candidates shall be made in this regard.

* (The candidates are requested to keep themselves updated from website of NHM, J&K for date of interview)

(Errors & Omissions accepted)

DIPK-NB-6059/21

No.: SHS/NHM/J&K/HR/

Dated: .2021

Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, J&K

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal

EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/E-tendering FRESH SNOW NIT No. 290 of 2021-22 of R&B Division Ganderbal issued under endorsement No.19049-58 Dated:21.12.2021

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on percentage based (%age) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Sub Division and State No.	Earnest Money amount in Rs.	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	Snow Clearance of Roads/ Areas Falling within the jurisdiction of (R&B) Division Ganderbal. Stage No. 4 as per (Annexure-A)	2000/-	200/-	A, B, C & D	3054-Snow

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	21-12-2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 21-12-2021 at 3:30 PM to 27-12-2021 upto 4.00 P.M
03.	Bid submission start date	21-12-2021 from (3:30 PM)
04.	Bid submission end date	27-12-2021 up to (04.00 P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	27-12-2021 at (4.05 P.M) in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Ganderbal/ Bandipora

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

a. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape E-Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (E-Challan) must be purchased after tender date and Boldly written Name of Stage and Name of Contractor) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to of in the Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Ganderbal/ Bandipora (Tender receiving authority)

b. Upload Valid Registration CARD / Renewal, PAN Card, Latest clearance certificate Form GST-3B of Latest Quarter / Qualifying Month i.e, November.

c. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

d. The bidders are advised to get the genuineness of their enlistment cards from the issuing authorities. This is mandatory and bids are liable to be rejected in absence of the genuineness of enlistment card

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

2. The tenders are directed to submit their tender online; in case the last date of opening of tenders happens to be a holiday/hartal the same shall be opened on the next working day.

3. Only percentage template BOQ shall be followed for the instant work. The intending bidder shall quote rate percentage above/ below or at par corresponding to J&K SSR 2020. The actual work done quantities shall be accordingly paid for depending upon the depth of snow and corresponding to Schedule Rates provided in the SSR 2020.

4. The bids shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening. A bid valid for shorter period shall be rejected;

5. The rates and prices quoted by the bidder shall remain fixed during the currency of contract and shall not be subject to adjustment on any account;

6. Currencies: All payments will be made in Indian Rupees;

7. The bidder among other documents shall upload the following documents with bid which shall form a part of technical bid;

a. Scanned copy of Duly renewed copy of Enlistment Registration Card;

b. Scan copy of Treasury Challan.

c. Scanned copy of GST registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B of Latest Quarter/Qualifying Month i.e, November

d. Scanned Copy of PAN Card.

e. Scanned copy of C.D.R

8. Single cover system:- In the first instance technical evaluation of the bids as received shall be carried out to assess the technical responsiveness & non responsiveness of bidders who have participated in the bidding followed by comparison of financial part of bids of technically responsive bidders. The evaluation report, both technical & financial, shall be uploaded on the Departmental Website for the information of the bidders.

9. Any loss caused to the Department which is attributable to the contractor, shall be recovered from the contractor;

10. Snow clearance stage contractor is bound to do the snow clearance immediately as and when he is directed to do so. The contractor has to keep in close touch with the department / officers to be present in the stage/ allotted along with necessary tools, labour machinery etc., at the time of every snow fall so that there is no delay in clearance of snow. In case contractor fails to comply with these instructions, clearance work will be undertaken through other agency at the risk and cost of the Contractor without serving any notice.

11. In case contractor fails to carry out the snow clearance as per the scheduled period and to provide immediately motor paths, he shall bear the penalty of Rs. 3000/= (Three Thousand) for each day of delay along with other penalties including debarment from participating in bidding in (R&B) Deptt. for a period of at least one year.

12. Depending upon the depth of snow, the snow clearance period is fixed as under:-

a. AVERAGE SNOW FALL UPTO 12 INCH DEPTH OF SNOW = (ONE DAY) b. AVERAGE SNOW FALL UPTO 24 INCH DEPTH OF SNOW = (TWO DAYS)

c. AVERAGE SNOW FALL UPTO 36 INCH AND ABOVE DEPTH OF SNOW = (THREE DAYS)

13. The snow clearance of roads shall also include passing places to be provided as per norms;

14. In the event if one particular bidder bags more than one stage contract, contractual obligation to deploy adequate men and machinery at each site concurrently shall have to be ensured failing which penalty shall be imposed upon for each day of delay.

15. Payment to the contractor against work done quantities shall be made as per the rates applicable under JK SSR 2020 for particular depth of snow with contractors quoted rate percentage;

16. The payment against the work done quantities will be subject to release of funds by the Govt. under relevant head of account;

17. Pre-snow clearance and post snow clearance video Graphy/ photography shall be made for reference & record. Each work done claim shall be supported with the photographs indicating date of snow fall, date of clearance and depth of snow, area/ locality/lane/road RD-wise with landmarks;

18. The subletting of the work wholly or partly shall not be permitted and will be treated as a breach of contract .

19. In case the snow plough or any other machines arranged by the department for a speedy clearance of snow is deployed, the stage contractor will have to supply the labour for clearance of snow left by the machines for which he will be paid as per the quoted percentage rate above/ below or at par as per SSR 2020.

20. The taxes as admissible shall be deducted from the contractors each claim. The contractors rates shall be deemed to cover all such taxes including GST, CST and nothing extra on this account shall be paid by the Deptt.

21. Insurance cover to the labour/ machinery by the Contractor shall be mandatory;

22. Arbitration: The Arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the Arbitration procedure stated in J&K Conciliation & Arbitration Act No. XXXV of 1997 issued vide SRO No. K03 vide Notification Dt. 11-12-1997 & latest amendments/ modifications thereto;

23. Termination of contract: The Employer may terminate the contract if the Contractor causes a fundamental breach of the Contract. Fundamental breach of contract will include;

a. Contractor is declared Bankrupt.

b. Any evidence of involvement of Contractor in corrupt practices.

c. Contractor delays the completion of work beyond stipulated time of completion.

d. Pursuant to the process of termination of defaulted contract, the Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender for the balance work at the risk and cost of defaulter contractor.

24. Court jurisdiction: In case of any disputes / differences between Contractor and the Deptt. the jurisdiction shall be J&K High Court;

25. No advance payment or mobilization advance shall be given to the Contractor by the Deptt.

26. The terms and conditions as contained in the PWD Form 25 shall also be binding upon the Contractor and shall form part of the Contract Agreement.

All other terms & conditions shall be as per the SBD / Contract Agreement.

No:-19049-58
DT:21-12-2021

DIPK-15449/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal.

Monthly Rentals In Co-Living Properties Down 10-25% Post Covid: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The average monthly rentals in co-living properties, including student housing, declined by 10-25 per cent across major after the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, according to property consultant Colliers India.

In its whitepaper 'Future of Co-living in India', Colliers India mentioned that the number of beds fell to 1.3-1.4 lakh in 2020 from 2 lakh in the previous year, while the occupancy level dropped to 40-60 per cent.

There has been a dip of 10-25 per cent in rentals post-Covid, it pointed out. During the 2021 calendar year, the supply has again bounced back to over 2.10 lakh beds, and the occupancy level improved to 70 per cent.

"The concept of 'shared economy' got severely tested during the peak of the pandemic. Factors such as uncertain economic conditions resulting in loss of jobs, work from home and the shift of migrant population to their respective hometowns in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak brought the evolving co-living sector to an immediate halt," the statement said.

On the outlook for the next year, Colliers said the segment would witness a recovery, driven by reopening of offices, record vaccination and reopening of colleges in a phased manner. The number of beds could surge to 4.5 lakh by 2024.

"With the situation improving rapidly, the sector has recovered substantially and is looking more optimistic. The primary contributor to the recovery is the growing rate of vaccination.

"The unemployment rate is down to 7 per cent in November 2021, a gradual dip from 11.84 per cent in May 2021. Also, amidst the pandemic, hiring by IT companies has gathered pace followed by robust performance of the sector which will only add on to the demand for the co-living in coming quarters," JLL India CEO Ramesh Nair said.

During the period of 2015-2019, Colliers India MD (advisory services) Subhankar Mitra said, the student housing and co-living witnessed exponential growth resulting in sharp increase in the number of operators and investments.

"However, the pandemic marred the growth story of co-living temporarily, resulting in some players exiting the business thereby creating opportunities for acquisition and expansion for the others," he added.

Tax Raids On Chinese Phone Makers In India

Agencies

NEW DELHI: In a major crackdown on Chinese mobile companies, the Income Tax department is conducting searches on leading Chinese mobile companies across the country.

Mobile companies Oppo, Xiaomi, and One Plus are being covered in the searches, sources told news agency ANI.

Over two dozen premises are being raided in searches that began Tuesday.

"Raids are ongoing in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Greater Noida, Kolkata, Guwahati, Indore and some other places," the sources said.

Some fintech companies are also covered in this search, they added.

Chief Executive Officers of these companies are covered in this search and currently, they are being interrogated by the Income Tax officials.

The search was conducted based on the intelligence inputs of huge tax evasion by these Chinese mobile firms, the sources said. The firms were under the radar for a long time and when the I-T department



got concrete intelligence of tax evasion, these companies were raided.

According to sources, a substantial amount of digital data evidence that points at tax evasion has been found and seized.

Earlier in August, Chinese government-controlled telecom vendor ZTE was searched. Searches were conducted at five premises of ZTE, including their corporate office, the residence of the foreign director, the residence of the company secretary, the account person and the cash handler of the company.

During the search on ZTE,

the examination of import bills vis-a-vis sale bills shows that there was a gross profit of approximately 30% on the trading of equipment, though the company had been booking "huge" losses over the years.

The investigation further revealed that the losses are being booked by the company through bogus expenses in respect of services provided by it. A few such recipients have been identified against whom substantial expenses have been booked over the years. These entities were found to be non-existent at their addresses, the sources added.

Zee Entertainment, Sony Pictures Networks India Sign Definitive Agreements For Merger

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Sony Pictures Networks India Pvt Ltd (SPNI) and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) on Wednesday said they have signed definitive agreements for their merger following conclusion of an exclusive negotiation period during which both parties conducted mutual due diligence.

In a joint statement, the two companies said they have "signed definitive agreements to merge ZEEL with and into SPNI and combine their linear networks, digital assets, production operations and program libraries".

The agreements follow the conclusion of an exclusive negotiation period during which ZEEL and SPNI conducted mutual due diligence, it added.

When the merger deal was announced in September, the two networks had stated that Sony would invest USD 1.575 billion and hold 52.93 per cent stake in the merged entity and Zee the remaining 47.07 per cent.

of ZEEL.

This is aimed at enabling the combined company "to drive sharper content creation across platforms, strengthen its footprint in the rapidly evolving digital ecosystem, bid for media rights in the fast-growing sports landscape and pursue other growth opportunities", it added.

After closing, the new combined company will be publicly listed in India.

The closing of the transaction is subject to certain customary closing conditions, including regulatory, shareholder, and third-party approvals, the statement said.

As part of the agreement, Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc (SPE) will pay a non-compete fee to certain promoter founders of ZEEL, which will be used by them to infuse primary equity capital into SPNI.

This would entitle them to acquire shares of SPNI, which would eventually equal approximately 2.11 per cent of the shares of the combined company on a post-closing basis.

The payment of non-compete fee by Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc, of which SPNI is an indirect subsidiary, will be through a subsidiary, the statement said.

Amazon, Walmart And How Covid Changed Shopping

Matthew Townsend, Bloomberg

When Covid-19 erupted 21 months ago and upended retailers around the world, it looked like just another chapter in the sad story of an industry's decline.

The reality of the pandemic era, however, hasn't played out that way.

Yes, there was a shakeout with thousands of stores, and some chains, closing for good. A wave of retail workers lost their jobs, some permanently, and an unknown number got sick. But Covid's shock to the system also brought overdue changes that will fortify the sector for years to come, including big investments in technology, the creation of new methods to connect with consumers and speeding online delivery.

For all the human misery the coronavirus has brought, it's not hard to make the case that the pandemic will ultimately strengthen the global retailers who made it through. It's a startling turnaround from the doom-and-gloom predictions from the industry in mid-2020.

"The idea that stores are dead has been proven to be a fallacy," said Michael Baker, an analyst for D.A. Davidson who has covered U.S. retailers for more than two decades. "A lot of retailers are coming out of this stronger than going into it."

The pandemic pushed shoppers across the globe to adapt quickly, which forced retailers to do the same. Stuck in their homes in those first few months and then wary about visiting stores when they reopened, consumers flush with cash from government stimulus programs -- along with savings from

not traveling or eating out -- embraced e-commerce like never before. That's why the outlook appeared so dour early on for retailers who depended on foot traffic to brick-and-mortar locations.

Retail vs. E-commerce

Since Amazon ignited the online shopping era more than two decades ago, the big question has been how do legacy retailers survive? The industry's answer eventually became "omnichannel," a fuzzy buzzword about intertwining stores and the internet. Retailers had been investing on that front -- think of innovations like online ordering with in-store pickup -- but sporadically.

The pandemic created the existential threat many needed to fully embrace that vision. They responded by shaking up their business models in unprecedented ways, everything from how they handled customer service to the ways they fulfilled orders (cue groceries ordered online being delivered to the back of an SUV in a Walmart parking lot just a few hours later).

"It completely changed the way we shop," said Greg Buzek, president of researcher IHL Group. And now retailers are deploying technology at a "once-in-a-generation" rate, with huge increases in the use of warehouse robotics and inventory-management tools like electronic shelf tags, he said.

In China, one of the world's most sophisticated retail markets, stores quickly pushed deeper into e-commerce. More embraced the use of chat groups to complete orders and keep in touch with customers who no longer wanted to visit in person, according to consultant Kearny. Retailers of all sorts



increased sales via live online video streaming (like a home shopping channel for the digital age). In Wuhan, the original epicenter of the pandemic, a food-delivery service helped retailers set up contact-free pickup, kicking off a boom in that kind of fulfillment.

Marks & Spencer, the British department-store chain who has been trying to turn itself around for more than a decade, used the pandemic to speed up its transformation by shutting poor-performing stores and investing in digital offerings, including online grocery. The chain has lifted its profit forecast twice this year -- the first upgrades this millennium -- as its stock surged more than 60%.

With stores shuttered in the U.S., retailers adopted new ways to serve customers. Livestream selling spread from China and became a bona fide revenue source thanks to inexpensive and easy-to-use software. Chains also pushed more of the traditional in-store experience to the web. Signet Jewelers, owner of the Jared brand and other chains, added video calls with an associate from its locations that eased the resis-

tance to making a big purchase online.

And retailers also figured out ways to push more e-commerce into their locations. That included making it easy for in-store employees to help online customers by chatting and sharing pictures and video via mobile app.

How Covid Shifted Consumer Behavior

Shopping patterns also dramatically shifted in places where e-commerce was in the early stages of development. Retailers in markets spanning Mexico to Russia were pushed to speed delivery and build more secure payment systems. In just one example, the Mexico division of U.S. retailer Home Depot now lets customers buy items online and pay for them at a store, including with cash, which is still the dominant way to pay for goods there.

Of course, the success of many of these advancements will hinge on how well these new consumer behaviors stick post-Covid. Retailers are betting that services, like picking up online orders at a store, will become a bigger portion of their sales. The pandemic also gummed up supply chains and

caused labor shortages that pushed wages higher. It remains to be seen how long these hurdles last.

The Covid era will also be remembered for all the retailers who didn't make it and the employees who got infected by the virus. Pier 1 Imports in the U.S. and Britain's Arcadia Group, owner of Topshop, were among the chains who shut down their locations. And many others without as much money to invest as big players haven't been able to undertake meaningful pivots. They still look vulnerable, especially as pandemic-era stimulus programs are petering out and the emergence of the omicron variant is causing a surge in Covid cases in several parts of the world.

Retail Sales on the Rebound

But for the big players who got things right, 2021 saw a remarkable rebound. In the U.S., chains with more than 50 stores are expected to have added more than 4,000 locations this year -- led by discount chains Dollar General and Dollar Tree. That would mark the first net increase since 2017, according to IHL Group. Total closings among this group in 2021 are estimated to have been 3,500, a quarter of the 2020 total.

The comeback is a big reason why the SPDR S&P Retail exchange-traded fund, which tracks the S&P Retail Select Industry Index, has surged 32% this year, easily topping the broader S&P 500 Index's advance. Retail stocks in other parts of the world haven't fared as well, though.

Even with Covid variants hammering some parts of the country, overall visits to U.S. stores this year are only 0.8% below the same period in 2019, according to Placer.ai, which uses anonymous mobile phone data to estimate

foot traffic. Many of the biggest chains spanning various categories are drawing more shoppers than before the pandemic. These include Target, Lowe's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Ulta Beauty and Bath & Body Works. Visits to Walmart, the world's largest retailer, are just 2% below 2019 levels so far this year, Placer.ai data show.

Foot traffic is being aided by stores fulfilling online orders for pickup. Best Buy is among the chains who built curbside pickup systems on the fly during the pandemic so customers wouldn't have to enter stores. Target's shopping app now allows drive-up customers to choose exactly where bags are placed in their car.

On top of all this, physical stores are still where the overwhelming majority of goods are purchased. While in China e-commerce is about 30% of total retail sales, the rate in giant markets like Japan, Mexico and India are less than half that.

Even brands born online are continually showing the value of physical locations by turning to them to boost growth after e-commerce gains stall. In the U.S., Warby Parker, an eyewear company who helped jumpstart the boom in digital-native brands, is increasingly betting its future on brick-and-mortar. Stores can also increase profitability in a myriad of ways, including reducing returns a big hit to e-commerce margins.

"The biggest changes going forward will be the relationship the consumer has with the store," said Deborah Weinswig, a veteran retail analyst and founder of Coresight Research. "I've never seen the opportunity ahead for retail as big as it is now."

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No. 44 of 2021-22 Dated 18.12.2021

For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors/Suppliers/Dealers of J&K UTI, PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-

S No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Bid Security (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract
1	Supply and Installation of 15 KVA DG Set in maintenance complex, RSGC	5.00 lacs	10000/- in shape of CDR/ FDR in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC	500/- Non refundable in shape of DD in favour of Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-0229040100012341	15 days	AAY Class Electric/Suppliers/Dealers

Special conditions:-

- All Bidders have to upload Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the circular of Finance Department (Bid Security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below)
- Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of concern documents.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

Sl	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18.12.2021 13:00 PM
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18.12.2021 To 27.12.2021 (4.00PM on wards)
3	Bid submission Start Date	18.12.2021 4:00 Pm on wards
4	Bid Submission End Date	27.12.2021
5	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	28.12.2021 at 11:30 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender documents in shape of demand draft in favour of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar and Earnest Money/Bid Security in Shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer RSGC Cheshmashahi Srinagar (tender receiving authority)
- Payment shall be made to the agency as and when funds are available with the department.
- The date and time of opening of bid shall be as above as notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and will be conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mails addresses. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website at the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar as per schedule.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - any bidder/tenderer who withdraw his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or make any modification on the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement with 20 days after fixation of contract.
 - Suppliers/Dealers/ Contractor/ Interested persons/ parties who participates in bid should be registered for the respective class of contract with document proof thereof.
- Copies of Original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of business.
- Scanned Copy of GST in registration and latest clearance certificate, Form GST3B ;e latest clearance certificate, Form GST3B of the preceding month to the issuance of the NIT registration enlistment card with latest renewal of PAN No.
- All bidders shall upload bank challan./DD
- All bidders shall upload bid security declaration form.

No: RSGC/EE/2021-22/325-27
Dated: 18/12/2021
DIPK-NB-6003/21

Executive Engineer
Royal Springs Golf Course
Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MUFFASIL (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM.

TENDER NOTICE

NIT No.228/e-tendering /MDB/2021-22/16149-69 DATED.20-12-2021

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 registered with J&K State Govt., 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. (Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1	Construction of 1x3 Mtr span Bridge on Jaggal Mohalla at Azwari kachwari road	4.58 lacs	200/-	25 days	DEE	B2V2

Position of AAA = Accorded vide:-
Position of TS = Accorded
Position of funds: Available/Committed

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-12-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20-12-2021 04.00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	20-12-2021 from 04.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	27-12-2021 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	27-12-2021 at 4.30 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
Submission of Performance Security (PS)		Within 7 days of receipt of LOA.(The bidder has to provide 3% of advertized Cost as Performance Security within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid)

No: 16149-69
Dtd:-20.12.2021
DIPK-15363/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam

125 More Test Covid Positive In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 125 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while one more person died of Covid-19 related complications in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to officials, Kashmir reported 97 new cases of virus while the remaining 28 were detected from different districts of the Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by virus in J&K to 340161.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar registered the highest 47 new cases of coronavirus, Baramulla 17, Budgam and Kupwara 9 each, Bandipora 6, Ganderbal and Kulgam 3 each, Anantnag 2 and Pulwama one new case of Covid-19. Shopian was the only district in the Valley where no new cases were detected.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported



a maximum of 20 new cases of virus; Rajouri and Poonch 3 each while one new case each in Udhampur and Doda districts. The five districts of Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Ramban and Reasi reported no fresh cases of Covid-19.

"Moreover, 143 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 21 from Jammu Division and 122 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, they said that one more person succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu division on Wednesday, raising the death toll to 4515 in J&K—2196 in Jammu and 2319 in Kashmir.

J&K Received Rs 31,000 Cr Investment Proposals: Shah

Agence

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir has received investment proposals worth Rs 31,000 crore and has notified a new central sector scheme worth Rs 28,400 crore which is likely to provide employment to over 4.5 lakh people, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

MoS Home Nityanand Rai said Union Home Minister Amit Shah met several delegations, families of martyrs, members of civil society and panchayati raj institutions, the public in general besides interacting with about 50,000 members of 4,500 youth clubs during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir in October.

"The government has notified

the new central sector scheme for industrial development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with an outlay of Rs 28,400 crore. This is likely to provide employment to over 4.5 lakh people while boosting the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir," he said in a written reply.

The government has received investment proposals worth approximately Rs 31,000 crore, Rai said. He said the Jammu and Kashmir government has approved a business revival package of Rs 1,352.99 crore on September 25, 2020.

Under the languishing project programme, 1,192 projects worth Rs 1,983.77 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.

The minister said the progress of projects being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir under the prime minister's development package-2015 has been accelerated.

A total of 53 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 or substantially completed and the remaining 32 projects are at an advanced stage of progress. (PTI)

Temperature Slightly Up In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: There was a slight increase in minimum temperatures in most places in Kashmir, but they remained below the freezing point, meteorological department officials said on Wednesday.

The department has also forecast three days of snowfall and rain from Sunday in the region.

There was an improvement in the minimum temperatures on Tuesday night at most of places in the Kashmir Valley on the second day of Chilla-i-Kalan (big cold), the officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, a degree up from the previous night.

The city had recorded a low of minus 6 degrees Celsius for two consecutive nights on Saturday and Sunday, which is the lowest of the season so far.

The resort town of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded a low of

minus 4 degrees Celsius, a degree up from the previous night, the officials said. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, they said.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at minus 2.9 degrees Celsius, in Qazigund at minus 3 degrees Celsius and Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The meteorological office has forecast snow spell of greater intensity during December 26 evening to 28 forenoon, with main activity on December 27, they said.

The Chilla-i-Kalan, which began on Tuesday, is the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the Valley.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Policeman, Civilian

upon him," the police officer said.

A property dealer by profession, Khan had received several gunshot injuries on the upper body, including chest.

"The civilian was brought dead to the hospital. He had sustained three gunshot injuries, including the one that had pierced his neck and damaged spinal cord," Medical Superintendent SMHS, Dr Kanwaljeet Singh told Kashmir Observer.

"The doctors attending the civilian tried to revive him but he was already dead," he added.

Immediately after the shootout, a posse of police and CRPF personnel reached the area and launched a massive search operation to nab the attackers. "The search operation continued for several hours, however no arrests were made," the police officer added.

According to reports, Khan is survived by his mother Haleema, wife Shazia and a five year old daughter. As per the police officer, a case has been registered into Khan's killing.

"We are trying to get CCTV footage of the incident so that the perpetrators behind this attack are nabbed or neutralised. Case has been registered, investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime," he added.

Barely 30 minutes after Khan was shot dead in Srinagar, unknown militants attacked and critically injured a police officer in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Mohammed Ashraf was shot at and injured by militants in Bijbehara area of the district, a police officer said. Ashraf, he said, received critical gunshot injuries, including one on his chest in the surprise militant attack.

As per the police officer, the injured ASI was first shifted to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Bijbehara from where he was referred to Srinagar's SMHS hospital.

"Unfortunately, he succumbed to his injuries on the way to Srinagar hospital," the police officer said.

Ashraf, he said, was currently posted at the Police Station Bijbehara.

Soon after the attack, a massive search operation was launched by a joint team of police, army and CRPF to nab the attackers. "It looks like the attackers while taking the cover of darkness have managed to escape," he added.

Pertinently, this is the second attack on Police in less than a fortnight. On December 13, three cops were killed and eleven other injured when militants opened indiscriminate firing on a bus carrying personnel of J&K Police in Zewan area of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, several mainstream leaders condemned the attack and expressed solidarity with the bereaved family. Former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah also condemned the attacks.

Allah marhoom ko magfirat farmaye Ameen. I unreservedly condemn these two attacks & send my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives today, he tweeted. The People's Conference also strongly condemned the killings.

We strongly condemn the militant attack on ASI Ashraf and Rauf Ahmed in which both the policemen lost their lives. Heartfelt condolences & sympathies with their families (sic), the party wrote on Twitter.

Apni Party tweeted, Apni Party strongly condemns heinous attacks on ASI Mohd Ashraf in #Bijbehara area of South #Kashmir and civilian Rauf Ahmad in #Eidgah #Srinagar, in which both lost their lives. Party expresses deepest sympathies with the bereaved families.

The J&K unit of BJP also condemned the killing of the policeman, terming it barbaric. Party spokesman Altaf Thakur said it was an act of frustration and that militants are feeling frustrated and attacking unarmed policemen.

He extended sympathies to the bereaved family and urged the police brass to punish the militants involved in the act.

Killers Will Be

their handlers responsible for these killings will be brought to justice soon," Sinha posted on his official Twitter handle.

"Such barbaric terror act will not succeed in undermining J&K's development journey. Deepest & heartfelt condolences to bereaved families," he wrote in another Tweet.

Sinha also said that the government stands with the families & friends at this difficult time.

J&K Situation

come down from 417 in 2018 to 203 (up to November 30) in 2021 and estimated net infiltration has come down from 143 in 2018 to 28 (till October 31) in 2021.

"The government has instituted a robust security and intelligence grid along with proactive operations against militants. Therefore, the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly since August 2019," he said replying to a written question.

The Narendra Modi government had abrogated Article 370 provisions which gave special powers to Jammu and Kashmir and divided the erstwhile state into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

Rai said there has been a significant decline in militant incidents and infiltration of militants from across

the border has also come down significantly.

There were 417 militancy related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, 255 in 2019, 244 in 2020 and 203 till November 30 in 2021, he said.

He said the estimated net infiltration to Jammu and Kashmir was 143 in 2018, 138 in 2019, 51 in 2020 and 28 till October 31 in 2021.

Govt Directs

to submit annual returns of the assets held by him and his family members in the month of January every year and shall indicate the reasons for increase, if any, in the assets and source thereof.

"The Jammu & Kashmir Public Servants Declaration of Assets Act and Rules made thereunder provides for imposing a penalty for non-submission of the property returns by public servants," reads the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government.

The order further says that the laws also provide that if any public servant without any reasonable cause which he shall be required to show, fails to submit the return annually, he shall be guilty of committing criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act and shall be punishable under the said Act.

"The said Act and Rules also lay down that every Public servant shall submit annual property returns in duplicate to the General Administration Department (Vigilance) in respect of all the assets possessed by the public servant and his family members," the order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, reads.

It also adds that the manual mode of filing the annual property returns was seen as a cumbersome exercise and in order to make it easy and accessible, it was felt that property returns should be filed through online mode and the process for submission should be made user friendly.

"With a view to make the process of filing of property returns employee friendly, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has recently launched online portal for filing of annual property returns (PRS Portal). The facility for filing the annual property returns by all public servants shall be available on <https://prs.jk.gov.in>," the order reads.

It also asked employees to file their annual property returns on the portal from 1st of January as the facility will get automatically closed on 31st of January every year.

"For submitting the details on the portal, every employee has to first register himself on the portal through his CPIS account. In case of employees with no CPIS number, their respective DDOs will get them registered on the portal," the order reads.

"The portal will facilitate processing of vigilance clearance in favour of the employees and non-submission of the property returns will result in denial of their vigilance clearance," it adds

The order further directs all employees to register themselves on the PRS Portal and subsequently file their annual property returns for the year 2021 necessarily.

"The employees will be able to submit their property details on the portal from 1st of January, 2022 upto 31st of January, 2022. Further, it is enjoined upon all the DDOs to ensure the registration/subsequent filing of the property details of their employees within the specified timelines," the order adds.

Proposals 'Disenfranchising

"disempowering" people of Kashmir, and said the National Conference (NC) will fight the move through democratic means.

The commission's proposal to increase the number of assembly seats in Jammu division by six and in Kashmir division by just one ignored the "overwhelming criteria" of population, the NC vice-president said.

"By increasing the seats in this proportion, you are actually disenfranchising people in Kashmir because the ratio of seat-to-population changes drastically," Abdullah told PTI in his first detailed reaction to the commission's draft recommendations.

The draft recommendations were presented in a meeting of the commission in New Delhi two days ago, attended by three MPs of the NC and two of the BJP. The commission has sought comments of the MPs who are its associate members by December 31.

The NC, PDP and other political parties largely based in the Kashmir region have vociferously opposed the draft proposals which will increase the number of assembly seats in Jammu division from 37 to 43 and Kashmir from 46 to 47.

Abdullah made it clear that the NC will not endorse the recommendations and if the commission doesn't amend the proposals, "we will make sure our dissent is part of the record".

Ruling out moving the Supreme Court because, "rightly or wrongly, you cannot challenge recommendations of a Delimitation Commission in a court", he said, "We have to try and build pressure through other democratic means".

He said the concerted plan of the Centre since 2018 has been to disempower people in Kashmir and the proposals of the Delimitation Commission "is just another step in that direction".

"We have time and again questioned the rationale for this delimitation...their justification for August 5, 2019 (decisions) was that you can't have one country with two systems and that Jammu and Kashmir had to be brought at par with the rest of the country, then why were we singled out for delimitation," he said.

Abdullah pointed out that many BJP leaders in Jammu were not happy with the 2011 census and said the government could have waited for a couple of years and then had a delimitation based on the census of 2021.

"Then we would have seen what the ratio is. So, they can't have it all their way. They want delimitation, but then they want to ignore 2011 census data. They can't do that and that's why we have said that the commission has not taken an objective view of this distribution of seats," he said.

He countered the argument in a section of media that the seats were being distributed because of geographical areas and said if that is the consideration, then why do Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra not have more seats than Uttar Pradesh. All these three states have larger territory than Uttar Pradesh which is the most populous state.

"...and in this (JK) case that is being ignored for political purposes and that is why we are opposed to it," he said and added that it was not justified because at the end of the day the main basis for delimitation is the census.

Abdullah refused to spell out the future course of action saying this is "something we will discuss internally within the party and also with those leaders that represent the party in the PAGD. They will also sit down and chalk out future strategy. I don't want to get into details right now," he said.

"I don't think we should hoodwink the people by claiming that we will fight against it legally. There is no legal recourse and therefore, we have to try and build pressure we can through means other than legal means to get the commission to see the sense," he said.

Abdullah was also clear that the party would not approach other political parties outside the erstwhile state and said "our own experience has been that parties very seldom are happy to find common interests with the people of Jammu and Kashmir".

"Most political parties found no common interest with us after August 5, 2019 and therefore, I don't think it will serve any purpose. There are parties like the CPM, CPI that are part of the PAGD. So, yes definitely we would like to take them along with us but otherwise unfortunately this is our battle and we have to fight it," he said.

He said the delimitation commission recommendations were one of those rare occasions "when a proposed decision is being badly received on both sides of the Peer Panjal (Kashmir and Jammu). I think the BJP had oversold what they were going to do with this Delimitation Commission and, therefore, while people in Kashmir are unhappy with these recommendations because it's seen as aimed only at disempowering people here, there are large sections of population in Jammu that are unhappy with these recommendations too."

On the criticism from some political parties over the NC's participation in the commission meetings, he said, "We have...made our position very clear as to where we stand on these recommendations."

All political parties barring one met the commission when it came to Srinagar and Jammu.

"Now those who criticise our participation would also have criticised us for staying away when this report would have been presented... So, these critics would criticise us regardless," he said.

Asked where do these recommendations stand with regard to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion during a meeting in June this year on reducing the distance between Delhi and Srinagar, Abdullah responded, "That is a question for PMO to answer."

"Very little has been done to reduce the distance since that meeting. So let us not single out just these recommendations of the Delimitation Commission. There has been very little follow-up after that meeting to give shape to the words that were used there," he added.

NC Legitimised

challenged before any court of law. The Delimitation Commission, set up to redraw the assembly seats of the union territory, is learnt to have proposed six additional seats for the Jammu region and one for the Kashmir Valley in its 'Paper 1' discussed with its five associate members - three parliamentarians of the National Conference (NC) and two of the BJP from Jammu and Kashmir - in New Delhi on Monday.

He said the NC's U-turn to participate in the delimitation commission meeting has "legitimised the grossly unfair delimitation commission proposal".

"Don't the people of Kashmir deserve - that 3 MPs should have known that - they will be legitimising the delimitation commission, a document - which cannot be legally challenged. Legal legitimacy is constitutionally innate. Political legitimacy (was) bestowed by NC," Lone said in a statement.

"Will somebody please enlighten them (PAGD). This

report cannot be challenged in court. It is legally unchallengeable. Heavens sake. Stop lying through your teeth," he said.

Lone said the Article 329(a) in The Constitution Of India 1949 (a) the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies, made or purporting to be made under Article 327 or Article 328, shall not be called in question in any court.

"Art 329(a) of Constitution of India bars challenge to delimitation of constituencies or allotment of seats in any court of law," he said.

"Going by sub-section 2 of section 10 of Delimitation Act, the orders of the Commission have force of the law and shall not be called in question in any court," he added. (PTI)

BJP Cries Conspiracy

the people of the union territory. The Delimitation Commission, set up to redraw the assembly seats of the union territory, is learnt to have proposed six additional seats for the Jammu region and one for the Kashmir Valley in its 'Paper 1' discussed with its five associate members - three parliamentarians of the National Conference (NC) and two of the BJP from Jammu and Kashmir - in New Delhi on Monday.

The people are watching the "drama" of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and the Congress, and will give a befitting reply to them during the assembly polls, which will be held after the completion of the delimitation exercise, the BJP leader said while addressing reporters here.

The PAGD, an alliance formed by five Jammu and Kashmir-based mainstream political parties, including the NC and the PDP, on Tuesday termed the panel's recommendations as "divisive and unacceptable", and announced a peaceful protest in Srinagar on January 1 against its proposal.

Raina said that with honesty, the Delimitation Commission, with the support of the Election Commission, has put forth its recommendations after a lot of hard work to provide justice to deprived communities and regions.

"But this has not gone down well with the National Conference, the PDP and the Congress, who have ruled the erstwhile state (of Jammu and Kashmir) for 70 years and deprived many sections of society of their rights," he alleged.

He said the PAGD's protest is a "conspiracy against the people" of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Gupkarians and the Congress are the biggest enemies of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and during their rule, they failed to provide justice to scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, West Pakistani refugees, Valmiki Samaj, Gorkhas, nationalist Kashmiris and even Pahari-speaking people," the BJP leader said.

"When the BJP-led central government abrogated Article 370 and is providing justice and due rights to all these deprived communities, they are feeling discomfort and are conspiring under desperation and frustration after finding their political turf decreasing with each passing day," Raina said.

Accusing PAGD and Congress leaders of conspiring to "poison and divide" society, he said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are watching their "drama" and they will not forgive them.

"When the assembly polls will be held after the completion of delimitation, they (PAGD constituents) will even lose their security deposits," he claimed, adding "despite ruling Jammu and Kashmir for so long, their presence has been restricted to mohalla (locality) level".

Asserting that the time of "injustice and exploitation" has ended in Jammu and Kashmir under the BJP rule, Raina said the party will continue to work for the upliftment for all sections of society, in accordance with the government's 'basic mantra' of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas'.

He claimed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are happy over the recommendations of the Delimitation Commission, and the functioning of the BJP-led government which provided them their rights. Raina questioned NC president Ferooz Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, both former chief ministers, for not providing "justice to deprived communities" during their rule.

The BJP leader also welcomed the recommendation for reserving nine assembly seats for scheduled tribes and seven seats for scheduled castes, saying this is happening for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir.

He claimed that previous governments "deliberately" ignored the Jammu region in big developmental projects and even "discriminated" against north Kashmir.

The BJP leader said the people belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) would also get justice after the Delimitation Commission submits its report. (PTI)

LG Voices Concern

contributing to road accidents & take proactive measures, ensuring enforcement of safety laws in true spirit & making improvements in the response system and spreading awareness on road safety. Sinha, he

said, passed explicit directions to the officials to rectify black spots within 3 months.

"Traffic management has become more & more technology-driven. We need to make necessary technological interventions for highly effective road safety measures," the LG said.

"Training of traffic police, strengthening manpower, generating awareness amongst the people, especially in educational institutions, crackdown on drunken driving & speed, roping in volunteers for road safety programs would be important steps to address the challenges," he added.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG took note of regular incidents of road accidents in particular areas and asked the health department to explore possibility of developing more trauma centres near accident-prone highways to help accident victims during the crucial golden hours.

The chair, he said, was informed that the Health and Medical Education Department has so far established eight Trauma Centres in various districts.

He further said that the LG advised for replicating the effective traffic management models and collaborative efforts with different stakeholders to get the desired results on the ground.

"The Lt Governor asked the concerned departments to explore the modalities and prepare a proposal for establishing integrated centres of Inspection & Certification and licensing in highly accident-prone areas of the UT," the official spokesperson said.

"He further directed for conducting regular meetings of the District Road Safety Committees for comprehensive and multi-sectoral road safety strategies," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, the LG took a detailed assessment of the action taken report on raising awareness about road safety, road safety fund, strengthening of highway patrolling for prevention of accidents and fatalities, besides deployment of 136 Ambulances provided by MoRTH and operationalization of 102/108 Helpline Number.

He said Hirdesh Kumar, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Transport Department briefed the meeting about initiatives taken by the government regarding road safety.

Kumar, he said, also informed about the important aspects concerning road safety, including road safety action plan; functioning of road safety council, lead agency, and district road safety committees; category-wise cumulative registered vehicle population.

"The meeting was briefed about the mechanism put in place for developing an intelligent traffic management system for Srinagar and Jammu cities under AMRUT scheme," the official spokesperson said.

"Discussions were also held on the Road Safety Audit of all existing roads; removal of encroachments, hoardings; fixing of road signages, speed limit, and other traffic calming measures; erection of crash barriers on the National Highway and other major roads; preparation of calendar for the training of Engineers in road safety; removal of unauthorised cuts on National Highways & other major roads and regulation of cross junctions," he added.

LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department Vivek Bhardwaj and other administrative secretaries and Divisional Commissioners attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

Girl Loses Foot

lost her left foot after she stepped on a landmine in Hathlanga village of Uri on Wednesday afternoon, reports said. The girl was reportedly grazing a sheep herd close to her home when the landmine went off, according to news agency GNS.

A health official said that she received a girl at SDH hospital with severe leg injury even as her left foot was amputated "After assessing her condition, she was referred to GMC Baramulla for preferential treatment", the official said.

Youth Dies

to his residence at village Haran in Budgam on Wednesday, reports said. The injured youth was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

4 Arrested With

Ferooz Ahmad Ganie, all residents of Pattan, and Nazir Ahmad Bhat of Awantipora, were taken into custody by police on Wednesday after a vehicle (JK01AB-9599) was intercepted by cops near Narbal Bridge and during searches fake currency worth Rs 45000 was recovered, a local news agency KDC reported.

Police also seized the vehicle, two laptops and an equal number of printers, the report said.

Mentally Unsound

was found dead at Kujjar Nambal. Police in the meantime reached the spot and recovered the body, the official said. Station House Officer (SHO) Saddar Ganderbal said that the cause of his death is being ascertained, adding that the body will be handed to the family after medico-legal formalities—(KNO)

IPL Auction Likely On February 7, 8 In Bengaluru

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI is planning to hold the two-day mega Indian Premier League auction on February 7 and 8 in Bengaluru, a senior BCCI official said on Wednesday.

It could well be the last mega auction that BCCI might conduct as most of the original IPL franchises want it to be discontinued.

"Unless the Covid-19 situation worsens, we will have the IPL mega auction in India. The two-day event will be held on February 7 and 8 and like other years, we plan to hold it in Bengaluru. Preparations are underway," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

There were reports that auction will be held in the UAE but as of now, BCCI has no such plans.

However with the emergence of Omicron variant of Covid-19 and cases on the rise, the situation will remain fluid but if there are restrictions with regards to overseas travel (unless all owners decide to use charter planes), conducting it in India will be less of a logistical nightmare.

This year's IPL will be a 10-team affair with Sanjiv Goenka owned Lucknow franchise along with venture capital firm CVC owned Ahmedabad making their debut in the cash rich league.

CVC is however waiting for its Letter of Intent from the BCCI but is expected to get an all clear in the next few weeks.

Both teams have time till



Christmas to announce their three draft picks but BCCI might extend the dates for both as CVC is yet to get clearance.

Most of the franchise owners feel that mega auctions have passed their sell-by-date and a team's composition and balance gets severely compromised when there are auctions after every three years.

Delhi Capitals co-owner Parth Jindal had in fact said this on record how it is tough to release players after having put in effort to build a team.

"It is very sad to lose Shreyas Iyer, Shikhar Dhawan, Kagiso Rabada and Ashwin. The auction process itself is something like this. Going forward, IPL should look at this because it's not that you build a team, give chances to young players, groom them and get them opportunities from franchises, play for the country and then you lose them after three years," Jindal had said after players' retention was announced November 30.

Multiple Valley Cricketers Called For IPL Trials

Aquib Nabi, Waseem Bashir, Nasir Lone, Abid Mushtaq, Henan Malik to undergo trials



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Multiple Kashmir Valley cricketers have been called up to participate in trials by various Indian Premier League (IPL) teams.

The trials are for the upcoming IPL 2022 season and the players have received the invitations based on their performances in the recently concluded domestic competitions.

Pahalgam-born Waseem

Bashir Khanday has been called up by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and will participate in the trials. J&K's Henan Malik, a right-handed batter and captain of J&K's U-25 team, has also been called by KKR.

Bandipora's cricket sensation Nasir Lone has been called up for trials by Mumbai Indians. The 25-year-old all-rounder will also give a trial session at Punjab Kings (PBKS). Mumbai Indians have also called

Aquib Nabi and Abid Mushtaq for the trials. Abid, a left arm spinner and a capable lower-order batter, has also been called up by Rajasthan Royals. Baramulla cricketer and all-rounder, Aquib Nabi will also take part in the Mumbai Indian trials after spending the last season with KKR as their net bowler.

The mega IPL auction is all set to be held in the first week of February 2022.

Labuschagne Climbs To Top Spot, Kohli Slips To 7th

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Indian captain Virat Kohli slipped a notch to be placed seventh in the latest ICC rankings for Test batters even as Australia's Marnus Labuschagne, riding on his prolific Ashes form, displaced England skipper Joe Root to become the new world number one. India's Rohit Sharma remained static at fifth position.

Among bowlers, Ravichandran Ashwin is still in second place behind Australia skipper Pat Cummins. Kohli, who played the second Test against New Zealand, was earlier placed sixth and now with 756 points is in seventh position.

Labuschagne has climbed to the top of the ICC rankings for Test batters for the very first time after sensational performances in the two matches of the Ashes so far.

With career-best 912 rating points, he went past Root (897), who has dropped to the second spot. Ranked fourth before the series, Labuschagne rose two spots to No.2 after scoring 74 in Australia's win in the Brisbane

Test. In the second Test at Adelaide, he scored a hundred and fifty (103 and 51) as Australia routed England by 275 runs to go 2-0 up in the Ashes.

His teammate Mitchell Starc broke into the top 10 for Test bowlers after returning figures of 6/80 in the second Test, which included a four-for in the first innings that helped reduce England to 236. He moves up to the 9th spot.

In the Player Rankings for T20Is, Pakistan captain Babar Azam reclaimed the top spot in the list for batters after just one week of losing it. With scores of 0 and 7 in the first two T20Is against the West Indies, Bazar dropped two spots to No.3 in last week's rankings update.

He came roaring back and is now tied at the top of the rankings with Dawid Malan after a brilliant 79 in the final T20I that helped Pakistan complete a clean sweep over West Indies. His fellow opener Mohammad Rizwan, who has had a tremendous 2021, capped the year by climbing to No.3 in T20I batters' rankings with career-best ratings of 798.

India Beat Pakistan 4-3 To Win ACT Hockey Bronze



Press Trust of India

DHAKA: Olympic bronze medallist India defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 4-3 in a pulsating third-fourth place play-off match to win the bronze medal at the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

India, who were the defending champions along with Pakistan in the last edition of the tournament in Muscat, will return with a consolation prize after having lost to Japan 3-5 in the semi-finals on Tuesday.

India took the lead in the very first minute through vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh be-

fore Sumit (45th), Varun Kumar (53rd) and Akashdeep Singh (57th) struck a goal each.

Pakistan's goals were scored by Afraz (10th), Abdul Rana (33rd) and Ahmed Nadeem (57th).

It was India's second win over Pakistan in the tournament after having beaten the same opponents 3-1 in the round-robin stages.

Coming into the tournament as hot favourites and having topped the round-robin stage with an unbeaten record, the Indians would be disappointed to return with a bronze.

In the summit clash late on Wednesday, South Korea will play Japan.

5 Medals For J&K In Rope Skipping Federation Cup



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Rope Skipping (RSJK) team performed exceptionally well to win 5 medals in the recently concluded Rope Skipping Federation Cup 2021. The team competed under the banner of Rope Skipping Association of J&K and won 3 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medal.

The Federation Cup was organised by Indian Rope Skipping Federation at

Nainital, Uttarakhand. For J&K, Diya Zainab, Zehra Rafiq and Zargul Zehra won Gold in the 30 Second Double Dutch team event.

Madiha Irshad won Silver in the Under-17 30 Second Sprint event and a Bronze in the Under-17 Female Free Style Routine event.

RSJK Secretary, Rouf Ahmed congratulated the winners and requested the authorities to conduct a coaching camp at Srinagar in March next year.

J&K Pencak Silat Teams Flagged Off From Jammu



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Pencak Silat teams for Junior, Pre Teen and Sub Junior categories for both boys and girls was flagged off at Jammu on Wednesday.

Tajinder Singh, General Manager, J&K Road Transport Corporation flagged off the J&K boys and girls teams for the forthcoming Junior, Pre Teen and Sub Junior National Pencak

Silat Championship 2022 scheduled to be held at MD University, Rothak Haryana from 24th December to 27th December 2021.

Mufti Hamid Yasin, Secretary General, Indian Pencak Silat Federation, Aurasa Khan, Manager of team, Ravees Ahmad Police team Coach, Mohammad Iqbal Team Coach was also present on the occasion. The team is sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

Babar Azam Ends 2021 As No.1 Ranked T20I Batter

Agencies

DUBAI: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has again reclaimed the top spot in the latest International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20 International (T20I) Batting Rankings, a week after slipping to second place behind Englishman David Malan.

After the latest update by the ICC, Azam now shares the number one rank with Malan, both having a rating of 805 points.

"With scores of 0 and 7 in the first two T20Is against the West Indies, Babar dropped two spots to number three in last week's rankings update," the ICC statement said.

"He came roaring back and is now tied at the top of the rankings with Dawid Malan after a brilliant 79 in the final T20I that helped Pakistan complete a clean sweep over West Indies," it added.

Babar is now at the top in the men's T20I and One-Day International (ODI) rankings going into the final nine days of the year, the ICC said in a write-up on the batsman's "stellar" year.

Babar overtook Indian captain Virat Kohli to become the number one-ranked ODI batsman in the world in April. He followed that up by usurping another record



from Kohli, becoming the fastest cricket player to reach the milestone of 2,000 runs in the T20I format, having accomplished the feat in just 52 innings compared to Kohli's 56.

Later in May, Azam was voted the ICC's Men's Player of the Month for April 2021.

Meanwhile, wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan — who is the only batsman to have crossed the 1,000-run mark in T20Is in a calendar year — has climbed to the third spot with a career-best rating of 798.

"Rizwan was the Player of the Match in the final T20I against West Indies, helping his side chase 208 in less than 19 overs with a brilliant 45-ball 87," the ICC said.

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne topped the ICC Test player rankings for the very first time after "sensational performances" during the ongoing Ashes.

Pakistan Opener Abid Ali Undergoes Angioplasty

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan's Test opener Abid Ali has undergone an angioplasty a day after he was rushed to a hospital for chest pain while playing a match in the Quid-e-Azam Trophy here.

Cardiac surgeons, after several tests, diagnosed that Ali was suffering from "acute coronary syndrome", which, in simple terms, means there was blockage of blood flow in his heart.

"He has undergone angioplasty and a stent has been inserted in one vein and he will undergo another small procedure before he is discharged from hospital," a source in the cricket board said.

Such Headlines Not Good For Pakistan Cricket: Ramiz Raja On Allegations Against Yasir Shah

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board chief Ramiz Raja on Wednesday conceded that leg-spinner Yasir Shah being accused of aiding an alleged sexual assaulter is "not good" for the game here given that players are regularly counselled on their "ambassadorial" roles.

Yasir was named in an FIR filed by a couple at Islamabad's Shalimar police station two days back in which they have alleged that the cricketer aided his friend

Ali was batting on 61 for Central Punjab against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the UBL complex when the team manager rushed him to the hospital after he complained of chest pain and uneasiness in his shoulder on Tuesday. Hours after Ali was taken to the private hospital from the match venue, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed the development.

In a message to his fans from his hospital bed, Ali on Wednesday said he was doing okay and asked them to pray for his quick recovery. Ali, who had completed his 9000 runs in first-class cricket while batting against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, joined Central Punjab after a very good Test tour of Bangladesh recently.

while knowing he had raped and made compromising videos of their 14-year old niece. "It is a no brainer, Yasir is a circuit player and while we train and educate these players they are in ambassadorial positions and should know with whom and where to socialise," Ramiz said at a press conference here on Wednesday. The FIR states that when the couple approached Yasir for help but he made fun of the entire incident, gave life threats to them and their niece and said he would use his influence to drag them into legal battles.

JAMMU & KASHMIR SPORTS COUNCIL
Administrative Block Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar (May-October),
M A Stadium, Jammu J&K 180001 (Nov-May),
E-mail: - jkstatesportscouncil@gmail.com, activitysection.jkssc@gmail.com,
Contact No: - 0194-2311207, 0194-2310064, 0191-2570423, 0191-2560771.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION

Due to poor response of applicants for leftover centres in response to previous notifications dated: - 05-02-2021 & 02-08-2021, Applications through offline mode on prescribed format are again invited from domicile of J&K for engagement of past champion Athletes as Coach/mentors in the following Sports disciplines at the Centres approved by SAI under Khelo India District Level Centres to strengthen Sports ecosystem at the grass root levels & also to have sustained source of income for proponent: -

S.No.	Name of the District	Name of Sports Discipline	Name of Sports Centre
1.	Anantnag	i. Wrestling	Indoor Sports Complex, Nilandrus, Bijbehra Anantnag.
2.	Kulgam	i. Karate	Indoor Sports Hall, Qaimoh, Kulgam.
3.	Reasi	i. Wrestling ii. Football	Indoor Sports Hall, Reasi. Sports Stadium, Reasi.
4.	Doda	i. Football ii. Kabaddi	Sports Stadium, Doda. Indoor Sports Hall, Doda.
5.	Rajouri	i. Volleyball	Sports Stadium, Rajouri.

The applicants who fulfil the following eligibility criteria shall apply on the prescribed format duly supported by coaching experience, Sports achievements, Academic/technical qualification certificates, LD & address proof:-

Orders of preference	Individual Sports	Team Sports
1st preference	Represented India at recognized International competition under recognized NSF/Association of respective Sport.	Represented India at recognized International competition under recognized NSF/Association of respective Sport.
2nd preference	Medal winner at Senior National Past championship conducted by recognized NSF OR Medal winner at Khelo India Games	Part of medal winning team at Senior National past championship conducted by recognized NSF OR Part of medal winning team at Khelo India Games.
3rd preference	Medal winner at National AIU Past championship	Part of medal winning team at National AIU past championship
4th preference	Represented State in Senior National Past Championships conducted by recognized NSF OR Participation in Khelo India Games	Represented State in Senior National Past Championships conducted by recognized NSF OR Participation in Khelo India Games

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- The maximum age on the last date of receipt of application should be 40 years. However relaxation shall be accorded in deserving cases upto 01 year subject to condition that candidate has represented in recognized International Competitions.
- Incomplete application forms without requisite documents shall not be entertained.
- The engagement is purely temporary and shall not confer any right for regularization.
- The prescribed eligibility criteria are the minimum and mere possession of the same does not entitle applicant for engagement.
- Candidates are advised that they should not furnish any particulars that are false or suppress any material information. They are warned that they should in no case alter or otherwise temper with any entry in a document nor they should submit/upload a tempered fabricated document which shall be dealt with in terms of law. It will be mandatory for each past champion Athlete to register themselves as a Coach on the National Sports repository system (NSRS) portal of SAI at <https://nsrs.kheloindia.gov.in> to become eligible to apply for support under the component.
- Past champion Athletes will be eligible for maximum remuneration of Rs. 3.00 lacs per year subject to the condition that minimum number of trainees should not be less than 30 regular trainees on any given Sports discipline.
- Past champion Athlete will be eligible to avail financial assistance for only one Sports discipline to which that past champion belongs to. However Coaches with NIS certification could also be considered eligible.
- Each Centre must strive to have equal ratio of male and female trainees.
- Identification of talent pool will be done by respective past champion Athlete in consultation with the Regional Director, SAI of the region/Divisional Sports Officer of J&K Sports Council.
- The agreement/MOU will be entered between J&K Sports Council and the proponent before start of coaching.
- The Khelo India Centre, Sub Scheme would be run for a period of 4 years coinciding with the Olympic Cycle and Coterminous with Khelo India Scheme.
- Minimum academic qualification should not be less than matric.
- Criteria for selection of candidates for engagement as coach/mentor will be carried out on following basis:-

A) SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS:-

- International Medallist/Participation: 10 points.
- Senior National/Khelo India Games Medallist: 07 points (G-7, S-6 & B-5)
- Medal at All India Inter University Level: 05 points (G-5, S-4, B-3)
- Participation in Senior National/Khelo India Games: - 03 points.

B) EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:-

- Post-Graduation: - 05 points.
- Graduation: - 03 points.
- 10 + 2: - 02 points.
- Matric: - 01 point.

C) COACHING EXPERIENCE:-

- 05 years: - 05 points.
- 03 years: - 03 points.
- 02 years: - 02 points.
- 01 year: - 01 point.

D) TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION RELATING TO NIS:-

- NIS Diploma: - 10 Points.
- NIS Certificate Course: - 03 points.

E) INTERVIEW/VIVA:- 20 points.

In case of tie, higher sports achievements of the candidate shall be given preference. Next priority to academic/technical qualification followed by seniority of age for breaking the tie.

The prescribed application forms shall be available on Official website of J&K Sports Council viz www.jkstatesportscouncil.com from 23rd of December, 2021 onwards.

The documents alongwith application form should reach in the office of Secretary, J&K Sports Council, New Administrative Block, Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar on or before 14-01-2022 upto 4.00 P.M. Any query for /the purpose shall contact Mr. Sahil Chopra on contact no: - +91-9086625103 strictly during office hours only.

No: - SC/3767/2038-45
Dated:- 20-12-2021

SECRETARY
DIPK-NB-6014/21
J&K SPORTS COUNCIL

Why Object? Union Minister On Renaming Hyderabad As Bhagyanagar



Agenceis

NAGPUR: BJP MP and Union minister Raosaheb Danve on Wednesday suggested that there shouldn't be any objection to "renaming" Hyderabad as Bhagyanagar and also other such places whose original names had been changed by foreign invaders by hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

The MoS for Railways was speaking to reporters at a party leader's residence after visiting the RSS headquarters here in Maharashtra. He also called upon Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Recently, RSS Akhil Bhartiya prachar pramukh Sunil Ambedkar had tweeted about holding a co-ordination meeting of chief functionaries of various organisations inspired by the Sangh's social

service in "Bhagyanagar, Telangana", between January 5 to 7.

Queried whether BJP and its ideological mentor are planning to rename Hyderabad as Bhagyanagar, Mr Danve said, "I feel foreigners who had invaded our country changed the old names (of various places) by hurting the sentiments of Hindus. In independent India, if we change their names again to respect our feelings, I feel there should be no objection in doing that".

The RSS and several BJP leaders have been demanding to rename the Telangana capital as Bhagyanagar.

Mr Danve, who is MP from Jalna in Maharashtra, said they have been demanding renaming Aurangabad city in the Marathwada region as Sambhaji Nagar for a long time.

He also said that Railways would not be privatised.

Maharashtra Drug Regulator Seizes Medicine That Claims To "Cure" Diabetes



Agenceis

Thane: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has seized stocks of a medicine that makes misleading claim to cure diabetes after raiding the premises of a pharma distributor, FDA officials said on Wednesday.

Assistant Commissioner of FDA RP Chaudhari said drugs inspectors from the agency raided the premises of the distributor at Dombivli on Tuesday on a tip-off and seized stocks worth 25,000 of Amrit Noni

D-plus, a medicine whose manufacturer makes unverified claims on its label about curing diabetes.

The action was taken under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (objectionable advertisement) Act, 1954, he said. The content of the label on Amrit Noni D-plus contravenes the provisions of the Act, the FDA official said, adding further investigation was underway.

"One cannot make claims for curing certain health disorders. Making such claims amount to violation of regulations," Mr Chaudhari said.

OMICRON SCORE

Christmas, New Year Celebrations Banned In Delhi



Agenceis

In view of the rising cases of Omicron in Delhi, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has put a ban on all kinds of gatherings on Christmas and New Year in the national capital.

"As per the DDMA order, all social, political, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious, and festival related gathering and congregations are completely prohibited in Delhi," the DDMA order read.

The DDMA has directed all the district magistrates and DCPs to ensure that no cultural events, gatherings or congregations take place for celebrating Christmas

or New Year in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

As many as 213 cases of Omicron have been detected across India so far, with Delhi recording 57 cases, the highest among all states and UTs, followed by Maharashtra (54), Telangana (24), Karnataka (19), Rajasthan (18), Kerala (15) and Gujarat (14).

Amid the growing Omicron cases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday hold a review meeting on the Covid related situation in the country.

Meanwhile, the Centre has said that the new Covid variant Omicron is three times more transmissible than the Delta variant.

The Centre has asked the states

to review the emerging data of Covid-19 affected population, geographical spread, hospital infrastructure and its utilisation, manpower, notifying Containment Zones and the enforcement of perimeter of containment zones at the district levels. The Centre has also asked the states to formulate a strategy that can ensure infection is contained at the local level itself before it spreads to other parts.

Amid the Omicron threat, the states have been asked to 'activate war rooms and keep analysing all trends and surges, no matter how small and keep taking proactive measures at the district or local level'.

When Will Government Provide Covid-19 Vaccine Booster Shots: Rahul Gandhi

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said a large population of the country is still not vaccinated against COVID-19, noting that only 42 percent of the population will be vaccinated by December end against the required rate of 60 percent to prevent the third wave of coronavirus.

He also asked the government to provide booster shots.

Sharing data about vaccinations, Gandhi there is a daily shortfall of 55.3 million doses (one million is equal to 10 lakh).

"Majority of our population is still not vaccinated. When will GOI begin booster shots? #VaccinateIndia," he said on Twitter.

The former Congress chief said that going by the current vaccination rate, 42 per cent of the population will be vaccinated by December 2021.

"Aim stop a 3rd wave. Target 60 percent of population with both doses by December 2021. Required



vax rate (vaccinations per day) 61 million/day. Actual last 7 days (vaccinations per day) 5.8 million/day. Daily Shortfall in last 7 days (average bad shortfall per day) 55.2 million/day," said the data shared by him.

The data also stated that "while the actual vaccinations today (Dec 22 (vax in previous 24 hours) 5.7 million/day, the Shortfall today (vax shortfall in the previous 24

hours) 55.3 million/day".

Gandhi and his Congress party have been critical of the government's vaccine strategy and have demanded that vaccinations be speeded up to prevent another wave of coronavirus.

There are also growing concerns over the spread of the new Omicron variant of the virus in the country. PTI

Over 7,000 Pakistanis Await Indian Citizenship: Home Affairs Ministry

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Around 70 per cent of applications pending for Indian citizenship are from Pakistanis, according to data provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

In a reply to the details of current applicants for Indian citizenship, including the data of their current citizenship asked by Member of Parliament Abdul Wahab on Wednesday, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai mentioned that out of the 10,635 applicants who

applied for Indian citizenship till December 14, 2021, as many as 7,306 were from Pakistan.

There were 1,152 applications pending from Afghanistan, followed by 428 from Stateless, 223 from Srilanka and USA, 189 from Nepal and 161 from Bangladesh, the minister said.

As many as 10 applicants from China had applied for Indian citizenship.

The power to grant Indian citizenship lies with the MHA which approves the application after detailed verification and scrutiny.

Jaipur Ex-Royals Property Dispute Of Rs 15,000 Crore Gets Settled With SC Mediation



Agenceis

JAIPUR: The Jaipur former royal family's property dispute worth Rs 15,000 crore, going on for nearly two-and-a-half decade, has been settled with the mediation of the Supreme Court.

In the settlement of this property dispute, the grandson of late Maharani Gayatri Devi has been given the ownership rights over the Jaimahal Hotel.

At the same time, the Supreme Court has also settled the dispute over Rambagh Palace, in this agreement.

With this decision, the dispute over property worth thousands of crores has come to an end. Along with this, the estrangement that arose due to property disputes in the former royal family is also expected to reduce.

The dispute started about 24 years ago after the death of Jagat Singh in 1997. Former Maharaja Mansingh handed over his property to Jagat Singh, the only son of Maharani Gayatri Devi. But after the death of Jagat Singh, this matter continued in the courts for almost 24 years.

Jagat Singh was married to Priyanandana of the Thailand royal family. However, his marriage with Priyanandana did not last long. After the separation of Jagat Singh and Priyanandana, their children Devraj and Lalitya started living with Priyanandana in Thailand.

Priyanandana had moved the court because during her stay in Thailand, the Jaimahal Palace was taken over by Vijit Singh, son of Prithviraj Singh, who was Maharaj Mansingh's second wife's son.

After this, Priyanandana moved the court to get the rights of her children in this property.

Now, the settlement has come through the mediation of Justice Kurian Joseph, a retired Supreme Court judge.

According to the agreement, former Maharaj Mansingh of the Jaipur royal family and former Maharani Gayatri Devi's grandson Devraj and granddaughter Lalitya are the successors of late Jagat Singh.

According to the agreement, the full rights of Jaimahal Palace, now a five-star hotel located in the heart of Jaipur city, have been handed over to Devraj and Lalitya. The control of Vijit Singh from Jaimahal Palace has been completely removed.

The share rights of Rambagh Palace Hotel have been handed over to Jai Singh, son of Maharaja Mansingh, and Vijit Singh, son of Prithviraj. Devraj Singh and Lalitya have also been mentioned in this Supreme Agreement and a clause about compensating them from the share of Rambagh Palace has been mentioned.

Both the hotels are under the Tata Group presently. Both entities have accepted the decision, confirmed officials. IANS

Lawyer Gets Intimate With Woman At Virtual Hearing, Suspended

Agenceis

CHENNAI: An advocate of the Madras High Court was suspended yesterday from practice for his alleged "improper" behaviour with a woman during the course of the virtual hearing of a case before a single judge.

R D Santhana Krishnan, an advocate from here, was prevented from practising as an advocate in all courts, tribunals and other authorities in India either in his name or in any assumed name till the disposal of the disciplinary proceedings pending against him for his alleged indecent behaviour, a press release from the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry said.

The portfolio judges P N Prakash and R Hemalatha on their own initiated contempt proceedings against Santhana Krishnan. They directed the CB-CID wing of the police to register a case and hold a thorough probe on the issue and file a report on December 23.

The judges also directed the Tamil Nadu Bar Council to take appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the lawyer and accordingly, it prohibited Santhana Krishnan from practising, by adopting the resolution today.

The video purportedly showed the lawyer in an intimate posture with a woman, while a judge was hearing a case through video-conferencing on Monday. It went viral yesterday.

The bench yesterday said the "Court cannot afford to be a mute spectator and turn a Nelson's eye when such brazen vulgarity is publicly displayed amidst Court proceedings". It directed the the City Police Commissioner to take steps to block the circulation of the impugned video clipping in social media.

"Superadded, we are of the considered view that it is high time that we revisit the procedure of conducting court proceedings in hybrid mode, especially in the light of the fact that advocates, in large numbers, have started appearing in person in our High Court as well in the district Courts." "However, a decision in this regard has to be taken by the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice before whom this matter may be placed," the judges said.

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